



the Desert Lifeline

September 2020

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

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert

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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

3rd 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.msca08aa.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, 3:30PM
Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall
6430 Park Blvd.

Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Mailing Address: P O Box 1692
Yucca Valley, CA 92286-1962

Step

Made direct amends to such
people wherever possible, except
when to do so would injure them
or others.

Tradition

A.A., as such, ought never be
organized; but we may create
service boards or committees
directly responsible to those
they serve.

Concept

Good service leadership at all
levels is indispensable for our
future functioning and safety.
Primary world service leadership,
once exercised by the founders,
must necessarily be assumed
by the trustees.

N
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N
E

Principle Nine

Forgiveness; pardon; disposition or willingness to
forgive.

July Office Statistics

Meeting Info	87
12 Step Calls	5
Visitors	45
Literature Sales	145
Al-Anon	2
Other 12 Step	4
Miscellaneous	35
Business	11

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 Editor: Bill T.
Office Manager: David M.

THE PREVAILING AA SPIRIT

A well-known AA speaker, from the 1970s, replied to his wife who queried about his very first AA meeting: Well, he replied, they smoked a lot of cigarettes and they drank a lot of coffee; *and I am going back!* Of course, it wasn't the cigarette smoking or coffee drinking, or even the different personalities that prompted his decision—it was that invisible AA spirit that we all know so well! I recall when I was only a few months sober and working at an antique store located only a few blocks from a recovery clubhouse at 26th and Broadway, in Santa Monica, California. The most exciting thing at that club was a checkerboard. Yet when the newcomer heebie-jeebies began their chaos and imagined torture, I would forgo lunch, and make a b-line for that club—nervously shaking and head spinning like a top! Yet, upon entry a mysterious calmness would take over. Soon a much-needed AA style conversation would erupt. Following that brief experience, I would return to work—without eating a bite, mind you, refreshed and in a pleasant frame of mind.

I have seldom missed meetings but there was a time during my LA taxi driving career where I had to pay for the cab 24/7 because my associate driver had a part in a movie for thirteen days. So, working both shifts allowed no time for meetings, but to be sure, I stopped by one or another clubhouse for a few minutes to receive my share of the joyous AA spirit.

I believe *that* spirit is what brings newcomers back to meetings on a regular basis. That is why I find it important to always greet the new person and make them feel welcome until they begin to feel this life saving spirit deep in their bones. In Los Angeles many of the 90-minute meetings have a short break at halftime. I believe the surreptitious reason for this is to get to know the new person and perhaps invite them out to a coffee shop after the meeting. The AA spirit flows through that conversation as well! Just because I can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there! It works—it really does! ~ ~ Bob S.



My experience has been that the solution is always spiritual, so in my case, that means God. I didn't want to hear that. It is way too simple an answer for me. I knew my situation and was sure that I needed a TEAM!

"I told myself that when it got "that bad", I'd do something about it. Then I found myself in the middle of "that bad," and I couldn't do anything about it.

Do the voices in my head scare you as much as they scare me?

The back row of an AA meeting is the "Shoe Department" . . . that's where we usually find the slippers, the loafers, the sneakers, and the heels!

Step Nine

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

As an alcoholic, I have well-developed skills of rationalization and procrastination. I honed those skills over decades of drinking. Self-serving rationalization is the number two tool to an active alcoholic drinker. Right behind number one, self-centered fear.

Since both those defects of character still live within me to a degree (far less than before, thank God), it's easy to pull them out of my tool box and avoid making amends. It's easy to say: "Well, wouldn't it be injurious to that person if they got really, really upset at me?" or "What if they don't forgive me, or worse, spread the details of my misdeeds all around town?" Fear and rationalization can conspire to interfere with the willingness I prayed for in Step Eight.

So prudence, patience and good timing are paramount when making these direct amends. The advice of a sponsor or other fellows in AA as well as advice from the Big Book are essential with regard to doing Step Nine. I had to remember, this Step talks about not injuring them or others, so I have to get over my fear of it injuring me. I had to be willing to accept the reaction of the person I have forgiven, and I have to forgive myself. After all, self-forgiveness may be the only forgiveness I get! Because this Step isn't about being forgiven, it's about owning up to my part in the mess I have made. If the other person wants to hang onto a resentment for a while or forever, that's none of my business.

I would compare the freedom of the wreckage, shame and guilt to the freedom from the obsession to drink. It's that profound. Conquering my fear and actually doing the hard amends was probably the biggest accomplishment in my sobriety. And because I never have to drink again, I never have to do that same amends again.

Rob L

Tradition Nine

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not an organization in the traditional sense. No one can issue any orders, compel anyone to follow orders, or hand out punishment for not following orders. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. That being said, then how can Alcoholics Anonymous ever expect to get anything done? The answer is that we as a group must follow the dictates of a Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.

