

March 2020 the esert Lifeli

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 chairman@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

General Service Office, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station NY 10163 Web site: www.aa.org

DCYPAA

Every Sunday 6:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall 45940 Portola Ave. Palm Desert Email: webmaster@dcypaa.com

General Service, District 30 4th Sunday of the month, 2:15 PM Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall 6430 Park Blvd. Joshua Tree, CA 92252 Mailing Address: P O Box 1692 Yucca Valley, CA 92286-1692

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.

Desert Lifeline, March 2020

January Office Statistics

| Meeting Info | 71 |
|------------------|-----|
| 12 Step Calls | 2 |
| Visitors | 29 |
| Literature Sales | 171 |
| Al-Anon | 1 |
| Other 12 Step | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 36 |
| Business | 9 |

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert Board of Directors

Chairman: Jim B.
Vice Chairman: Kathleen A.
Treasurer: Kenneth J.
Secretary: Allan G.

<u>Directors</u>
Mark D.
Joe A.
Kathy F.
Alyssa C

Desert Lifeline Editor: Bill T. Office Manager: David M.

Letters to the Editor or Articles for the Desert Lifeline must be received by the 1st. of the month for consideration of publication in that 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

January 2020

Darlene M. 1 yr.

Mark G. 2 yr.

Alyssa C. 2 yr.

Theron R.. 5 yr.

Natalie K. 5 yr.

Janathan K. 6 yr.

Jim B. 15 yr.







Norma U. 20 yr. Dani M. 24 yr. Rob W, 27 yr. Nancy H. 30 yr. Ben H. 38 yr. Dennis B. 49 yr.





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

The Coachella Valley Hospital & Institution Committee is looking for volunteers to attend A.A. meetings at the Chuckwalla State Prison near Blythe, CA. If you are interested in participating with other A.A. volunteers and have at least 2 years of Sobriety, please contact Stephen S. at (310) 270-5687 for more information on this rewarding service opportunity!



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!"



January Volunteers at Central Office

Alyssa C. Eileen C.
Amelia David B.
Anthony B. Emil M.

Thank You !!

Gary H.
Bill T. Glen P.
Brad L. Greg C.

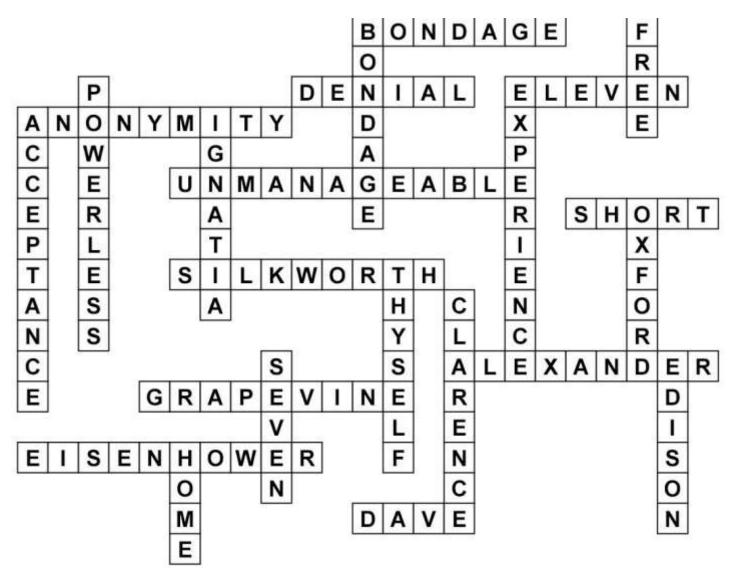
Cindy H. Jim B.

