



# the Desert Lifeline

October 2020

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  
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Cathedral City, CA 92234

Open 9am to 8pm, Mon.- Fri.  
10am to 2pm, Sat. & Sun.

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[chairman@aainthedesert.org](mailto:chairman@aainthedesert.org)

## **Intergroup Meeting**

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

3rd Thursday of the month,  
6:30pm

## **General Service, District 9**

3rd Sunday of the month, 4pm  
Fellowship Hall  
45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert  
Mailing Address: PO Box 3684  
Palm Desert, CA 92261-3684

## **Hospitals & Institutions**

2nd Wednesday of the month,  
6:00pm  
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  
Website: [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org)

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

Grand Central Station NY 10163  
Website: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

## **DCYPAA**

Every Sunday 6:00pm  
Fellowship Hall 45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert  
Email: [webmaster@dcypaa.com](mailto:webmaster@dcypaa.com)

## **General Service, District 30**

4th Sunday of the month, 3:30pm  
Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall  
6430 Park Blvd.  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252  
Mailing Address: PO Box 1692  
Yucca Valley, CA 92286-1692

## Step

Continued to take personal inventory  
and when we were wrong  
promptly admitted it.

## Tradition

Alcoholics Anonymous has no  
opinion on outside issues; hence  
the AA name ought never be  
drawn into public controversy.

## Concept

Every service responsibility should  
be matched by an equal service  
authority, with the scope of such  
authority well defined.

T

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N

# Principle Ten

**Vigilance:** Exercising self-discovery, honesty, abandonment,  
humility, reflection, and amendment on a momentary, daily, and  
periodic basis.

## August Office Statistics

Meeting Info	76
12 Step Calls	3
Visitors	62
Literature Sales	128
Al-Anon	0
Other 12 Step	2
Miscellaneous	45
Business	15

## Central Intergroup Office of the Desert Board of Directors

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

### Directors

Mark D.  
Joe A.  
Kim B.  
Kathy F.

Alyssa C. Outreach Chair

**Desert Lifeline Editorial Staff:** Samantha W. & Bill T.  
**Office Manager:** David M.

## Step Ten

### ***Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.***

I remember when I first read **Step 10 – Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it** – I didn't really think much about it. I always promptly admitted when I was wrong when I was out there drinking. I had no problem saying I was sorry...time after time, I would say, "I'm so sorry, I was drunk." In fact, that one sentence seemed to be my stock apology to many, many people.

What I realized after I got sober and had begun working the steps, was that Step 10 wasn't just about saying I was sorry after I had done something wrong or if I had hurt someone, but rather *changing* the behavior so I wouldn't have to apologize. This is where a continuous personal inventory became so important in my sobriety.

Step 10 is a two-fold, maintenance step; just as it says on page 85 of *The Big Book*, "What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition." Step 10 allows me to keep my side of the street clean and all I can really do is strive to keep it clean on a daily basis. When old behavior creeps in (because it does), doing a daily inventory affords me an invaluable opportunity to find out why it's rearing its ugly head and to deal with it accordingly. Additionally, my daily inventory acts as a kind of spiritual barometer for me. If I snap at someone at work, then that is when my spot-check inventory comes in handy. When I give myself that brief moment to "pause when agitated or doubtful," then I'll know I must make amends promptly...not allowing the potential negative situation to get worse.

Step 10 is an important and essential tool in my sobriety...one of the *many* that AA has laid at my feet.

Lee F.  
Step Sisters, Joslyn Senior Center, Monday night

## August Volunteers at Central Office

Alyssa C.  
Amelia F.

Gary H.

*Thank You !!*

*Thank You !!*

Steven St. L.  
Tracy M.  
Vincent B.  
Wanda V.

Bill T.  
David B.  
Emil M.

Greg C.  
Jim B.  
Julian  
Kate E.

Mark L.  
Nancy G.  
Nikki C.  
Samantha W.

