



the Desert Lifeline

November 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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Cathedral City, CA 92234

Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mon.- Fri.
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat. & Sun.

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

Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Mailing Address: P O Box 1692
Yucca Valley, CA 92286-1692

Step

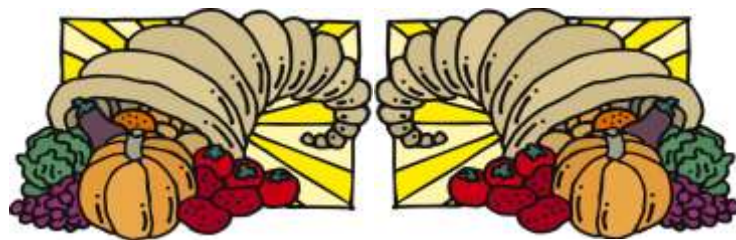
Sought through prayer and meditation to
improve our conscious contact with God,
as we understood Him, praying only for
knowledge of His will for us
and the power to carry that out.

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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V
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N

Principle Eleven

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

September Office Statistics

Meeting Info	85
12 Step Calls	4
Visitors	96
Literature Sales	178
Al-Anon	2
Other 12 Step	3
Miscellaneous	0
Business	10

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.

Message from the Manager: 2020 has brought about many changes in our ability to stay close to each other in the Fellowship. When I was new, I was told that change is inevitable, but misery is optional, and the advent of the Shut-down has isolated some, and brought together others across the globe, bringing about a digital wave of connection that was covered in the Forward to the 4th Edition of our Big Book; "Modem-to-modem or face-to-face, A.A.'s speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity."

✱ Meeting Directory Updated ✱

During the first months of this year, our website database for current local meetings was not accessible due to the closure of many facilities that support in-person meetings. I had an extensive list of newly active Outdoor Meetings and Zoom information available on the Home Page that was being updated daily, in some cases, and other options for us to pursue. In the last two weeks, with the support of an A.A. member new to our area since June, Sam M., we now have an updated database that is synchronizing responsibly with the "Meeting Guide" app that we were using the last few years. With Sam's help, we now have local meetings listed, not only by the historic types (12&12, Big Book, LGBTQ, Young People, Meditation, Men, Women, Newcomer etc.), but new options: "Location Temporarily Closed", "Outdoor Meetings" and "Online Meetings" with the Zoom ID and PW listed in our database that keeps the Meeting Guide available for A.A. members to find connection with another Alcoholic using their mobile devices.

Be sure to announce at your meetings, (either in-person or Zoom), that our website, and the Meeting Guide app have all these usable resources & updates that will be kept current by the notifications of changes and additions from the local Fellowship. During this transition from the list on our Home Page, I have a PDF link that is a printable list being updated for hard copy distribution. This document is also available at the Office and placed in the Newcomer packets until I publish the bound Meeting Directory. Note also that any changes to listed meetings can be made on the Meeting information page in our database that will be emailed to me for updating



A Positive Reflection of our Time

How much more grounded I feel in a Fellowship whose aims are constant and unflagging. I am grateful that the energies of A.A. have never been scattered, but focused instead on our members and on our individual sobriety.

Like the sun focused through a magnifying glass, A.A.'s single vision has lit a fire of faith in sobriety in millions of hearts, including ours.

Ira M.

September Volunteers at Central Office

Alyssa C.
Amelia F.

Eileen C.
Gary H.

Thank You !!

Thank You !!

Greg C.
Jim B.
John F.
Kate E.

Mark L.
Nancy G.
Nikki C.
Phillip H.

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

Bill T.
David B.
Emil M.

The thing that frightens a lot of alcoholics about AA's Steps is the specter of
onrushing sainthood, which is probably as good an illustration as any
of alcoholic presumption--or arrogance.

Expectations are premeditated resentments.

"Dear God, Please help me to see other people as you see them,
Love other people as you love them,
and forgive other people as you forgive them.

My recovery is like trying to go up on the down escalator . . .
you can get there, but you've got to move right along!

