



# the Desert Lifeline

November 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](mailto: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)

### DCYPAA

Every Sunday 6:00 P.M.  
Fellowship Hall  
45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert

[dcypaa@gmail.com](mailto:dcypaa@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/groups/DCYPAAround2](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DCYPAAround2)

## Step

Sought through prayer and meditation to  
improve our conscious contact with God,  
*as we understood Him*, praying only for  
knowledge of His will for us  
and the power to carry that out.

## Tradition

Our public relations policy is based on  
attraction rather than promotion; we need  
always maintain personal anonymity at the  
level of press, radio, and films.

## Concept

The trustees should always have the best  
possible committees, corporate service  
directors, executives, staffs, and  
consultants. Composition, qualifications,  
induction procedures, and rights and duties  
will always be matters of serious concern.

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# Principle Eleven

**Spirituality** - predominantly spiritual character as shown  
in thought, life, etc.; incorporeal or immaterial nature.

**September Office Statistics**

Meeting Info	61
12 Step Calls	5
Visitors	103
Literature Sales	130
Al-Anon	1
Other 12 Step	7
Miscellaneous	76
Business	41

**TeleService Report**

Our TeleService calendar is being kept current by Central Office volunteers. Your new Board member, Russell J., has diligently coordinated scheduling for new members willing to be of service, enhancing our ability to be responsible to any alcoholic who calls after office hours. Please think about either yourself or a willing sponsee 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: OPEN**

**Directors**

**Ainslie M.  
Russell J.  
Geoff M.  
Heidi A.  
Das Mc P.  
Sid B.**

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

**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.

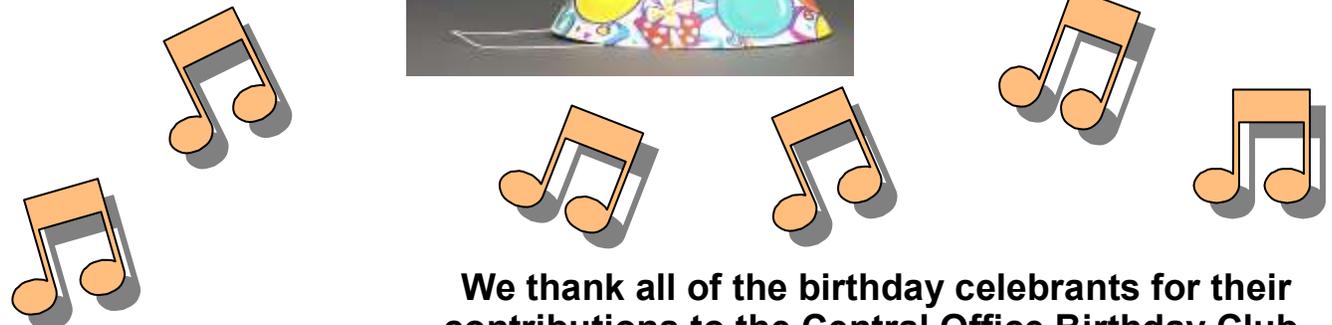
Please submit your material for *The Desert Lifeline* to:  
Central Intergroup Office of the Desert  
35-325 Date Palm Drive, Suite 134,  
Cathedral City, CA 92234.  
E-mail: [manager@AAinthedesert.org](mailto:manager@AAinthedesert.org)

**September 2015**

Michelle Y.	1 yr.
Sean G.	1 yr.
James V.	1 yr.
Marquis B.	1 yr.
John B.	2 yr.



Tom P.	14 yr.
Ron D.	16 yr.
Don M.	30 yr.
Joe T.	31 yr.
David L.	33 yr.
Sherali J.	40 yr.



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

**September Volunteers at Central Office**

Char A.  
Carole S.  
Catherine S.

**Thank You !!**

David T.  
Dyana S.  
Eileen C.  
Jim B.

Kathie P.  
Lobo M.  
Mark L.  
Marge C.