We chose to live, and be guided, by the spiritual principles of the 12 Traditions, in order to keep AA whole and healthy. We obey spiritual principles, first because our lives as ex problem drinkers depends on it, and then as we stay sober, because we love the life that Alcoholics Anonymous has allowed us to attain.

Ben P

Just the Black Print Big Book Study, Rancho Mirage

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS



Mid-summer, 1938, was a watershed period for the writing of our Big Book—it almost did not happen! Donations from the Rockefellers, Charles Towns, and others were helpful, but Bill Wilson's upcoming Big Book project remained on hold, even doubtful. Bill W. had written two pre-manuscript drafts: THERE IS A SOLUTION (Chapter One) and BILL'S STORY (Chapter two) during the late spring months of that year—Please notice the reverse order. These chapters were only a beginning effort to publish a short book that could sell for a dollar (about \$18.00 today). Happily, Doctor Silkworth added, THE DOCTORS OPINION that July.

Bill had endured financial struggle for over a year and had become understandably discouraged. By early fall he had not written anything for three months—he finally stated: "*I am not an author.*" However, his partner, Hank Parkhurst, convinced him that just a few more chapters were needed to justify the \$1.00 price. Hank's adamancy was successful! Bill began writing the next two chapters, MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM and WE AGNOSTICS ON September 15, 1938.

Thank God for Hank Parkhurst! I have always considered Hank and Ebby Thacher as two unsung heroes of AA history, although neither of them remained sober for timely periods. Bill may have made the touchdown, but Ebby handed him the Ball and Hank became his inspiring hard-driving coach!

Not to forget Jimmy Burwell who is given credit for "*God as we understood Him.*"

By December Bill had finished the manuscript including HOW IT WORKS, INTO ACTION, WORKING WITH OTHERS, plus four other Chapters. Jim Scott helped write the Akron personal stories and the NY stories were also included. But in early 1939, Tom Uzzell, editor of Colliers Magazine, reduced the manuscript dramatically and a Dr. Howard (perhaps an alias) changed the tone from: "*Thou must under pain of drunkenness,*" to "*This is what we did.*"

The finished book was published in April of 1939. It sold for \$3.50.

So, Bill was gifted with many helpful friends as he constructed this marvelous life-saving book for us. Thank you, God!

Bob S, Richmond, IN

Member: "Can you tell me where you found that quote you cited in the meeting?"

Chairperson: "It's from the Twelve and Twelve."

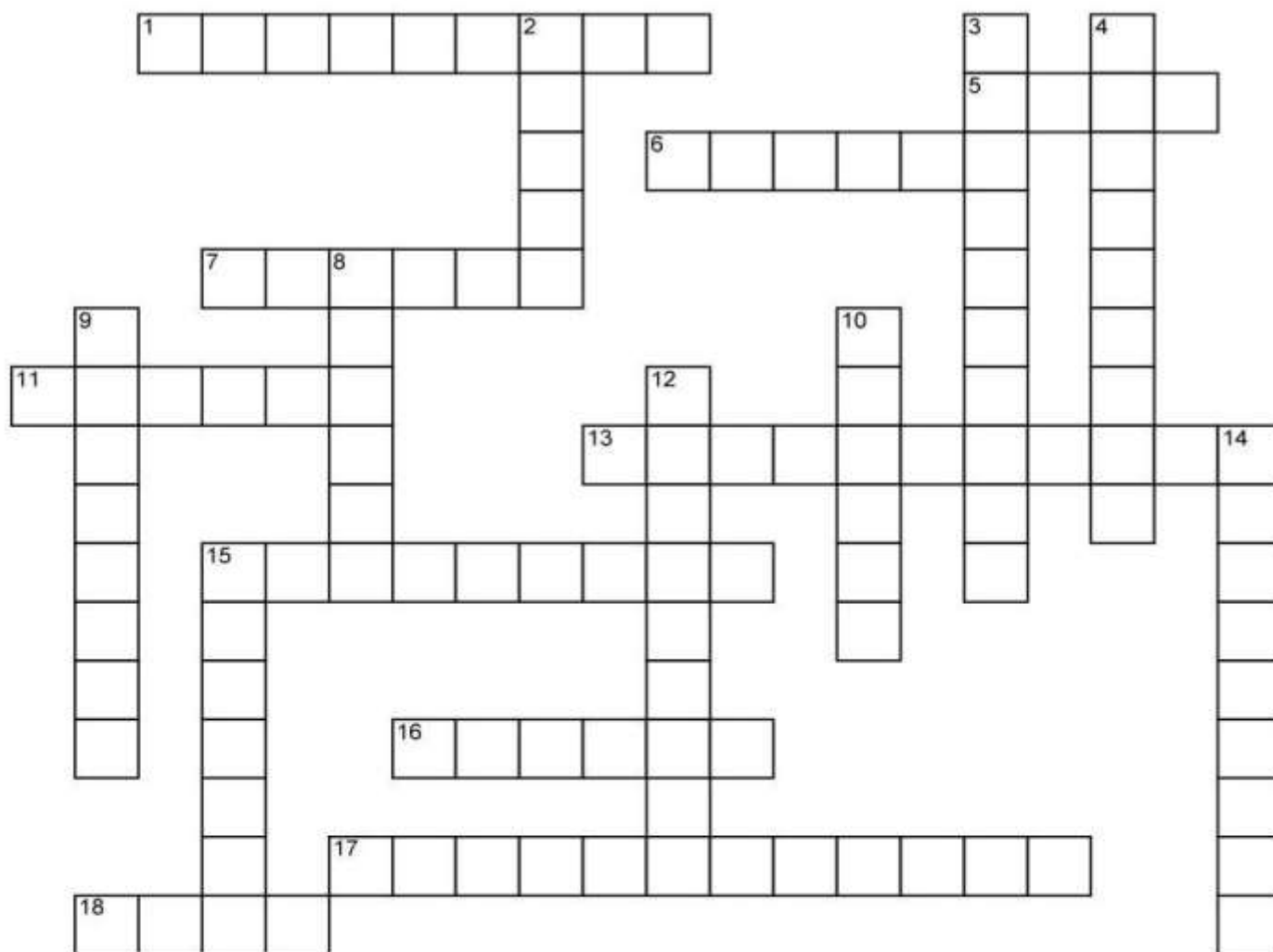
Member: "I don't think it's in my Twelve and Twelve."

