



# the Desert Lifeline

October 2025

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**  
**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.  
Zoom I.D. 924 237 7111  
P.W. InterGroup

## **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,  
5:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall 45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert

Mailing Address: PO Box 1843

Palm Desert, CA 92261

[www.coachellavalleyhandi.org](http://www.coachellavalleyhandi.org)

## **Mid-Southern California Area (MSCA)**

PO Box, 51446, Irvine CA 92619-1446

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

3rd Sunday 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

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

## Tradition

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

## Concept

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

# Principle Ten

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

### August Office Statistics

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Meeting Info     | 33  |
| 12 Step Calls    | 4   |
| Visitors         | 34  |
| Literature Sales | 219 |
| Al-Anon          | 0   |
| Other 12 Step    | 3   |
| Miscellaneous    | 11  |
| Business         | 14  |
| Zoom Attendance  | 32  |

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

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

#### Directors

**Bill T.**  
**David H.**  
**Amelia F.**  
**Ginny P.**  
**Alex K.**

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

## Tradition 10 Checklist

(for all A.A. members to consider)

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

Taken from SM F-131 The Traditions Checklist

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an “**AA opinion**” on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the “AA opinion”?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps Unconscious, ways?



## August Volunteers at Central Office

Adam W.  
Amelia F.

**Thank You !!**

Bill T.  
Bob B.  
Dan S.

Forrest P.  
Jason H.  
Jean K.  
Jim B.  
John B.  
Mark H.

**Thank You !!**

Megan L.  
Nancy L.  
Nikki J.  
Pavithra S.

Rob H.  
Scott H.  
Sean T.  
Shannan K.  
Sharif T.  
Stephen St. L.  
Teri P.

**Palm Desert Group -  
Fellowship Hall, 45940 Portola Ave.  
Palm Desert Saturday Night, 8 p.m.**

|       |               |                  |
|-------|---------------|------------------|
| 10/04 | - Rick A.     | - Yorba Linda    |
|       | Mark S.       | - Long Beach     |
| 10/11 | - Jim & Janis | - D.H.S.         |
| 10/18 | - Jett T.     | - Indian Wells   |
| 10/25 | - Wolf N.     | - Palm Desert    |
|       | Stan S.       | - Cathedral City |

**Sobriety Capital of the World Group  
ABC Recovery 44374 Palm St. Indio  
Friday Night, 8 p.m.**

|       |             |                 |
|-------|-------------|-----------------|
| 10/03 | - Fred G.   | - Orange County |
| 10/10 | - Scott W.  | - Ventura       |
| 10/17 | - Jerome S. | - Corona        |
| 10/24 | - Darren P. | - Santa Barbara |
| 10/31 | - David M.  | - Whitewater    |



## October Speakers



**August 2024**

Shoshanna S. 4 yr.

John H. 41 yr.



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

## Deeper Rooted Emotional Problems

The Center Line of Life  
By Rick R.

We are all born with a Conscience and an Ego. We all have Instincts. We, as human beings, are also born with the Use of Practical Reasoning, and that separates us from the animals, who, for the most part, live by their instincts. The degree to which these assets and liabilities affect our behaviors differs in all of us. "Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper function. "(12&12 Step 4)" Most normal people make mistakes in their lives and that is normal since no one is perfect. Most Alcoholics, however, take their life to the brink of destruction before they become desperate enough to surrender and enter the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. (A.A.) Most alcoholics struggle with emotional difficulties that far exceed the normal range. Some of these troubles can be rectified simply by acknowledging that they exist and being willing to change our motives and behavioral habits.

Unfortunately, A certain percentage of our fellowship have Deeper Rooted Emotional Problems that are permanent and cannot be cured simply by practicing A.A. principles alone. They are often masked by the use of alcohol and when a person stops drinking and starts dealing with their behavioral problems, these things rise to the surface in the form of: O.C.D; A.D.D; Bipolar Disorder; P.T.S.D; and many others that can only be subdued by the use of medications that, in some cases, dulls the mind of the patient to the extent that they would resist taking the medication and would rather live with the symptoms. Not knowing this, we sometimes misunderstand the people stricken by these deeper-rooted mental conditions and believe, by their sharing, that they are Resistant, Arrogant or Egotistical etc. when displaying behaviors that the average person is not afflicted with. These conditions are not always at the extreme levels and each of us, being Alcoholics, have a degree or behavioral problems that are outside of the normal range else why would we need to attend A.A. meetings. Let us consider the normal range to be 5 degrees on either side of the center line. The extremes of the abnormal behavioral problems extend out to 50% on either side of the centerline. Let us take Fear as an example. Some people are so fearful they are afraid to leave their home, while others are so fearless that they may dive off a cliff into a pool of water. These are extremes, and we all fall somewhere in between. Those of us who are fortunate enough not to be afflicted by those pre-mentioned mental disorders, are blessed in the sense that, practicing the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, can bring us back towards the center line and we can lead a somewhat normal life.