Want to get the Desert Lifeline delivered directly to you via email each month??

Well..... you can.

Just go to the Central Office web site, www.aainthedesert.org,
and follow the link to sign up!

It's just that easy!!

And It's FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Traditions Checklist

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.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem *unattractive*?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around—even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

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

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

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

Book of the month

\$5.00

"Experience

\$5.00

Strength & Hope"

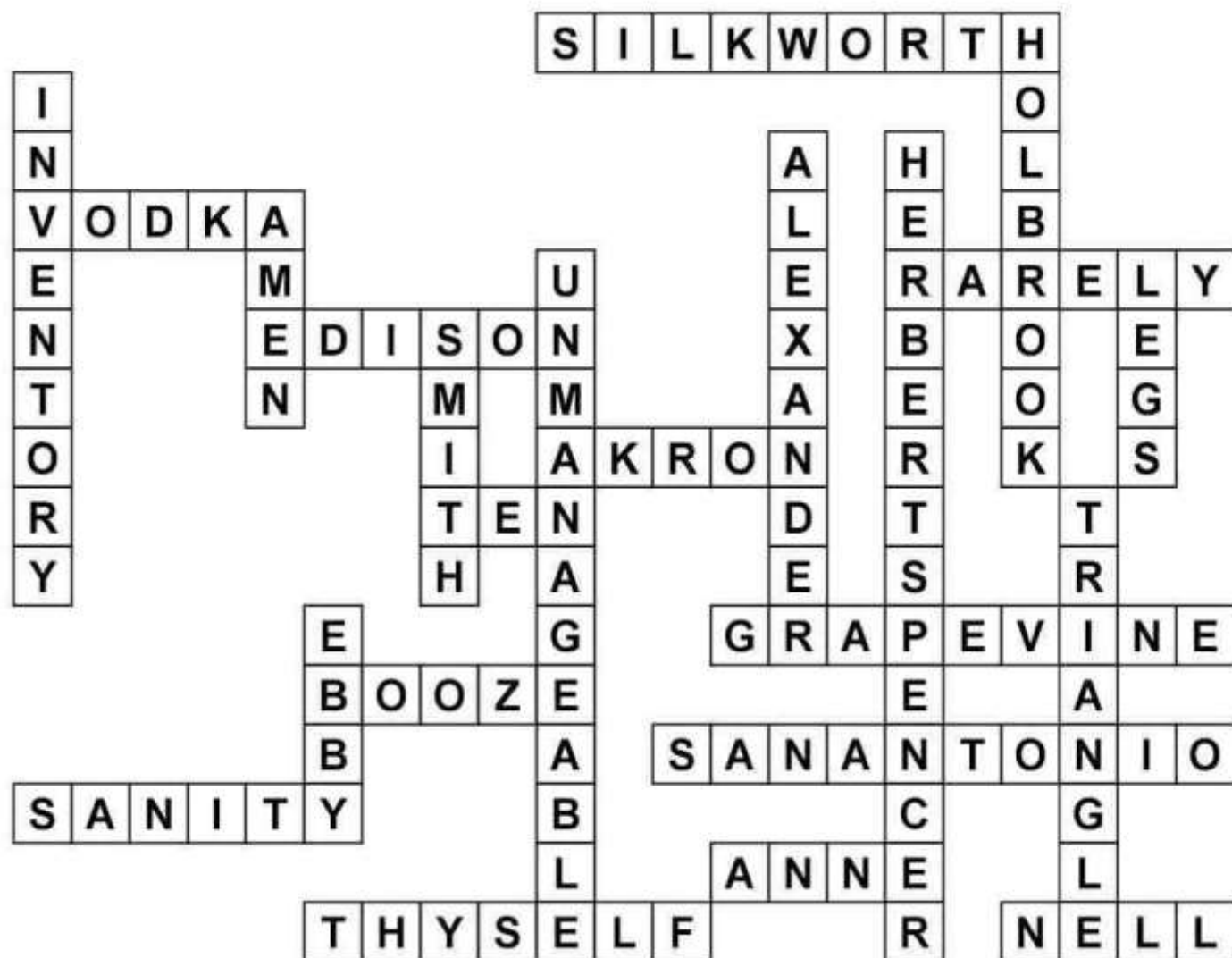
Fifty-six retired stories from the first three editions of the Big Book come back in print in this anthology.