**Thank You !!**

Mary Anne C.  
Michael W.

Mike B.

**Thank You !!**

Patrick L.  
Paul A.  
Roger F.  
Rivers V.  
Sandy W.

**Thank You !!**

Sarah K. (& Zeke)  
Steve P.  
Tonia B.  
Tracy M.  
Vickie G.  
Zebra Mark

**Thank You !!**

My experience has been that expectations are the filter through which I interpret my circumstances. If I was told that I'm staying in a penthouse suite at a hotel, and I got there and the hotel only had two floors and the only difference between my room and the others was that I had HBO, I would probably be disappointed. BUT, if I was told I was going to prison and was taken to the SAME room at the SAME hotel, I would be overjoyed! Same room. Different expectations!

"I always hear something that I need to hear when I come to this meeting. I don't know about the rest of you, but you will just have to listen to what is being said, because I need to hear it!"

**Secretary Workshop**

**Saturday November 14th 2015 2:00 to 3:30 PM**

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

## Step Eleven

***Sought through Prayer and meditation to improve our constant contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.***

When I arrived at AA, fully surrendered, I realized that it was only through a Higher Power that I was granted the grace to recover. The Steps were at first daunting, and I felt like a failure at everything I had ever attempted. As I reviewed the Steps, I realized what a task I had ahead of me. Being a good alcoholic, however, I did look for the easier, softer way. Many of the Steps seemed impossible for me in my fragile state. Step Eleven, however, seemed to be one that I could probably practice successfully right from the start.

I realized that the miracle of recovery I was experiencing would not have been possible had my Higher Power not carried me through the wreckage of my drinking. I knew that if He was with me then, He was surely with me now.

This was one commitment I could make – to pray or meditate regularly. There were no rules as to the manner or duration, so it was possible for me to succeed at something. I started out with strict dedication to four meditation texts, which was the discipline I needed at the time. Later I found that I was drawn in different directions. Again, I was so grateful that this was something I couldn't do wrong. My life in early sobriety was entirely black and white – when the Step said, “praying ONLY for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out”, that was my ONLY prayer. I wouldn't even be sincere in saying the Serenity Prayer, but keep asking for “knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out”. As I grew in sobriety, there was also intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth. I realized that as long as I was sincere in my contact with God, the form and wording mattered little.

Further benefits of practicing this Step are the feeling that my Higher Power is always by my side; there is a quick and almost automatic acknowledgement of gratitude to Him when good things happen and when things do not go my way, instead of whining and feeling sorry for myself, I just as quickly move to acceptance, looking for my part and the lesson I should be learning. I continue to remind myself that God doesn't need to hear my prayers, it is the act of praying that gets me out of myself and keeps me on the path of greatest usefulness to God and to my fellows.

Jane T.  
Dolls of the Valley, Palm Desert

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At first I thought the 'God thing' was a crutch. It turned out to be stilts.

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When I sobered up, I suddenly met the personality that caused me to drink in the first place.

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Resentments are like stray cats: if you don't feed them, they'll go away.

## Tradition Eleven

***Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.***

In "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" on page 181, we read: "We found that we had to rely upon the principle of attraction rather than of promotion." It's been my experience that this is the best way for our friends and family to promote us.

However painstakingly slow this may be, it always keeps me humble. Now over time, I understand what the old timers in the rooms meant when they said they were "watching how you Walk."

I've learned that I don't need to be anonymous in the meetings, but always "at the level of press, radio, and films." I've learned never to promote or praise myself, but to always be there when someone reaches out.

Tony C.  
Roadrunners, Bermuda Dunes

Sponsor to Sponsee: "Be yourself. Everyone else is taken."

After all the experience I have, I still sometimes forget that  
God has my best interests at heart.

I've noticed that I don't compare my insides to  
your outsides when I'm feeling good about myself.

