

the Desert Lifeline

December 2024

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

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert

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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
Now Meeting at Central Office
35325 Date Palm Dr.
Suite 107
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Zoom Meeting I.D. 928 8170 4093
Password: 642408
Mailing Address: P O Box 3684
Palm Desert, CA 92261-3684

Hospitals & Institutions
2nd Wednesday of the month,
Fellowship Hall 45940 Portola Ave.
Palm Desert 5:30 p.m.
Mailing Address: PO Box 1843
Palm Desert, CA 92261
www.coachellavalleyhandi.org

Mid-Southern California Area (MSCA)
PO Box, 51446, Irvine CA 92619-1446
Web site: www.msca09aa.org

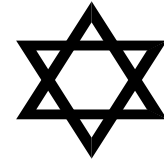
General Service Office New York
Contribution Mailing address
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407
Web site: www.aa.org

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

General Service, District 30
1st Monday of the month, 2:00 PM
Yucca Valley Alano Club
57637 Yucca Trail
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
Mailing Address: P O Box 1692
Yucca Valley, CA 92286-1692



Step



T

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

W

Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

E

Concept

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

L

V

E

Principle Twelve

Service - an act of helpful activity; help; aid: *to do someone a service.*

October Office Statistics

Meeting Info	30
12 Step Calls	4
Visitors	34
Literature Sales	278
Al-Anon	1
Other 12 Step	1
Miscellaneous	45
Business	12
Zoom Attendance	78

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert Board of Directors

**Chairman: Daphne F.
Vice Chairman: OPEN
Treasurer: Kathy F.
Secretary: Alan G.**

Directors

**Blake H.
Alyssa C.
Alex K.
Bill T.
Bruce K.
Ginny P.**

**Desert Lifeline Editor:
Office Manager: David M.
Proof reading and editing: Bill T.**

October 2024

Armando	2 yr.
John R.	2 yr.
Karina S.	2 yr.
Robert	8 yr.

Happy Birthday



Mario R.	25yr.
Dani M.	29 yr.
David M.	31yr.
B.J. C.	33 yr.
Sheri	41 yr.
Char A.	42 yr.

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

Although the current social aspects of our Fellowship keep the normal channels of celebrating at a minimum, if you are celebrating, please let us know!

I used to think that peace of mind was highly overrated . . . then I worked the steps and came to understand a peace that I had never known.

All resentments contain fear. All fears do not contain resentments.

Step Twelve

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

My sponsor with 16 years of sobriety has recommended I not consider sponsoring anyone until I have completed all 12 steps. Only through knowledge of these twelve steps, can I accurately understand a Sponsee's issue and suggest one (or a combination) of the steps.

I believe the steps can be applied throughout all phases of my life, and if practiced in earnest, help me move from sobriety to "emotional sobriety." Finding some element of joy all around me, when in the past, I could only see pain.

I've learned that being "shy" is a form of being "selfish," so instead of being concerned about what others may think, I now share on a regular basis, and have been told afterwards that my words were appreciated. This too is twelfth step work.

Mark A.
Palm Springs

**Palm Desert Group -
Fellowship Hall, 45940 Portola Ave
Palm Desert**

Saturday Night, 8:00 p.m.

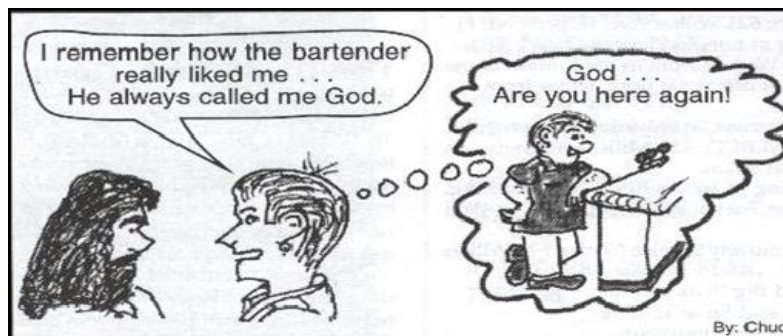
12/07 -- David H. - Gresham OR.
12/14 -- Anthony C. - Los Angeles
12/21 -- Adam C. - Santa Monica
12/28 - Leslie M. - Palm Desert

**Sobriety Capitol of the World Group -
ABC Recovery Center
44359 Palm St. , Indio**

Friday Night, 8:00 p.m.

