



# the Desert Lifeline

March 2015

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](http://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**

2nd 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](http://www.msca09aa.org)

The **General Service Office**, PO Box 459,  
Grand Central Station NY 10163  
Web site: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

## Step

Made a decision to turn our will  
and our lives over to the care of  
God **as we understood Him.**

## Tradition

The only requirement for A.A.  
membership is a desire to  
stop drinking.

## Concept

To insure effective leadership, we  
should endow each element of  
A.A. - the Conference, the General  
Service Board and its service  
corporations, staffs, committees,  
and executives - with a traditional  
“Right of Decision.”

## Principle Three

**Commitment** - a pledge or promise; obligation;  
engagement; involvement; the act of committing,  
pledging, or engaging oneself.

## January Office Statistics

Meeting Info	119
12 Step Calls	7
Visitors	58
Literature Sales	167
Al-Anon	3
Other 12 Step	5
Miscellaneous	55
Business	25

### TeleService Report

Our TeleService is being kept current by Central Office Volunteers in order to keep our Calendar and the Tele-Service volunteers information current. Your new Board member, Russell J., has been diligent in coordinating the new members willing to be of service enhancing our ability to be responsible to any alcoholic who calls after office hours. Please consider, yourself, or any willing Sponsee in taking a shift to keep this vital service available to the Fellowship and any Alcoholic in need of support in Recovery.

**Paul A. continues to be available to train new members who sign up. Thanks, Paul, for continuing to help make this a functioning project for us all!**

## Central Intergroup Office of the Desert Board of Directors

**Chairman: Traci N.  
Vice Chairman: Carole C.  
Treasurer: Mike M.  
Secretary: Rosemary H.**

**Directors**  
**Rob L.**  
**Joe A.**  
**Ainslie M.**  
**Russell J.**  
**Geoff M.**

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

A belated Congratulation to Faith R. on her 36 years of Sobriety last month. My apologies for not including you in the December calendar. If any of you were interested in attending a meeting with her sometime soon, you can likely find her at the new meeting:

We Agnostics,

AA Attitude Adjustment, 559 S. Palm Canyon Dr. Suite B105, 5:30 PM Sunday

## January 2014

Britney S.	1 yr.
Josh S.	1 yr.
Lisa W.	1 yr.
Christina P.	1 yr.
Michael B.	1 yr.
Greg P.	1 yr.
Marie C.	1 yr.
Daniel Z.	2 yr.
Anita T.	4 yr.



Cody K.	8 yr.
Charles M.	16 yr.
Luz E.	18 yr.
Gary P.	20 yr.
Judith D.	30 yr.
Roy R.	31 yr.
John B.	37 yr.
Bob Z.	39 yr.
Dennis B.	44 yr.



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

### **Step Three**

*Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God  
as we understood Him.*

Before I found AA, I was spiritually broken, and my life was definitely unmanageable. I saw no hope for myself and refused to believe that there was such a thing as "God" or that my life was anything more than a series of random, pointless experiences to be endured. I was isolating in my house and slowly drinking myself to death. Today, nearly three years later, my life has completely changed for the better.

How did this happen? I honestly do not know, because I really am powerless and know so little. What I do know is that by some miracle, I found my way into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, and through faith in a power greater than myself and willingness to do whatever it takes, I have been able to stay sober and live a better life.

That I am alive at all is an act of grace. Hundreds of people in the rooms of AA have stood with me, loved me, helped me believe in myself when I could not. It is such a relief today to be able to hand my life over, to do the work and let go of the results. I am grateful to be alive, and grateful to AA for giving me the tools to live a better life. I can never repay the gift that I have been so freely given, but I can do my best to be of service and help those still suffering. It's the least I can do.

Douglas B.

### **Concept Three**

*"To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives - with a traditional Right of Decision."*

Concept 3 is the "Right of Decision." As trusted servants (Tradition 2), our leaders are allowed to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions. We must trust our leaders to make the right decisions for A.A. as a whole.

