



# the Desert Lifeline

May 2021

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 107  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

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

**760.324.4880**

Fax 760.324.4851

Web site: [www.AAintheDesert.org](http://www.AAintheDesert.org)



[manager@aainthedesert.org](mailto:manager@aainthedesert.org)  
[chairman@aainthedesert.org](mailto: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,  
5:30 p.m. via Zoom  
ID 811 1311 8052

PW 109036

Mailing Address: PO Box 1843  
Palm Desert, CA 92261

## Mid-Southern California Area (MSCA)

PO Box, 51446, Irvine CA 92619-1446

Web site: [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org)

## General Service Office, PO Box 459,

Grand Central Station NY 10163

Web site: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

## DCYPAA

Every Sunday 6:00 P.M.

Fellowship Hall 45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert

Email: [webmaster@dcypaa.com](mailto:webmaster@dcypaa.com)

**General Service**, District 30  
4th Sunday of the month, 2:15PM  
Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall  
6430 Park Blvd.

Joshua Tree, CA 92252

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

## Step

Admitted to God, to ourselves,  
and to another human being the  
exact nature of our wrongs.

## Tradition

Each group has but one primary  
purpose—to carry its message to  
the alcoholic who still suffers.

## Concept

Throughout our structure, a  
Traditional "Right of Appeal"  
ought to prevail, so that minority  
opinion will be heard and  
personal grievances receive  
careful consideration.

F

I

V

E

# Principle Five

**Integrity** - the state or character of being true;  
living in honesty; being truthful.

### March Office Statistics

Meeting Info	111
12 Step Calls	3
Visitors	42
Literature Sales	205
Al-Anon	3
Other 12 Step	1
Miscellaneous	23
Business	27

### Central Intergroup Office of the Desert Board of Directors

**Chairman: Allan G.**  
**Vice Chairman: Joe A**  
**Treasurer: Kathy F.**  
**Secretary: Blake H.**

#### Directors

**Alex K.**  
**Bill T.**  
**Kenneth J**  
**Daphne F.**

**Alyssa C. Outreach Chair**

**Desert Lifeline Editors: Bill T.**  
**Office Manager: David M.**

Don't 'look' for a sponsor --- 'listen' for one!

Action without prayer is self-reliance. Prayer without action is begging.

"Searching" means that I review things that I don't normally look at, or that I take for granted are okay and "taken care of" or more particularly, are "not important."

"Fearless" means that I look at my fears and take them into account, not that I don't have any fears. I usually ask my HP for help at the beginning, and any time I get stuck, to overcome my fears.

"Moral inventory" means that this is an inventory of my values and how my values correspond to my actions.

# March 2021



Zenny H.  
Tony C.

22 yr.  
38 yr.



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

## Concept Five

***Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.***

When the Group conscience has voted according to Tradition Two, that's the end of the discussion, right? Not in Alcoholics Anonymous if your Group is using the 12 Concepts. According to Bill Wilson's writings about our 12 Concepts "... it is also true that during a time of great disturbance the Group Conscience is not always the best possible guide, because temporarily, such an upset may prevent it from functioning efficiently or wisely." (Quoted from the 12 Concepts for World Service, page 23). So, we continue to listen.

Just last evening in my own Home Group's business meeting there was a vote on our latest "issue". (Bill Wilson's writings also suggest that Groups that have differences of opinion are some of our healthiest Groups as long as mutual respect is paramount.) The vote was overwhelming, yet our Chair asked the small minority if they wanted to further address the entire Group. It doesn't matter if the minority opinion is held by 49% or just one person. Their opinions matter. They may have new information to present that would change the opinions of a majority of the voting members. This simple act can remind us that our Group unity is more important than any decision we may make affecting only our Group. The spirit of this Concept allows the minority to bring up the subject again, and again, and again, as long as they have new information to present to the Group.

This Concept's principle protects Alcoholics Anonymous from both the "tyranny" of the majority as well as the minority.

So, go ahead bring it up in your Home Group – yours may be the voice that our Higher Power will be using to inform the Group conscience.