Thank You II

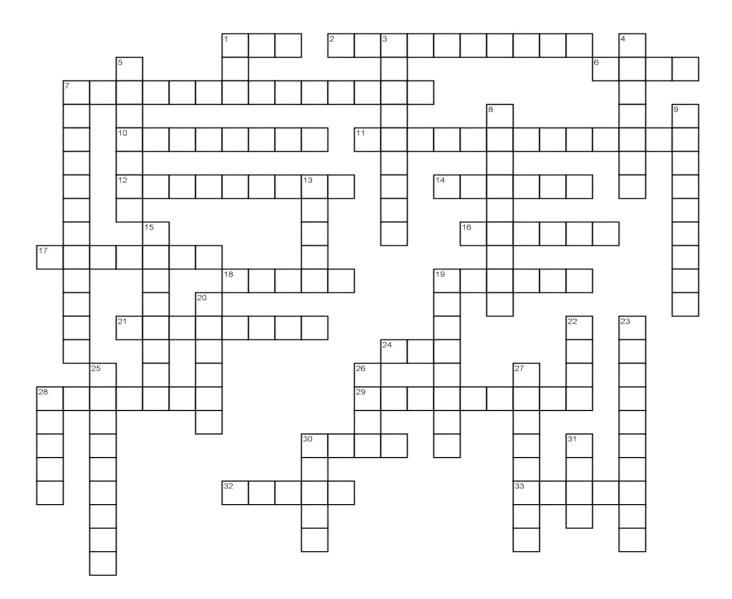
Jodee H. Nikki C. Robert C.
Sasha D.
Steve C.
Steve P.
Steven St. L.
Tracy M.

Richard M.

February Puzzle Solution



March Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 He's doing it for us
- 2 the act of taking or receiving something offered
- 6 Bill's secretary
- 7 Bill and Lois' home (2 words)
- 10 What we'll comprehend
- 11 Always has a bowl of candy (2 words)
- 12 thankfulness
- 14 Dr. Bob had one, Bill didn't
- 16 what happens half way through
- 17 Came to _____ that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 18 Russian potato juice
- 19 soundness of mind
- 21 Our newsletter
- 24 Home away from home to alcoholics
- 28 your AA guide
- 29 You have to take one
- 30 Man on the bed
- 32 In what city did Bill meet Bob?
- 33 We'll know it

DOWN

- 1 Spirit flavored with juniper berries
- 3 Where was the 1st AA International Convention held?
- 4 On the road to happy _____
- 5 Carry it
- 7 It will slip away
- 8 First woman member (2 words)
- 9 It will disappear
- 13 Intoxicate
- 15 Ninety
- 19 What we all want to maintain
- 20 _____ Pow Wow
- 22 Who brought the message to Bill Wilson
- 23 What we can't afford
- 25 Step one
- 26 One of our co-founders
- 27 Twelve
- 28 Dr. Bob
- 30 Alcohol
- 31 ____ Dog Daze



"No, I've never tried AA. But if it's got alcohol in it I'm sure I'd like it."



"Like you, I'm also a prince in disguise."



What does Central Office Do for Me???

- 1. We carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic via telephone calls and 12-step work
- 2. Insure a steady supply of literature for our groups at an attractive price.
- 3. Provide a telephone contact service for AA meeting information and other information such as recovery places, other 12-step contact information, other Central Office numbers, etc.
- 4. Publish a monthly newsletter by and for our local fellowship with local events and articles by local AA members on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.
- 5. Assist in forming new groups or help existing groups in carrying out our purpose
- 6. Help in any way to carry out the sole purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 7. Attempt to unify our efforts to achieve this purpose



Sobriety Capital of the World - Indio

Friday Night, 8 p.m.

3/06 - Alana D. - Palm Springs, CA 3/13 - Alan B. - W. Hollywood, CA 3/20 - Ben L. - Orange County, CA

3/27 - Patt O. - Fullerton, CA





Santa Rosa Messengers -Coachella Valley Christian Church Indio

Saturday Night, 7:00 p.m.

3/07 - Stephan S.

3/14 - Butch D. 3/21 - Greg S.

3/28 - Chris

Palm Desert Group -Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert

Saturday Night, 8:00 p.m.

3/07 - T.B.A.