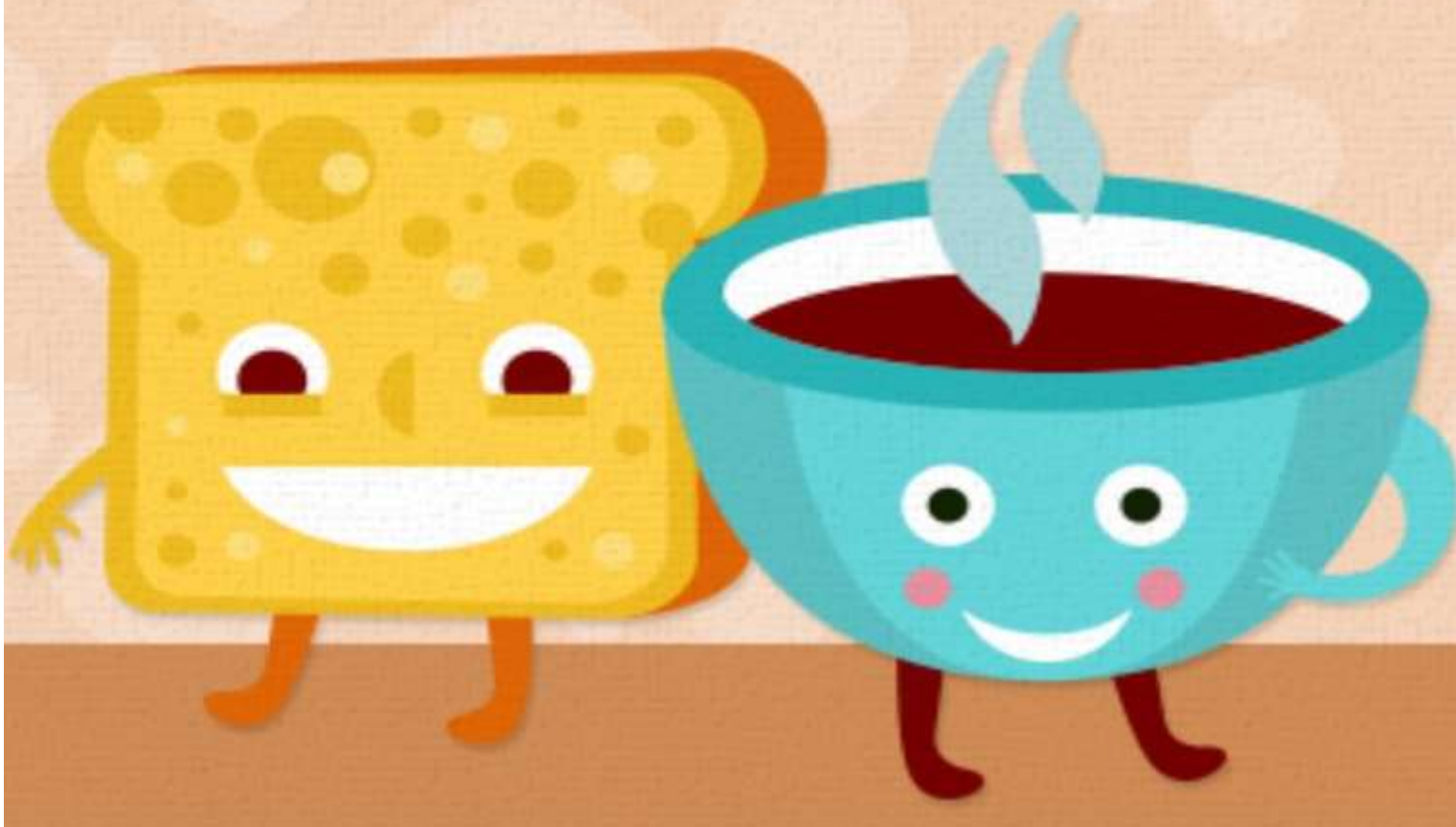
For those ill-fated ones afflicted by those conditions, they can stay sober, but the behaviors are still apparent to us and, unless we can recognize and replace the habit of Judging Them by Their Outward Behavior, we are still outside the normal range ourselves, and when we replace the habit of being judgmental with the habits of Compassion and Empathy, we are somewhat closer to the center line. We can change all those alcoholic behaviors when we recognize them, simply by looking deeper into our motives for our actions pointed out in the A.A. program. Steps Six and Seven begin this process of recognizing our *defects of character*, based on our thinking, and changing the *shortcomings or actions* that result from those thoughts. "There are those too who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest." (BB pg. 58) My question is, do we have the capacity to be accepting when we recognize that some of us have these, uncontrollable deeper-rooted issues and that we cannot compare them to ourselves and be judgmental about these difficulties. Love, Compassion and Empathy are the center line positions in these cases. They need our understanding.