Marita H.  
Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Group

A drunk goes in a bar and asks for a shot of Jim Beam. The bartender pours it and the drunk pushes it aside and asks for another shot of Jim Beam. The bartender pours it and the drunk drinks it. The bartender says, "I watched what you did and I don't understand why you pushed the first one away and drank the second one!" The drunk stated, "I've been going to those AA Meetings, and they said **WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TAKE THAT FIRST DRINK!!!!**".

Our founders are dead, Old-timers I thought would live forever have slipped out of the rooms and are gone on to a bigger, brighter room where Bill and Bob and countless others have taken up residency and set up the meeting place. The coffee pot perks endlessly, effortlessly. Warm hands reach out to clasp in fellowship, each new arrival. Donuts, perpetually oven fresh, are over there. Each person has brought their Big Book, miraculously as they knew it here on Earth - tear stained, coffee cup circles on the cover, dog eared, underlined notes and fragments tucked between pages still intact. They murmur about the alcoholics they left behind. Did they teach us well, those still in distant rooms? Did they teach us enough of the Traditions and Principals of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the value of Permanence? I know their final words were not to start changing AA the minute they were out of sight, out of mind.

I believe we were given a mandate by every Old-timer who touched our lives and taught us what they knew about living sober. That we were to go forward into the tide of alcoholism and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, the message of how we have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body, by God's grace and the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This letter is sent anonymously, but you will know my voice. I have sat next to you at meetings, been on my knees with you doing the 3rd step prayer, heard your fourth step, and listened to your triumphs and sorrows. I have given you a ride to a meeting, and bought you a meal, loaned you a dollar for the basket, answered the phone at 2am when you were scared. I've been to the funerals and to memorial services to make a "26". I've done these things because that's what we do, what was done selflessly for me.

Our founders are dead. Their works and deeds live in permanence. Not carved in stone, but in the hearts and minds of each one of us who hold Alcoholics Anonymous sacred. Change is what is put into the collection. The permanence of Alcoholics Anonymous is what sustains me.

My experience has been that it's not enough to just get into the middle of the AA lifeboat. I have to be doing something in the middle of the lifeboat . . . and I have to be vigilant for the people on the edge of the lifeboat that have their feet dangling in the water . . . the ones that are holding on to the lifelines with white knuckles but a smile on their face saying, "Oh, I'm fine. I'm just fine. Everything is fine."

*(A friend of mine calls them "fringe-ers" --- 'cause they're on the fringe of AA)*