Chairperson: "I'm sure it is. It's in my Twelve and Twelve. Have you read the Twelve and Twelve or have you just read the Twelve?"

Member (stubbornly): "I don't think it's in my Twelve and Twelve."

Chairperson: "Would you read a novel to the middle of the book, close the book and start at the beginning again? Why would you do that with one of the books that is going to help save your life?"

September Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 First woman member (2 words)
- 5 He brought the message to Bill Wilson
- 6 what we make in step 9
- 7 AA got this award in 1951
- 11 what trusted servants do NOT do
- 13 principle behind step 9
- 15 Akron hotel
- 16 what happens half way through
- 17 It will slip away
- 18 happy, joyous and _____

DOWN

- 2 Our _____ is self-centered, ego-centric
- 3 What we can't afford
- 4 Honesty, unselfishness, purity and love
- 8 soundness of mind
- 9 Twelve
- 10 Bill was offered a job at his lab
- 12 Step one
- 14 It will disappear---
- 15 Carry it

Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Long Form: "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Concept IX is the means by which the Conference addressed how best to select those positions of the A.A. service structure. This review will focus on how this Concept is applied to service positions within our local Districts and Areas.

With this in mind, it is important for the fellowship to consider that the G.S.R., D.C.M., Area Representatives, Area Committee Members, and the Delegate not only serve and represent their respective meetings and districts, but they are entrusted by the members they serve with the "right –of – decision." These individuals not only address issues and concerns of their districts and areas, but they have been empowered by their groups to make decisions, on their behalf, that affect A.A. as a whole. Additionally, it is also important to remember that many of these individuals begin at the local arena in A.A. service and continue on in service at the Conference level. Concept IX is really A.A.'s guideline for promoting from within the existing service structure.

First, it is important to remember the base of the A.A. service structure is dependent on the dedication and ability of the several thousand General Service Representatives (G.S.R.s), several hundred area Committee Members, and nearly a hundred Delegates. The individuals who serve in these service areas are the direct representatives of the A.A. groups. They are the indispensable linkage between our Fellowship and its world service. They are the representatives of the A.A.'s group conscience. Without the support and activity of these service structures, A.A. could not operate permanently at all.

Therefore, when A.A. groups are considering and making their choices for a G.S.R., they should keep the following facts in mind. It is only the G.S.R.s who, in Group Assembly meetings can name Committee Members and finally name the Delegates. Consequently, great care needs to be taken by the groups as they choose these Representatives. In addition, Groups who do not select G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. Overall, many Groups are persistent in their weakness of naming G.S.R.'s to represent their group conscience. The needed improvement seems to be a matter of increased care, responsibility and education.

