

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 2009

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“Thank You,” to Jack N.

It's official now. Jack N. has decided to “retire” from his over 18 year commitment to Central Office. Jack has been doing the Monday morning 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. shift since we moved from the fairgrounds in Victorville in 1991.

Jack has always had such a mild, easy demeanor when talking with newcomers. Watching and listening to Jack carrying the message of A.A. to that still suffering alcoholic has been a pleasure for us to witness.

Let's see. We average about five information calls on Monday mornings. We'll multiply that by 52 weeks in a year. Next we'll times that by the 18 years of service and we come up with . . . Well, that's a whole lot of calls!

We won't even try to figure out how many visitors he waited on. Some came by to chat and buy literature or to chat and make a contribution whether for their groups or for themselves. And some just came by to chat with Jack on a personal level while the phones weren't ringing.

Jack shared his experience, strength and hope with not only myself, but with every A.A. member he came into contact with. He also demonstrated the spiritual principles of the program by the way he lived his life. And Jack has shown all of us that by living and working the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of A.A. in his life, things in our lives can keep getting better and better.

What a great example Jack has set for all of us!

This month, Jack gets to celebrate his 48th year of sobriety. So, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JACK! We love you and miss you at the office.

In sobriety,

Craig B., Office Manager, the Board of Directors, and
the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

THANK YOU, HIGH-DESERT A.A.

As some of you know, my husband of 42 years, George F., (sobriety date: 1/20/66) lost his 6 month struggle with pneumonia on July 14th – one day before that 42nd anniversary. The tremendous outpouring of A.A. love, support, sympathy and caring has been overwhelming – for me and my family.

Between the mortuary visitation 7/21, the Oakdale memorial 7/22 and the Hesperia Back-to-Basics memorial meeting 8/3, there was an attendance of between 300-400 people. My George was a beloved A.A. And he would tell you himself that it was the power of the program for a hopeless, helpless drunk.

He was frail for years before he died, but seldom complained. One of his favorite sayings was: "I have no complaints whatsoever." But the one he's near-famous for is: "There's not a grain of sand out of place in the entire Universe." (Barbara B. printed that up on seashore paper and handed them out at the memorial meeting.)

Thank you, A.A., for giving his (and my) life back and for giving us each other. I could not have asked for a better life, (or marriage,) than the one A.A. has given us. George and I both often said that we had no regrets and feel that we missed nothing.

You know the one thing that he requested be on his headstone? "He was good AA." That request will be honored.

Kathy F.
>^..^<

Become a "Faithful Fiver"

What are Faithful Fivers?

They are A.A. members who pledge at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of their Central Office to "carry the message." Many of us have spent more than \$5.00 daily/hourly on alcohol during our drinking days!

I agree to pledge \$_____ and enclosed is my contribution.

Name*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/ZIP: _____

**You may remain anonymous if you wish.*

FAITHFUL FIVERS for AUGUST 2009

Pete P.	25.00	Anonymous	5.00
Joanna W.	20.00	Sally M.	5.00
Wayne S.	20.00	Anonymous	5.00
Wayne U.	20.00	Craig B.	5.00
Sam D.	5.50	Betty B.	5.00
Bill P.	5.00	Jim F.	5.00
Bill P.	5.00	Mike E.	5.00
John B.	5.00	Kara O.	5.00

CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITIES for AUGUST 2009

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<u>CENTRAL OFFICE</u>		
Visitors	92	832
Information Calls	217	1,720
12 Step Calls	1	15
<u>CALL FORWARDING</u>		
Information Calls	284	1,594
12 Step Calls	4	20
<u>TOTALS</u>		
Information Calls	501	3,314
12 Step Calls	5	35

Sometimes too
much to drink isn't enough.



Things We Cannot Change

Robert Morrison of
Newberry Springs,
died sober with over 22 years
of sobriety.

He will be missed!



Sober Experience

I have been asking myself, "Should I write something of my experiences, as they have been asking us to do?" I said to myself, "Why not? Maybe it will help someone." And then I thought, "Maybe more of us need to write about this, especially those of us that have been sober over twenty years." It seems to me that some of us think that maybe someone else should do it, for we have done enough. Yeah, right!

The experiences I have had probably differ in many ways from those of others, in that I grew up in the *barrio* where no white people dared to live. I grew up very poor and in a very prejudiced and racist area where we were always trying to kill each other – including family. I grew up very ANGRY DUE TO THE ALCOHOLISM IN MY FAMILY AND I GREW UP ALWAYS THINKING I WAS BETTER THAN YOU AND FOUGHT TO PROVE IT, IF IT TOOK THAT. I ALSO GREW UP THINKING THAT PEOPLE OWED ME, FOR I WAS ALWAYS THE MACHO GUY THAT TOOK THE BEATINGS FOR OTHERS.