**Book of the month**

**\$9.60**

**\$9.60**

## **A Virtual History of AA**

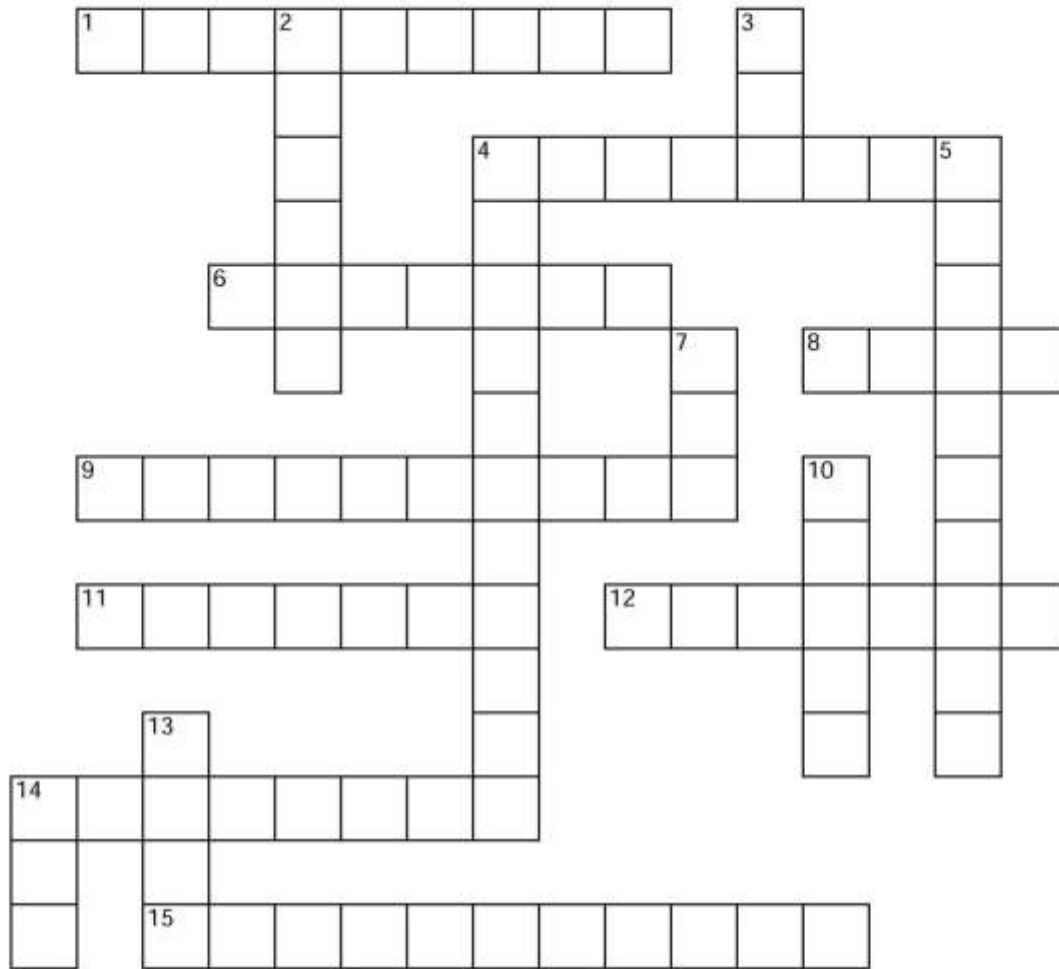
**Normally \$12.00—This month \$9.60**

Originally developed as the souvenir book for the 2020 International Convention, this highly illustrated tour through A.A.'s history is told in hundreds of iconic images never before published in one volume. Illuminating descriptions walk us through powerful moments in A.A.'s history — from the people, places and things integral to A.A.'s early growth, and forward to today's vibrant, international Fellowship. Includes a special focus on Detroit in A.A.'s history and updated coverage of recent innovations in A.A. group life.

**\$9.60**

**\$9.60**

# May Puzzle



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

## ACROSS

- 1 meeting in print
- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_ View of Alcoholics Anonymous
- 6 This month's principle
- 8 Akron
- 9 International Convention 2010 location
- 11 In the last AA survey, most alcoholics were this
- 12 Most common occupation amongst AA members
- 14 Circle and \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 AA received this in 1951 from the American Public Health Association

## DOWN

- 2 June conference (2 words)
- 3 What Happened to \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 August conference (3 words)
- 5 the name of the April Central Office fundraiser (2 words)
- 7 In the last survey, most AAs attended an average of this many meetings per week
- 10 It Happened to \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 As \_\_\_\_\_ Sees It
- 14 36% of AA members are sober over \_\_\_\_ years

## March Volunteers at Central Office

Alyssa C.  
Amelia F.

Emil M.

Thank You !!

Bill T.  
Cindy H.  
Eileen C.