12/06 - David M. - Whitewater
12/13 -- Joe F. - Venice
12/20 - Tim A. - Laguna Nigel
12/227 - Kimberly R. - Orange County

Speaker Meetings



Tradition Twelve

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

When I first volunteered to write about tradition twelve I thought it would be an easy task. Practicing one of my character defects, procrastination, it took a reminder on my answering machine from the central office manager to get started on this commitment. I want to apologize to Jim for not completing my assignment on time. I once heard at a speaker meeting that the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are so that I don't kill myself and that the twelve traditions are so that we don't kill each other. I don't know if there is any truth to this, but one thing I do know is that without the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous this journey I am on would not be possible. I must be honest and say that I have not studied all of the traditions in depth and have mainly concentrated on the twelve steps. I have been sober almost twenty years and have just recently begun to study the traditions and know they keep this whole thing together. Tradition Twelve states, "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." To me this means that the anonymity of the program is spiritual in nature and that it is foundational to all of the other preceding traditions, therefore serving as a reminder to put principles in front of personalities. I feel that tradition twelve is the grand daddy of all the traditions because it keeps us grounded in the right direction and away from individual ego. It places the common welfare of all AA members before the welfare of individual personalities. In the beginning the concept of anonymity was not born of confidence, but was a child of our early fear of public reaction. We started out as a secret society and newcomers could find us only through a few trusted friends. As time continued and the disease of alcoholism became less taboo it became apparent that we could do incalculable good or harm. Everything would depend upon how the program was channeled. The chance of letting self-appointed members present themselves as messiahs representing A.A. before the public was not even entertained for this would be our undoing. Many of the experiences of our early A.A. members taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. That anonymity has an all-pervading spiritual quality which today is present in A.A. life everywhere. I am thankful for the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and the traditions. The twelve steps have introduced me to the alcoholic Daniel and the traditions assure Daniel the alcoholic that this wonderful program will be here for a long time to come. I am enjoying a personal journey that I know will continue due to the twelve traditions.

Daniel M.
Indio

**Please direct all
communications to:**
Grand Central Station,
P.O. Box 459,
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 24, 2024

To: GSRs, Alt GSRs, DCMs and Chairs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Alt Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Non-trustee Directors, Trustees, GSO Employees, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts

Dear A.A. Friends:

The response to the release of the Plain Language Big Book has been heartwarming. The initial print run of just over 70,000 copies sold out in only two weeks!

In preparation for a second printing, the General Service Board noted revisions that better align with the 74th General Service Conference's recommendation (Advisory Action) to move ahead with the printing of the book.

Prior to the first printing, the General Service Board made adjustments to align with the Conference's direction. However, the Board now realizes the adjustments that were made fell short. A regrettable and unintentional mistake had been made. We have worked together to correct those mistakes quickly.

The changes outlined below may be very consequential for some, and less significant for others, but the Board feels responsible to see that the Advisory Action from the Conference is carried out.

NOTED CHANGES CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

In addition to the changes to the text of the Plain Language Big Book outlined below, the language on the back flap will be amended to better reflect the progress of this project. The third sentence will now read, "The 72nd GSC reviewed a progress report, and sample chapters were reviewed at the 73rd GSC."

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused any of our members, and I appreciate your patience and understanding. The order for the second printing has been placed to include the changes outlined below. We expect the book to be back in stock in approximately 4-6 weeks.

Thank you again for your understanding. I hope you find the Plain Language Big Book a useful tool for reading the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and helpful with carrying our life saving message.

Scott H.
Chair, General Service Board

NOTED CHANGES TO THE PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK REFERRED TO ON PAGE 5

- On page 64, remove the sentence "It seems to control and punish people who are addicted to it" from the last paragraph.
- On page 9, remove the definition of "Addiction" from the Glossary section.
- On page 11, revise the sentence "Dr. Silkworth ran the Charles B. Towns Hospital for Drug and Alcohol Addictions in New York City during the 1930s."
To read:
"Dr. Silkworth ran the Charles B. Towns Hospital for alcoholism and drug addiction in New York City during the 1930s."
- On page 14, revise the sentence "I help people recover from their alcohol and drug addictions"
To read:
"I help people recover from their alcoholism and drug addiction."
- "On page 139, revise the sentence "In one of these cities there is a well-known hospital for the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction."
To read:
"In one of these cities there is a well-known hospital for the treatment of alcoholism."



Concept XII and Checklist

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and a reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

- ◆ How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power?”
- ◆ How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- ◆ Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- ◆ Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, by substantial unanimity?
- ◆ As guardians of A.A.'s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- ◆ Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- ◆ Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

WE SHOULD
JOIN!
DCYPAA

WHAT'S THAT?!

DESERT CITIES
YOUNG PEOPLE in
ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS

**BUSINESS
MEETING
EVERY SUNDAY
6 P.M. @ FELLOWSHIP HALL!**

ZOOM ID: 834 7667 7292 | PASSWORD: 834062

DCYPAA.ORG | DCYPAA@DCYPAA.ORG

The Importance of Step Twelve

Freedom from all Unresolved Mental Issues

By Rick R.