\$5.00

Normally \$5.50- this month \$5.00

\$5.00

October Puzzle Solution



How many sponsors does it take to change a light bulb?
Only one, but the bulb has to really want to change.

He orders two shots. He proceeds to pour out the first one all over the bar, downs the second one and then orders two more. He pours out the first one on the bar, downs the second one and orders two more.

The bartender asks him why he keeps pouring out the first shot all over the bar.

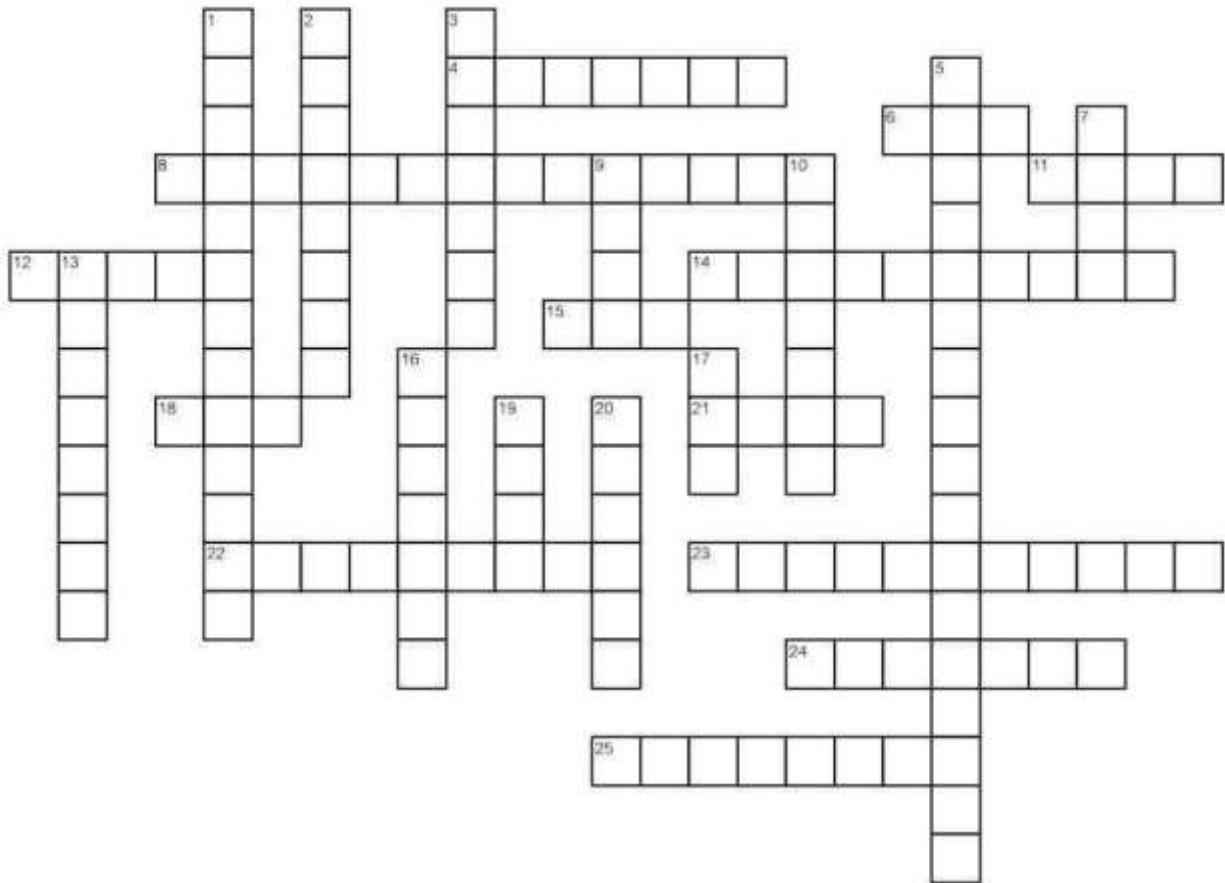
The alcoholic replies with "My AA group said all I need to do is avoid that first drink."

