



the Desert Lifeline

December 2014

A publication of the Central Intergroup Office
of the Desert serving the Coachella Valley.

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert

35-325 Date Palm Drive
Suite 134
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mon.- Fri.
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat. & Sun.

760.324.4880

Fax 760.324.4851

Web site: www.AAintheDesert.org



manager@aainthedesert.org

Intergroup Meeting

1st Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

3rd Thursday of the month,
6:30 p.m.

General Service, District 9

3rd Sunday of the month, 4PM

Fellowship Hall

45940 Portola Ave.

Palm Desert

Mailing Address: P O Box 3684

Palm Desert, CA 92261-3684

Hospitals & Institutions

Third Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

45940 Portola Ave.

Palm Desert

Mailing Address: PO Box 1843

Palm Desert, CA 92261

Mid-Southern California Area (MSCA)

PO Box, 51446, Irvine CA 92619-1446

Web site: www.msca09aa.org

The **General Service Office**, PO Box 459,

Grand Central Station NY 10163

Web site: www.aa.org

Step

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

T

W

E

L

V

E

Principle Twelve

Service - an act of helpful activity; help; aid: *to do someone a service.*

October Office Statistics

Meeting Info	101
12 Step Calls	7
Visitors	66
Literature Sales	154
Al-Anon	3
Other 12 Step	4
Miscellaneous	46
Business	37

***Thanks to all who are of service.
You make a difference!***

**Central Intergroup Office of the Desert
Board of Directors**

**Chairman: Ginny P.
Vice Chairman: Traci N.
Treasurer: Mike M.
Secretary: Joe A.**

**Directors
Carole C.
Carol C.
Garrett D.
Rosemary H.
Rob L.**

**Desert Lifeline Editors: Joan C. & David M.
Office Manager: David M.**

TeleService Report

I am very grateful for the many volunteers that keep our phone available after hours for those who are in need of information or who want to just talk to another alcoholic. The new TeleService system is working well and keeps me in the loop each morning when messages are left, and the volunteers and I can respond as necessary. Thanks to Paul A. and Garrett D. for their support with this vital part of our Fellowship.

Letters to the Editor or Articles for the Desert Lifeline must be received by the 15th of the month for consideration of publication in the following month's issue.

Please submit your material for *The Desert Lifeline* to:
Central Intergroup Office of the Desert
35-325 Date Palm Drive, Suite 134,
Cathedral City, CA 92234.
E-mail: manager@AAinthedesert.org

October 2014

Mike S.	1 yr.
Virginia	1 yr.
Michelle	1 yr.
Renee	2 yr.
Elizabeth	3 yr.
Susannie	4 yr.
Enrique	8 yr.
Gary	10 yr.



Jeff	10 yr.
Walter	10 yr.
Mary L.	14 yr.
Mack P.	14 yr.
Mario R.	15 yr.
Dani M.	19 yr.
David M.	21 yr.
Gary	25 yr.
David R.	29 yr.
Lobo M.	35 yr.
Bill Mc P.	51 yr.

We thank all of the birthday celebrants for their contributions to the Central Office Birthday Club.

Tradition Twelve

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

When I first volunteered to write about tradition Twelve, I thought it would be an easy task. Practicing one of my character defects – procrastination – it took a reminder on my answering machine from the Central Office manager to get started on this commitment. I want to apologize for not completing my assignment on time. I once heard at a speaker meeting that the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are so that I don't kill myself and that the Twelve Traditions are so that we don't kill each other. I don't know if there is any truth to this, but one thing I do know is that without the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, this journey I am on would not be possible. I must be honest and say that I have not studied all of the traditions in depth and have mainly concentrated on the 12 Steps. I have been sober almost 20 years and have just recently begun to study the Traditions, knowing they keep this whole thing together. Tradition Twelve states, "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." To me this means that the anonymity of the program is spiritual in nature and that it is foundational to all of the other preceding traditions, therefore serving as a reminder to put principles in front of personalities. I feel that Tradition Twelve is the granddaddy of all the traditions

because it keeps us going in the right direction and away from individual ego. It places the common welfare of all AA members before the welfare of individual personalities. In the beginning, the concept of anonymity was not born of confidence but was a child of our

early fear of public reaction. We started out as a secret society, and newcomers could find us only through a few trusted friends. As time continued and the disease of alcoholism

became less taboo, it became apparent that we could do incalculable good or harm. Everything would depend upon how the program was channeled. The chance of letting self-appointed members present themselves as messiahs representing A.A. before the public was not even entertained for this would be our undoing.