In chapter 11 in The Big Book (A VISION FOR YOU) it starts off by reminiscing about the early days of an alcoholic's drinking and how it gave us the feeling that life was good, but not so in the later times. It then talks about the hideous four horsemen, *Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, and Despair*, and then the next line is: *Unhappy drinkers who read this page will understand*. When I read that Chapter I knew that I was qualified, as it was the blueprint of my life, up to that moment. *What I didn't understand* was that drinking was but a symptom of a much deeper-rooted *emotional problem* and after many years of sobriety, I still had trouble articulating how one caused the other. In the first paragraph of *Step Twelve* in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (12&12) it talks about finding *emotional sobriety*. What emotions are we talking about, that's what I wanted to know? As a child, I had very little supervision and I grew up in a dysfunctional environment. I did a lot of things that I was ashamed of, but I never knew how these things would come back to haunt me later in life. As I started drinking, it *immediately relieved me of the guilt and shame*, and it even gave me license to continue acting badly as long as I could rationalize and lie about my behavior. The only thing that I hadn't considered was that *I couldn't hide from my Conscience, and it plagued me* till I couldn't sleep at night without drinking myself into oblivion. *I had been a taker all my life*. I never got enough of what I thought I needed. I was insecure. I had no self-esteem. No one had any respect for me except for the (*want to be*) losers like myself. *Guilt and shame*, brought on by a *hundred forms of fear ruled my mind*. Not a happy way to live! When they ask me what freedom I cherish the most as the result of practicing the program, most of my fellow members would expect me to say freedom from Alcohol but, they would be mistaken. I would reply that the *freedom from all those unresolved mental issues that plagued me to the point that only a drink would quiet my mind*. The hope that I experienced the minute I embraced this program, at the level of my innermost self, removed the obsession to drink alcohol and it has never returned. I no longer have any fear of alcohol. Having cleaned up the wreckage of the past by thoroughly taking the steps and ridding myself of the selfish motives, my conscience is clear. My self-esteem is High, and the feeling of wellbeing is my constant companion. I'm so glad that I didn't fall into that category that become complacent and think that I could rest on my laurels (as they say) at any point as I understand the meaning of Step Twelve suggests, *Practicing These Principles in all our Affairs*. I try always to be an asset and never a liability. I am neither a victim nor perpetrator. I am always willing to make things right as best I can. I can be trusted and relied upon. I feel that I am on the positive side of the ledger. Peace of mind and a quiet heart have been my goal ever since I entered A. A. and I am happy to say that I haven't been disappointed. One of my favorite prayers is: *Thank You God; it's everything you promised it would be*.

October Volunteers at Central Office

September Volunteers at Central Office

Amelia F.

Thank You !!

Bill T.
Bob B.
Forrest P.

Jean K.
Jim B.
John B.
John C.
John R.

Thank You !!

Kiki T.
Kathy M.
Megan L.
Nikki J.

Pavithra S.
Rob H.
Shannan K.
Shelby C.
Shoshanna S.
Stephen St. L.

Concept Twelve

"The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and , whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action."

I believe that the Concepts are the least known of all the written material in AA. So, when

I began to write on Concept 12, I found I didn't know them at all. I hope you find this material as interesting as I did.

In reading Concept 12, I saw where the Concepts are the glue that holds AA to its roots. In Concept 12 AA levels the playing field. First, it mentions matters of money and that we are to keep these matters in check, keeping no more than what is needed to operate. I think this keeps us honest. Next, it mentions personal power, and it addresses that AA has no BIG SHOTS, we are all made from the same cloth. That we as AA's take a vote on all things that affect the group. This keeps it fair and again levels the playing field. This also insures that no personality ever benefits from decisions made. So I guess what I am trying to say is in matters of money, property and prestige, Concept 12 is, in fact, the whole basis of how AA works!

Paul G
Monday Night Men's Marauders, Palm Desert

WHEN GIRLS DRINK TOO MUCH.....

1. We have absolutely no idea where our purse is.
2. We believe that dancing with our arms overhead and wiggling our butt while yelling "Woo-Hoo!" is truly the sexiest dance move around.
3. We suddenly decide that we want to kick someone's butt and honestly believe we can do it, too.
4. In our last trip to pee, we realize that we now look more like a homeless hooker than the goddess we were just four hours ago.
5. We start crying and telling everyone we see that we love them soooooo much.
6. We get extremely excited and jump up and down every time a new song plays because "Oh, my God! I love this song!"
7. We've found a deeper spiritual side to the geek sitting next to us.
8. So we go home with him.
9. We suddenly take up smoking and become really good at it.
10. We yell at the bartender, who we believe cheated us by giving us just lemonade, because we can no longer taste the vodka.
11. We think we are in bed, but our pillow feels strangely like the kitchen floor.
12. We fail to notice that the toilet lid is down when we sit on it.
13. We take our shoes off because we believe it's their fault that we're having problems walking straight.
14. We lose our shoes.
15. We wake up hung-over the next morning and say, "I'm never doing that again."
16. We remember that same night what a great time we had and go do it all over again.