A guy wants a divorce. He tells the judge "I cant take it anymore she's out going from bar to bar every night way past midnight"

The judge responds "what's she doing"

The guy says "looking for me"

November Puzzle



ACROSS

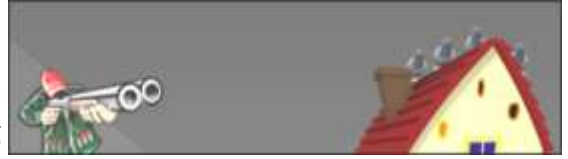
- 4 Little Angel of A.A.
- 6 What Happened To _____
- 8 He is quoted in Appendix 2 (2 words)
- 11 _____ of Bill
- 12 Language of the _____
- 14 mode of transportation used by Bill and Lois during his early Wall Street years
- 15 A Member's _____ View of A.A.
- 18 Career Bill thought he'd try when he got out of the war
- 21 The 3rd Step prayer doesn't have it but the 7th Step prayer does
- 22 Dr. Bob and the Good
- 23 Questions & Answers on _____
- 24 Physician, Heal _____
- 25 Circle and _____

DOWN

- 1 Contempt prior to this
- 2 Dr. Bob's middle name
- 3 Sure Beats _____ In A Cell
- 5 Our more religious may call a spiritual experience this.
- 7 Bill's longtime secretary
- 9 Bill's sponsor
- 10 Most common occupation amongst AA members
- 13 The Sermon on the Mount (2 words)
- 16 Beginners' Book: Getting and _____ Sober in AA
- 17 A Rabbit Walks Into A _____
- 19 Mrs. Dr. Bob
- 20 Bill was offered a job at his lab

THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE AA WORLD

Ebby T's shotgun blast of late summer of 1934 will evermore resound throughout the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Ebby was thirty-eight years old, alone and nearly destitute, living in his family's summer home in Manchester, Vermont. He had inherited \$150,000 only five years earlier, but that mostly evaporated following the stock market crash of 1929. While well-intoxicated one late evening during the late summer of 1934 he began shooting at pigeons on his roof. Not a good idea in such a prestigious neighborhood. (Robert Todd Lincoln, the President's son, once lived across the street!) So Ebby was off to court for the third time; he faced six months confinement.



However, a friend from earlier days, Cebra G, heard of his plight and got Ebby off the hook—his father was the judge! However, Ebby was paroled to live under the tutorship of well-respected millionaire Rowland Hazard. Rowland convinced Ebby to become a resident at Calvary Mission in downtown Manhattan. There he learned that his old schoolmate, Bill Wilson was deep into alcoholic despair. His "kitchen table" visit (pp. 8-9) eventually led Bill to Towns Hospital for treatment; he never drank again! As you know, just five short months later, Bill carried his sobriety message to Dr. Bob S in Akron, Ohio which soon afterward signaled the birth of AA.

That was all there was eighty-five years ago, so you may ask: "*What's the point?*" Well, this short AA history story illustrates that what I do in AA **today** may have long lasting effects. If I transmit the **actual** Big Book Twelve Step program of action to the next person, I believe the effect will result in sobriety for those who follow, one to the next. However, if I just make up what seems sort of appropriate, like elaborating on the steps from the clubhouse wall, the long-lasting results will be quite different. Sadly, through the years, I note such half-measure practices on the rise.

A pool player once stated: "*I try to make all my shots count!*" My hope and desire are that all my Twelve Step shots will be from the Big Book, so they will be heard through the years, but not from some superficial easier softer way. Ebby's kitchen table message to Bill was the Oxford Group message from which our steps were mainly derived. Page 77 tells us: "***Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us.***" You see what I mean.