### Tradition 10

**Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues;  
hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.**

Taken from SM F-131 The Traditions Checklist

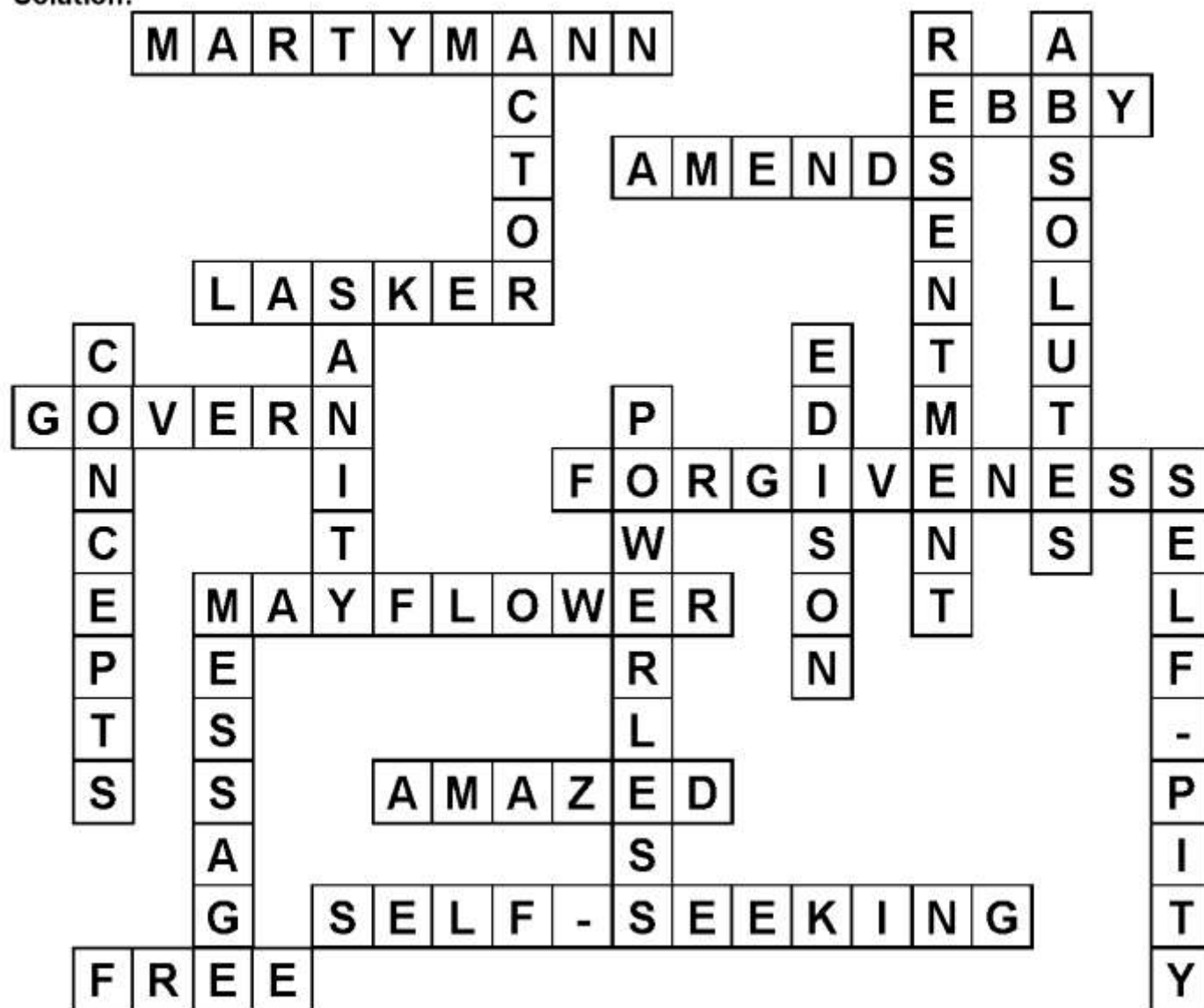
1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?