\$10.00

Book of the month

\$10.00

Big Book Large Print

Normally \$12.00 - this month \$10.00

Known as the "Big Book," the basic text of Alcoholics Anonymous has helped millions of people recover from alcoholism since the first edition appeared in 1939. Chapters describing the A.A. recovery program — the original Twelve Steps — and the personal histories of A.A.'s co-founders remain unchanged since the original, while new stories have been added to the personal histories with each edition.

Fourth Edition (2001).

General Service Conference-approved

\$10.00

\$10.00

November Puzzle Solution



Bottoms are such interesting things . . . for some of us, hitting a bottom was when we looked in a mirror and realized that we had never wanted to be what we had become . . . and for others, it was looking in a mirror and wishing that we were on the inside of what appeared to be on the outside.

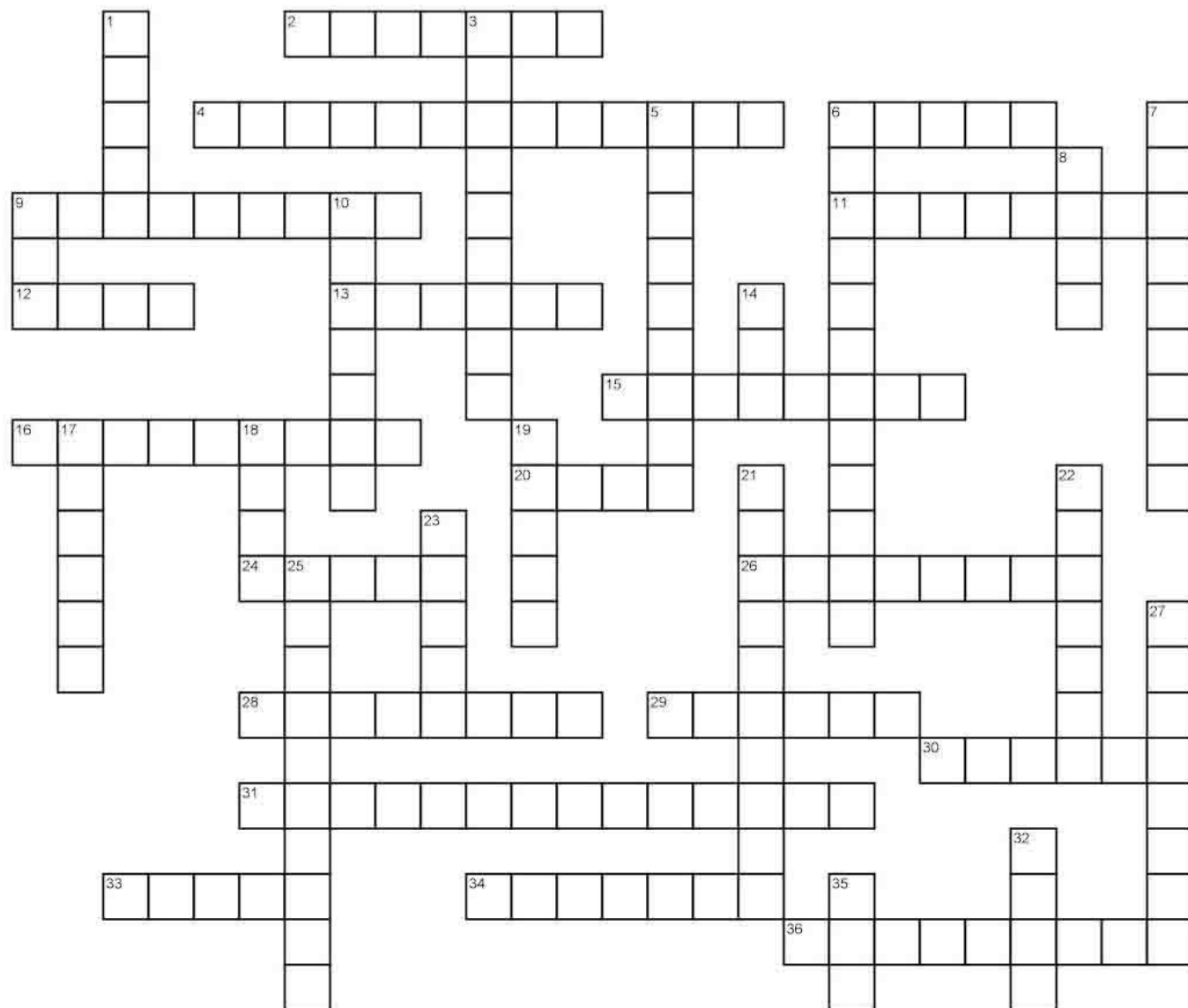
The good news for me has been that God is able to take me, no matter what I've become, and put people into my life that show me how to take what I was and become a functioning, principled citizen of the world.