Many of the experiences of our early AA members taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. That anonymity has an all-pervading spiritual quality which today is present in AA life everywhere. I am thankful for the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and the traditions. The 12 Steps have introduced me to the alcoholic Daniel and the Traditions assure Daniel the alcoholic that this wonderful program will be here for a long time to come. I am enjoying a personal journey that I know will continue due to the Twelve Traditions.

Daniel M.

Sloan's Men's Stag, Indio

“Many Paths to Spirituality”

A personal review of the most recent pamphlet published by AA World Service

By Ken L.

One of our most recent Central Office Volunteers

One of the newest pamphlets coming from General Service is called “Many Paths to Spirituality” and can be found at Central Office. It is very enlightening and begins with a paragraph in an article in the Grapevine, July 1965 written by Bill W.

He explains that Newcomers represent almost every belief and attitude imaginable. “We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In AA we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering...the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all.” Bill goes on to say, “Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light.” He concludes that we should always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; “let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of AA, so long as he or she so declares.”

It is an excellent pamphlet that discusses many thoughts and theories of how AA’s pioneering members realized from the beginning that their sole purpose was to help people gain sobriety, and they went to great lengths to ensure the broadest membership among all who suffer from alcoholism.

It stresses in several locations that the AA’s Twelve Steps emphasize “a power greater than ourselves,” and “God, as we understand him.”

Many of us came to rely on a “Higher Power,” whether it was the collective power of AA, the AA group itself or some other entity, concept or being that helped us to stay sober.

One of the quotes I like says, “My sponsor encouraged me to choose my own conception of a higher power. It didn’t need a gender or a name, or any human attributes – it just had to be a power greater than myself.” It was then that I realized that the Fellowship, though comprised of human beings, represented a power greater than anything human.

Much of the brochure is quotes from Grapevine stories over the years. One paragraph included says, “By incorporating basic Buddhist practices with my AA practices – regular meetings, doing service, working with newcomers, living the Steps and reading AA literature – I have discovered an awesome way to improve my conscious contact with the God of my understanding and live life on life’s terms in relative serenity.”

Towards the end of the brochure it includes a section titled, “A source of power,” which explains the reference “spiritual awakening.” In this section it says, “Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others....When a man or a woman had a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone.

Check it out at your regular meeting when the literature person suggests reading the pamphlets. They are meant for us to continue understanding how we move forward.

Step Twelve

**Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps,
we tried to carry this message to alcoholics,
and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

Step Twelve is the way we manifest our sobriety in our environment. My sponsor says that we “carry the message and not the alcoholic.” I love that line, because it gives me permission to work my program in a non-codependent manner. I can knock myself out trying to give away to reluctant Sponsees what I have worked so hard to learn from Steps one through eleven, or I can give it away to the members of AA and other Sponsees as well as people who seem to want what I have on a more casual but consistent basis.

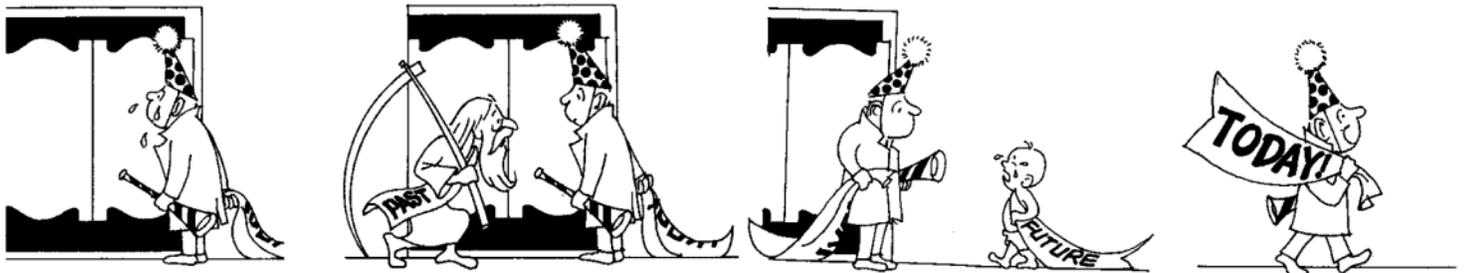
My experience in AA has taught me to keep my spiritual awakening current by having a daily conscious contact with God. If I don’t, I have difficulty carrying the message, as well as difficulty practicing the principles in all my affairs. However, the Steps and the fellowship make it very easy to go back to square one and to talk with another alcoholic, preferably a sponsor, about whatever is upsetting me. Then Step Twelve becomes a privilege for me, because I find the most satisfaction in giving away the precious gift that I have been given of learning how to stay sober under any and all conditions, and in keeping my side of the street clean through the use of the Steps, so that I am content with my life.