Bob S.

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."

Step Eleven

*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.*

Our Daily opportunity to be alone with God. For me it is my opportunity to ask God to reorganize my brain, my heart, my mind, and my soul so I can go on to do his work and to be of service to others. Then to relax and allow this to take place. Sometimes it is not the easiest thing to do but when I do it, I achieve the feelings of peace and serenity. My body and soul fill with love and warmth from God. This is my experience from our eleventh step.

Matt G
Jaywalkers Men's Stag, Rancho Mirage

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.*

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. Our twelve and twelve states that this is more than a denial of self-seeking. This tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In the past when the press finally got the point about A.A.'s insistence upon anonymity, they understood that here was something rare - a society which said it wished to publicize its principles and its work, but not its individual members.

I learned about the principle of attraction rather than promotion early on in my sobriety. Not by reading or asking questions about it, but by an experience I had as a 16 year old on my very first job. I was working at a 5 and 10 cent store as a cashier a couple of weeks before Christmas. One Saturday during my lunch hour I got falling down drunk. I vaguely remember staggering back to work where I was nursed with coffee, then taken home. The remorse and shame that followed were overwhelming. I just knew that I would no longer have a job, and I feared having to explain why to my parents. Worst of all I feared having to face my boss. With immense shame, fear, and guilt I returned to work certain that I would be terminated. I felt so worthless and insignificant as I trembled and apologized for my fiasco. With my head bowed down, I stood in anticipation of "You're fired!" How stunned I was when instead my boss's hand gently patted my shoulder as he said, with a kind expression, and gentle voice, "We all make mistakes, but we try to learn from them." Incredibly he never fired me, and never brought it up again. I could not believe that he was so forgiving. He always treated me with dignity and respect.

About twenty-three years later around my second year in AA I was at St. Margaret's listening to a speaker who had almost 30 years in the program. He seemed familiar to me and soon I realized that he was Howard B. the man who was my boss when I was 16. I sat there and thought to myself "No wonder he was so understanding." After the meeting I went up to him and told him who I was. He remembered me and was thrilled to know that I had made it to the program. I knew that man had something special when I was 16. The attraction for me was the kindness, understanding, respect and dignity with which he treated people.

Priscilla C
Monday Night Women's Big Book Study, ABC Club, Indio

HAPPINESS VS JOY

The Big Book tells us that God wants us to be Happy, Joyous, and Free (p. 133). At first reading I thought this statement was a bit redundant for, after all, were not happiness and joy synonymous emotions? I was later to take a different view.



Some years ago, I attended an AA gathering in a large campground near Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. While preparing to sleep in my tent I was taken over by a tremendous sadness. It came in vivid memory the happy night where my lovely then-bride and I spent in the same tent above the Grand Canyon following our Las Vegas marriage. At once, a heavy depression crashed down with tremendous despondency. The happy times that we shared during our California years were gone—now we were divorced—she is gone from me forever. It was far past midnight and the black doom pressed down without pity. . . and it went on and on.

But then, all at once, my surroundings seemed to brighten! It was as though a beautiful light was shining in some mysterious manner. Although I was overcome with sadness, certainly not happiness, I was at once filled with JOY! *I was experiencing both sadness and JOY at the same time!* This bright JOY sparkled deep into the morning.

That experience convinced me that happiness and Joy are not at all the same. Happiness is a biological phenomenon that comes and goes with life happenings. If the boss says, “you’re fired,” I will become sad, but if he gives me a raise, I am happy. But not so with spiritual JOY because true Joy comes from God and is not under the domain of this world. God has told us: *“I am not of this world!”*

True Joy has come to me spasmodically since that episode, but it comes and goes before I seem to be able to capture it, yet it is proof to me that God is with me. The Big Book speaks of the “Great Reality” deep within (p. 55). So, I believe if I live the life that AA has offered, I will continue to be mostly happy, but also experience surges of great JOY from time to time.