3/14 - Caesar C. - Beaumont

3/21 - Dan S. - Cathedral City

3/28 - Frank P - Palm Desert

Tradition Three

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

Tradition three in my opinion is the most important to keep fresh in our minds when dealing with a newcomer. It doesn't state that you have to stop drinking or that you need to stop drinking. It simply states that the person has to have a desire to stop drinking. I have seen many people struggle with this disease and continually feel the need to go out and do more research. I was one of those people for a long time as it took me ten years to become willing to do what it takes. Each time I came back to AA I didn't know if I was going to be able to stay sober however, I had a <u>desire</u> to stop drinking. Along with that desire comes my membership to Alcoholics Anonymous.

That brings me back to this tradition being important for the newcomer. When we see that person going in and out of the rooms let's try and remember that he is a member of the same fellowship as us and if we reach out our hand to him or her we may just be saving a life. And that just maybe by our conversation with him that person realizes that he or she doesn't have to do any more "research."

Keith F

Tuesday Night Men's Stag, Fellowship Hall. Palm Desert

Come get involved! The Gratitude Dinner will be held Saturday, April 18th at Xavier Prep. 34200 Cook St, Palm Desert, CA 92211

We need volunteers to help put on this event.

If you are interested, please call

Central Office @ 760.324.4880 to volunteer

You can pickup Consigned Tickets (to be sold at meetings), by signing up at the office...no tickets will be sold at the door!



Book of the month



Came to Believe (Lg. Print)

Normally \$5.25—This month \$4.75



A 120-page collection of stories by A.A. members who write about what the phrase "spiritual awakening" means to them. (Large-print edition)



Step Three

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

When I arrived in Alcoholics Anonymous 33 years ago I was clearly "Self Will Run Riot". There was no power greater than myself; and therefore there was destruction all around me.

I had no idea where my will stopped, and where God's will took over!......But with a loud, face to face, yell I was informed that (my will), never begins if I am praying and waiting.

While I was in an AA treatment center (hospital), my first few days, something divine happened to give me hope and belief that I could stay sober, One Day at a Time. I later began to see it as being one of God's Prodigals, who suddenly saw the mess that surrounded me, and began heading home to my Father, God.

I have come to realize that it is not always possible to be happy. It is possible to have joy through the holy spirit, and/or God. Some would describe it as a Calm Centeredness.

It is a solid assurance that laughs, if given a chance. It is unwavering confidence that cannot help but look on the bright side, and your smile can't help but last.

May you find Him NOW.

Mary C Back To Basics, Palm Desert





"I think I'll look into that Athletic Association — they all seem so damn healthy and happy."



2020 On Awakening 35th Annual

Desert Women's Banquet

Sunday, March 15, 2020

4:00 – 5:00 pm – Registration/Reception 5:00 – 8:00 pm – Dinner/Speaker

Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa

Emerald Ballroom -44-400 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells, CA \$48 per person

Registration Contact - Carlyn B. 760-963-3187 Chair - Kim H. 760-413-1231

For Event details and to register online visit www.desertwomensbanquet.org

NO tickets will be sold at the door. 10 seats per table maximum.

To sit together, registration forms & payment must be returned together.

Please complete one form per person – see reverse side for additional forms

| | Full Name: | | Amount Enclosed | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|----|
| Make checks payable to: Desert Women's | Name on Badge: Mailing Address: | | Dinner 48.00 | \$ |
| Mail to: PO Box 4383 Palm Desert, CA 92261 | | | *Donation \$ | |
| | City: | Zip: | Total | \$ |
| | Email: | Phone: | 1 | |
| Vegetarian meal? YES / NO (Please Circle) | Table Head: | 1 | # 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.

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."

"As a traditional means of creating & maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the conference, the AA General Service Board and it's several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional 'Right of Decision' "

As background for this Concept, you should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, both of which are found in The A.A. Service Manual. For, except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity---at all levels of service---has the right "to decide...how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises." That is, they can "decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions." This is the essence of 'The Right of Decision.' "

But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its "trusted servants." If the groups instruct their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s instruct the area delegates rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, "our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should. cast their votes. . .according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time."

Similarly, if the General Service Board, acting through it's subsidiary boards, "were to attempt to manage" the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine "in detail, then....the staff members.....would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot."