A spiritual awakening does not mean I will be perfect, but rather that I would be responsible to myself to do the right thing. I will not know what the right thing is if I am not sober. As a result of having both sobriety and a God in my life, I am available to work the Steps on a daily basis. Step Twelve is the reward I receive as a result of doing the Steps, both spiritually and with other people, because I get to find happiness in my relationship with my Higher Power as well as my relationships in service to my fellow man. Funny how that works. It is the opposite of what the world tells us to do, and yet it is the most satisfying lifestyle I have discovered. I find that the quality of my surrender determines the quality of my contentment with life and those around me.

Anne M
Attitude Adjustment Group, Palm Springs

Don’t confuse getting into action with getting into activity!

I hit bottom and then slid for awhile.



October Volunteers at Central Office

Alan S.
Angilena B.
Ann K.
Bob M.
Brad L.
Dallas E.
Dennis H.
Dyana S.
Eileen C.

Emil M.
Jimmy Who?
Kathy P.
Ken L.
Lobo M.
Mary Ann C.
Mary-Ann Mc L.

Thank You !!

Thank You !!

Michael W.
Mollie B.
Molly S.
Pat W.
Patrick L.

Paul A.
Paul B.
Peggy M.
Roger F.
Rivers V.
Susan B.
Tom O'M.
Tracy M.

*Dr. Jung told
Rowland,
Rowland told
Ebby,
Ebby told
Bill,
Bill told
Dr. Bob,
and someone
finally told me!*
Thank God

I used to think that peace of mind was highly overrated . . . then I worked the Steps and came to understand a peace that I had never known.

All resentments contain fear. All fears do not contain resentments.

Only the alcoholic, having been given a chance to pick any God he would like to have, would pick a God that doesn't work.

\$5.50

Book of the month

\$5.50

12 Steps & 12 Traditions

(Pocket Edition)

\$5.50

Normally \$6.50- this month \$5.50

\$5.50

December Puzzle

srtiboey

soropns

llWiB

eensitmg

ipuarittsyli

eryvnoint

ecnrwmoe

liosalemh

anield

nepevagri

moatyyinn

lserwpeos

nmaauanbleeg

Unscramble the letters to find the appropriate word

Puzzle answers will appear in next month's Desert Lifeline.

Secretary Workshop

Coming in February 2015 (date to be determined)

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert
35-325 Date Palm Drive
Suite 134
Cathedral City

***Come learn the ins and outs of being a secretary for a group.
This is geared for both new and experienced secretaries.***

Please leave your contact information at Central Office to let us know you're interested
760.324.4880 David M. Office Manager

November Puzzle Solution

e	s	p	o	w	e	r	l	e	s	s
l	g	n	i	w	d	s	r	i	t	s
b	e	m	a	i	u	a	t	p	e	g
a	m	m	l	t	a	m	e	p	n	
e	n	a	c	l	i	e	r	p	s	i
g	s	n	o	i	t	i	d	a	r	t
a	a	o	h	n	a	o	n	y	h	e
n	s	a	o	g	r	o	e	r	n	e
a	g	c	l	n	g	r	n	m	c	m
m	a	c	c	e	p	t	a	n	c	e
n	a	y	t	s	e	n	o	h	l	n
u	t	n	e	s	p	o	n	s	o	r

acceptance
 gratitude
 honesty
 willingness
 sponsor
 steps
 traditions
 alcohol
 meetings
 powerless
 unmanageable
 contempt



"No, I have not been nipping — that's make-up!"

NEW MEETINGS & MEETING CHANGES

New Meeting

Cabazon, Twin Eagles Wed. Night AA Meeting, Morongo Indian Reservation, 12755 Ruiz Rd. 7:00 PM Wed.

Cabazon, Rez Attitude Adjustment Meeting, Morongo Indian Reservation, 12755 Ruiz Rd. 8:00 AM Sat.