"This "Right of Decision" should never be made an excuse for failure to render proper reports of all significant actions taken; it ought never be used as a reason for constantly exceeding a clearly defined authority, nor as an excuse for persistently failing to consult those who are entitled to be consulted before an important decision is taken." Our ultimate authority is a loving God. If leaders are ineffective, inefficient or abuse the 'Right of Decision', each group has the right to remedy the situation.

"Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other. Therefore we cannot do less than trust our leaders in service. The "Right of Decision" that we offer them is not only the practical means by which they may act and lead effectively, but it is also the symbol of our implicit confidence."

(quotes from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service)

## **January Volunteers at Central Office**

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

Emil M.  
Jimmy Who?  
Kathy P.  
Ken L.  
Lobo M.

**Thank You !!**

Mary Ann C.  
Mary-Ann Mc L.  
Michael W.

Patrick L.  
Paul A.  
Peggy M.  
Roger F.  
Rivers V.  
Ron D.  
Susan B.  
Tracy M.

**Thank You !!**

## **Tradition Three**

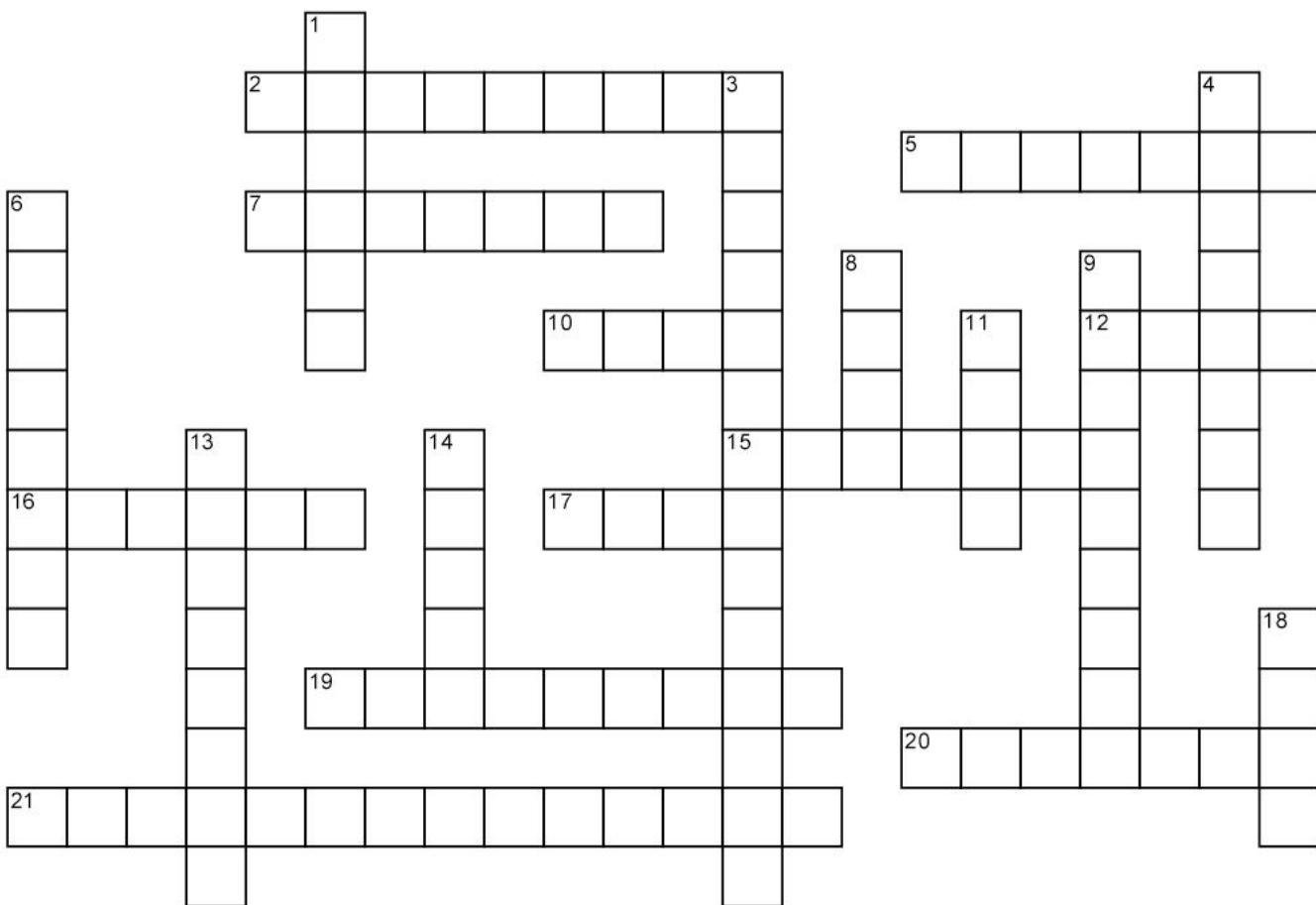
*The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking*