**\$9.00**

Book of the month

**\$9.00**

## Stools & Bottles

a novel presentation of the first four steps of the A.A. program

**\$9.00**

**Normally \$9.75- this month \$9.00**

**\$9.00**

## November Puzzle

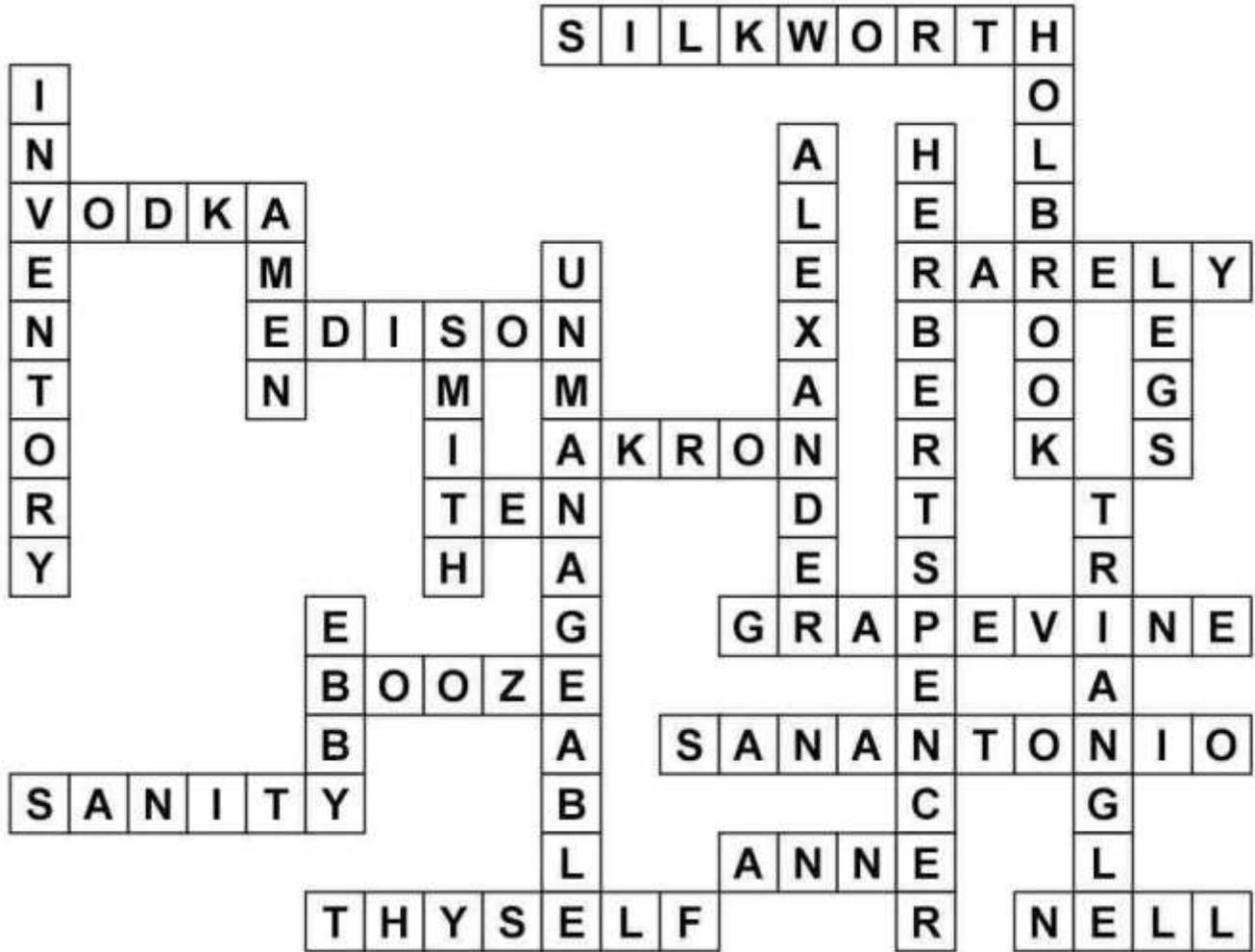
Find the words on the right in the letters below and circle the words.