Wow!!

This year we again celebrated Gratitude Month with our Fellowship at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The brilliance of over 900 Alcoholics enjoying a delicious dinner together in joyous Unity has been the “talk of the town” in many meetings since. This is the 2nd year at the Air Museum with food again provided by Lu Lu’s Catering service. This year’s live music performance by Leanna & Miguel enhanced the fellowship time together against the backdrop view of the glorious desert sunset behind the Tahquitz Peak skyline. Mike S. from Riverside gave an uplifting A.A. talk after dinner with many positive reviews.

Be sure to stay alert for next year’s 2025 event, (*tentatively November 2nd*) and join us for:
another Gala Event Celebrating Gratitude for our Life and Sobriety!





ACROSS

- 2 your AA guide
- 4 Always has a bowl of candy (2 words)
- 6 Dr. Bob
- 9 thankfulness
- 11 Our newsletter
- 12 Bill's secretary
- 13 soundness of mind
- 15 What we all want to maintain
- 16 First woman member (2 words)
- 20 Who brought the message to Bill Wilson
- 24 Intoxicate
- 26 Twelve
- 28 What we'll comprehend
- 29 Dr. Bob had one, Bill didn't
- 30 _____ Pow Wow
- 31 Bill and Lois' home (2 words)
- 33 Alcohol
- 34 Came to _____ that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- 36 Step one

DOWN

- 1 Russian potato juice
- 3 It will disappear
- 5 You have to take one
- 6 It will slip away
- 7 Where was the 1st AA International Convention held?
- 8 One of our co-founders
- 9 Spirit flavored with juniper berries
- 10 On the road to happy _____
- 14 Home away from home to alcoholics
- 17 what happens half way through
- 18 _____ Dog Daze
- 19 We'll know it
- 21 the act of taking or receiving something offered
- 22 Carry it
- 23 In what city did Bill meet Bob?
- 25 What we can't afford
- 27 Ninety
- 32 Man on the bed
- 35 He's doing it for us

ON THE TWELFTH STEP

Sharing your story at a meeting. Setting up coffee. Putting chairs away after the meeting. Taking a meeting into a jail or other institution. All of these Twelfth Step activities can be as important as driving a drunk to a detox while introducing him to the program.

Yet the first “Twelfth step call” with an active alcoholic can be profound, an eye-opening experience to a new sober AA, especially one still doubting his commitment to sobriety.

Intensive work with other alcoholics, time after time, helps provide immunity from drinking. This is part of the “spiritual awakening” mentioned in the Step.

How does an AA recognize that he has had a “spiritual awakening”? He has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength of resources alone, the “Twelve and Twelve” says.

“Two things are involved in the Twelfth Step: the spread of the awakening to others, and the deepening and continuation of the awakening in ourselves,” Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, the widely known Episcopal clergyman who helped in the founding of AA, wrote in the January 1964 Grapevine.

The success of AA lies in its members’ readiness to go to any length to help other alcoholics, Dr. Shoemaker wrote. “Now we must begin to look wide without, concern ourselves with individuals, causes, communities and the wider worlds.

Here is the secret of growth and spread”

TAKEN FROM THE GRAPEVINE BOOKLET “STEP BY STEP”.

PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPALS.....

Tradition Twelve: And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings my never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all. (Long form)

1. Why is it a god idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober??
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not it's own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AA's behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million AAs?

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Reprinted from Service material from the General Service Office

Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity

Bob P.

Bob P. was General Manager of the General Service Office from 1974 to 1984, and then served as Senior Advisor to the G.S.O. from 1985 until his retirement. His story is in the Big Book as "AA Taught Him to Handle Sobriety," 3rd edit. (1976) pp. 554-561, 4th edit. (2001) pp. 553-559.

During the 1986 General Service Conference, Bob gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk to the conference at the closing brunch on Saturday morning, April 26. It was an especially significant occasion, because he knew that he was going to retire early the next year, and that this would be his last General Service Conference. The most important parts of this farewell speech were published in the Conference's *Final Report*.

The following is the complete text as given in *The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1986* (Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, April 20-26, 1986), *Final Report*.

This is my 18th General Service Conference -- the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the 1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, "I thank you for your lives." For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my thoughts about A.A.'s future. I have no truck with those bleeding deacons who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual -- by *far* -- than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous [July 1960] Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of treatment centers or professionals in the field, or non-Conference-approved literature, or young people, or the dually-addicted, or even the "druggies" trying to come to our closed meetings. If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these *and any other* problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.

Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16

If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer: the growing *rigidity* -- the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions; pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., "banning books"; laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. One of his favorite sayings was, "Every group has the right to be wrong." He was maddeningly tolerant of his critics, and he had absolute faith that faults in A.A. were self-correcting.