It sounds like kind of a loophole. That someone can be a member of AA and not be an alcoholic, yet merely desire to stop drinking. Some members feel that the openness of AA to people with other addictions can use this tradition in its short form to be members of AA yet not be alcoholics. I think those people are missing the point. It's tough enough for someone to come to us to ask for help. If asked immediately upon walking through the door to declare that they are alcoholics (and after all, no one really wants to be one) they might be scared right back out through the door. Stating openly, and immediately that the desire to stop is your ticket in allows a new prospect, especially one who is shaky and unsure, to comfortably take a seat and listen for a while. The rest will take care of itself. Who among us has been to a meeting and not heard at least something they can relate to? And where else in society are we going to hear such things? Part of "being responsible" to carry our message is to make sure we are welcoming and open-minded ourselves.

Some newcomers may want to stop drinking to save their jobs, marriages, professional licenses or other things. Why should we care why they want to stop? Our job is to educate (by example) them about our disease and shine the light on the pathway (the steps) to recovery from alcoholism. The promises are the holy grail that awaits us by working these steps, and anyone who wants to stop drinking deserves our guidance through our steps. Then let them decide for themselves if they qualify for AA membership simply because they want to stop drinking or because they are truly alcoholics. Either way, we, they, their families and society are better off.

Rob L.

## March Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 2 Where Dr. Bob went to college
- 5 Physician, Heal \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Where AA World Services is located
- 10 Mrs. Dr. Bob
- 12 The 3rd Step prayer doesn't have it but the 7th Step prayer does
- 15 Physician, Heal \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Group prior to AA
- 17 Bill's wife
- 19 Our magazine
- 20 AA's very essence
- 21 Home of Bill and his wife

### DOWN

- 1 How often we've seen them fail
- 3 He is quoted in Appendix 2 (2 words)
- 4 Started AA in Cleveland
- 6 Dr. Bob's middle name
- 8 Who brought the message to Bill Wilson
- 9 Akron hotel when Bill needed to talk to another drunk
- 11 happy, joyous and \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 prior to investigation
- 14 Russian potato juice
- 18 Alcoholics are like men who have lost these

Puzzle answers will appear in next month's Desert Lifeline.  
You can also find them on our web site — [www.aainthedesert.org](http://www.aainthedesert.org)

## **NEW MEETINGS & MEETING CHANGES:**

### **New Meeting:**

**Palm Springs**, We Agnostics, AA Attitude Adjustment, 559 S. Palm Canyon Dr. Suite B105, 5:30 PM Sunday

### **Meeting Location Changes:**

**Palm Desert**, Sobriety Sisters will now be meeting at the Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola Ave. Palm Desert, Thursdays @ 7:00 PM  
(and needs support!)

**Palm Desert**, Fearless & Thorough Book Study Group, now meets at the Christ of the Desert Chapel 73-441 Fred Waring Dr, Unit #1. 6:30 PM Tuesday

**Palm Desert**, the Sunday 9AM Serenity Group that met in Cathedral City for the last year (and previously met at the Palm D'Or Theater) now meets at a new location:

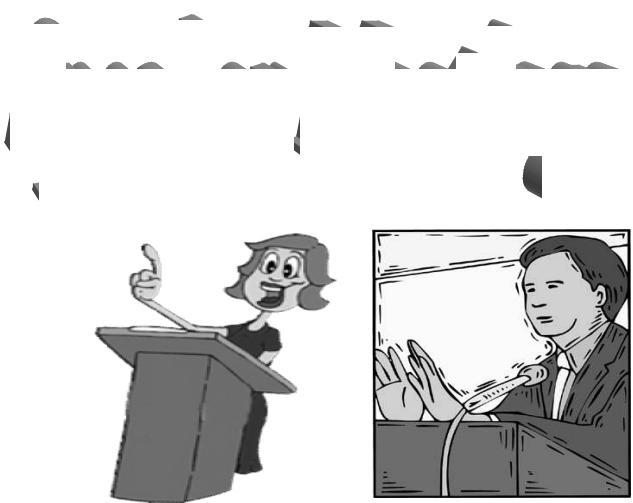
Morningstar Plaza 73-733 Fred Waring Dr. Ste. 100

**Palm Desert**, the Sunday 3rd, 7th 11th Step Meeting now meets at a new location at a new time 10:30 A.M.  
Morningstar Plaza 73-733 Fred Waring Dr. Ste. 100

## **Sobriety Capital of the World - Indio**

Friday Night, 8 p.m.

- 3/6 - Joseph W. - Palm Springs
- 3/13 - Carla R. - Tujunga
- 3/20 - Allen B. - Westside Hollywood
- 3/27 - Lori S. - Long Beach



## **Speaker / Q & A Discussion Meeting Perez Plaza**

Tuesday Night, 7 p.m. / 7:30 Q & A

- 03/03 - Joe B.
- 03/10 - Ric
- 03/17 - Joan
- 03/24 - To Be Announced

## **Palm Desert Group - Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert**

Saturday Night, 8:30 p.m.

- 3/7 - Javier M. - Monrovia
- 3/14 - Larry S. - Palm Desert
- 3/21 - Jeff G. - Upland
- 3/28 - Dr. Harry H.. - Rancho Mirage

**Please check the web site ([www.AAintheDesert.org](http://www.AAintheDesert.org)) for any changes  
since the printing of the newsletter.**

# **February Puzzle Solution**



# Book of the month

# Daily Reflections

**Normally \$10.25—This month \$9.50**



# 2015

We are NOT a Glam Lot!

**30th Annual**

## AA Desert Women's Banquet

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015**

Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells Resort & Spa

**REGISTRATION: 4 – 5 P.M.**

**DINNER: 5 – 7 P.M.**

**SPEAKER: 7 – 8 P.M.**

**\$43 per person**

NO tickets will be sold at the door. 10 seats per table maximum.  
To sit together, registration forms and payment must be returned together.

**Registration Contact:** **Brooke B. 760-399-7885**

**Betsy F. 760-409-4011**

**Chair:** **Leslie P. 760-485-6758**

For event details, please visit [desertwomensbanquet.org](http://desertwomensbanquet.org)

See reverse side for additional registration forms.

Make checks payable to: <b>Desert Women's Banquet</b>  Mail to: <b>PO Box 4383 Palm Desert, CA 92261</b>	Full Name:  Name on Badge:  Mailing Address:  City:  Email:	<b>Amount Enclosed</b>  Dinner \$ 43.00  *Donation \$  <b>Total \$</b>  Phone:
Vegetarian meal?  YES / NO (Please Circle)	<b>Table Head:</b>	# in Party:

To donate ticket(s) or portion of, making it possible for "women in need" to attend,  
please note the amount of your donation above.

Payment must be received no later than Friday, March 6, 2015.



### The Apocalypse

He used to only come out at night.

Hyde filled me with nothing by fright!

Answers were all I was looking for,

And all Hyde did was shut the door,

Then one morning came the dawn,

I looked in the mirror at a face so drawn!

I had to take a drink to chase the shakes away,

It dawned on me Hyde had come out to play!

The Four Horsemen rode with him,

I couldn't see for my sight was dim.

They came...

the Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration and Despair

And to them, there is nothing to compare!

I couldn't judge anything anymore,

My life was in a constant uproar...

Then a hand touched my fevered brow

And to my God did I gratefully bow.

All the demons took flight,

And with that came the Light!