Finally, because the G.S.R.s meet in their Assemblies to name Delegates an even greater awareness of care and dedication must be required. Personal ambitions will have to be cast aside, feuds and controversy forgotten. The vital principle, or if you will, idea that Concept IX brings to the Fellowship as they consider individuals for service positions..."Who are the best qualified people that we can name?" By embracing this concept at the local level, we in turn, strengthen the composition and the leadership of the future Board of Trustees, the Board which in years to come will have to exercise A.A.'s primary leadership in world service administration.

John T
Just The Black Print Big Book Study, Rancho Mirage.

August Puzzle Solution



Presented by
Your **GENERAL SERVICE DISTRICT 9**
(Area 09)



The AA Service Structure & AA Intergroups

How they work together



Join Area 9 Presenters

Ed (Delegate), Mitchell (Chair), Ryan (Secretary), &
David (Exec. Dir., Coachella Valley Central Ofc.)

Saturday, September 12, 2020

1—3pmPDT

See District 9 & Area 9 websites for Zoom access:

<http://district9gs.com/events>

http://msca09aa.org/related_events.php

MY ANSWER WAS NOT ON THE WALL

During my first sober months I was “*just surviving*” on the first three steps; the obsession to drink plagued me every day—repeating the Third Step prayer helped but provided only temporary escape while I obsessively attended AA meetings. I began to preface my prayers with the number of days I had been sober. I believe this helped keep me in focus. However, the terrifying obsession was constant. I was doing the Twelve Steps “off the wall” (Like on pages 59 & 60) which, of course, is only a summary; sort of like the Table of Contents of a book—not the actual clear-cut-directions. I was surviving on the fellowship (untreated alcoholism) and a false understanding of the Twelve Steps.

I thought I was living the AA Steps, but I was not!

Fortunately, I remained dry for five months, but then I marched into a bar and almost ordered a drink—happily I didn’t! Terrified, I asked a new sponsor, Carl, for help and he immediately took me through the Steps *directly from the Big Book!*

At Step Three I asked God to relieve me of the bondage of self (of course, I had no idea what that was!), but Carl started me on Step Four at once before I had time to change my mind or “*think things over.*” Upon completion of Step Four I came to realize that the basic nature of my bondage of self was rooted in selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear. I also learned to use the Big Book tools to face *and be rid of* these destructive ingredients. After Step Five, I knew exactly what to ask God to remove in Steps Six and Seven (after all, it was on paper right in front of me). We then discussed making amends.

Yet, the obsession persisted.

Carl informed me that although learning the AA program of action may provide a certain **relief**, the necessary **release** from the obsession happens only when put in action with the doing of Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve. Carl was right—I haven’t had to drink since!
Bob S.

Your
12-Step Answer
is not up
here!

Louie representing the
Coachella Valley H&I Committee
helping with the delivery of Books
to inmates of local prisons.

Commemorating Louie Carlos

Passing away 8/22/2020

I got word of the unexpected fatal heart attack that our local AA member, Louie Carlos, had while attending a weekend men’s retreat in Big Bear. He was in the company of many of his beloved men of our Fellowship on the golf course, doing what he loved.

In the 26 years I have been involved in service to our Fellowship, there have been a noteworthy few who have been examples of the legacy of Love and Service to our local groups.
David M.

Louie was always very, very willing to carry the message of AA...

During early COVID-19 we were going to the Spanish Speaking AA meetings in Coachella on a weekly basis for about 2 months....those meetings did not stop, folks just kept their distance & wore masks.

Louie always was recruiting members in English & Spanish for service work in the Prisons....not now but when Covid -19 was going 2 B over...

He enjoyed the Prisons, he always talked about the meeting on the way, the visit and the meeting on the way back....Plus the hot apple pie & ice cream stop on the way back....@ Sirocco summit dinner....

Loving and very insightful @ meetings...Always showed compassion...it seem to come out so easy for him.

Tony C. H&I Committee Member

July Volunteers at Central Office

Alyssa C.
Amelia F.

Thank You !!

Bill T.
Bonnie E.

David B.
Emil M.

Gary H.
Greg C.
Jim B.

Thank You !!

Marli F.
Mark L.
Nikki C.
Richard M.

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

The Ninth Step promises in the Big Book say that we will intuitively know how to handle things which used to baffle us.

I have had the opportunity to go back and re-read them, and just want to pass on what I've learned. The Big Book does NOT say that I will handle them well, nor does it say that I will look good while doing it --- which also makes me really grateful for the Tenth Step!

I'm not saying that I sought lower companions when I drank, but in the last bar where I drank, I was known as "the guy who could read."
"When your ass is on fire, get it to a meeting. That's where we keep the fire extinguishers!"

I asked my sponsor, "What do you do when you finish working the Steps?"

He said, "You lie really still, because you're dead."