And I believe this, too, so in the final analysis we're not going to fall apart. We won't falter or fail. At the 1970 International Convention in Miami, I was in the audience on that Sunday morning when Bill made his brief last public appearance. He was too ill to take his scheduled part in any other convention event, but now, unannounced, on Sunday morning, he was wheeled up from the back of the stage in a wheelchair, attached with tubes to an oxygen tank. Wearing a ridiculous bright-orange, host committee blazer, he heaved his angular body to his feet and grasped the podium -- and all pandemonium broke loose. I thought the thunderous applause and cheering would never stop, tears streaming down every cheek. Finally, in a firm voice, like his old self, Bill spoke a few gracious sentences about the huge crowd, the outpouring of love, and the many overseas members there, ending (as I remember) with these words: "As I look over this crowd, I know that Alcoholics Anonymous will live a thousand years -- if it is God's will."

Pause/Rewind

I don't have a rewind button in my life, but I do have a pause..."

I can't tell you how many times - usually when I'm really mad or hurt - I've said or done things that I've later regretted. But in the heat of the moment when I felt I needed to defend, attack, or justify myself, I have acted in ways that have hurt not only others but myself as well.

When I entered recovery, my sponsor told me that just because I was now sober it didn't mean that I would never be hurt or get angry again. He told me there would still be plenty of times I would want to strike out, but in order to recover I had to become responsible for my actions. "You don't have a rewind button, but you do have a pause," he told me. And then he taught me how to use it.

Practicing restraint of pen and tongue has been one of the most practical things I have learned in recovery. I was taught not to react when upset, but rather to call someone and run my reactions by them first. I can still write that email, text or letter, but I have to show it to my sponsor before I send it. Pausing and praying to my Higher Power always restores my power of choice and allows me to check in with others before I react.

Today I pause, and that often saves me from later wishing I had a rewind button.



Central Intergroup, Office of the Desert
1601 1/2 South Main St.
Catalina City, CA 95224 Phone 134
OFFICE: 5624-2514 FAX: 7-5242-2730 E-MAIL: info@centralintergroup.org
(760) 234-4600
www.centralintergroup.org

Central Intergroup of the Desert

Statement of Activity

October 2024



	TOTAL	
	OCT 2024	JUL - OCT, 2024 (YTD)
Revenue		
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	7,856	28,564
Gratitude Dinner	6,872	25,251
Interest Income	1	457
Sales	9,700	36,595
Total Revenue	\$24,430	\$90,867
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	6,818	24,303
POS Inventory Adjustment	(140)	217
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$6,678	\$24,520
GROSS PROFIT	\$17,751	\$66,347
Expenditures		
Accounting Services	800	3,200
Computer Expense	525	2,131
Credit Card Fees	404	1,585
Insurance - Health	609	2,426
Insurance - Liability	324	1,296
Newsletter Expense	277	897
Office Expense	2,095	7,079
Payroll Expenses	4,513	20,308
Plant Expenditures		1,902
Rent	1,661	6,645
Storage	269	1,076
Utilities	692	3,068
Total Expenditures	\$12,170	\$51,614
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$5,581	\$14,733
NET REVENUE	\$5,581	\$14,733



Central Intergroup Office of the Desert
 35-325 Davis Place Dr.
 Cathedral City, CA 92234 Suite 104
 OPEN: 9AM-5PM M-F / 10AM-2PM S & Sun
 (760) 334-4800
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Central Intergroup of the Desert

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2024-2025

July - October, 2024

		TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET
Revenue			
Contributions - Conventions		5,000	(5,000)
Contributions - Groups & Individuals	28,564	22,000	6,564
Gratitude Dinner	25,251	0	25,251
Interest Income	457	24	433
Sales	36,595	31,500	5,095
Total Revenue	\$90,867	\$58,524	\$32,343
Cost of Goods Sold			
Cost of Goods Sold	24,303	15,750	8,553
POS Inventory Adjustment	217		217
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$24,520	\$15,750	\$8,770
GROSS PROFIT	\$66,347	\$42,774	\$23,573
Expenditures			
Accounting Services	3,200	3,200	0
Computer Expense	2,131	2,071	60
Credit Card Fees	1,585	850	735
Insurance - Health	2,426	2,494	(68)
Insurance - Liability	1,296	1,237	59
Insurance - Worker's Comp		1,079	(1,079)
Newsletter Expense	897	2,400	(1,503)
Office Expense	7,079	4,800	2,279
Outreach		400	(400)
Payroll Expenses	20,308	20,308	0
Plant Expenditures	1,902	166	1,736
Rent	6,645	6,644	1
Storage	1,076	1,144	(68)
Utilities	3,068	3,010	58
Total Expenditures	\$51,614	\$49,803	\$1,811
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$14,733	\$ (7,029)	\$21,762
NET REVENUE	\$14,733	\$ (7,029)	\$21,762