acceptance  
gratitude  
honesty  
willingness  
sponsor  
steps

traditions  
alcohol  
meetings  
powerless  
unmanageable  
contempt

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 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

## October Puzzle Solution



### Concept Eleven

**The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.**

Although AA is non-profit, we realize the importance of having competent, paid staff members. I once saw an illustration that compared AA to a church with an open floor with room for all, which stands for recovery; pillars representing the traditions, and the beacon of light that is meant to shine a light of hope into the world of an alcoholic. Concept Eleven is the way we maintain competent people servicing that light, making sure it doesn't go out. The chapter serves as a basic outline of how to go about running the different committees, defining what their function is, and selecting who sits on the boards. The issue of pay, the distribution of responsibility, and time in office are all answered. I could write an entire essay on this chapter - that would be neatly skipped over as friends of Bill seek out the crossword puzzle - but the importance of well-trained people running AA's world service is not something that should be taken lightly.

Stuart H.  
Monday Men's Stag, Rancho Mirage

**False Ego vs Honest Ego**

*One cannot live the afternoon of life according to the program of life's morning; for what was great in the morning will be of little importance in the evening, and what in the morning was true will at evening become a lie. --C. G. Jung*

The first part of my life was spent developing a *false-ego-self* which placed me on shaky ground with the truth. Dr. Silkworth tells us that the alcoholic cannot differentiate the true from the false in the matter of drink, and that certainly was true for me! A sincere decision to quit drinking forever in the morning found me *boiled as an owl* by late evening (AA #3 Bill D.'s term). I seemed to have no choice in the matter of drink. My ego convinced me that my actor's face was my true identity—interestingly the Greek root word for actor is hypocrite. An alcoholic cannot drink on the truth, only on a lie, but I had no truth! My powerful false-ego-self allowed me to believe a lie regardless of my best efforts with self-will and self-knowledge. Unknowingly, I was helpless and hopeless in the matter of drink.

But at forty-three years of age, an AA sponsor taught me how to use the Twelve-Steps to develop a brand new *honest-ego-self*! Thus has begun—rather unlike Dr. Jung mentioned above—the evening of my life and I haven't had to drink for many years. Dr. Sam Shoemaker, Bill W.'s Oxford Group sponsor, summed up AA as: "*Out of self, Into Go, Into Others.*" What a great recipe! These years, because of AA, what was true in the matter of drink in the morning, remains the same in the evening—even during happy hour! ~~ Bob S., Richmond, IN

**Heard at Meetings. . . . .**

Inter Group: "An alcoholic is a man with two feet firmly planted in mid-air."

Greenwich: "A.A. is like an umbrella. It won't work unless you put it up."

White Plains: "An alcoholic is a person who finds he has nothing in common with himself."

Manhattan: "Time heals all cuts; time also cuts all heels."

Inter Group: "The Twelve Steps are a matter of long, slow work. One can't go from a heel to a halo in twelve easy lessons!"

Manhattan: "When I look at a new prospect I say to myself, 'If you don't take a drink, feller, you'll be where I am, and if I *do* take a drink, I'll be where you are--in no time flat'."

Nassau: "The surest way to lose your health is to keep drinking to other people's."

# HEARD IN THE ROOMS

I knew I needed to do something about my drinking, so I decided to drink only when I was awake!

PROBLEM WAS....  
I began STAYING AWAKE FOR DAYS AT A TIME...