Bill warns against using "The Right of Decision" as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes:

"Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principal of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other."

Jack K. Living Sober, Joshua Tree Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.'s History

from www.aa.org

Q. What is the history behind reading The Lord's Prayer at meetings?

A. It is mentioned in *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* that the prayer was used from the very beginning in the Fellowship, at least as early as 1938 and 1939. In those days there was no AA literature, so the early groups relied heavily on existing prayers, and on the Bible and Oxford Group literature, for inspiration and guidance.

Continued on page 16



BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2019-2020 - FY20 P&L July 2019 - January 2020



| | TOTAL | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------|---|
| | ACTUAL | BUDGET | OVER BUDGET |
| Revenue | 10000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | 900001100000000000000000000000000000000 |
| Contributions - Conventions | 6,500 | 9,940 | (3.440) |
| Contributions - Groups & Individuals | 37,757 | 38,670 | (913) |
| Gratitude Dinner | 250 | 0 | 250 |
| Interest Income | 56 | 55 | |
| Sales | 48,154 | 45,164 | 2,990 |
| Total Revenue | \$92,717 | \$93,829 | \$ (1,112) |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | 31,615 | 29,561 | 2,054 |
| POS Inventory Adjustment | (1,183) | | (1,183) |
| Total Cost of Goods Sold | \$30,432 | \$29,561 | \$871 |
| GROSS PROFIT | \$62,285 | \$64,268 | \$ (1,983) |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Accounting Services | 3,500 | 3,500 | C |
| Computer Expense | 2,814 | 2,826 | (12) |
| Credit Card Fees | 712 | 763 | (51) |
| Education & Training | 1,156 | 1,118 | 38 |
| Insurance - Health | 2,763 | 2,786 | (23) |
| Insurance - Liability | 1,195 | 1,376 | (181) |
| Insurance - Worker's Comp | 1,048 | 952 | 96 |
| Newsletter Expense | 919 | 1,400 | (481) |
| Office Expense | 5,014 | 4,550 | 464 |
| Outreach | 114 | 210 | (96) |
| Payroll Expenses | 29,917 | 30,625 | (708) |
| Plant Expenditures | | 700 | (700) |
| Reimbursement - Mileage | 318 | 700 | (382) |
| Rent | 10,647 | 10,647 | C |
| State Filing Fees | 60 | 60 | C |
| Storage | 1,174 | 1,120 | 54 |
| Utilities | 3,319 | 2,940 | 379 |
| Total Expenditures | \$64,671 | \$66,273 | \$ (1,602) |
| NET OPERATING REVENUE | \$ (2,386) | \$ (2,005) | \$ (381) |
| NET REVENUE | \$ (2,386) | \$ (2,005) | \$ (381) |



BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2019-2020 - FY20 P&L July 2019 - January 2020

| | TOTAL | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | ACTUAL | BUDGET | OVER BUDGET |
| Revenue | | | |
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| Contributions - Groups & Individuals | 37,757 | 38,670 | (913) |
| Gratitude Dinner | 250 | 0 | 250 |
| Interest Income | 56 | 55 | 1 |
| Sales | 48,154 | 45,164 | 2,990 |
| Total Revenue | \$92,717 | \$93,829 | \$ (1,112) |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | 31,615 | 29,561 | 2,054 |
| POS Inventory Adjustment | (1,183) | | (1,183) |
| Total Cost of Goods Sold | \$30,432 | \$29,561 | \$871 |
| GROSS PROFIT | \$62,285 | \$64,268 | \$ (1,983) |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Accounting Services | 3,500 | 3,500 | 0 |
| Computer Expense | 2,814 | 2,826 | (12) |
| Credit Card Fees | 712 | 763 | (51) |
| Education & Training | 1,156 | 1,118 | 38 |
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| Rent | 10,647 | 10,647 | 0 |
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| NET REVENUE | \$ (2,386) | \$ (2,005) | \$ (381) |