\$5.00

Book of the month

\$5.00

Came to Believe (Lg. print)

Normally \$5.25 - this month \$5.00

\$5.00

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

\$5.00

Join Us...

on
Saturday, September 19, 2020, 8am-Midnight
for

A Taste of SoCal ...

w/ AA and Al-Anon and Alateen Participation



TIME	MEETING TYPE	SPEAKER(S)
8:00 am	AA/Al-Anon Family Afterward Meeting	Cory W. - Encino, CA (AA) Mary W. - Costa Mesa, CA (Al-Anon) Alateen Participation
9:00 am	Al-Anon Marathon Meeting	Lisa M. - Corona, CA Popcorn Participation
10:00 am	Al-Anon Spanish Speaker Meeting	Patty R. - Santa Maria, CA
11:00 am	AA H&I Service Meeting	Monica W. - Kern Co. H&I Jocelyn H. - Kern Co. H&I Sharon H. - Kern Co. H&I Lupe J. - Kern Co. H&I
12:00 pm	AA General Service Meeting	Thomas S. - Los Angeles, CA Kathi Fowler - Tucson, AZ
1:00 pm	AA Speaker Meeting	Fr Tom W. - Oakland, CA
2:00 pm	Al-Anon Speaker Meeting	Beth B. - Desert Hot Springs, CA
3:00 pm	Al-Anon Longtimer's Meeting	Dawn W. - Rancho Cucamonga, CA Val N. - Rancho Cucamonga, CA Laureen B. - San Dimas, CA Kay B. - Grover Beach, CA
4:00 pm	Alateen Speaker Meeting	Alateen Participation
5:00 pm	AA Spanish Speaker Meeting	Virginia K. - Downey, CA Francisco G. - Long Beach, CA
6:00 pm	AA Longtimer's Meeting	Michealine F. - Escondido, CA Jeff V. - Fargo, ND Joan C. - Carlsbad, CA
7:00 pm	AA Speaker Meeting	Diana M. - Largo, FL
8:00 pm	Spanish Al-Anon Speaker Meeting	Sandra S. - Los Angeles, CA Alejandro S. - Los Angeles, CA
9:00 pm	Al-Anon Speaker Closing Meeting	Mary Lou M. - Virginia Beach, VA
10:00 pm	AA Speaker Meeting	Tiffany D. - Corona, CA
11:00 pm	AA Young People Speakers Meeting	Leigh B. - Mission Viejo, CA Graham C. - Costa Mesa, CA Dean P. - Irvine, CA

Zoom Meeting ID# 918 4740 1523 ~ Password: SoCal
No Registration Required

Please contact Fernando O. (626-475-4097 or fernando911992@hotmail.com), or
Melody B. (714-307-4173 or lalatipp@yahoo.com) for more information.

“We will not Regret The Past”

A lack of memory is a common grievance. Whether recalling a name or remembering an idea that benefits our future, a good memory is certainly of value. But often, the more we try to recall a thought, the further it escapes us. And there are times when a sudden memory lapse may prevent a vital concept from being realized, which could harm our future, but have no effect on our present.

Many methods have been proposed to improve the memory—from proper diet and exercise, to the newest “Brain Pills”—all of which, seem ineffectual. So far, any significant methods for true memory retention have not been scientifically proven.

In the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have witnessed those, like myself, who suffer from a memory that produces unwanted images that suddenly come to our minds with the power to ruin an otherwise perfect day. But these uncontrollable memories, at times, are often pleasing. So, we might ask ourselves, when is it better to remember or to forget? Are we sensible enough to recognize what is truly worth remembering or do we have a choice in the matter?

The act of forgetting is also useful to our memories. Think of all the useless information that is subconsciously stored in our minds and its effect on memory. If that information appeared every time we recalled a thought, we could never proceed forward. The bad memories that dominate our minds, spoil our days and keep us up at night, have the power to not only jeopardize our sobriety—but as recovering alcoholics—can produce life threatening occurrences. If we could channel those painful memories as a personal testimony for the alcoholic who still suffers, as well as those in recovery, we then need not forget the past. Therefore, we read in the Big Book, “We will not regret the past, nor wish to shut the door on it” (83). By working and living the twelve steps of recovery, we obtain the power, through the grace of God, to recognize this unique opportunity to help those who believe their past humiliations are to remain berried forever. Those who are new to the program need to hear the old timers recall their stories of heart-ache, how they got well, then came to “trudge the road of happy destiny.”

As a warning, our sponsors caution us against the anticipation of future calamities. Those alcoholics who await disaster before an event ever happens, will receive little pity from others, but instead, will only experience self-torture. But to fear the future is still more reasonable than to lament the past.