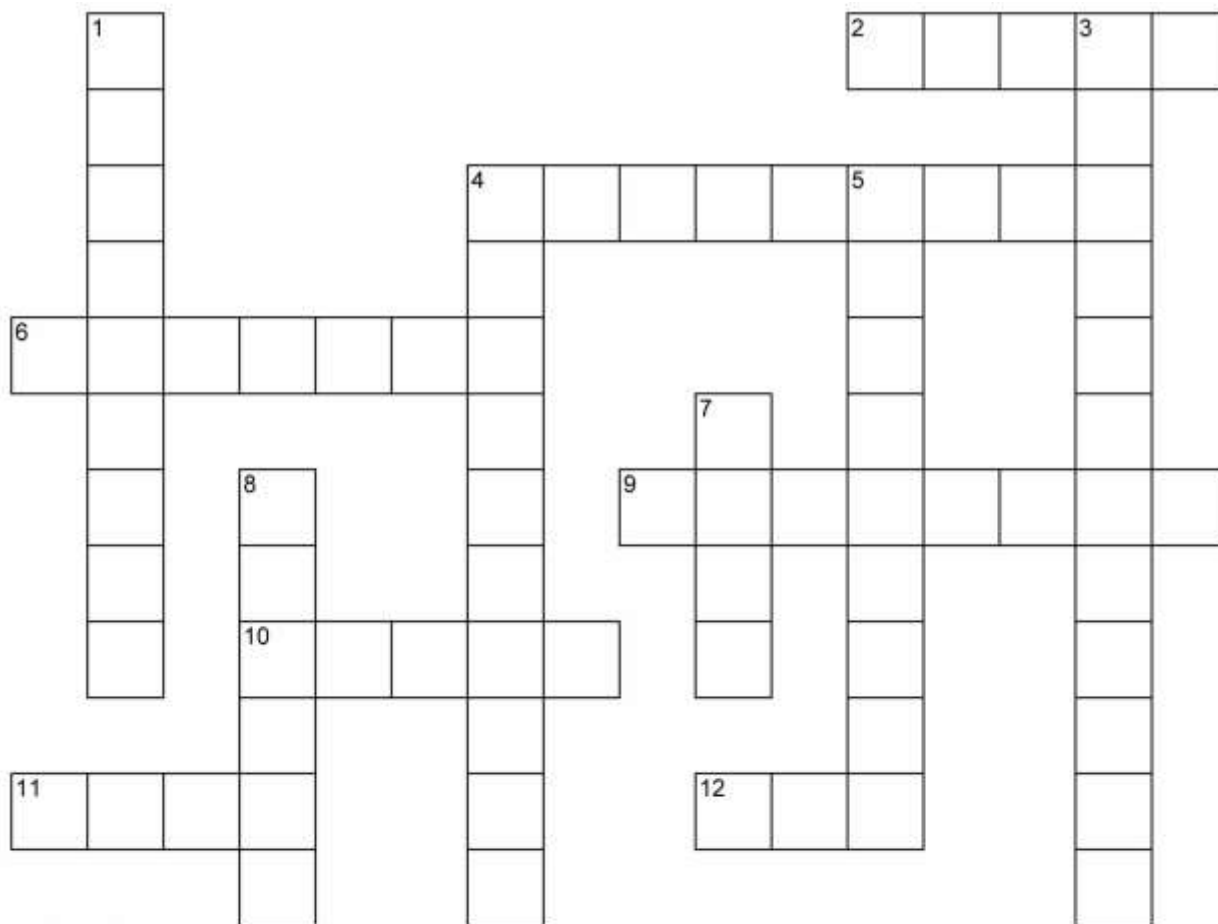
**First Sunday Of Every Month Join Us  
For Breakfast & Speaker meeting  
At ABC RECOVERY CENTER hosted By  
ABC Alumni Committee**

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

**44359 PALM ST, INDIO, CA 92201**



# October Puzzle



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

## ACROSS

- 2 when he finds we are not \_\_\_\_\_-burners.  
 4 My brother-in-law is a \_\_\_\_\_, and through his kindness  
 6 for others, he could not \_\_\_\_\_ the certain trials and low  
 9 These tiny bodies are \_\_\_\_\_ by precise laws,  
 10 We \_\_\_\_\_ apologize to anyone  
 11 once just as hopeless as \_\_\_\_\_  
 12 the presence of a loving \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives - these things are

## DOWN

- 1 the occasional inspiration \_\_\_\_\_ becomes a working part of the mind.  
 3 Over any \_\_\_\_\_ period we get  
 4 this \_\_\_\_\_, as we have  
 5 with some misgivings, we \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 row and it became a lone \_\_\_\_\_  
 8 I have never seen one \_\_\_\_\_ case recover, where that

Puzzle answers will appear in next month's Desert Lifeline.  
 You can also find them on our web site — [www.aainthedesert.org](http://www.aainthedesert.org)

## The Hunt

You slammed into my life like a train that ran away  
And then you slipped into the night so I would die in vain.