Indio, Bilingual Book Study, Martha's Village & Kitchen, 83791 Date Ave. 7:00 PM Monday

Cancelled meeting

Cathedral City, Sober Outa the Book, Presbyterian Church, 38088 Chuperosa Lane, 12:00 PM Thurs.

Location change

Desert Hot Springs, 5th Tradition Dinner Meeting, has moved to Las Palmas Restaurant, 11349 Palm Drive, 6:30 PM Wed.

Palm Desert, Ladies Night Out, is moving from the Gateway meeting hall (as of Dec. 3rd) to Sacred Heart Church 43775 Deep Canyon 6:30 PM Wed.

Rancho Mirage, Attitude Adjustment, moved from the Cafeteria to the 3rd. Floor of the Desert Orthopedic Center 7:00 PM Mon.

Time change

Cathedral City, Serenity Group Date Palm Country Club Clubhouse, 36200 Date Palm Dr. 9:00 AM now meets every Sunday

Addition to Meeting Type for Hearing Impaired Members

Palm Springs, Weekender's Welcome Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Group, 4711B East Palm Canyon Dr. 10:00 AM Sat. now has the designation of ASL (American Sign Language) that provides for the hearing impaired. This service has been a long time in the making, many thanks to the 5th Tradition Steering Committee for breaking ground in this important area of service!



Palm Desert Group - Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert
Saturday Night, 8:00 p.m.

- 12/06 - Kat G. - Palm Desert
- 12/13 - Gregg S. - La Quinta
- 12/20 - Vern R. - Desert Hot Springs
- 12/27 - Jana P. - Cathedral City

Speaker Meetings

Sobriety Capital of the World
Indio

Friday Night, 8 p.m.

- 12/05 - Bill D. - Indio
- 12/12 - Jerome S. - Corona
- 12/19 - Carol M. - Orange County
- 12/26 - Ruby M. - Orange County



Please check the web site (www.AAintheDesert.org) for any changes since the printing of the newsletter.

Concept Twelve

"The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and , whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action."

I believe that the Concepts are the least known of all the written material in AA. So, when I began to write on Concept 12, I found I didn't know them at all. I hope you find this material as interesting as I did.

In reading Concept 12, I saw where the Concepts are the glue that holds AA together. In Concept 12, AA levels the playing field.

First, it mentions matters of money and that we are to keep these matters in check, keeping no more than what is needed to operate. I think this keeps us honest. Next, it mentions personal power, and it addresses that AA has no BIG SHOTS, we are all made from the same cloth – that we as AAs take a vote on all things that affect the group. This keeps it fair and again levels the playing field. This also insures that no personality ever benefits from decisions made. So I guess what I am trying to say is in matters of money, property and prestige, Concept 12 is, in fact, the whole basis of how AA works!

Paul G
Monday Night Men's Marauders, Palm Desert



Here's a perspective from my sponsor that I sometimes wish I hadn't heard.

I start my day with prayer. I ask God to show me through the day how I can be of service. I pray for acceptance of God's will in my life. Then I go through my day. And then I complain about what's happening in my day. Now how does that make sense?

A pessimist sees the glass as half empty ---
An optimist sees the glass as half full ---
An economist sees the glass as too large ---
An alcoholic sees the glass as pointless!



The 41st Annual Ninth District AA Convention
COMMITTEE *PLANNING* MEETINGS



Have some fun & Bring a friend – get involved!

The  4th **Sunday** of the every month

At  4 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Dates: October 26 ~ November 23
 December **NO** meeting
 January 25th
 February 22nd

March 22nd
April 26th
May 24th
June 28th
July 26th

For Information Call Katherine (951) 347-5563 or
Ira R (760) 861-2693

Convention: August 7 - 9, 2015 at

Hyatt Indian Wells

Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity

Bob P.

Bob P. was General Manager of the General Service Office from 1974 to 1984, and then served as Senior Advisor to the G.S.O. from 1985 until his retirement. His story is in the Big Book as "AA Taught Him to Handle Sobriety," 3rd edit. (1976) pp. 554-561, 4th edit. (2001) pp. 553-559.

During the 1986 General Service Conference, Bob gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk to the conference at the closing brunch on Saturday morning, April 26. It was an especially significant occasion, because he knew that he was going to retire early the next year, and that this would be his last General Service Conference. The most important parts of this farewell speech were published in the Conference's *Final Report*.

The following is the complete text as given in *The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1986* (Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, April 20-26, 1986), *Final Report*.