I had found my answers, in AA



Doug D.



### Dance With the Devil

I gave the devil his due

Now my drinking days are thru

The devil tried to twist my head

But with AA I twisted His instead

I now dance to a different song.



My God knew it all along,  
It often takes my breath away  
And at such times I kneel and pray.

Thank God for AA



Doug D.



Sponsee: "How many really great AA speakers do you think there are?"

Sponsor: "I really don't know, but I'm guessing that it's at least one LESS than you think!"

Heard at the end of a meeting:

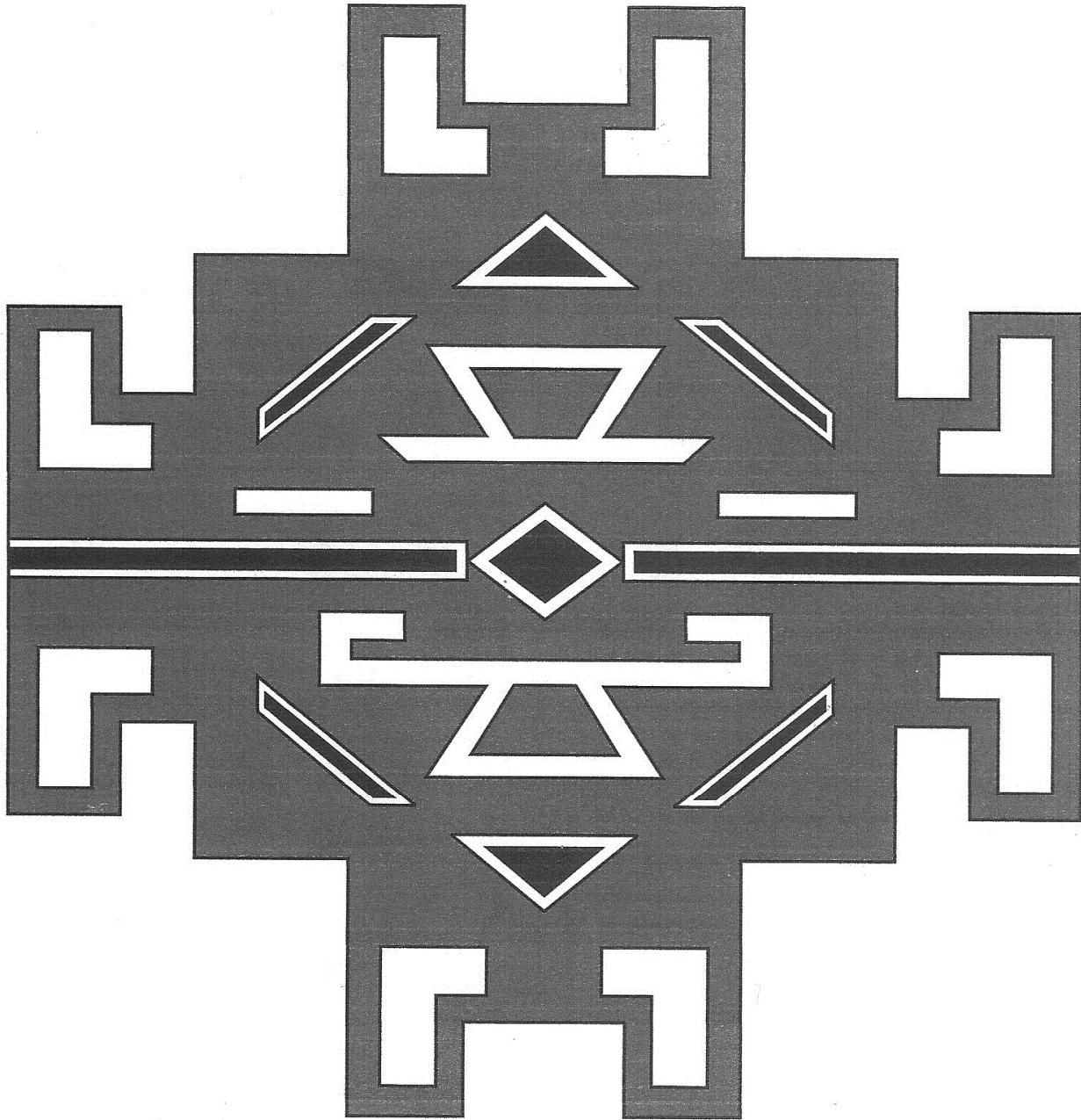
"Don't leave before the miracle happens!"