“At the beginning we sacrificed alcohol. We had to, or it would have killed us. But we couldn’t get rid of alcohol unless we made other sacrifices. Big shot-ism and phony thinking had to go. We had to toss self-justification, self-pity, and anger right out the window. We had to quit the crazy contest for personal prestige and big bank balances. We had to take personal responsibility for our sorry state and quit blaming others for it.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1955  
“Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous”  
*The Language of the Heart*

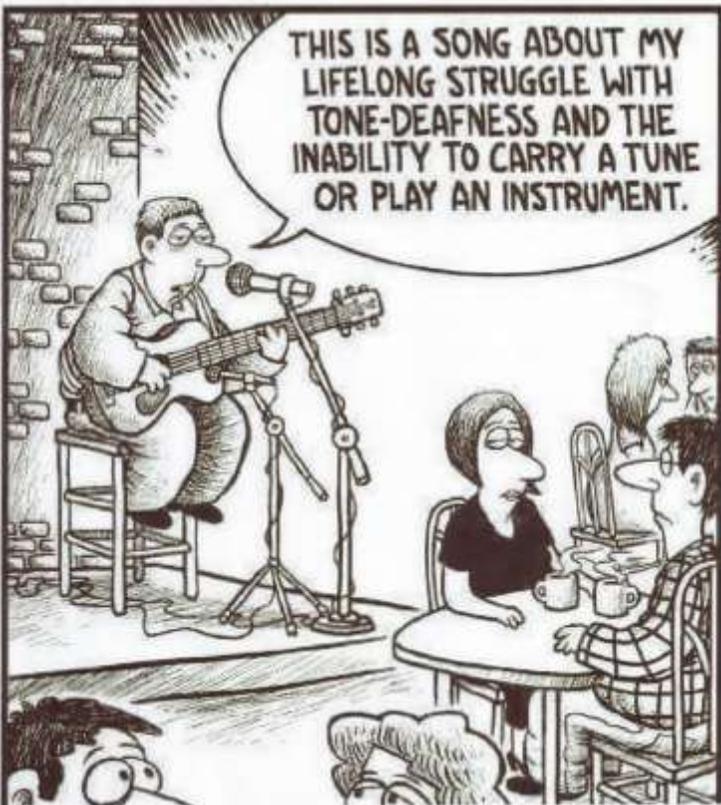


## The Four Horsemen

The Four Horsemen, I know them well  
They chased me into the depths of Hell  
They rode at a frightening clip  
And into Hades I did slip  
The Apocalypse only an Alcoholic knows.  
And finally we came to blows  
The Terror was beyond compare  
And into me was thrown a final scare  
Bewilderment followed close behind  
He put me in a final bind  
The frustration was complete  
As Desperation settled in  
I committed one last sin  
Then came the light  
God restored my sight  
He blessed me that day  
So I thank God for A.A.



Doug D.



The "Ballad of A Newcomer's A.A. Wisdom "

**NEW MEETINGS & MEETING CHANGES**

**New Meetings**

**Cathedral City**, "Friday Unorthodox Night Group" 10:00 P.M. Perez Plaza Meeting Hall 68845 Perez Road #25

**Joshua Tree**, "Straight Up AA" Meeting 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, Faith Lutheran Church, 6336 Hallee Road

**Palm Desert**, Friday 8:00 P.M. Study for Sanity Meeting at Fellowship Hall 45940 Portola Ave. will now include a new format that includes the first of the month Moderated Speaker Meeting including an audience Q & A beginning January 1st.

**Palm Springs**, "Monday /Living with Chronic Pain" Meeting 2:00 P.M. Monday  
Sunny Dunes Meeting Hall 4711B East Palm Canyon Dr.

**Meeting Change of Location**

**Palm Springs**, "Crack of Dawn" Meeting (**weekdays only**) at 6:00 A.M. has moved from 559 S. Palm Canyon. B105 to the St. Teresa Church 2800 E. Ramon

**Meeting no Longer in Existence**

**Palm Springs**, "Attitude of Gratitude" Meeting, Wednesday, St. Paul of the Desert Church is dark

**Indio**, "Big Book Babes" Monday 6:30 P.M. ABC Recovery Center 44374 Palm Dr. Although this meeting went dark some time ago, I was just informed .