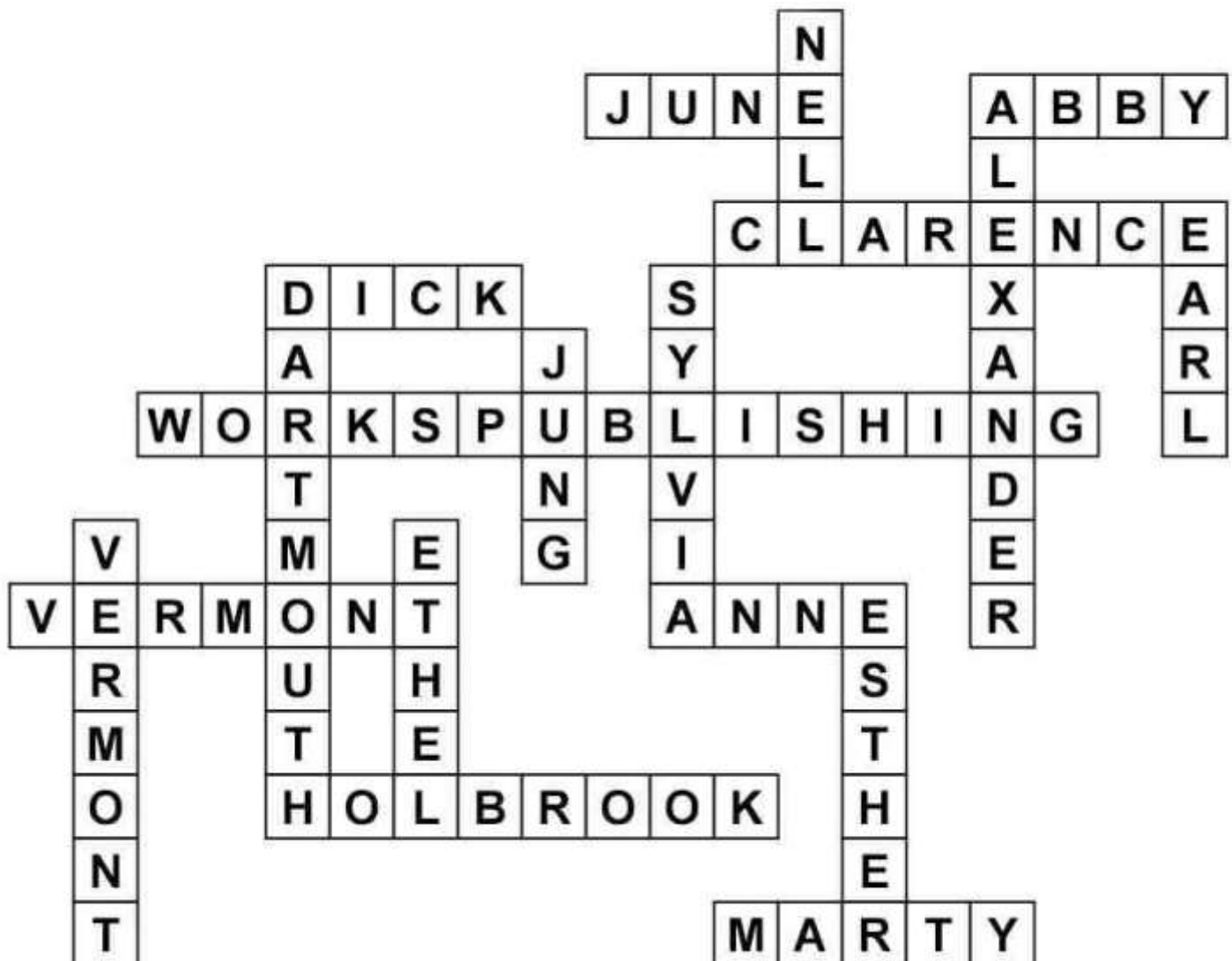
Gary H.  
Greg C.  
Jim B.  
Kate E.

Thank You !!

Mark L.  
Nancy G.  
Nikki C.

Steven St. L.  
Wanda V.

## April Puzzle Solution



## Tradition Five

*Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

According to the “Twelve and Twelve”, the idea that it is “better to do one thing supremely well than many badly” is absolutely central to this tradition. We, as alcoholics, can find unity amongst each other to fulfill our new primary purpose in life. We are uniquely qualified to help other alcoholics, and do this supremely well!

When I was “12 stepped” by my supervisor, she told me her story and I quickly realized that, despite my contrary belief, there was actually someone in the world that understood me. I perceived a genuine desire to help rather than insulting accusations of being alcoholic I heard at the bar. Immediately, I saw in her, hope for myself. As I progressed in the program, I fell into the temptation to save the world with A.A. like it describes in the *Language of the Heart*. I was “badly” trying to do many things well. It took going through all 12 steps to realize that I was saved from the depths of my drinking to help other alcoholics, not to save the world. With the humility of being saved, and only living by the Grace of God, I could then fulfill my newfound primary purpose. I have to give it away to keep it.