*"Joining AA was an excellent move, Fenton. But let's not overdo the 'easy does it'!"*

# September Puzzle

Solution:



Heard in a meeting . . . A long-timer shared that she had prayed for something and God had answered her prayer. Someone in the meeting asked her how she knew it was God that answered her prayer and the long-timer replied, "Because I didn't ask anyone else!"

Heard from someone coming back from a slip: "Life got too good and it all started with - 'I think I'll skip the meeting tonight!' "

## **Concept Ten**

***Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.***

Defining concept ten basically defines how there is an ultimate authority. However, equally distributed to the service committed either by the A.A. groups, the conference, or the Trustees. Equally meaning there is always an ending to a decision by equal means, not by preference of choice. The service committed by AA Groups, the conference, the Trustees, etc. are matched by certain authorization matched by responsibility and no further authority. This can only be changed by appropriate decisions on the situation. How does authority distribution work in our every day life one may ask? And how a process like this works? By taking control of ones actions through understanding and adequate judgment.

Homer A.  
Men's Stag, Sloan's Restaurant, Indio, Wednesday Night

## **Tradition Ten**

***Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.***

Tradition Ten, like all our traditions, is an important tradition and concentrates on the purity of A.A. As long as we respect these traditions, Alcoholics Anonymous can remain intact and pure to its primary purpose and continue to have a message carried to alcoholics who suffer in and out of the fellowship.

We should be proud that we (A.A. as a whole) have never allowed ourselves to be divided by any major issue that the world has presented. In doing some research for this project, I learned more about a group called the Washingtonians. Their first vision was to be an organization of alcoholics who helped one another stay sober. And they were just that for a while. Their membership grew to over one hundred thousand members in the early 1900's. But, they allowed influential people, who weren't all alcoholic, to use their society for their own reasons. Because of this, they basically got sidetracked and their attention was diverted from staying in the solution to the disease of alcoholism.

Fortunately for us, people in early A.A. history, learned from the Washingtonians. They decided, and have taken the appropriate action, to stay out of public controversy by creating our tenth tradition. Because A.A. continues to be the number one most effective influence on my life and keeping me sober, I take personal responsibility to make sure I leave my opinion on outside issues away from sponsorship and the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous and pray that all others do too. This has to do with tradition one and our common welfare. Our recovery depends on us sticking together with the same vision in keeping A.A. pure.

Garrett D.  
Serenity Group, Cinemas Palme D'Or, Theater 4, Palm Desert, Sunday

## *The Promises of Alcoholism*

1. If we are casual with this phase of our development, we will be drunk before we are halfway through.
2. We are going to know a new imprisonment and a new misery.
3. We will relive the past and won't be able to shut the door on it.
4. We will comprehend the word CONFLICT and we will know PAIN.
5. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we'll sink even lower.
6. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will deepen.
7. We will gain interest in selfish things and lose interest in our fellows.
8. Self esteem will slip away.
9. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will SUCK.
10. Fear of people, and of economic insecurity will multiply.
11. We will intuitively know how to run from situations, which never used to bother us.
12. We will suddenly realize that God would never have done to us what we are doing to ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not! They are being fulfilled amongst us every day--sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will ALWAYS materialize if we continue to drink.

## Book of the month

# **As Bill Sees It (Hard Cover)**

**Normally \$9.00 - this month \$8.00**

A source of comfort and inspiration, this collection of Bill W.'s writings addresses themes such as acceptance, gratitude and spirituality. Excerpted from the Big Book, the "Twelve and Twelve," Grapevine and other A.A. literature. With a topical index to help guide reading and discussion.  
General Service Conference-approved.

## NEWCOMER IMPRESSIONS OF AA

(What should I do—or not do!)

Using the same sort of foul language that I used as a thirteen-year-old to impress my parents that I have finally *grown-up*, leaves the newcomer with the impression that I am too immature or slow-witted to be taken seriously. (psychologists call this attention-grabbing technique: “**shockers**”)

If I mock the Twelve Steps during the reading of chapter Five (*What’s the point? Balk-balk, Ha! Ha! etc.*) I am likely to leave the newcomer with the impression that the AA Twelve Step program is not to be taken seriously. The “Ha-Ha” may also come from seasoned members, just to be polite, although they may consider this “AA virus” as a crashing bore.