**Joshua Tree**, "Specific Group" Saturday 7:00 P.M. @ the Fire Ring

**Meeting Updates**

**La Quinta**, "No Rules" Meeting La Quinta Community Park 77865 Ave Montezuma 7:00 AM weekdays and 8:00 AM weekends is better if you bring your own chair and coffee, as they have neither.

**Rancho Mirage**, " AA Cigar Smoking " Meeting Thursday night @ The River 71800 Hwy 111 is now getting together at 9:00 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M.

**Joshua Tree**, "Participation" Meeting Saturday 12:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall 6430 Park Blvd.

**Palm Desert Group -**

**Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert**

Saturday Night, 8:00 p.m.

- 11/7 - Sue D. - Palm Desert
- 11/14 - Dave B - Harbor City
- 11/21 - Sue S. - Palm Desert
- 11/28 - Ernesto L - Palm Desert

**Sobriety Capital of the World**

**Indio**

Friday Night, 8 p.m.

- 11/6 - Manny V. - Oxnard, CA
- 11/13 - Paul C. - Woodland Hills, CA
- 11/20 - Candice M. - Los Angeles, CA
- 11/27 - Cyndi C. - Laguna Hills, CA



**Cornfield Meeting -**

**City Council Chambers, Palm Springs**

Friday Night, 7:00 p.m.

- 11/6 - Alison R. - Los Angeles, CA
- 11/13 - Carol D. - Palm Desert, CA
- 11/20 - Vivian P. - Los Angeles, CA
- 11/27 - Dave F. - Rancho Mirage, CA



***Local Speaker Meetings***

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Mike Murphy

**DATE:** October 08, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Treasurer's Report, September 2015

**CENTRAL OFFICE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT, September 2015**

	Sep Actual	Sep Budget	Variance	Jul-Sep Actual	Jul-Sep Budget	Variance
<b>Income:</b>						
Group Contributions	\$ 3,266	\$ 4,000	\$ (734)	\$ 9,563	\$ 12,000	\$ (2,439)
Convention Contributions	\$ 393	\$ -	\$ 393	\$ 8,872	\$ 8,500	\$ 372
Gratitude Dinner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Merchandise Sales	\$ 7,504	\$ 7,565	\$ (61)	\$ 22,203	\$ 22,695	\$ (492)
All Other Income	\$ 72	\$ 205	\$ (133)	\$ 169	\$ 615	\$ (446)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,236</b>	<b>\$ 11,770</b>	<b>\$ (534)</b>	<b>\$ 40,805</b>	<b>\$ 43,810</b>	<b>\$ (3,005)</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Merchandise Expense	\$ 4,056	\$ 5,140	\$ (1,084)	\$ 14,118	\$ 15,420	\$ (1,302)
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 3,819	\$ 3,951	\$ (132)	\$ 11,686	\$ 11,853	\$ (167)
Gratitude Dinner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rent	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,365	\$ (15)	\$ 4,050	\$ 4,095	\$ (45)
Utilities	\$ 348	\$ 500	\$ (152)	\$ 1,217	\$ 1,520	\$ (303)
All Other Expenses	\$ 3,378	\$ 2,755	\$ 623	\$ 8,071	\$ 7,315	\$ 756
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 12,952</b>	<b>\$ 13,711</b>	<b>\$ (759)</b>	<b>\$ 39,141</b>	<b>\$ 40,203</b>	<b>\$ (1,062)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (1,716)</b>	<b>\$ (1,941)</b>	<b>\$ 225</b>	<b>\$ 1,665</b>	<b>\$ 3,607</b>	<b>\$ (1,942)</b>