This is my 18th General Service Conference -- the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the 1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, "I thank you for your lives." For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my thoughts about A.A.'s future. I have no truck with those bleeding deacons who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual -- by *far* -- than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous [July 1960] Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of treatment centers or professionals in the field, or non-Conference-approved literature, or young people, or the dually-addicted, or even the "druggies" trying to come to our closed meetings. If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these *and any other* problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.

Continued from page 12

If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer: the growing *rigidity* -- the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions; pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., "banning books"; laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. One of his favorite sayings was, "Every group has the right to be wrong." He was maddeningly tolerant of his critics, and he had absolute faith that faults in A.A. were self-correcting.

And I believe this, too, so in the final analysis we're not going to fall apart. We won't falter or fail. At the 1970 International Convention in Miami, I was in the audience on that Sunday morning when Bill made his brief last public appearance. He was too ill to take his scheduled part in any other convention event, but now, unannounced, on Sunday morning, he was wheeled up from the back of the stage in a wheelchair, attached with tubes to an oxygen tank. Wearing a ridiculous bright-orange, host committee blazer, he heaved his angular body to his feet and grasped the podium -- and all pandemonium broke loose. I thought the thunderous applause and cheering would never stop, tears streaming down every cheek. Finally, in a firm voice, like his old self, Bill spoke a few gracious sentences about the huge crowd, the outpouring of love, and the many overseas members there, ending (as I remember) with these words: "As I look over this crowd, I know that Alcoholics Anonymous will live a thousand years -- if it is God's will."

Pause/Rewind

I don't have a rewind button in my life, but I do have a pause..."

I can't tell you how many times - usually when I'm really mad or hurt - I've said or done things that I've later regretted. But in the heat of the moment when I felt I needed to defend, attack, or justify myself, I have acted in ways that have hurt not only others but myself as well.

When I entered recovery, my sponsor told me that just because I was now sober it didn't mean that I would never be hurt or get angry again. He told me there would still be plenty of times I would want to strike out, but in order to recover I had to become responsible for my actions. "You don't have a rewind button, but you do have a pause," he told me. And then he taught me how to use it.

Practicing restraint of pen and tongue has been one of the most practical things I have learned in recovery. I was taught not to react when upset, but rather to call someone and run my reactions by them first. I can still write that email, text or letter, but I have to show it to my sponsor before I send it. Pausing and praying to my Higher Power always restores my power of choice and allows me to check in with others before I react.

Today I pause, and that often saves me from later wishing I had a rewind button.



Broken Toys

All my life I felt like a broken toy,
To those around me I brought no joy.
When I was down, I'd drink more gin,
After that I'd commit another sin.
Even when all was said and done,
When finally everything came crashing in,
God suddenly gave me the strength to begin again

Now my days are filled with laughter,
I hope and pray it will be so...forever after!



Doug D.



Enlightened

When doom came knocking at my door,
I didn't know what I was looking for.
I didn't know what to say to try to keep my demons
at bay.

I prayed to God to lighten my load,
Because I felt as if I might explode.
Then appeared the light of reason,
Just like the change of season.
God turned my darkness into light,
And AA made everything aright.



The Twelve Rewards

1. We can all have Hope, instead of desperation;
2. Faith, instead of despair;
3. Courage, instead of fear;
4. Peace of Mind, instead of confusion;
5. Self-respect, instead of self-contempt;
6. Self-confidence, instead of helplessness;
7. The respect of others, instead of their pity and contempt;
8. A clean conscience, instead of a sense of guilt;
9. Real friendships, instead of loneliness;
10. A clean pattern of life, instead of a purposeless existence;
11. the love and understanding of our families, instead of their doubts and fears;
12. and the freedom of a happy life, instead of the bondage of an alcoholic obsession.