Desert Lifeline, March 2020



Central Intergroup of the Desert

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

January 2020

| | TOTAL | |
|--|----------|--------------------------|
| | JAN 2020 | JUL 2019 - JAN 2020 (YTD |
| 10th Step Group Palm Desert | 306.25 | 542.2 |
| 12 & 12 La Quinta | | 178.7 |
| 12 and 12 Men's Stag R.M., Monday | | 525.0 |
| 164 Group - WED - Palm Springs | | 462.0 |
| 3rd & 11th Step - SUN Palm Desert | 72.68 | 572.6 |
| 559 Meeting Hall | 25.00 | 175.0 |
| 6AM Pierson - K I S F Desert Hot Springs | | 150.0 |
| 7-11 Meditation Sunday P.S. | | 100.0 |
| AA Center For Change | | 21.7 |
| Alkies Only Bermuda Dunes | | 115.0 |
| Anonymous No Group Given | 245.00 | 3,170.2 |
| As Bill Sees It -10AM-M Fel. Hall P.D. | | 325.4 |
| As Bill Sees It Desert Hot Springs | | 50.0 |
| Attitude Adjustment Rancho Mirage | | 286.0 |
| Attitude Adjustment-M-F P.D. Santa Fe Square | 363.00 | 1,108.5 |
| Attitude Adjustment-M-S , Palm Desert PDCC | 1,050.00 | 2,450.0 |
| Big Book Quotes | | 80.0 |
| Big Book Study - Wed Palm Springs | | 502.5 |
| Birthday Contributions | 101.00 | 488.6 |
| Black Sheep Group | 550.00 | 1,316.0 |
| Book Study-FRI Cathedral City | | 80.08 |
| CDM Men's Stag-TUE | | 350.0 |
| Central Intergroup Cathedral City | 49.00 | 249.5 |
| Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert | 124.00 | 813.6 |
| Desert Men's Big Book Stu Palm Desert | 100.00 | 270.0 |
| Double Winners AA Meeting | | 56.7 |
| Fri Nite Hi-Desert Group | | 150.0 |
| Great Events Yucca Valley | 48.00 | 48.0 |
| Groovy Group Palm Desert | 221.50 | 221.5 |
| Happy Hour Book Study Palm Desert | 110.20 | 220.2 |
| Hi Desert Speakers Group | | 151.0 |
| How Is Your Now La Quinta | | 45.3 |
| Jaywalkers Men's Stag Palm Desert | 200.00 | 417.0 |
| Just the Black Print Big Rancho Mirage | | 689.5 |
| Keep It Simple Group Palm Desert | 500.00 | 1,154.9 |
| Ladies Nite Out Palm Desert | 52.00 | 321.1 |
| Living In The Solution Yucca Valley | | 30.0 |
| Living Sober Book Study Palm Desert | 167.00 | 167.0 |
| Living Sober Palm Springs | | 488.6 |
| Living Sober Rancho Mirage | | 352.0 |
| MCAGCC Twentynine Palms | | 25.0 |