My heart was torn in pieces and my soul was ripped to shreds.  
I couldn't live without you yet I wished that you were dead.

Somebody said they'd seen you on the other side of town.  
So I decided it was time to finally hunt you down!

I chose my weapons carefully—made sure each one would kill.

To see you begging for your life would give me such a thrill!

I set out on my journey—Sweet revenge would soon be mine!  
Determined I would find you—I was running out of time.

My journey—long and treacherous I searched both high and low.  
My body soon grew weary as I still had far to go.

The sun sat on the mountain high—the valley low and dark  
I prayed for soul salvation as I aimed to reach my mark.

Then finally— I stood there and I faced your fortress door  
My search was finally over and I'd have to hunt no more!

My hand was weak and trembling as my fist began to knock  
But when the door swung open both my knees gave way in shock!

For on the other side there was a mirror I could see  
my own reflection staring back—**MY NEMESIS WAS ME!**

A note was taped upon the glass with letters bright and red.  
“To Me”— I must have written because this is what it said:

*“Hurt people DO hurt people—It's a fact you can't deny  
Even harder to accept when it's been Me, Myself, and I.*

*For I've never really loved myself nor valued my own worth  
I've claimed since the beginning I've been dying since my birth*

*It's a matter of perception and we're all free to decide  
To find our journey's answers we must search ourselves inside.*

*For the living and the dying both see things a different way  
While the dying hide in darkness those who live embrace each day.*

*We're not immoral sinners with a stamp upon our soul  
We lost the fight for human plight we thought we could control.*

*The beauty of this paradox is simple—not complex  
No magic potion could relieve our self-inflicted hex*

*The answer's in surrendering the shackles we've held dear  
With honest self admission, final victory is here!”*

Though my heart still felt confusion and my mind was reeling still  
The hunt was finally over and I didn't have to kill.

I dropped my cache of arsenal into the holy ground,  
And headed back to safety with the answers that I'd found.

My load was so much lighter and a smile was on my face  
I'd finally found solution and now could slow my pace.

I guess there was a difference for the people all around  
Could see that I was happy with the answers that I'd found.

They asked me many questions, because **they** were still in pain.

*“Please tell us the solution so that **WE** can do the same!”*

I humbly shared my story  
Then we gathered hand in hand  
With heads bowed low in reverence  
We asked God to command:

*“Take my will—my life—  
Please guide me now  
And show me how to live.”  
And with that supplication  
it is now our turn to give.*

It's important I remember about all those years gone by  
When all I had to live for was the day that I would die.

It was in my darkest hour that I finally found the light  
The hunt for me has set me free and death has lost the fight!

By Teri K

LOVE & SERVICE AA GROUP PRESENTS

# THREE LEGACIES CONFERENCE

STEPS, TRADITIONS, CONCEPTS

-HOPE CENTER CHURCH-

2275 MORELLO AVENUE-PLEASANT HILL CA 94523

## SPEAKERS

KERRY MEYER, (CLASS A TRUSTEE)

LESLIE K., MODESTO, CA

SHARON A., DEPOT BAY, OR

ARISA B., BROOKLINE, MA

DAVID N., SANTA ROSA, CA

JENNIFER B., SANTA ROSA, CA

MIKE S., RIVERSIDE, CA

## HYBRID EVENT

IN-PERSON

EARLY BIRD-\$30

STANDARD-\$44

LAST CALL-\$55

ON-LINE- \$25

ON-LINE INCLUDES FREE  
SPEAKER DOWNLOAD



## NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2025 SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

4:00PM: REGISTRATION OPEN

6:00PM: EVENT SPEAKER

7:45PM: EVENT SPEAKER

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2025

8:30AM: FREE CONT. BREAKFAST

9:00AM: EVENT SPEAKER

10:45AM: SERVICE PANEL

12:00PM: FREE LUNCH INCLUDED

1:00PM: EVENT SPEAKER

2:45PM: EVENT SPEAKER

5:00PM: BANQUET

6:15PM: FINAL SPEAKER

3LEGACIESCONFERENCE.ORG

# **AA'S 12 CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICES**

**A 16-WEEK WORKSHOP**

**FACILITATED BY:**

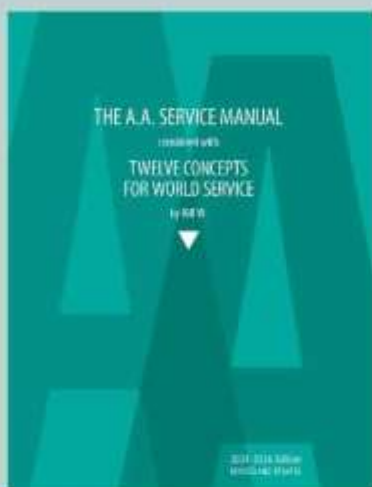
**FRANCINE W. PALM DESERT, CA**

**BILLY N. PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL**

**FRIDAYS AT 10 AM CT**

**4:00PM-UK-11:00AM-ET-8:00AM-PT**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2025 - FEBRUARY 20, 2026**



**ZOOM ID: 826 9431 0797**

**PW: 124145**

# **AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.**

475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

September 24, 2025

Dear Friends in the AA Fellowship:

Grapevine and La Viña need your help — now more than ever.