When we fear something that hasn’t happened yet, we still can avoid it, but when it comes to regret, we can never change the past. Regrets then never go away. They only form a new subject of regret for “tomorrow and tomorrow that creeps in this petty pace from day to day. And all our yesterday’s [make us fools that light the way] to dusty death.” Everyday has its own purpose where God has assigned what He would have us do. We cannot let constant worries intrude our present. God did not create us to carry the heavy load of both yesterday’s and today’s troubles at the same time.

Ultimately, to forget or to remember at our own discretion, are equally beyond our authority. But trust in our Higher Power and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, allows us the courage to recall our stories as a testimony where others can obtain the needed faith to believe in the process of our fellowship.

Dr. Tee

September Puzzle

Figure out what words the clues represent. Then find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

V	T	T	G	K	N	S	I	L	K	W	O	R	T	H	E	A
X	Y	M	W	E	C	N	K	T	M	Z	B	L	T	C	C	I
P	R	N	V	Y	H	E	G	B	K	F	H	P	G	F	N	T
L	J	E	X	Y	O	V	D	R	O	F	X	O	P	K	E	A
T	S	N	C	L	P	E	F	R	A	D	T	T	B	R	I	N
O	M	T	E	S	E	L	T	A	D	P	Z	R	D	N	R	G
I	M	F	H	L	F	E	M	H	I	M	E	K	E	G	E	I
N	L	O	G	P	B	T	K	D	Y	T	K	V	N	L	P	A
O	R	F	W	S	V	A	C	W	F	S	H	L	I	F	X	N
T	P	O	W	E	R	L	E	S	S		E	E	A	N	E	O
N	J	Q	L	M	A	E	R	G	J	T	G	L	L	G	E	N
A	B	C	M	R	R	O	M	B	A	A	N	T	F	H	D	Y
N	D	L	E	H	T	N	K	I	D	N	G	O	W	W	R	M
A	N	N	K	C	K	G	F	N	T	C	A	G	S	K	V	I
S	C	B	A	J	K	T	O	X	Q	D	R	M	N	I	H	T
E	E	E	R	F	T	B	R	L	D	R	L	F	N	R	D	Y
A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R		C	X	O	G	U	K	E

Our _____ is self-centered ego-centric ...

Saturday Evening Post

press radio and films

Freedom From

Started AA in Cleveland

Crossing the River of _____

Bill was offered a job at his lab

chapters in the Big Book

spiritual

Second Principle

happy joyous and _____

Our magazine

Step two

Little Angel of A.A.

Dr. Bob and the Good

AA predecessor

Step one

International Convention City (2 words)

appendices

He Sold Himself _____

Dr. William D.

Physician Heal _____

our life when we got to AA

THE MIDDLE STEPS IN A TIMELY MANNER

Luckily, my sponsor, Carl, allowed me almost no “*let me think it over*” time as we approached my initial middle step process. No time for fear or hesitation was available! Only minutes after praying the Third Step request for God’s help, he had me start a process I call “spontaneous writing” which provided substantive and honest Fourth Step information. I was warned not to write good things about myself because that would take too many pages. Ha!

This “Spontaneous writing” process started on a Saturday, “*at once*,” per page 64 instructions,” and we then completed the Step Four instructions the following Saturday. Carl then helped me actually “read and do” the Fourth Step process directly from the Big Book (PP 64-71). This process lasted about one hour.

The Step Five process of reporting my newly found character defects, etc., began just a few minutes after finishing Step Four (***First opportunity***, page 74), and Step Six began, “*then*,” (p. 76) and Step Seven was prayed at “*When ready*” (p. 76). Steps Four through Seven, were completed in a few hours that last Saturday. Doctor Carl Jung has written: “*People will do anything to avoid facing their own soul.*” Thankfully, my sponsor didn’t give me time to back out. He followed the Big Book timetable!

As years pass, as I watch newcomers too often disappear between Steps Three and Four, I have become much more appreciative of the Big Book’s timetable for the middle steps. I believe too much in-between time allows fear and doubt to take over; then, even the sincerest Third Step decision will often deteriorate into indecision and inaction.

Sometimes I hear: “*God will show me when to start my inventory*,” or, “*I plan to take my time and do it right*” . . . and so on. I believe it is good to explain, at this point, that what is missed in Step Four can always be taken care of in Step Ten—even years later when they crop up.