All this and more through AA, are we grateful enough? Gratitude will continue the miracle of your sobriety, I found that out.

as written by Ann C. of Niles, Ohio - sober April 1, 1948

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Mike Murphy

DATE: November 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report, October 2014

CENTRAL OFFICE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT, OCTOBER 2014

	Oct. Actual	Oct Budget	Variance	Jul.-Oct. Actual	Jul.-Oct Budget	Variance
Income:						
Group Contributions	\$3,554	\$4,166	\$(612)	\$11,152	\$16,664	\$(5,512)
Convention Contributions	\$90	\$-	\$90	\$8,560	\$7,000	\$1,560
Gratitude Dinner	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Literature Sales	\$4,178	\$4,600	\$(422)	\$-	\$-	\$-
Medallions	\$2,461	\$1,920	\$541	\$-	\$-	\$-
All Other Income	\$304	\$949	\$(645)	\$24,925	\$28,276	\$(3,351)
Total Income	\$10,587	\$11,635	\$(1,048)	\$44,637	\$51,940	\$(7,303)
Expenses:						
Literature expense	\$3,408	\$3,577	\$(169)	\$13,604	\$14,309	\$(705)
Medallion expense	\$878	\$1,043	\$(165)	\$3,546	\$4,173	\$(627)
Salaries and Benefits	\$3,592	\$4,326	\$(734)	\$14,879	\$14,904	\$(25)
Gratitude Dinner	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$1,500	\$(1,500)
Rent	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$-	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$-
Utilities	\$446	\$375	\$71	\$1,739	\$1,500	\$239
All Other Expenses	\$3,010	\$1,392	\$1,618	\$9,313	\$8,488	\$825
Total Expenses	\$12,684	\$12,063	\$621	\$48,481	\$50,274	\$(1,793)
Net Income	\$(2,097)	\$(428)	\$(1,669)	\$(3,844)	\$1,666	\$(5,510)

Negative () income variances reduce net income
Negative () expense variances increase net income

**Central Office of the Desert
Group Contributions
October 2014**

	Oct 14	Jul - Oct 14
10th Step Study-THU Palm Desert	55.00	55.00
12 & 12 - La Quinta	61.00	101.00
12 & 12 Happy Hour-TUE Yucca Valley	0.00	140.00
164 Group - WED - Palm Springs	20.00	75.00
3rd, 7th & 11th Step - SUN - Palm Desert	0.00	304.13
5th Tradition Dinner Meeting - DHS	50.00	50.00
ABC Group-SUN Palm Desert	0.00	50.00
AS Bill Sees It 10AM -MON Palm Desert	0.00	58.00
Attitude Adj-ALL Meetings Palm Springs	0.00	509.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-S PDCC, Palm Desert	0.00	800.00
Attitude Adjustment 7AM M-S Palm Desert	100.00	302.00
Big Book Study - Wed - Palm Springs	44.00	111.71
Big Book Workshop - THU Yucca Valley	0.00	10.31
Black Sheep Group - WED - Rancho Mirage	0.00	80.02
CDM Men's Stag-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	110.00
Central Intergroup	29.75	108.10
Creative Expressions-SUN Palm Desert	0.00	25.00
Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert	78.80	319.18
Desert Men's Big Book -TUE Palm Desert	75.00	75.00
Eve. Attitude Adj. - THU Rancho Mirage	187.00	187.00
Feelings & Solutions-WED Palm Desert	0.00	64.80
Fellowship Hall	0.00	108.00
Goals Group	0.00	40.00
Great Events-Daily Yucca Valley	0.00	45.00
Groovy Group-TUE Palm Desert	44.76	44.76
H&I Committee	152.60	152.60
Hi-Desert SpeakersGroup-SAT Yucca Valley	0.00	95.00
How It Works-ALL Meetings Palm Springs	100.00	100.00
IWC Committee 2015	10.00	40.00
Jaywalkers Men's Stag - PD	0.00	10.00
Just the Black Print Book Study-WED - RM	0.00	250.00
Ladies Nite Out-WED Palm Desert	0.00	190.00
Living Sober Group-ALL Joshua Tree	51.50	51.50
Men's Mauraders-MON Palm Desert	200.00	200.00
Men's Stag-TUE Palm Springs	65.00	65.00
Monday Noon Day At A Time - MON - PD	117.00	117.00
New Freedom - TUE - Palm Desert	150.00	150.00
No Rules - La Quinta	320.00	590.00
Oxy-Moron Group-THU Palm Springs	142.00	142.00
Palm Desert Group -SAT - Palm Desert	0.00	102.49
Perez Plaza Meeting Room	583.20	992.40
Primary Purpose -TUE Palm Desert	0.00	100.00
Q & A - FRI - Palm Desert	0.00	42.90
Rebel Group - SUN - Palm Desert	17.98	17.98
RoundTable Group -THU Palm Desert	0.00	75.00
Santa Rosa Big Book Thumpers-WED-Coachell	0.00	200.00
Santa Rosa Gp-MON Palm Desert	0.00	32.27
Seniors in Sobriety - TUE - Palm Springs	120.00	120.00
Serenity Seekers-FRI - Palm Desert	0.00	240.00
Singleness of Purpose Men's Stag - MON	0.00	158.00
Sobriety Brothers	0.00	59.50
Sobriety Capitol of World-FRI Indio	0.00	63.26
Solid Solutions - TUE - Palm Desert	0.00	227.00
Speakeasy BB/S-FRI Palm Desert	0.00	200.00
Step Sisters-MON Palm Desert	146.50	419.00
Step/Tradition Study-FRI Palm Desert	0.00	110.00
Stepping Stones-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	55.60
Sunday 8AM Serenity Group	38.50	85.64
Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Group - ALL- PS	505.58	1,231.05
Sunrise Celebrators-M-S Palm Desert	58.85	293.25
Twilight Step Study-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	70.00
Vets for Vets - TUE - Palm Desert	0.00	55.00
Winners Meeting-WED Palm Springs	0.00	200.00
Winners Meeting-WED Yucca Valley	30.00	30.00
Women's Meeting-MON Yucca Valley	0.00	15.00
Women's Q & A-FRI Palm Desert	0.00	30.50
TOTAL	<u>3,554.02</u>	<u>11,151.95</u>