For over eight decades AA Grapevine and La Viña, AA's magazines written by us, for us, convey shared experience, strength, and hope from members across the world. Now, beyond the magazines we carry the AA message in many new forms:

- Apps available worldwide in English and Spanish
- A podcast with more than 1.2 million downloads and 24,000 listens per month
- An Instagram community of 15,000 followers
- A YouTube channel with over 16,000 subscribers and 267,000 views
- ASL Videos for the Deaf on our YouTube Channel
- Over 40 books of member stories and writings
- Free content for the incarcerated on prison tablets
- Free print subscriptions for alcoholics in prisons, hospitals and institutions

Grapevine provides the podcast, YouTube channel, Instagram and the prison tablet content free of charge to help alcoholics. Therein lies the challenge: Grapevine's only source of income is from subscriptions and the sale of books. The magazines do not accept individual or group contributions.

Folks often ask how they can support Grapevine. Today, our financial situation is very difficult. With your increased support, a thriving Grapevine and La Viña will continue providing these vital services to alcoholics everywhere. We will also persist in adapting new technologies to carry the AA message.

Here's how you can help Grapevine help others:

1. Subscribe or renew your Grapevine or La Viña subscription today. You can subscribe to the print magazine or online — or subscribe through the apps and read and listen to the magazine right on your smartphone.
2. Ask your group to start a Grapevine or La Viña subscription — or add another.
3. Contribute to the Carry the Message program as an individual or as a group to provide subscriptions to those in need.
4. Tell your friends, home group, district and area that we need subscribers now more than ever.
5. Consider gifting a subscription to someone who could benefit from the AA message.
6. We need help from Area and District trusted servants to reach groups that don't have Grapevine or La Viña — or even know that the magazines exist.

Continued on page 12

7. Make Grapevine and La Viña part of your local events with workshops and presentations.

Every subscription helps keep the voice of the Fellowship alive for alcoholics who may not be able to get to a meeting but can still hear the message of recovery through our pages, podcasts, videos, and outreach. With your increased support, a thriving Grapevine and La Viña will continue providing these vital services to alcoholics everywhere and once again contribute to the General Service Board Reserve Fund.

Visit our websites to subscribe to the magazine in print or online, to purchase books, or contribute to the Carry the Message program (see links at end of letter).

On the apps, you can download and subscribe to the magazines through the Apple App Store or Google Play on your smartphone, or use the appropriate QR code for your phone, below. The apps have the portable convenience of being able to listen to the magazine audio or the podcast while you work, exercise or travel.

Thank you for your continued love and support. Together, we can make sure that the AA message keeps reaching the next suffering alcoholic—wherever they may be.

In service and fellowship,

*Chris C.*

Publisher, AA Grapevine, Inc.

## What are the Drawbacks of “California Sober?”

While everyone has a unique experience of addiction and recovery, there are some potential pitfalls for anyone considering the “Cali Sober” approach. These include:

1. Dangers of self-medication
2. Negative consequences of cannabis product usage
3. Returning to old habits
4. Failing to treat the underlying problem
5. Minimal harm reduction delivered





## Writing Workshop presented by **Area 09 & District 09**



### **SHARE YOUR STORY: Writing Made Simple for the Grapevine**

Have you thought about writing for the AA Grapevine  
but don't know where to start?

Join us for a supportive writing workshop where you'll  
discover simple tools, inspiration, and encouragement  
to get your story on the page.

**Your voice matters—let's share it together.**

**Saturday, November 1, 2025 from 12-2:30pmPT**

**Meeting ID: 894 7711 4961**  
**Passcode: 081952**





The Tenth Step Acid Test  
Principles to Live By  
By Rick R.