Central Intergroup of the Desert

Contributions - Groups & Individuals

October 2024

	TOTAL	
	OCT 2024	JUL - OCT, 2024 (YTD)
12&12 Men's Stag Monday Night		565.00
3 7 11 Meeting - THU - Twentynine Palms	116.56	116.56
3rd 7th 11th Step Meeting		405.09
5th Tradition 7AM Attitude Adjustment Group #100		1,746.65
5th Tradition Dinner Meet Desert Hot Springs	100.00	100.00
630 AM PDCC Zoom		590.00
7PM Mens Online Thousand Palms	50.00	50.00
Aging Gracefully in Sobriety		61.51
Alano Club Palm Springs	100.00	400.00
Anonymous No Group Given	982.00	1,889.07
As Bill Sees It -10AM-M Fellowship Hall P.D.		150.00
As She Sees It La Quinta	140.00	140.00
Attitude Adjustment-M-S , Palm Desert PDCC	713.99	713.99
Birthday Contributions	37.00	164.00
CDM Men's Stag-TUE	400.00	400.00
Central Intergroup Cathedral City	28.00	67.00
Central Office Fundraising Event Gratitude Dinner	130.00	260.00
Daily Reflections 10AM Women's Zoom		114.00
Daily Reflections SUN La Quinta Library		223.00
Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert	247.75	1,027.69
Desert Cities AA Group		951.00
Design for Living 101 Group	418.73	919.22
Dolls of Valley Palm Desert	114.09	271.24
Double Winners	36.00	183.00
Female Friends Yucca Valley		80.00
First Things First		251.69
Friday Noon La Quinta Library		350.00
Great Events Yucca Valley		210.00
Group '48-MON- Palm Springs	62.92	62.92
Happy Hour Book Study Palm Desert	62.00	102.00
Happy Hour Group Sunny Dunes	709.00	1,463.00
Heritage Palms Wed Nite Women		195.00
Hi Desert Speakers Group 100783		235.00
How It Works Palm Desert		120.00
Jaywalkers	90.00	90.00
Just the Black Print		720.00
La Quinta Library Mon. Big Book Study		395.00
La Quinta Library Wed 12 & 12	289.00	354.00
Last Call Group 104		178.45
Living Sober Book Study 486898 Palm Desert		171.00
Men's Marauders		376.00
Mid Day Group		810.29
New Freedom Palm Desert	71.00	71.00