ANONYMITY ONLINE

“In my belief, the entire future of our fellowship hangs upon this vital principle. If we continue to be filled with the spirit and practice of anonymity, no shoal or reef can wreck us. If we forget this principle, the lid to Pandora’s box will be off and the spirits of Money, Power, and Prestige will be loosed among us. . . . I am positive that A.A.’s anonymity is the key to long-time survival.”

A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 131-132

Modern communication in A.A. is flowing from one alcoholic to another in ways that are high-tech, relatively open-ended and evolving quickly. Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers.

In 2013 the General Service Conference affirmed “. . . that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: ‘. . . at the level of press, radio and films.’”

At this level, according to Bill W., “. . . anonymity—100 percent anonymity—was the only possible answer. Here, principles would have to come before personalities, without exception.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187

General Principles

“When appearing on radio, television, film or on the Internet as A.A. members, we refrain from showing our faces or revealing our last names. In printed articles, on Web sites or e-mail, we are identified by our first names and last initials only.”

“The A.A. Group – Where it All Begins,” p. 8

“When using digital media, A.A. members are responsible for their own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.”

“Understanding Anonymity,” p. 5

A.A. Web Sites

“We observe all A.A.’s principles and Traditions on our Web sites. As anonymity is the ‘spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,’ we practice anonymity on A.A. Web sites at all times. An A.A. Web site is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film.”

Frequently Asked Questions about A.A. Web Sites, p. 2

Social Networking Web Sites

“. . . social networking Web sites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and non-A.A.s mingle.

“As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, “. . . our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed.”

A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p.1

Internet Streaming and Web Conferencing

“Many technological options are possible and, presumably, more are being developed each day. Yet . . . it is important not to let the speed of technological development pressure a committee [or an A.A. group] into a quick solution as opposed to a well-thought-out A.A.-oriented decision. Of course, all decisions must include careful consideration of any situations where an A.A. member’s anonymity could be compromised at the public level.”

A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p. 4

E-Mail

“When using e-mail it is necessary to consider the anonymity of the recipients of messages. Sending messages to multiple recipients that disclose the e-mail addresses of everyone on the addressee list is a potential break of someone else’s anonymity. Therefore, it is a good idea to obtain a recipient’s explicit permission before using his or her e-mail address for A.A. correspondence, especially if it is a workplace e-mail address. When sending A.A. mail to multiple recipients who wish to remain anonymous, use can be made of the BCC (Blind Courtesy Copy) option available on most computers.”

A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p. 3

More Reflections on Anonymity

“Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical.

“On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes.”

Bill’s Last Message

“. . . anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187

“A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches. Granting all its huge public benefits, this limitless world forum is nevertheless a hunting ground for all those who would seek money, acclaim and power at the expense of society in general. . . .

“Therefore nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA *than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication*. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people—often with the best of intention on their part. Against all this, the *sacrificial spirit* of AA’s anonymity at the top public level is literally our shield and our buckler. Here again we must be confident that love of AA, and of God, will always carry the day.”

“Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours”
Bill W., *AA Grapevine*, November 1960