Each of our steps takes a certain amount of thoroughness but for most of the steps, it seems we will be working on them for the rest of our lives as they involve practicing principles that we have incorporated into our day to day living experiences, and after the Ninth Step has been given due diligence, we can go on to Step Ten. This is not the time to rest on our laurels. Having put a little time between us and our last drink required a lot of effort, and it would be a shame to lose interest in the growing process at this time. My ego is always ready to move right into those empty spaces when I vacate my growing efforts. My approach to Step Ten was confusing at first, as I thought I was going to be running around with a clipboard for the rest of my life, and I didn't like the idea of credit and debit lists and penciling out things, but I tried it for a while, and I still didn't like it. I couldn't see monitoring myself on every face-to-face verbal transaction and running around apologizing to everyone that I may have made a mistake with. That was my first impression of step ten. What I discovered was that the tenth step is a framework for the upkeep and maintenance of all of the previous nine steps, and as I incorporated those principles into my value system it made me aware of my mistakes and it became easier and easier for me simply because the more I live by unselfish, proven principles, the less mistakes I make, and the easier it became to right those mistakes on the spot. When I first heard the term, "cash register honesty", it meant more to me than just being honest with a cashier. It meant that I had to stop taking advantage of everyone. That is a principle to live by. Since I started on this journey, I have wanted to be free of all the sick feelings I had about myself and, at first, I couldn't find anything in the Big Book or the 12&12 that I could sink my teeth into. The one thing that came close was the term: *sins of omission, but that was too direct*. I was looking for a broader term that would have covered the things that I was unaware of. All my life, under a mountain of misdeeds and inappropriate behavior was the word **NEGLECT**. I then Googled it and found it twice in the Big Book (pg.97 and 129) and twice in the 12&12 (pg.81 and 151) but I don't think I ever saw it addressed as seriously as all of the other major defects are, but it was *major for me*. I discovered it in the process of doing the tenth step. To set the tone for my day-to-day activities I start by making my bed when I get up in the morning. By doing this I am making a statement that I won't be neglectful, irresponsible, lazy, etc. If I am at the market, I'll find a stray cart and return it to the rack, just to make up for all the times I pushed a cart into the flower bed and fled. The acid test is how diligent I am at continuing these exercises in selflessness until they become second nature. You may have your own way of giving back to make it right and these things cost us nothing, but if I'm willing to do them, it's a cinch I won't be ripping anyone off today. It helps to have a clear conscience, and it may be what a good role model should be doing. I want to be quick to address my mistakes, for we know that nobody's perfect, and I don't want to miss the spiritual boat. Now it all comes down to *going through each day without doing anything I regret*, and I hope I pass the acid test.

**Book of the month**  
**"Our 12 Steps"**

**\$13.50**

**\$13.50**

A brand-new collection of stories from AA members about the joys and challenges of working the program's Twelve Steps of Recovery. Each chapter illuminates a different Step through the experiences of a wide variety of AA members. This volume features all-new, up-to-date stories from the pages of Grapevine, the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Great for sponsees and AA Step meetings.

**\$13.50**

Normally \$16.95  
This Month \$13.50

**\$13.50**



*Came to  
Believe  
Group*

# SPEAKER MEETING

## SATURDAYS AT 7 PM

Join us on Saturdays at 7 PM for experience, strength, and hope from members of the fellowship!

### October Speaker Schedule



10/4: Sam G - La Quinta  
10/11: Travis G - DHS  
10/18: Frances W - Cat. City  
10/25: Daryl L. - DHS



Alano Club of the Desert 463 W. Dominguez Rd, Palm Springs

## NEWCOMER IMPRESSIONS OF AA

(What should I do—or not do!)

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

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

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

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

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

Bob S

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

### Faith

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

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



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

## Concept Ten

***Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.***

Concept 10 helps us to keep foremost in our minds the balance we need in order to maintain Alcoholics Anonymous with levels of authority that will best serve AA members and AA as a whole, so that we may best help the alcoholic who wants to get sober. This concept is in place to have the checks and balances needed for those with service responsibilities. Those delegated positions on committees, boards, and trustees, all must have enough authority to make decisions in a timely and efficient manner yet can be overseen and changed if needed at the other levels. Accordingly without this concept, our service structure could not function effectively or operate smoothly. The service structures need to be well defined so that those who are entrusted can have the clear guidelines to carry out their duties. As Bill wrote, "It is perfectly clear, that when delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with." Another reason for this concept is to keep personal clashes, misunderstanding, and ineffectiveness to a minimum by having a definite way of interpreting and deciding doubtful situations so that these trusted servants can operate usefully. "In our structure we have tried to create at each level accurate definitions of authority and responsibility. We have done this (a) by legal means, (b) by traditional means, and (c) by principals under which doubtful and seemingly conflicting situations can be interpreted and readily resolved (The AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service)." As implied in Tradition Two, we see the group conscience as the ultimate authority and the trusted servant as the delegated authority.

Katrina B.  
Solutions in Sobriety, Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert



## **HOW OXFORD GROUP CRITICISM SPAWNED THE TWELVE STEPS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bob S

## Tradition Ten

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

By Bill W.

No AA Group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues---particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous Groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement.

But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, it is prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever. If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our A.A. Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our 10th Tradition, for it details with the subject of controversy---serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions have not long since died in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else". Political controversy and reform by compulsion has reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension.

Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth.

Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that A.A. must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our brother alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

As though by some deep and compelling instinct we have thus far avoided controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably.

May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (September, 1948). Reprinted with permission.

## Step Ten: Beginning of the Maintenance Steps

Understanding the Disease of Alcoholism Takes Time

By Rick R.