But, don't leave AFTER the miracle happens, either!"



**A.A. DESERT POW WOW**  
WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION  
**RENAISSANCE INDIAN WELLS RESORT & SPA**

JUNE 4, 5, 6, 7, 2015  
INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA



<http://www.desertpowwow.com>



## The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Ninth District AA Convention

### COMMITTEE *PLANNING* MEETINGS



**Have some fun & Bring a friend – get involved!**

The **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of the every month

At pm ~ Fellowship Hall

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

March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
April 26<sup>th</sup>  
May 24<sup>th</sup>  
June 28<sup>th</sup>  
July 26<sup>th</sup>

Convention: August 7 - 9, 2015 at  
Hyatt Indian Wells

**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@AAinthesdesert.org

You know how it seems that God puts people in our lives just before we have to walk through something really challenging? Well, now I am REALLY afraid! I had three women ask me to sponsor them this week -- what could God have planned that I need THREE new Sponsees?????

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Mike Murphy

**DATE:** January 15, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Treasurer's Report, December 2014

**CENTRAL OFFICE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT, December 2014**

	Dec Actual	Dec Budget	Variance	Jul-Dec Actual	Jul-Dec Budget	Variance
<b>Income:</b>						
Group Contributions	\$ 3,585	\$ 4,166	\$ (581)	\$ 19,103	\$ 24,996	\$ (5,893)
Convention Contributions	\$ 404	\$ 300	\$ 104	\$ 9,974	\$ 7,700	\$ 2,274
Graditude Dinner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 170	\$ -	\$ 170
Literature Sales	\$ 4,512	\$ 4,420	\$ 92	\$ 25,040	\$ 26,520	\$ (1,480)
Medallions	\$ 2,285	\$ 1,920	\$ 365	\$ 11,461	\$ 11,520	\$ (59)
All Other Income	\$ 915	\$ 729	\$ 186	\$ 2,047	\$ 4,374	\$ (2,327)
Total Income	\$ 11,701	\$ 11,535	\$ 166	\$ 67,795	\$ 75,110	\$ (7,315)
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Literature expense	\$ 3,692	\$ 3,577	\$ 115	\$ 21,545	\$ 21,464	\$ 81
Medallion expense	\$ 1,117	\$ 1,043	\$ 74	\$ 5,776	\$ 6,260	\$ (484)
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 3,921	\$ 3,526	\$ 395	\$ 23,240	\$ 21,956	\$ 1,284
Graditude Dinner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ (1,500)
Rent	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350	\$ -	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,100	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 334	\$ 375	\$ (41)	\$ 2,583	\$ 2,250	\$ 333
All Other Expenses	\$ 2,289	\$ 1,491	\$ 798	\$ 5,565	\$ 11,371	\$ (5,806)
Total Expenses	\$ 12,704	\$ 11,363	\$ 1,341	\$ 66,809	\$ 72,901	\$ (6,092)
Net Income	\$ (1,003)	\$ 172	\$ (1,175)	\$ 986	\$ 2,209	\$ (1,223)