It feels good to share “let it all hang out,” at discussion meetings. However, if I do not share how the Twelve Steps are working in my daily life (My experience, strength, and hope), I leave the impression that AA is limited to a group-therapy solution. Bill Wilson wrote: “***Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an A.A. group.***” \* Group therapy is good, so far as it goes, but AA is better than that! We have a Twelve Step solution that really works.

If I spend my time during the important “*meeting after the meeting*” with my regular friends, but ignore the newcomer, I am apt to leave them with a negative impression of AA—they came in lonely and left lonely. A less-than-welcome reception may cause their first AA meeting to be their last AA meeting. I need to have AA literature ready for them with a robust welcome before they dash out the door.

I need to better maintain a neat appearance at meetings—something I am not always so good at! A general conception is that AA is comprised of skid row bums. Newcomers are happily impressed to find this is not so. After all, if I am to be trudging the road of happy destiny, shouldn’t I be dressed for the occasion?

Bob S

\* Problems Other than alcohol (*Excerpts*) F8

### Faith

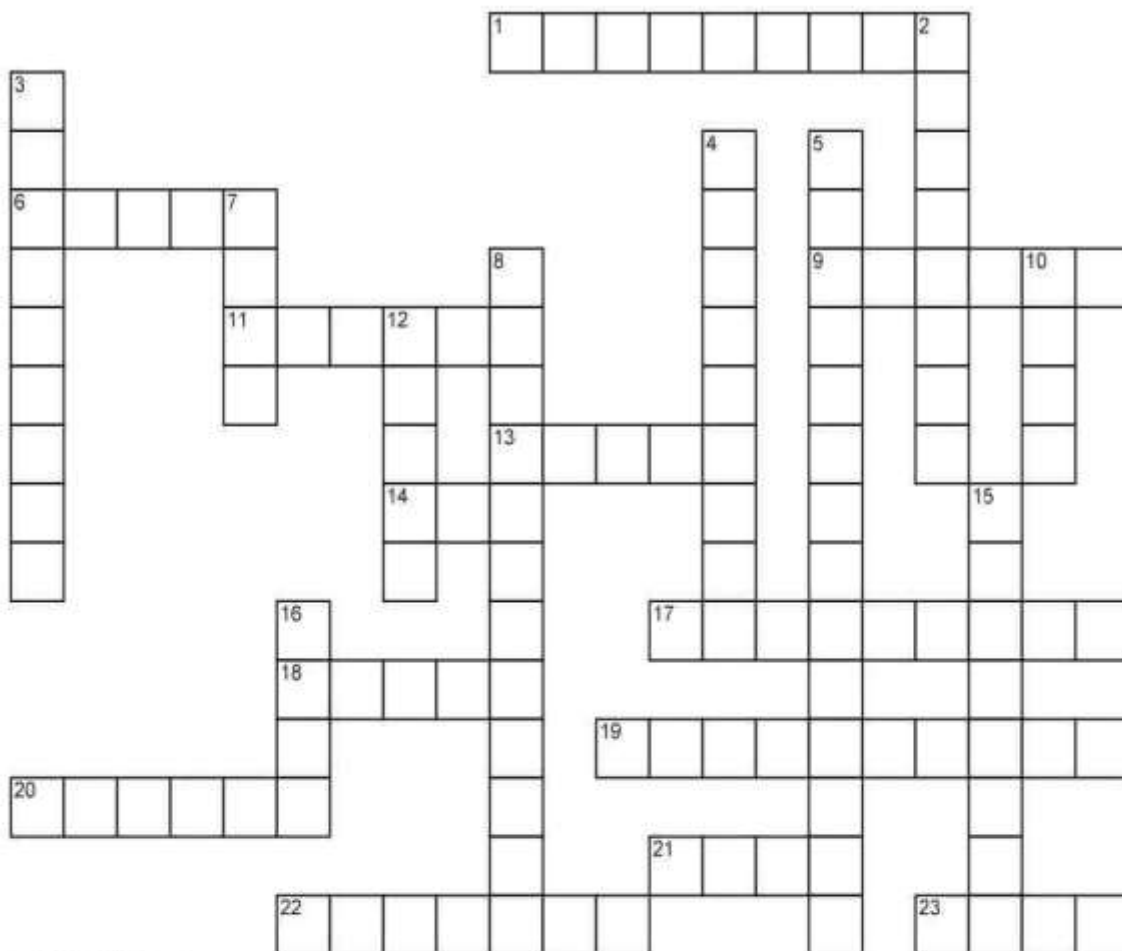
When you have come to the edge  
Of all the light you know,  
And are about to step off into  
The darkness of the unknown,  
Faith is knowing  
One of the following two things  
will happen:

There will be something solid to stand on  
Or you will be taught how to fly.



*“I hate that smug look you get when you’re going to a closed meeting!”*

# October Puzzle



www.CrosswordWizards.com

## ACROSS

- 1 Dr. William D.
- 6 Russian potato juice
- 9 How often we've seen them fail
- 11 Bill was offered a job at his lab
- 13 In what city did Bill meet Bob?
- 14 36% of AA members are sober over \_\_\_\_ years
- 17 meeting in print
- 18 Alcohol
- 19 International Convention City (2 words)
- 20 soundness of mind
- 21 Mrs. Dr. Bob
- 22 Physician, Heal \_\_\_\_
- 23 Bill's longtime secretary

## DOWN

- 2 Dr. Bob's middle name
- 3 You have to take one
- 4 Author of the March 1, 1941 article in the Saturday Evening Post
- 5 He is quoted in Appendix 2 (2 words)
- 7 The 3rd Step prayer doesn't have it but the 7th Step prayer does
- 8 our life when we got to AA
- 10 Alcoholics are like men who have lost these
- 12 Dr. Bob surname
- 15 Circle and \_\_\_\_
- 16 Who brought the message to Bill Wilson



## HOW OXFORD GROUP CRITICISM SPAWNED THE TWELVE STEPS.

Bill and Lois Wilson attended the NY Oxford Group shortly after Bill was released from Towns hospital late December 1934. All went well till Oxford Group members criticized them for having private meetings for “drunks only” in their home at 182 Clinton street in Brooklyn Hts. They were considered as “not maximum.” (not fully complying with OG principles) Chaos developed! Consequently, during August of 1937, Bill and Lois stopped attending the Oxford Group meetings.

The yet unwritten AA program of action was now on its own in NY! Happily, the twenty-eight Main Principles (tenets) of the Oxford Group remained imbedded in the mind of the author-to be of our Big Book. Some of these tenets were accepted by Bill as helpful to alcoholics—these Are found on page xvi of the Big Book:

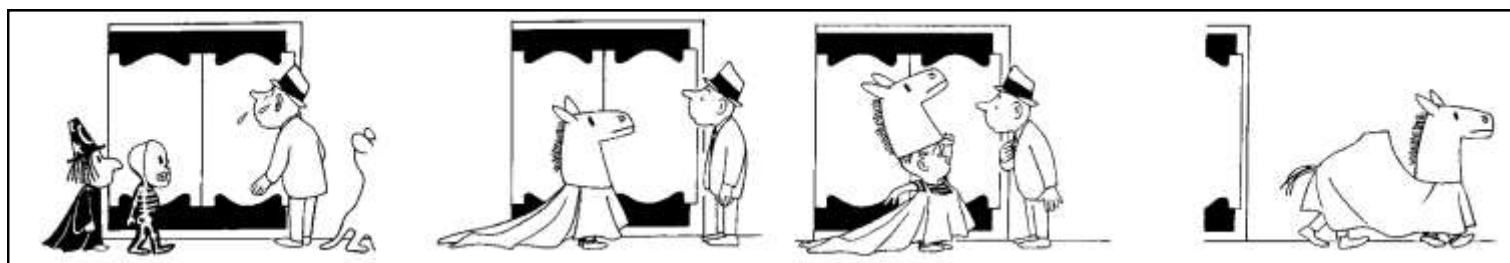
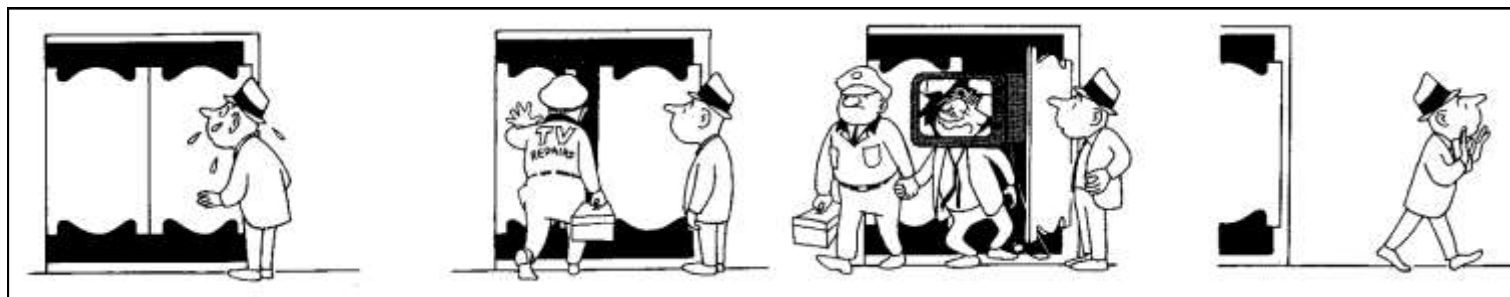
- Moral inventory
- Confession of personality defects
- Restitution to those harmed
- Helpfulness to others
- Necessity of belief in and dependence upon God.

This later became a word-of-mouth six step program of action for the alcoholics—there were several versions of this but here is listed the version found on page 263 of our current Big Book:

1. Complete deflation.
2. Dependence and guidance from a Higher Power.
3. Moral inventory.
4. Confession.
5. Restitution.
6. Continued work with other alcoholics.

The six-step word-of-mouth program was expanded into Twelve Steps in December of 1938 (Pass it On, pages 197-198). How lucky for us that Bill was considered “not Maximum!” Certainly, a God-send for us all! Further evidence that that: “God moves in mysterious ways”!

Bob S



## THE TENTH STEP PROMISES

The Big Book offers an array of promises associated with each of the Twelve Steps, but for me, the rewards starting on the bottom of page 84 and continuing throughout that paragraph are, by far, the most vibrant and exciting – these are my favorites:

***“And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone – even alcohol.”***

When I am living in the spirit of the Step Ten directions and resolutely turning my thoughts to someone I can help, I become much less reactionary with those who disagree with me. Being right, takes a back seat to developing a continuing friendly relationship. The first shot is not fired because the battle never begins.

***“For by this time sanity will have returned.”***

I feel as though the word ‘sanity’ overflows from the first promise; if I am unable to differentiate the true from the false in the matter of drink, I am indeed suffering from ***alcoholic insanity***. However, if I can see and act on the obvious truth in the matter of that next drink, I am living in a ***sane*** manner. The Big Book often uses the expression of ***insanity*** interchangeably with the phrase, ‘***mental obsession***.’ Jim’s Story (p. 37) is case in point.

***“If tempted, we recoil as from a hot flame”***

During the first sober year or so, drinking thoughts would spawn deep-seated horror. If I would – as is often suggested – *Think the drink through*, the dismal memory of those horrible hallucinations coming on, the music exuding from the walls, and the jail door slamming shut filled me with terror. The dread of being fired, once again, would come on strongly. But as time passed, I learned to stymie these unpleasant thoughts before they become solidified. Actually, I believe I have developed a reverse Pavlov in the matter of drink.