After being in the program for a while, it occurred to me that initially, there was no way I could have performed all the measures suggested in the steps on my first go-around. Coming from an alcoholic's approach to the issues we plan to address, we eventually come to understand that we can only give it our best effort to start the process. Understanding the disease of alcoholism takes time. We can however establish a framework without concluding that we have completed the steps. As we continue to grow in the program more will be revealed about the steps taken and that is where step 10 becomes the opportunity to revisit past steps and fill in the empty spaces as we evolve. That does not mean that we cannot address those issues when we become aware of them. If we stay sober long enough to get to this level of understanding we will continue to repair our broken relations with others and clear up legal, marital and financial problems that can be a distraction when it comes to looking at the deeper rooted emotional, mental and spiritual issues. We cannot ignore the need for up-keep and maintenance in the program no more than we can ignore the Up-keep and maintenance when we purchase a new car. Brake shoes wear thin, oil gets dirty, coolant evaporates etc.... The same effect takes place in the process of recovery. If we become complacent at any level of this process, as it often happens, we may relapse or, miss out on the promises set forth in step nine. Step Ten, "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it". (BB Pg. 59) I believe that most of the members of A.A. that actually go through the steps, as suggested in the Big Book, have been doing this to some degree since they became aware of it in the 4th and 5th steps, and the reason why they reintroduced us to this topic in the tenth step was to make it clear that we will continue to do this for the rest of our lives. We are never finished when it comes to taking the steps. There is a line that we cross if we are committed to the goal of becoming the best we can be in life and that is where we stop asking "Why we must do all the things that the program suggests" to a point where we start asking the question "Why wouldn't we do these things that result in freedom of the mind. The biggest misconception that we have is the idea that, somehow, we are responsible for becoming an alcoholic and this is simply not the case. Alcoholism is a disease that we did not have the capacity to decide to become afflicted with when we were born. You might say that alcoholism is a byproduct of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem based on habits and deeds of the past. When we took our first drink it did something for us than it did not do for the normal person. It masks all our fears and insecurities temporarily but did not erase those embarrassing behaviors from our minds and our conscience. We behaved poorly as we evolved through our adolescence and young adulthood due to the fears and inhibitions associated with alcoholism. Who could fault the person who discovers they have a disease, takes it upon themselves to treat that disease, restores and accounts for all the faulty behaviors that stem from that disease, makes restitution and becomes a model citizen? This is the natural development that evolves as the result of taking the steps and continue the up-keep and maintenance process and I Thank God that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has taken one hell of a load off my mind and I am at peace mentally when my head hits the pillow at night.

No man should think that sobriety  
comes easily.

Sobriety doesn't come by merely wanting it,  
or by shouting for it.

Sobriety is built, brick by brick,  
by total effort and belief.

And it is built in the living faith that,  
in the end,  
with the help of his Higher Power,  
man can achieve mastery of his destiny.

Jim M

Perez Plaza, 68845 Perez Road #25, Cathedral City



## Step Ten

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

Step ten is the first of the "maintenance steps." It provides a daily check of our mental and spiritual status. Having completed the overhaul work of steps four through nine, step ten is our key to practicing the A.A. way of living in our daily lives.

Character defects, like our disease of alcoholism, can be cunning, baffling and powerful. Though steps four through seven relieve much of our pain and difficulty, old defects can assume new symptoms and seemingly different defects can appear like a new strain of the flu. These defects are deadly for alcoholics: if left untreated, we will drink.

As with all the steps, we need to be rigorously honest, both in our inventory and in promptly admitting and addressing it. We must thoroughly examine our motives and guard against the comfort of using rationalization to justify questionable conduct.

I love this passage from the Twelve and Twelve: "Our first objective will be the development of self-restraint. This carries a top priority rating. When we speak or act hastily or rashly, the ability to be fair-minded and tolerant evaporates on the spot. ... Nothing pays off like restraint of tongue and pen." The better we get at self-restraint, the sweeter are our evening inventories!

"An honest regret for harms done, a genuine gratitude for blessings received, and a willingness to try for better things tomorrow will be the permanent assets we shall seek."

Rebecca K  
6AM Sunrise Celebrators, Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert



#### Relapse

Oh, what a waste  
I just wanted a taste  
But then there were dragons to chase  
Good times took a toll  
I lost self-control  
And ended up catching a case

Oh, what to do now?  
I believe that somehow  
Some angel or God has my back  
Hope it won't be too long till I feel like I'm strong  
And get back all the things that I lack

So I hope and I pray  
That I'll do what I say  
And finally make a new start  
For God who knows all  
keeps on breaking my fall  
Although I keep breaking His heart

Jessica June

## Tradition Ten

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

I was tremendously relieved, when I first entered into Alcoholics Anonymous to learn that AA will not, or more importantly, cannot force its membership to take sides on any issue that is not founded in its primary purpose of carrying its message to the next suffering alcoholic. Tradition Ten, in its long form, states that in matters of politics, alcohol reform or sectarian religion, AA as a whole should not express any opinion which may arouse heated debate.