Personally, this tradition keeps me grounded. I have found that, for me, my needs are met through sobriety, and when I focus on my sobriety, everything else falls into place. My life is beyond blessed today, even with the trials and tribulations that arise, because I am sober. To stay sober, I show up to meetings, share my experience, strength and hope and lend my hand out to any suffering alcoholic- regardless of time in the program. The funny thing is, I do not always realize when I am helping other alcoholics! I tend to over-share and typically feel like a lot of what comes out of my mouth in a meeting is nonsensical and naïve. However, sometimes a member will approach me and describe how something I shared helped them. I am always flabbergasted and humbled because that is clearly God working through me. In my service work to A.A., it is easy for me to see how I am helping other alcoholics, and it gives me some of the most profound joy I have ever experienced.

In my life outside of A.A., I can apply this tradition by considering what the primary purpose of anything is. Asking myself these questions provides me a comforting focus that I am on the right path. As an employee, my primary purpose is to produce quality work. As a daughter, a sister, and an aunt, my primary purpose is to be the best version of myself and to love my family unconditionally.

Sobriety has opened the door to an immensely fulfilling life, and I feel honored to be trusted with the task of helping other alcoholics.

Alyssa C.

## Step Five

*Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being  
the exact nature of our wrongs.*

When I embarked on my fourth step I had no idea what I was getting myself into or how consuming it would be. I followed directions from my sponsor as outlined in the Big Book and agreed to let God guide me through the process. A humbling aspect that became very apparent from the writing was that I was carrying around a lot of what I would describe as 'Mind Baggage' which had over time really screwed me up.

For years I acted aloof as the bad thoughts raced through my head, telling me that everything was alright. My ego covered up the pain and impending calamity and to top it all off, my fear of being judged lead me away from accepting and admitting the truth.

As I continued writing out my forth step, reality set in and overwhelmed the delusion of what I thought my life was. The facade came down and I was exposed.

So what was I to do!!???!!

There was no way I was going to tell anyone about this! My thought process was, I'll just change my behavior and become a new person, God will understand, he knows what's up. I still had a problem though. I would have to continue to carry around all of that baggage in my head.

I decided from then on I would 'Engage in a manner of living that demands rigorous honesty.' So there I was, admitting to my sponsor the exact nature of my wrongs which quite simply derived from me being selfish, dishonest, self seeking and full of fear. I could now accept me for who I was and would become.

The weight was lifted, and I was relieved from the bondage of self. Now I simply do God's will and bask in the sunlight of the spirit.

Caleb B Group '48, Monday, Palm Springs

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Don't 'look' for a sponsor --- 'listen' for one!

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## Central InterGroup of the Desert

## Statement of Activity

March 2021

## PROFIT AND LOSS

**\$6,268**

Net income for March

**\$20,638**

Income

**\$14,370**

Expenses

## TOTAL

	MAR 2021	JUL 2020 - MAR 2021 (YTD)
Revenue		
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	12,958	74,484
Gratitude Dinner		(250)
Interest Income	0	57
Sales	7,681	46,725
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$20,638</b>	<b>\$121,017</b>
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	5,443	29,107
POS Inventory Adjustment	33	483
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$5,476</b>	<b>\$29,590</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$15,162</b>	<b>\$91,427</b>
Expenditures		
Accounting Services	600	5,400
Bank Charges		4
Computer Expense	480	3,438
Credit Card Fees	250	1,654
Insurance - Health	412	3,711
Insurance - Liability	260	1,947
Insurance - Worker's Comp		1,053
Newsletter Expense		255
Office Expense	832	6,499
Payroll Expenses	3,981	37,932
Plant Expenditures		715
Rent	1,476	11,938
State Filing Fees		60
Storage	178	1,602
Utilities	425	4,470
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$8,894</b>	<b>\$80,677</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,269</b>	<b>\$10,750</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,269</b>	<b>\$10,750</b>