***“It just comes! That is the miracle of it.”***

This miracle happened for me! Thoughts of drinking no longer exist in my emotional vocabulary. This marvelous “release” took place in my second year of sobriety and I have not been plagued by the mental obsession since—thank you God!

***“Instead, the problem has been removed. It does not exist for us.”***

These two phrases probably represent the most important single promise in the Big Book: a release from the insanity of taking that first alcoholic drink! Of course, this exciting promise is obviously concerning the mental obsession before the first drink. I will never be an ex-alcoholic—just one shot and I am shot! We are not told that the problem (obsession) has been eradicated, destroyed or beamed to outer space. It simply promises that it has been ***removed***. That Obsession/Allergy will forever lurk, just waiting for me to fall below a fit spiritual condition.

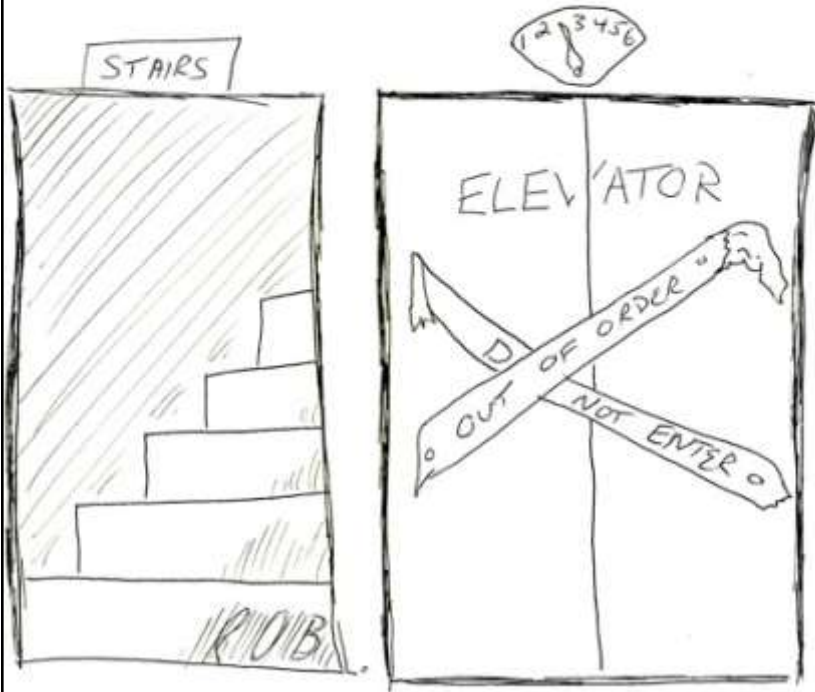
***“That is how we react so long as we remain in a fit spiritual condition.”***

I have found that living in the spirit of Maintenance Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve, to the best of my ability, I have remained close enough to a fit spiritual condition that I haven’t had to drink since my very first meeting in 1975.

Bob S.

# HEARD IN THE ROOMS: NA?

NOTICE: THE EXPRESS ELEVATOR TO RECOVERY IS BROKEN. USE THE STEPS!



# HEARD <sup>IN THE</sup> ROOMS

How BAD WAS IT? I once bought an eye patch because I tired of driving with a hand over one eye!!!





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(602) 998-8888  
www.centralintergroup.org

# Central Intergroup of the Desert

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

August 2020

### PROFIT AND LOSS

**\$-1,852**

Net income for August

**\$9,529**

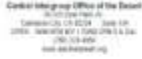
Income

**\$11,381**

Expenses

	TOTAL	
	AUG 2020	JUL - AUG, 2020 (YTD)
Revenue		
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	6,130	11,120
Gratitude Dinner		(250)
Interest Income	24	24
Sales	3,375	8,126
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,529</b>	<b>\$19,021</b>
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	2,096	4,807
POS Inventory Adjustment	32	(33)
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$2,128</b>	<b>\$4,775</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$7,401</b>	<b>\$14,246</b>
Expenditures		
Accounting Services	600	1,200
Bank Charges		4
Computer Expense	367	734
Credit Card Fees	96	253
Insurance - Health	261	819
Insurance - Liability	287	575
Newsletter Expense	25	25
Office Expense	1,025	1,582
Payroll Expenses	3,981	7,962
Plant Expenditures	352	715
Rent	1,431	1,431
State Filing Fees	60	60
Storage	178	356
Utilities	589	1,151
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,253</b>	<b>\$16,866</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (1,852)</b>	<b>\$ (2,620)</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (1,852)</b>	<b>\$ (2,620)</b>