Prudent reserve equals 9.0 months

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

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

	Sep 15	Jul - Sep 15
10th Step Study-THU Palm Desert	0.00	139.01
11AM Palm Springs Duplicate Customer	0.00	118.45
12 & 12 Step Study - THU - Cathedral City	81.60	81.60
12 &12 - La Quinta	0.00	60.00
12 &12 Bk Study-TUE Cathedral City	0.00	17.51
12 and 12 Men's Stag F.H. Monday	0.00	50.00
164 Group - WED - Palm Springs	0.00	27.20
3rd, 7th &11th Step - SUN - Palm Desert	0.00	266.50
5th Tradition Dinner Meeting - DHS	75.00	75.00
6 AM Wake-Up	119.00	119.00
630AM Attitude Adj. Palm Desert	600.00	600.00
Anonymous - no group given	0.00	534.72
AS Bill Sees It 10AM -MON Palm Desert	0.00	47.00
Attitude Adj-ALL Meetings Palm Springs	0.00	180.00
Attitude Adj. THU Eve. - Rancho Mirage	277.39	277.39
Attitude Adjustment 7AM M-S Palm Desert	52.00	200.00
Big Book Study - Wed - Palm Springs	56.00	143.75
Black Sheep Group - WED - Rancho Mirage	0.00	200.00
CDM Men's Stag-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	50.00
Central Intergroup	0.00	23.42
Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert	45.00	144.00
Desert Angels-THU Indio	0.00	60.00
Dolls of Valley -WED Palm Desert	74.02	74.02
Goals Group	0.00	30.00
How It Works-WED Palm Desert	330.00	330.00
Into Action-TUE Cathedral City	0.00	0.00
Jaywalkers Men's Stag - PD	0.00	101.90
Just the Black Print Book Study-WED - RM	0.00	213.00
Keep It Simple-Many DHS	0.00	241.20
Keep It Simple - THU - Cat City	82.00	82.00
Keys to the Kingdom-SAT Palm Desert	160.00	160.00
Living Sober Group-ALL Joshua Tree	0.00	10.00
Meditaion Meeting-FRI Palm Desert	95.50	95.50
Meditation Meeting-THU Cathedral City	92.00	92.00
Men's Mauraders-MON Palm Desert	0.00	225.00
Monday Night Men's Stag	0.00	334.80
No Rules - La Quinta	0.00	172.00
Ole Time Sunday AA Meeting - Sun City	0.00	200.00
Playing With A Full Deck-THU -Palm Desert	0.00	94.15
Primary Purpose -TUE Palm Desert	0.00	50.00
RoundTable Group -THU Palm Desert	0.00	25.50
Sane Saturday-SAT Cathedral City	0.00	86.80
Santa Rosa Big Book Thumpers-WED-Coachell	0.00	75.00
Saturday's Survivors-SAT Cathedral City	80.00	80.00
Serenity Seekers-FRI - Palm Desert	120.00	120.00
Sobriety Capitol of World-FRI Indio	0.00	61.00
Solid Solutions - TUE - Palm Desert	0.00	184.04
Speaker Q&A - Cathedral City	0.00	90.00
Spiritual Awakening-SAT Cathedral City	0.00	82.80
Step Sisters-MON Palm Desert	122.00	408.00
Step/Tradition Study-FRI Palm Desert	0.00	28.33
Stepping Stones-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	117.50
Sunday Serenity Group	212.50	257.14
Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Group - ALL- PS	514.33	1,152.78
Sunrise Celebrators-M-S Palm Desert	77.86	216.38
Sunset Group - Joshua Tree	0.00	50.00
ThirdTradition-THU-Landers	0.00	100.00
Twilight Step Study-TUE Palm Desert	0.00	125.00
Vets for Vets - TUE - Palm Desert	0.00	55.00
What's Good About Today? Wed-Cat City	0.00	80.00
Winners Meeting-WED Palm Springs	0.00	100.00
Women's Meeting-MON Yucca Valley	0.00	24.00
Women's Meeting-WED Palm Desert	0.00	113.00
Women's Step Study- Yucca Valley	0.00	8.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,266.20</b>	<b>9,561.38</b>