Central Intergroup Office of the Desert  
 4000 N. 10th Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85018  
 (602) 944-1000  
 www.centrallifeline.org

## Central Intergroup of the Desert

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2020-2021 - FY21 P&L

July 2020 - March 2021

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions - Conventions		1,600	(1,600)
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	74,484	57,000	17,484
Gratitude Dinner	(250)		(250)
Interest Income	57	75	(18)
Sales	46,725	63,100	(16,375)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$121,017</b>	<b>\$121,775</b>	<b>\$ (758)</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
Cost of Goods Sold	29,107	41,015	(11,908)
POS Inventory Adjustment	483		483
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$29,590</b>	<b>\$41,015</b>	<b>\$ (11,425)</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$91,427</b>	<b>\$80,760</b>	<b>\$10,667</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Accounting Services	5,400	5,400	0
Bank Charges	4		4
Computer Expense	3,438	3,303	135
Credit Card Fees	1,654	4,442	(2,788)
Insurance - Health	3,711	3,600	111
Insurance - Liability	1,947	2,009	(62)
Insurance - Worker's Comp	1,053	1,048	5
Newsletter Expense	255	45	210
Office Expense	6,499	5,400	1,099
Outreach		900	(900)
Payroll Expenses	37,932	37,800	132
Plant Expenditures	715	1,800	(1,085)
Rent	11,938	13,500	(1,562)
State Filing Fees	60	60	0
Storage	1,602	1,800	(198)
Utilities	4,470	4,140	330
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$80,677</b>	<b>\$85,247</b>	<b>\$ (4,570)</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,750</b>	<b>\$ (4,487)</b>	<b>\$15,237</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,750</b>	<b>\$ (4,487)</b>	<b>\$15,237</b>

## Central Intergroup of the Desert

## Contributions - Groups &amp; Individuals

March 2021

	TOTAL	
	MAR 2021	JUL 2020 - MAR 2021 (YTD)
1 Perez Plaza Meeting Room		295.00
10th Step Group Palm Desert	16.00	611.00
11th Step Meditation -SUN Palm Desert		25.00
12 & 12 La Quinta		166.00
12 and 12 Men's Stag R.M.. Monday		30.00
164 Group - WED - Palm Springs		1,062.01
3-7-11 Step Meeting	20.00	171.00
3rd & 11th Step - SUN Palm Desert		204.00
559 Meeting Hall		175.00
7AM Zoom Meeting		100.00
9am Staying Connected (Zoom)	225.00	2,085.25
An AA Big Book Group - Sunday - Desert Hot Springs		42.00
Anonymous Cathedral City	50.00	92.00
Anonymous No Group Given	9,173.79	32,603.19
As Bill Sees It - Sat Nite Idyllwild		40.00
Attitude Adjustment Rancho Mirage		250.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-F P.D. Santa Fe Square		266.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-S , Palm Desert PDCC		4,663.62
Attitude Adjustment-MON		20.00
Beginners Palm Desert	227.00	227.00
Big Book Study - Wed Palm Springs		10.00
Birthday Contributions		589.00
Black Sheep Group	95.00	1,665.00
Brithday Contributions		11.00
Cathedral City 12 &12 Book Study-TUE		100.00
Central Intergroup Cathedral City		23.00
Covert IHOP Mon. Mens Stag		400.00
Cross-Country Meeting		90.46
Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert	73.87	2,205.49
Desert Men's Big Book Stu Palm Desert	80.00	910.00
Desert Women's Banquet	15.00	15.00
DHS 6am Daily Discussion Desert Hot Springs		1,007.50
Fellowship Hall		270.00
Friday Q & A Fellowship Hall PD		65.00
Friends of Bill - Anonymo Palm Desert		20.00
Ground Zero	633.00	2,156.64
Happy Hour Book Study Palm Desert		55.00
How Is Your Now La Quinta		300.00
How It Works Palm Desert		11.25
Just the Black Print Big Rancho Mirage		849.52
Living Sober Group-Joshua Tree		50.00
Living Sober Palm Springs 146975		1,232.01
Living Sober-WED women		20.00