July - August, 2020

		TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET
Revenue			
Contributions - Conventions		1,600	(1,600)
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	11,120	10,000	1,120
Gratitude Dinner	(250)		(250)
Interest Income	24	25	(1)
Sales	8,126	14,400	(6,274)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$19,021</b>	<b>\$26,025</b>	<b>\$ (7,004)</b>
Cost of Goods Sold			
Cost of Goods Sold	4,807	9,360	(4,553)
POS Inventory Adjustment	(33)		(33)
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$4,775</b>	<b>\$9,360</b>	<b>\$ (4,585)</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$14,246</b>	<b>\$16,665</b>	<b>\$ (2,419)</b>
Expenditures			
Accounting Services	1,200	1,200	0
Bank Charges	4		4
Computer Expense	734	734	0
Credit Card Fees	253	1,013	(760)
Insurance - Health	819	800	19
Insurance - Liability	575	574	1
Newsletter Expense	25	10	15
Office Expense	1,582	1,200	382
Outreach		200	(200)
Payroll Expenses	7,962	8,400	(438)
Plant Expenditures	715	400	315
Rent	1,431	3,000	(1,569)
State Filing Fees	60	0	60
Storage	356	400	(44)
Utilities	1,151	1,060	91
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,866</b>	<b>\$18,991</b>	<b>\$ (2,125)</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (2,620)</b>	<b>\$ (2,326)</b>	<b>\$ (294)</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (2,620)</b>	<b>\$ (2,326)</b>	<b>\$ (294)</b>

Central Intergroup of the Desert  
CONTRIBUTIONS - GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS  
August 2020

	TOTAL	
	AUG 2020	JUL - AUG, 2020 (YTD)
11th Step Meditation -SUN Palm Desert		25.00
164 Group - WED - Palm Springs	423.34	423.34
3-7-11 Step Meeting	123.00	125.00
559 Meeting Hall		50.00
9am Staying Connected (Zoom)	475.00	775.00
An AA Big Book Group - Sunday - Desert Hot Springs	22.00	22.00
Anonymous No Group Given	2,325.00	4,211.00
As Bill Sees It - Sat Nite Idyllwild		40.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-S , Palm Desert PDCC		700.00
Attitude Adjustment-MON	20.00	20.00
Birthday Contributions	73.00	73.00
Black Sheep Group	500.00	550.00
Cathedral City 12 & 12 Book Study-TUE		100.00
Cross-Country Meeting		90.46
Desert Men's Big Book Stu Palm Desert	200.00	250.00
Fellowship Hall	220.00	220.00
Friends of Bill - Anonymo Palm Desert	20.00	20.00
Living Sober Palm Springs	498.34	498.34
Loosey Goosey Tue Women		82.00
Meet & Potatoes 12 & 12	84.00	84.00
New Freedom Palm Desert	25.00	25.00
No Rules La Quinta	650.00	650.00
Over 50 12&12 Step Study	251.00	251.00
Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj.		680.00
Road Runners Bermuda Dunes	20.00	45.00
Round Table Serenity Group		251.00
Santa Rosa Group Palm Desert	100.00	110.00
Serenity Seekers Palm Desert		240.00
Smoking Jackelope Men Stag	50.00	50.00
Spirituality in Recovery		60.00
Step Sisters Palm Desert		84.00
The First 164 Pages		140.00
Thurs. 7PM Attitude Adj.	50.00	50.00
Women's Meeting Palm Desert		125.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,129.68</b>	<b>\$11,120.14</b>