Prudent reserve equals 8.8 months

Negative ( ) income variances reduce net income

Negative ( ) expense variances increase net income

**Central Office of the Desert  
Group Contributions  
January 2015**

	Jan 15	Jul '14 - Jan 15		
10th Step Study-THU Palm Desert	45.00	100.00		65.00
12 &12 - La Quinta	40.00	211.00		117.00
12 &12 Happy Hour-TUE Yucca Valley	0.00	140.00		300.00
164 Group - WED - Palm Springs	30.00	150.00		590.00
3charge customer	0.00	78.00		
3rd, 7th &11th Step - SUN - Palm Desert	250.00	1,131.35		
5th Tradition Dinner Meeting - DHS	50.00	140.00		60.00
ABC Group-SUN Palm Desert	0.00	50.00		26.00
Alkies Only-WED Bermuda Dunes	0.00	60.00		500.00
AS Bill Sees It 10AM -MON Palm Desert	0.00	113.00		142.00
Attitude Adj-ALL Meetings Palm Springs	90.00	869.00		1,572.40
Attitude Adjustment-M-S PDCC, Palm Desert	0.00	800.00		20.00
Attitude Adjustment 7AM M-S Palm Desert	123.00	642.00		110.00
Big Book Experience - TUE - Palm Desert	0.00	4.36		276.00
Big Book Study - Wed - Palm Springs	94.00	306.16		42.90
Big Book Workshop - THU Yucca Valley	0.00	10.31		
Black Sheep Group - WED - Rancho Mirage	0.00	80.02		75.00
Came to Believe-WED Cathedral City	42.80	42.80		
Candle Light Meditation Group - TUE - PD	220.00	220.00		345.00
CDM Men's Stag-TUE Palm Desert	70.00	310.00		52.35
Central Intergroup	26.00	134.10		120.00
Creative Expressions-SUN Palm Desert	0.00	25.00		480.00
Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert	109.70	522.58		532.00
Desert Men's Big Book -TUE Palm Desert	75.00	150.00		40.00
Dolls of Valley -WED Palm Desert	0.00	280.00		121.00
Eve. Attitude Adj. - THU Rancho Mirage	0.00	187.00		59.50
Feelings & Solutions-WED Palm Desert	45.98	177.16		63.26
Fellowship Hall	0.00	108.00		
Goals Group	0.00	40.00		106.43
Great Events-Daily Yucca Valley	0.00	45.00		400.00
Groovy Group-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	44.76		44.80
H&I Committee	0.00	152.60		744.00
Half Measures-TUE Cathedral City	46.00	46.00		164.83
Hi-Desert SpeakersGroup-SAT Yucca Valley	0.00	95.00		103.12
How Is Your Now - La Quinta	0.00	161.52		158.72
How It Works-ALL Meetings Palm Springs	100.00	500.00		13.64
IWC Committee 2015	20.00	70.00		40.00
Jaywalkers Men's Stag - PD	0.00	10.00		2,920.97
Just the Black Print Book Study-WED - RM	274.00	774.00		597.01
Keep It Simple-SAT Palm Desert	1,923.24	1,923.24		50.51
Ladies Nite Out-WED Palm Desert	0.00	271.00		70.00
Living Sober-MON Cathedral City	41.20	41.20		
Living Sober-MON Palm Springs	0.00	225.00		33.00
Living Sober Group-ALL Joshua Tree	0.00	61.50		88.00
Meditation Meeting-FRI Palm Desert	0.00	323.36		260.12
Meditation Meeting - MON - Palm Desert	74.09	74.09		350.00
Men's Mauraders-MON Palm Desert	0.00	447.00		30.00
				15.00
				15.00
				75.50
			TOTAL	6,185.60
				25,288.45

It has been my experience that often when I cannot decide between two (or more) options, it's because the answer that would give me peace is actually, "None of the above."

"Insanity isn't doing the same thing over again expecting different results. That's stupidity. Insanity is knowing the answer and not applying it to your life.

Pain is not the absence of spirituality. It is your better self trying to get out!

# **GRATITUDE DINNER 2015 SPEAKER MEETING**

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 2015**



**Save The Date**

*Food is again being catered by  
Sherman's Deli!*

Home-Made Desserts from the Fellowship

Tickets available at meetings, or at  
Your Central Office.

**Speaker: Don N.  
from Los Angeles**

*Tickets  
\$20.00*

**Service Opportunities, we need your help!!**

Anyone interested in participating can call Central Office 760.324.4880

Or Email: [GratitudeDinner@ainthedesert.org](mailto:GratitudeDinner@ainthedesert.org)

Chair: Ginny P - 760.567.2242

**Remember: Xavier Prep is a non-smoking facility.  
There is NO SMOKING anywhere on the property.**