The Big Book promise of being *happy* and *joyous* is not redundant; this duo has helped me from taking that first drink for many years. Thank you, God!
Bob S

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.

In this concept, Bill stresses to us the importance of leadership both in Trustee’s and non-Trustee committee members. It breaks down, in detail, the mix of Trustees, non-trustee committee members and professional workers employed by General Services Office. The cooperation, commitment and skills of all these components are vital to the survival of AA on a global level.

In this Concept, we are reminded of the importance of leaders and how they are chosen. If we choose someone for a job, for example, who is slightly less competent than ourselves to make us look good we have harmed the whole operation. Prudence and patience are stressed, and it is far better to let things take a little longer than to rush ahead with someone at the helm who is not the best person for the job. Also discussed are the reasons for each Standing Committee and the exact components of each. One of the compelling examples he uses (and still very timely) is the reason that the Grapevine should never be run by World Services. The main reason is that WSO’s primary interest is in maintaining and/or updating literature which already exists, and the Grapevine needs always to have a fresh eye in an ever changing world.

Brian C
Sunny Dunes Fifth Tradition Group, Palm Springs



Central Intergroup of the Desert

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

September 2020

PROFIT AND LOSS

\$1,012

Net income for September

\$12,073

Income

\$11,061

Expenses

	TOTAL	
	SEP 2020	JUL - SEP, 2020 (YTD)
Revenue		
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	7,883	19,003
Gratitude Dinner		(250)
Interest Income	0	24
Sales	4,156	12,282
Total Revenue	\$12,038	\$31,059
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	2,484	7,292
POS Inventory Adjustment	(50)	(83)
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$2,435	\$7,209
GROSS PROFIT	\$9,604	\$23,850
Expenditures		
Accounting Services	600	1,800
Bank Charges		4
Computer Expense	367	1,101
Credit Card Fees	215	467
Insurance - Health	414	1,233
Insurance - Liability	287	862
Newsletter Expense		25
Office Expense	488	2,070
Payroll Expenses	3,981	11,943
Plant Expenditures		715
Rent	1,476	2,907
State Filing Fees		60
Storage	178	534
Utilities	578	1,729
Total Expenditures	\$8,583	\$25,449
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,021	\$ (1,599)
NET REVENUE	\$1,021	\$ (1,599)



Central Intergroup of the Desert

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

July - September, 2020

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET
Revenue			
Contributions - Conventions		1,600	(1,600)
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	19,003	14,500	4,503
Gratitude Dinner	(250)		(250)
Interest Income	24	25	(1)
Sales	12,282	20,500	(8,218)
Total Revenue	\$31,059	\$36,625	\$ (5,566)
Cost of Goods Sold			
Cost of Goods Sold	7,292	13,325	(6,033)
POS Inventory Adjustment	(83)		(83)
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$7,209	\$13,325	\$ (6,116)
GROSS PROFIT	\$23,850	\$23,300	\$550
Expenditures			
Accounting Services	1,800	1,800	0
Bank Charges	4		4
Computer Expense	1,101	1,101	0
Credit Card Fees	467	1,444	(977)
Insurance - Health	1,233	1,200	33
Insurance - Liability	862	861	1
Newsletter Expense	25	15	10
Office Expense	2,070	1,800	270
Outreach		300	(300)
Payroll Expenses	11,943	12,600	(657)
Plant Expenditures	715	600	115
Rent	2,907	4,500	(1,593)
State Filing Fees	60	60	0
Storage	534	600	(66)
Utilities	1,729	1,620	109
Total Expenditures	\$25,449	\$28,501	\$ (3,052)
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ (1,599)	\$ (5,201)	\$3,602
NET REVENUE	\$ (1,599)	\$ (5,201)	\$3,602