## Central Intergroup of the Desert

### Contributions - Groups & Individuals

March 2021

	TOTAL	
	MAR 2021	JUL 2020 - MAR 2021 (YTD)
Loosey Goosey Tue Women	62.00	349.50
Meet & Potatoes 12 & 12		406.00
New Freedom Palm Desert		25.00
No Matter What Group	50.00	350.00
No Rules La Quinta		1,371.60
Old Town Coffee Shop, La Quinta, Mon Noon	104.00	180.00
Over 50 12&12 Step Study		566.40
Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj. 122976	305.00	3,693.00
Perez Plaza Cathedral City Bare Bones		50.00
Perez Plaza Cathedral City Half Measures		120.00
Perez Plaza Cathedral City Into Action	30.00	30.00
Perez Plaza Meeting Room/One Day at a Time Mon	62.00	269.00
Playing With A Full Deck Palm Desert		2.00
Ring of Fire		25.00
Road Runners Bermuda Dunes		583.50
Round Table Serenity Group		251.00
Santa Rosa Big Book Thump Coachella	28.00	293.00
Santa Rosa Group Palm Desert		135.00
Sat. Noon Book Study Ironwood Pk.	100.00	100.00
Seniors in Sobriety		170.00
Serenity Seekers Palm Desert		1,200.00
Singleness of Purpose		177.00
Sisters Under the Skin Palm Springs	100.00	300.00
Smoking Jackelope Men Stag		150.00
Sober Divas	50.00	175.00
Solid Solutions- TUE		86.00
Spirituality in Recovery 258223	85.00	298.01
St. Paul's Tuesday Night Men's Stag		400.00
Step Sisters Palm Desert	90.00	823.00
Stepping Stones Palm Desert	10.00	65.00
Study for Sanity Palm Desert		158.00
Sunday Serenity Group		20.00
Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Group		351.38
Sunset Group Joshua Tree	450.00	1,800.00
Sunset Group La Quinta Park	103.00	935.15
The First 164 Pages		140.00
Third Tradition Group Landers		100.00
Thurs. 7PM Attitude Adj.		50.00
Tuesday 10AM		10.00
Tumbleweed Speaker Meetin Desert Hot Springs	100.00	100.00
Twilight Step Study Palm Desert		2.00
We're Not Really Here	500.00	1,954.00
WED Big Book Coachella		15.00

## Central Intergroup of the Desert

### Contributions - Groups & Individuals

March 2021

	TOTAL	
	MAR 2021	JUL 2020 - MAR 2021 (YTD)
Wed Nite Women's Discussion Heritage Palms	120.00	465.00
Women's Meeting Palm Desert		231.00
Yerba Santa Round Table Top Discussion		325.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,957.66</b>	<b>\$74,484.49</b>

The drunken monkey hypothesis proposes that human attraction to ethanol may have a genetic basis due to the high dependence of the [primate](#) ancestor of Homo sapiens on fruit as a food source. Ethanol naturally occurs in ripe and overripe fruit and consequently early primates developed a genetically based attraction to the substance.

This hypothesis was originally proposed by Dr. Robert Dudley of the University of California at Berkeley and was the subject of a symposium at the meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. Dudley believes that while most addictive substances have a relatively short history of use, ethanol attraction may have a long evolutionarily based history. He believes that fruit ethanol may have been a significant source of energy and that the smell of the ripening fruit would help primates locate it. Ethanol is a relatively light molecule and diffuses rapidly in a natural environment. Primates are known to have a higher olfactory sensitivity to alcohol than other mammals. The once-beneficial attraction to ethanol may underlie human tendencies for alcohol use and alcohol abuse.

WIKIPEDIA







# Founders' Day 2021

86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Save the dates:  
June 12th & 13th**

The 86th annual Founders' Day celebration will  
be held as a virtual event.

For registration and details, please refer to  
**Foundersday.org**

*In love and service,  
The Founders' Day Committee*

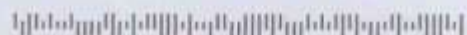
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**"I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing  
that I did a number of years ago, played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible." - Dr. Bob**