Step Ten is continually redoing of the mid-steps of the “learning” process above! First of all, I had to learn how to do the mid-steps—only then could I actually put them into action by following these clear-cut Step Ten directions on page 84:

We continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear. (Step Four)

When these crop up we ask God at once to remove them. (Steps Six and Seven)

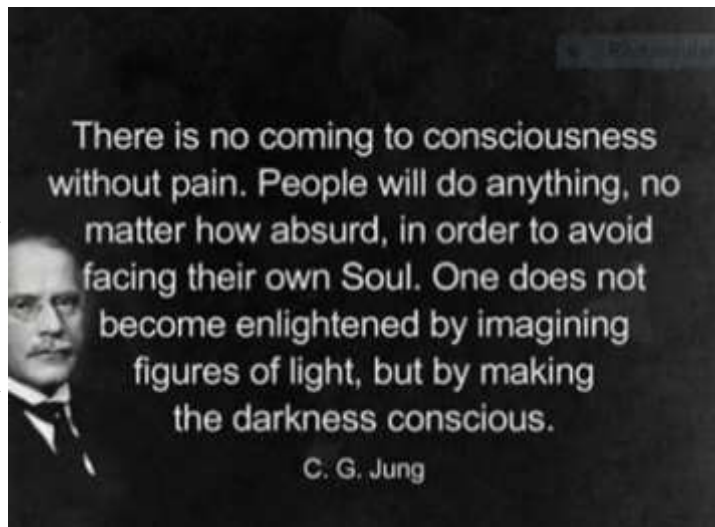
We discuss them with someone immediately. (Step Five)

Make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. (Steps Eight and Nine)

Speaking of a “timely manner” as in the title of this article, I believe it is important to realize that as I go through my day, to remember that the step Ten instructions include the phrases: “*at once*,” “*immediately*” and “*quickly*.” Of course, these phrases are to be used in sensible context, for the Big Book infers that God gave me *brains to use*! For instance, not to phone my sponsor you at work simply because I have some trivial concern or small problem.

Early on, I thought the above directions were to be done only before going to bed at night. Of course, that came from a mis-reading of the first full paragraph of page 86 which is Step Eleven. I now realize that Step Ten is to be done throughout each day. Living these middle steps, via Step Ten, continually provides relief from the anxiety and fear of my drinking days. But I need to remember that AA is a program of action! ~~

Bob S., Richmond, IN





Central Intergroup of the Desert

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

July 2020

PROFIT AND LOSS

\$-768

Net income for July

\$9,492

Income

\$10,260

Expenses

	TOTAL	
	JUL 2020	JUL 2020 (YTD)
Revenue		
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	4,990	4,990
Gratitude Dinner	(250)	(250)
Interest Income	0	0
Sales	4,751	4,751
Total Revenue	\$9,492	\$9,492
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	2,711	2,711
POS Inventory Adjustment	(65)	(65)
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$2,646	\$2,646
GROSS PROFIT	\$6,845	\$6,845
Expenditures		
Accounting Services	600	600
Bank Charges	4	4
Computer Expense	367	367
Credit Card Fees	157	157
Insurance - Health	559	559
Insurance - Liability	287	287
Office Expense	556	556
Payroll Expenses	3,981	3,981
Plant Expenditures	363	363
Storage	178	178
Utilities	562	562
Total Expenditures	\$7,614	\$7,614
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ (768)	\$ (768)
NET REVENUE	\$ (768)	\$ (768)



Central Intergroup of the Desert

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: BUDGET 2020-2021 - FY21 P&L

July 2020

		TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET
Revenue			
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	4,990	6,500	(1,510)
Gratitude Dinner	(250)		(250)
Interest Income	0	0	0
Sales	4,751	6,600	(1,849)
Total Revenue	\$9,492	\$13,100	\$ (3,608)
Cost of Goods Sold			
Cost of Goods Sold	2,711	4,290	(1,579)
POS Inventory Adjustment	(65)		(65)
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$2,646	\$4,290	\$ (1,644)
GROSS PROFIT	\$6,845	\$8,810	\$ (1,965)
Expenditures			
Accounting Services	600	600	0
Bank Charges	4		4
Computer Expense	367	367	0
Credit Card Fees	157	465	(308)
Insurance - Health	559	400	159
Insurance - Liability	287	287	0
Newsletter Expense		5	(5)
Office Expense	556	600	(44)
Outreach		100	(100)
Payroll Expenses	3,981	4,200	(219)
Plant Expenditures	363	200	163
Rent		1,500	(1,500)
Storage	178	200	(22)
Utilities	562	500	62
Total Expenditures	\$7,614	\$9,424	\$ (1,810)
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ (768)	\$ (614)	\$ (154)
NET REVENUE	\$ (768)	\$ (614)	\$ (154)