AND I GREW UP HATING GOD. I figured if there was a God, He sure as hell forgot about me and mine. For so many years before I came into the program, I dared Him to kill me because my life sucked anyway. I have been sober over twenty years not, by the grace of God, and I still wonder about it. I figure I was an alcoholic

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1940 A.A. Preamble

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves. We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us. We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment with which we are familiar, permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A.A.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover. An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A.A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form. The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits, or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A.A. is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action.

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot, give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set our tone for this meeting is ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation. I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment. We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit, in fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A.A. Big Book. If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought one. Read it, study it, live with it, loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be and A.A.

Author unknown

via the Internet

(Continued from page 3)

long before I took that first drink and only God could have kept me alive, when I wanted so many times to die.

Maybe I am a little hard of hearing, but not too many stories impress me nowadays. I thank God that they are not as horrifying as some of those old timers' stories where death was always so commonplace for people like us. I do understand that what is not so horrifying to me is horrifying to so many others. I thank God for whatever brings them into Alcoholics Anonymous. We just don't hear or read enough about those of us that have been sober twenty years or more. Maybe it's because we want you all to find out what we have found out the hard way. Boy! Are we cruel. Yeah, right!

Anonymous

*via, The Bender
Corpus Christie, TX*

Upcoming Events

October 3 — 4, 2009

Celebration with Love at The Place in Lucerne Valley, CA. Breakfast both days start at 7:00 a.m. and the Speaker meetings start both days at 9:00 a.m. There will also be Bar-B-Qs both days as well as a Potluck dinner on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Cyndy at 760-248-2329.

October 17, 2009

H & I Round-up, at the Victor Valley Alano Club, 11085 Central Rd, Apple Valley, CA. Horseshoe Tournament starts at 4:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the Speaker Meeting is at 7:00 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. For more information and a list of activities, call Tom S. at 760-247-9566.

October 16 — 18, 2009

22nd Annual Inland Empire Convention at the Hilton Hotel in San Bernardino, CA. For more information contact Nancy P. at 909-210-9317 or Dick P. 909-793-8849 (evenings).

October 17, 2009

Intergroup Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office, 18888 Hwy. 18, Suite 107, Apple Valley, CA. Call 760-242-9292 for more information

MEETING DIRECTORY CHANGES

The new Fall 2009 Meeting Directories are now available at Central Office. We apologize for any mistakes made to your meetings or groups. Please contact the office at 760-242-9292

with any corrections, deletions or new meetings so we can get them listed in the Newsletter and in the Winter 2009 Directory.

HELP WANTED!

YOUR CENTRAL OFFICE HAS THE FOLLOWING SHIFT OPEN SO **YOU** CAN HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING OF SERVICE AT CENTRAL OFFICE. AS OF SEPTEMBER 2009:

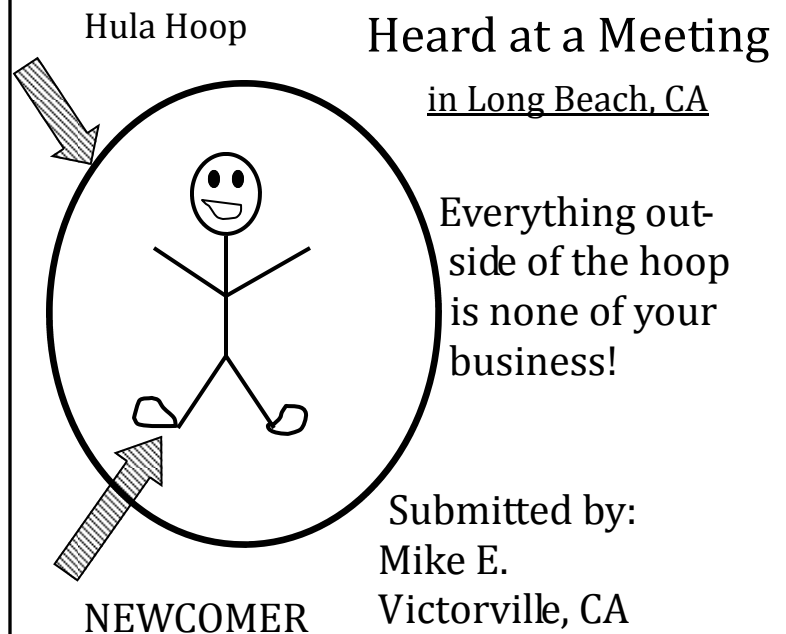
CALL FORWARDING

Every other WEDNESDAY from 4:00 p.m. — 9:00 a.m.

ALTERNATES ARE ALSO NEEDED TO FILL IN. PLEASE PASS THE WORD!

ALSO, WE NEED A.A. MEMBERS TO SIGN UP FOR OUR 12 STEP LIST. PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AND ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL CRAIG B. AT CENTRAL OFFICE AT 760-242-9292 OR 760 240-1201.



And Finally . . .

I was in a meeting when I was new and a fellow was being disruptive. Several A.A.s asked him to leave and walked him out saying, "Keep coming back!" I asked why they said that after making leave. They said, "When he comes back, we want him to feel welcome"

Kay K.

via, *The Grapevine*
September 2009