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

	TOTAL	
	SEP 2020	JUL - SEP, 2020 (YTD)
10th Step Group Palm Desert	65.00	65.00
11th Step Meditation -SUN Palm Desert		25.00
164 Group - WED - Palm Springs		423.34
3-7-11 Step Meeting	2.00	127.00
559 Meeting Hall	25.00	75.00
7AM Zoom Meeting	100.00	100.00
9am Staying Connected (Zoom)		775.00
An AA Big Book Group - Sunday - Desert Hot Springs		22.00
Anonymous No Group Given	4,852.50	9,063.50
As Bill Sees It - Sat Nite Idyllwild		40.00
Attitude Adjustment Rancho Mirage	100.00	100.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-F P.D. Santa Fe Square	166.00	166.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-S , Palm Desert PDCC		700.00
Attitude Adjustment-MON		20.00
Birthday Contributions	76.00	149.00
Black Sheep Group	100.00	650.00
Brithday Contributions	11.00	11.00
Cathedral City 12 &12 Book Study-TUE		100.00
Covert IHOP Mens Stag	50.00	50.00
Cross-Country Meeting		90.46
Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert	244.47	244.47
Desert Men's Big Book Stu Palm Desert	200.00	450.00
Fellowship Hall	50.00	270.00
Friends of Bill - Anonymo Palm Desert		20.00
Ground Zero	120.35	120.35
Living Sober Group-Joshua Tree	25.00	25.00
Living Sober Palm Springs		498.34
Loosey Goosey Tue Women	45.50	127.50
Meet & Potatoes 12 & 12		84.00
New Freedom Palm Desert		25.00
No Rules La Quinta		650.00
Old Town Coffee Shop, La Quinta, Mon Noon	76.00	76.00
Over 50 12&12 Step Study		251.00
Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj. 122976	593.00	1,273.00
Perez Plaza Meeting Room/One Day at a Time Mon	45.00	45.00
Playing Wlth A Full Deck Palm Desert	2.00	2.00
Road Runners Bermuda Dunes		45.00
Round Table Serenity Group		251.00
Santa Rosa Big Book Thump Coachella	50.00	50.00
Santa Rosa Group Palm Desert		110.00
Serenity Seekers Palm Desert	240.00	480.00
Smoking Jackelope Men Stag	50.00	100.00
Spirituality in Recovery		60.00

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

	TOTAL	
	SEP 2020	JUL - SEP, 2020 (YTD)
Step Sisters Palm Desert	123.50	207.50
Stepping Stones Palm Desert	25.00	25.00
Sunset Group Joshua Tree	75.00	75.00
Sunset Group La Quinta Park	296.15	296.15
The First 164 Pages		140.00
Thurs. 7PM Attitude Adj.		50.00
Women's Meeting Palm Desert		125.00
Yerba Santa Round Table Top Discussion	74.15	74.15
TOTAL	\$7,882.62	\$19,002.76

Celebration of Life of an Invaluable AA Member

Elizabeth Stephenson

Sobriety date 5/27/86

Died sober on 11/22//2019 at her home the Goddess Ranch in the company of her son Mark, her sister Judy, a longtime friend in the program Judi H, and two other dear friends. She had had a stroke the morning of the 18th and was able to die at home as was her wish.

Elizabeth's home group was the First 164 that met at St. Paul's Church in Palm Springs on Wednesdays. She conquered her fear of technology and became an active member of the 6 A.M. Portland Global Eye-opener Zoom meeting where she would coach others on how to use zoom, much to her delight and amazement.

Even though her 'worldly' career was glamorous and illustrious spanning modeling, acting, creative art, fashion & design, poetry, Elizabeth's aim in sobriety was to be "one of many...not *the one*." She taught by example, especially as she felt herself increasingly compromised and unable to drive to her meetings. She sat every morning with her "HP" G'GATI (God-Goddess-All That Is) and would journal her guidance for the day. She taught how to be comfortable with "not knowing" as she learned to be fully in this present moment with gratitude for what it brings.

Her favorite couplet was given to her by Charles, a member of her home group who frequently visited her at the Goddess Ranch.

"I should like to live my life as the river flows
Being drawn forward by the surprise of my own unfolding."

Elizabeth's Celebration Of Life will be on Zoom

November 22 at 11 A.M. Pacific

LINK to follow.