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

January 2020

| | 1-34 11-00-00- | TOTAL |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| | JAN 2020 | JUL 2019 - JAN 2020 (YTD) |
| Meet & Potatoes 12 & 12 | | 85.00 |
| Men's Mauraders Palm Desert | | 300.00 |
| Monday Daily Reflections 29 Palms | | 30.00 |
| Morongo Valley Paradise Group | | 100.00 |
| New Freedom Palm Desert | | 100.00 |
| No Rules La Quinta | | 711.62 |
| Ole Time Sunday AA Meetin Jill's Garage Sun City (deleted-1) | | 183.60 |
| One Day At a Time Palm Desert | | 147.50 |
| Over 50 12&12 Step Study | | 235.17 |
| Oxy-Moron Group Palm Springs | | 50.00 |
| Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj. | 249.00 | 1,514.00 |
| Palm Desert Saturday Speaker's | | 92.95 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Free Spirit | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Half Measures | | 160.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Into Action | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Keep It Simple - THU | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Meditation Meeting-THU | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Q.& A. Sunday | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Saturday's Survivors | | 160.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Sober Out'a The Book | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Speaker Q & A-TUE | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Spiritual Awakening | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Step Study-WED | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Sunday Morning | | 80.00 |
| Perez Plaza Cathedral City Unorthodox Meeting | | 200.00 |
| Playing With A Full Deck Palm Desert | 164.00 | 164.00 |
| Primary Purpose Blythe | | 250.00 |
| Road Runners Bermuda Dunes | | 233.01 |
| Rock Bottom-TUE Twentynine Palms | | 30.00 |
| Rule 62 THU Noon | | 68.50 |
| Rush Hour Group | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Santa Rosa Big Book Thump Coachella | | 525.53 |
| Santa Rosa Group Palm Desert | | 167.00 |
| Santa Rosa Messengers Coachella | 254.00 | 254.00 |
| Serenity Seekers Palm Desert | | 240.00 |
| Smoking Jackelope Men Stag | | 100.00 |
| Sobriety Capitol of World Indio | | 216.00 |
| Sobriety Sisters Palm Desert | | 100.00 |
| Solid Solutions- TUE | | 76.00 |
| Solutions in Sobriety Palm Desert | 134.10 | 300.20 |
| Spirituality in Recovery | 17.00 | 254.77 |
| Step Sisters Palm Desert | 137.12 | 677.37 |
| Stepping Stones Palm Desert | 136.75 | 402.75 |
| Study for Sanity Palm Desert | | 79.50 |
| Sun City Ole Time Big Book Study | | 163.80 |
| Sunday Serenity Group | 132.44 | 598.27 |
| Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Group | 1,114.80 | 6.232.98 |
| 1985년 1881년 - 1981년 1987년 1987년 1987년 1887년 1 1987년 1887년 - 1987년 1887년 | | |
| Sunrise Celebrators Palm Desert TGIF Group Yucca Valley | 109.45 | 715.88 48.00 |



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

January 2020

| | TOTAL | | |
|--|------------|---------------------------|--|
| | JAN 2020 | JUL 2019 - JAN 2020 (YTD) | |
| The First 164 Pages | 200.00 | 730.77 | |
| The Original Men's Stag | 213.00 | 213.00 | |
| Vets for Vets Palm Desert | 60.00 | 110.00 | |
| Wed Nite Women's Discussion Heritage Palms | 166.02 | 166.02 | |
| Winners Meeting Palm Springs | | 150.00 | |
| Women in the Solution 29 Palms | 20.00 | 63.00 | |
| Women of Palm Springs | | 300.00 | |
| Women's Q & A Palm Desert | | 105.50 | |
| Yucca Valley Thursday Noon Brown Bagge | | 30.00 | |
| TOTAL | \$7,592.31 | \$37,756.73 | |

Continued from page 11

Bill W. commented several times in his correspondence about the early use of the Lord's Prayer. He wrote a letter to a member in 1959 in which he stated:

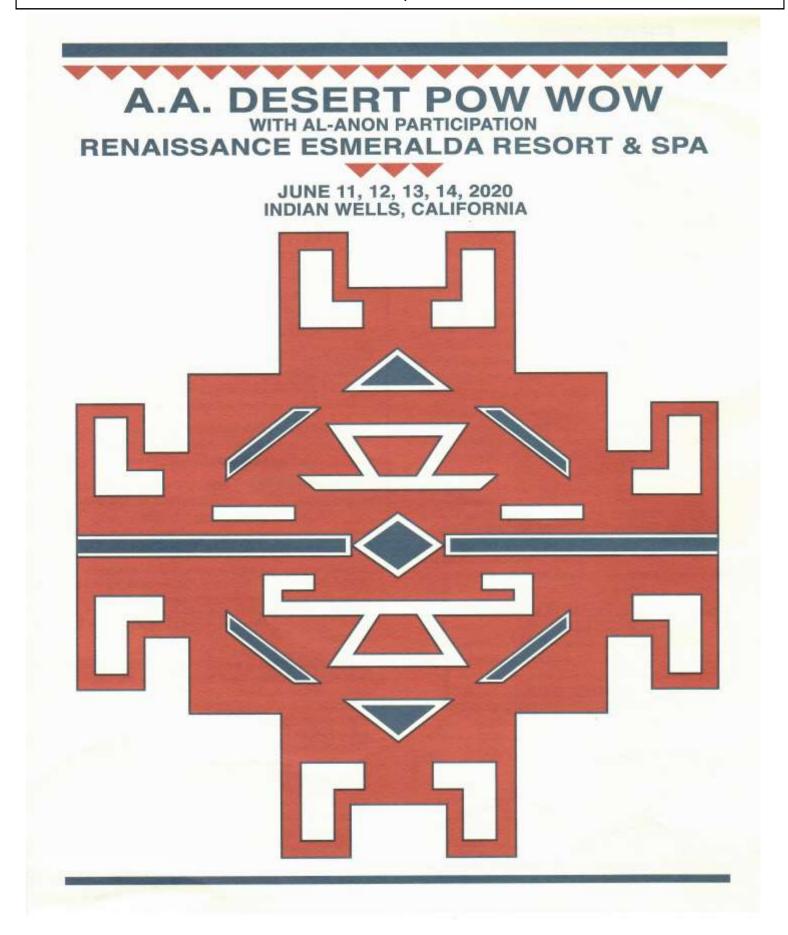
"This practice probably came from the Oxford Groups who were influential in the early days of A.A. You have probably noted in <u>A.A. Comes of Age</u> what the connection of these people with A.A. really was. I think saying the Lord's Prayer was a custom of theirs following the close of each meeting. Therefore it quite easily got shifted into a general custom among us."

Bill also wrote the following in a 1955 letter:

"Of course there are always those who seem to be offended by the introduction of any prayer whatever into an ordinary A.A. gathering. Also it is sometimes complained that the Lord's Prayer is a Christian document. Nevertheless, this Prayer is of such widespread use and recognition that the argument of its Christian origin seems to be a little far-fetched. It is also true that most AA's believe in some kind of god and that communication and strength is obtainable through his grace. Since this is the general consensus, it seems only right that at least the Serenity Prayer and the Lord's Prayer be used in connection with our meetings. It does not seem necessary to defer to the feelings of our agnostic and atheist newcomers to the extent of completely hiding 'our light under a bushel.'

However, around here, the leader of the meeting usually asks those to join him in the Lord's Prayer who feel that they would care to do so. The worst that happens to the objectors is that they have to listen to it. This is doubtless a salutary exercise in tolerance at their stage of progress."

As Bill's 1955 letter indicates, recitation of the Lord's Prayer at meetings has clearly been controversial in some circles almost since the beginning. The GSO has responded to letters on this issue since the 1940s and 1950s. It is continually addressed in articles in Box 459 and the AA Grapevine, and has often been asked about at the General Service Conference. For example, at the 1962 Conference, in one of the Ask-It Basket questions, this subject was broached: "Question: What is the procedure for dealing with individuals who refuse to stand during recitation of the Lord's Prayer? Answer: Participation--or non-participation-in recitals of the Lord's Prayer should be considered a matter of personal conscience and decision."



Registration is available now at http://www.desertpowwow.com

GRATITUDE DINNER 2020

SPEAKER MEETING

SATURDAY

18th 2020 April





Food is again being catered by Sherman's Deli!

Home-Made Desserts from the Fellowship Tickets available at meetings, or at Your Central Office. Tickets \$25,00

Speaker: Yisrael C. from Jerusalem, Israel

Ticket Sales begin Feb. 7 Th.

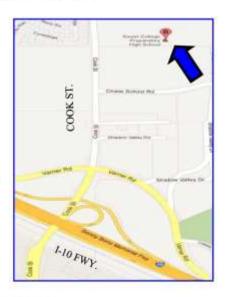
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

5:00 PM - Doors open

6:00 PM - Dinner served

7:00 PM – Speaker Meeting

Xavier Prep Gymnasium 34-200 Cook Street Palm Desert



Service Opportunities, we need your help!!

Anyone interested in participating can call Central Office 760.324.4880 Or Email: GratitudeDinner@aainthedesert.org Chair: Ginny P. - 760.567.2242

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