Central Intergroup of the Desert

CONTRIBUTIONS - GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS

July 2020

	TOTAL	
	JUL 2020	JUL 2020 (YTD)
11th Step Meditation -SUN Palm Desert	25.00	25.00
3-7-11 Step Meeting	2.00	2.00
559 Meeting Hall	50.00	50.00
9am Staying Connected (Zoom)	300.00	300.00
Anonymous No Group Given	1,886.00	1,886.00
As Bill Sees It - Sat Nite Idyllwild	40.00	40.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-S , Palm Desert PDCC	700.00	700.00
Black Sheep Group	50.00	50.00
Cathedral City 12 & 12 Book Study-TUE	100.00	100.00
Cross-Country Meeting	90.46	90.46
Desert Men's Big Book Stu Palm Desert	50.00	50.00
Loosey Goosey Tue Women	82.00	82.00
Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj.	680.00	680.00
Road Runners Bermuda Dunes	25.00	25.00
Round Table Serenity Group	251.00	251.00
Santa Rosa Group Palm Desert	10.00	10.00
Serenity Seekers Palm Desert	240.00	240.00
Spirituality in Recovery	60.00	60.00
Step Sisters Palm Desert	84.00	84.00
The First 164 Pages	140.00	140.00
Women's Meeting Palm Desert	125.00	125.00
TOTAL	\$4,990.46	\$4,990.46

"I love reading the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous! I get to see all of the new stuff that's been added since the last time I read the Big Book --- sometimes someone has even snuck in and highlighted stuff for me and written notes in the margin just to bring my attention to that "new stuff"!

"I didn't think that I had a drinking habit, I thought that I had a drinking hobby --- and EVERYONE needs a hobby!"

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"I didn't think that I had a drinking habit, I thought that I had a drinking hobby --- and EVERYONE needs a hobby!"

I've been afraid all my life. I just didn't know that. I just thought I was pissed.

Sponsor to Sponsee: "The eighth step does NOT say, 'Made a list of persons to whom I am willing to make amends.' Let's take another look at that list!"

Clancy Imislund – Obituary

Clancy Imislund, Born July 9, 1927 passed away peacefully at the age of 93 @ 3:15PM August 24, 2020. He had turned 60 years sober last October, was the Founder of the Pacific Group, and was Managing Director of the Midnight Mission in downtown Los Angeles for the last 46 years. The following paragraphs are the Mission's profile of this man who benefitted the lives of so many:



Known worldwide for his affiliation with The Midnight Mission and for his leadership in the 12-step community, Clancy Imislund is very much a man on the move. His journey as Managing Director of The Midnight began in 1974 and what a remarkable journey it has been.

Clancy Imislund was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 1927. At the tender age of fifteen he left home and joined the Merchant Marines, marking his sixteenth birthday in Pearl Harbor. At the age of 17, he joined the U.S. Navy. It wasn't until he enrolled in college after the war, that Clancy began drinking and gaining more of a dependence on alcohol. When asked how his addiction began, he states that he began drinking with the other Veterans (even though he didn't particularly like the taste) because it was the thing to do. Unfortunately little by little, alcohol slowly took control of his life and after a 15 year downhill battle he found himself alone and penniless on the streets of Skid Row. He had lost everything; his job, friends and his family. Only the clothes on his back and portable typewriter remained, which he pawned for ten dollars so he could function a bit longer.

On October 31, 1958, Clancy was thrown out of The Midnight after a brief scuffle and no one dreamed that one day he would return to become the organizations leader. Back out on the street again, Clancy came to the realization that he had finally hit bottom. His recovery began by walking 71 blocks, in the rain, to an alcoholic rehabilitation center on Wilshire and Fairfax. Upon entering, he was asked if he was willing to do whatever it might take to get his life back, and this time Clancy simply answered "yes". Under the instruction of a mentor, Clancy found a job, a plan of life and began his journey on the road to recovery. After five years of sobriety and laborious progress on his part, his wife made the decision to return to him. He made his way back into the workaday world and after some time became an executive at KHJ radio and television in Los Angeles. It was during this time that he began working with alcoholics and speaking to civic groups about alcoholism and rehabilitation. He had found his passion in helping others get their lives back. Fast forward to 1974, a member of the Board of Directors of The Midnight asked Clancy if he knew of any candidates that were qualified for the Managing Director position. He could find no one that would take the job, and decided to do it himself on an interim basis. But Clancy was so effective that he stayed on permanently.

Over the years Clancy has had a profound impact on The Midnight and in the lives of the thousands of men who have come through these doors. He was responsible for bringing the 12-step philosophy to The Midnight, establishing our organization as one of the first providers of addiction treatment on Skid Row. Clancy has said that what we do "is the difference between giving a hungry person a fish and teaching them how to fish".

Never one to mince words, Clancy is known for his direct, no-nonsense demeanor, but also for his approachability. He always seems to have the time to listen and provide a few words of wisdom when asked. To say that Clancy is the heart and soul of The Midnight would be an understatement. We salute and thank Clancy for his endless dedication and service to The Midnight and to people in recovery worldwide.