Central Intergroup of the Desert

Contributions - Groups & Individuals

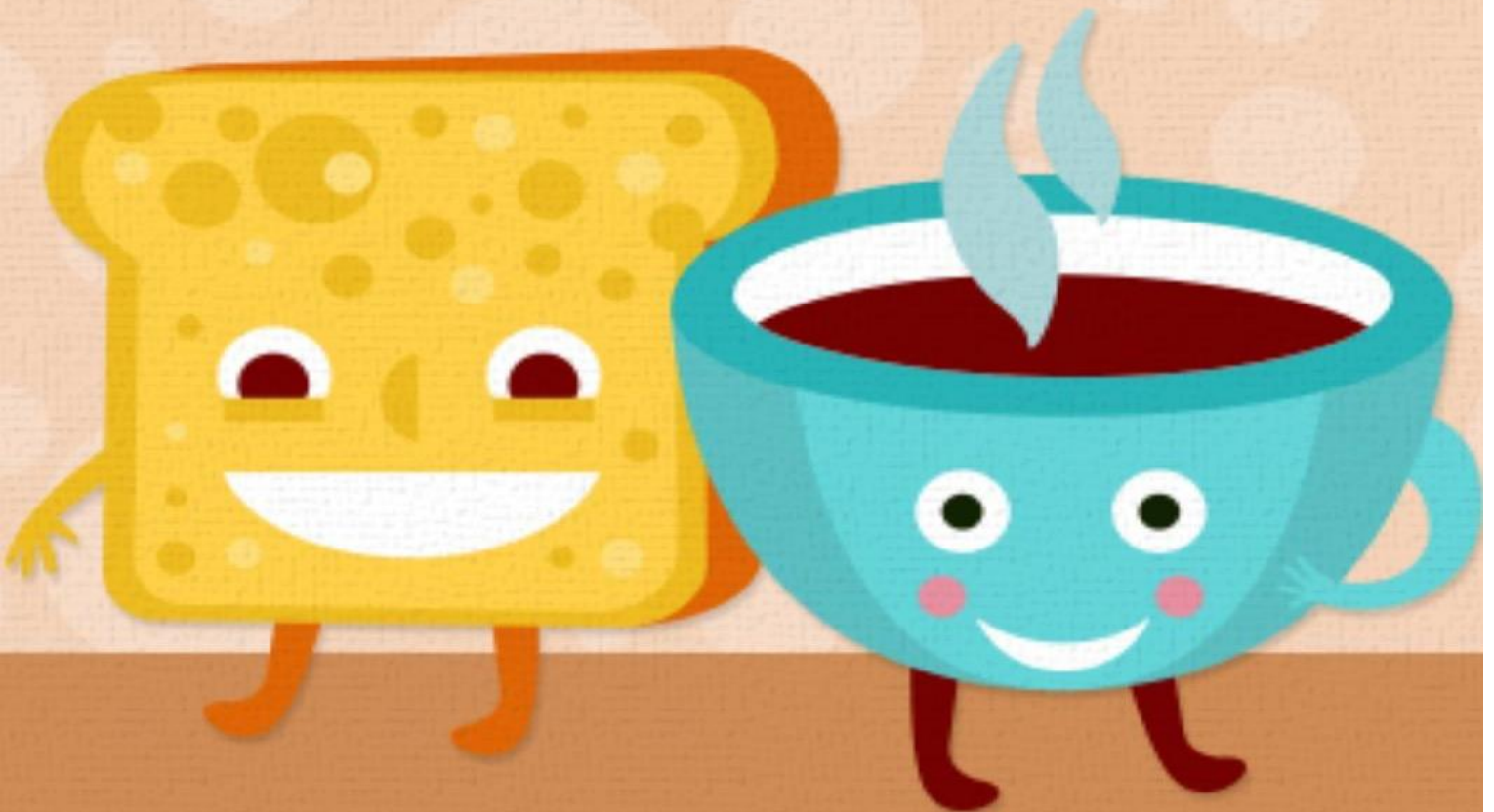
October 2024

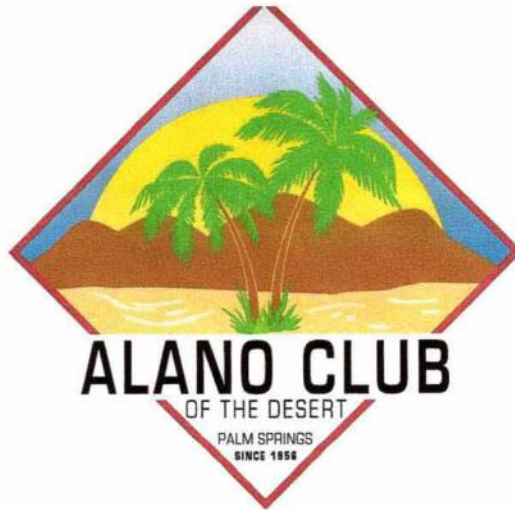
	TOTAL	
	OCT 2024	JUL - OCT, 2024 (YTD)
No Matter What Women's Group		138.36
No Rules La Quinta		653.00
Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj.	145.00	615.00
Palm Springs Attitude Adjustment Group Group	50.00	200.00
Primary Purpose Blythe		300.00
Recovery after Relapse		100.00
Road Runners	200.00	200.00
Round Table Serenity Group		121.00
Rule 62 THU Noon100774		419.50
Saturday 12 & 12		87.00
Saturday Night Special		150.10
Serenity Seekers Palm Desert		240.00
Serenity Sisters - Sunny Dunes	388.10	388.10
Singleness of Purpose	700.00	700.00
Smoking Jackelope Men Stag	100.00	100.00
Sober Divas	75.00	259.00
Sobriety Sisters Palm Desert	58.00	58.00
Solid Solutions 74457- TUE		78.00
Spirituality In Recovery	215.50	385.00
Stay Connected 9am (Zoom)	136.50	879.70
Step Sisters Palm Desert	315.66	1,145.66
Step/Tradition Study Palm Desert		303.55
Stepping Stones		93.50
Sun City Ole Time Big Book Study		141.75
Sunday in the Park		405.21
Sunday Serenity Group	158.00	588.00
Sunny Dunes 7am Attitude Adjustment Online Group		434.25
Sunrise Celebrators Palm Desert	70.09	291.04
TGIF Group 611390 Yucca Valley		30.00
The First 164 Pages	216.00	550.50
The Promises	30.00	60.00
There is a Solution		200.00
Thursday Niters Group		180.00
Tuesday Night Men's Stag Book Study	100.00	325.00
TOTAL	\$7,855.89	\$28,563.59

**First Sunday Of Every Month Join Us
For Breakfast & Speaker meeting
At ABC RECOVERY CENTER hosted By
ABC Alumni Committee**

\$10 for breakfast served 9am-11am! Meeting starts 11:30

44359 PALM ST, INDIO, CA 92201





CAME TO BELIEVE SPEAKERS MEETING

SATURDAY 2025 4TH
JANUARY AT THE 7 PM

ALANO CLUB

463 DOMINGUEZ ROAD
PALM SPRINGS CALIFORNIA