I entered the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous a ripped apart lost soul. While I truly appreciated the outstretched hands of welcome, I was a little untrusting of the motives from the membership. The thought would pop through my head, "what do these people want from me?"

You see, ever since early adulthood I have been approached by several smooth talking, sparkling-eyed hucksters who have all made reasonable messages of world peace, revolution or personal salvation. Although well-intentioned with all these various movements, very few of them left enough of a lasting impression for me to stick around. For usually one of two things happened, either that particular issue had lost its relevance or the in-fighting became so unbearable that a group would ultimately disband. In my case, I generally had always felt like an outsider. I never identified what I believed, but one thing for sure, I've come to recognize that since I got sober, my personal views, beliefs and my life in general has been changing and evolving. The attitudes and views I had in early sobriety are really not the same as they are today. I may vote differently, spiritual matters have taken different twists and turns, and ideas on alcohol reform and treatment have changed.

So if a single individual can have such a drastic change of heart in several matters, how can anyone believe they can keep a group growing strong if they allow such heated topics to enter into the debate and stay? The pioneers of Alcoholics Anonymous have paved a way for all of us to pursue our own personal desires, yet to remind us that whatever our protestations, we must remain true to our groups and keep whatever outside issue out of AA starting at our group level.

Nothing can so split us apart without the application of Tradition Ten.

Jay A. Desert Men's Big Book Study, Foundation for the Retarded, Palm Desert

A special Memory of Love and Service

**Jay A.**

Who passed away earlier this year from multiple myleoma while in his home town of Chicago

Thanks Jay! For this article and your many years of service in our local Fellowship.





Central Intergroup Office of the Desert  
 10000 N. 10th Ave. Suite 100  
 Phoenix, AZ 85020-1000  
 (602) 998-0000 • Fax: (602) 998-0001  
 www.desertlifeline.org

## Central Intergroup of the Desert

## Statement of Activity

August 2025

Net profit for August

**-\$1,663**

\$17,250

Income

\$18,913

Expenses

|                                      | TOTAL             |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|                                      | AUG 2025          | JUL - AUG, 2025 (YTD) |
| Revenue                              |                   |                       |
| Contributions - Groups & Individuals | 6,907             | 12,635                |
| Gratitude Dinner                     | 1,635             | 24,874                |
| Interest Income                      | 5                 | 6                     |
| Sales                                | 8,703             | 20,771                |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                 | <b>\$17,250</b>   | <b>\$58,287</b>       |
| Cost of Goods Sold                   |                   |                       |
| Cost of Goods Sold                   | 4,527             | 12,589                |
| POS Inventory Adjustment             | (2)               | (876)                 |
| <b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>      | <b>\$4,526</b>    | <b>\$11,713</b>       |
| <b>GROSS PROFIT</b>                  | <b>\$12,724</b>   | <b>\$46,574</b>       |
| Expenditures                         |                   |                       |
| Accounting Services                  | 1,000             | 2,000                 |
| Computer Expense                     | 548               | 1,098                 |
| Credit Card Fees                     | 335               | 719                   |
| Insurance - Health                   | 560               | 1,106                 |
| Insurance - Liability                | 310               | 620                   |
| Newsletter Expense                   | 217               | 477                   |
| Office Expense                       | 1,121             | 2,638                 |
| Payroll Expenses                     | 7,599             | 12,716                |
| Rent                                 | 1,728             | 3,455                 |
| Storage                              | 269               | 538                   |
| Utilities                            | 700               | 1,355                 |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>            | <b>\$14,387</b>   | <b>\$26,723</b>       |
| <b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>         | <b>\$ (1,663)</b> | <b>\$19,851</b>       |
| <b>NET REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$ (1,663)</b> | <b>\$19,851</b>       |



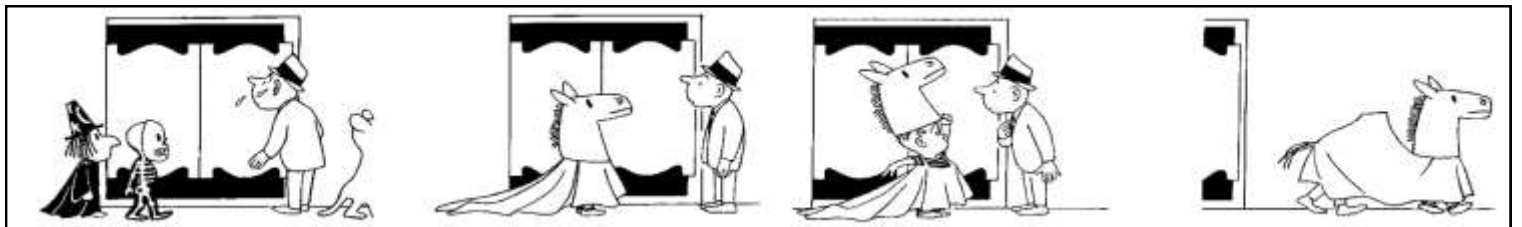
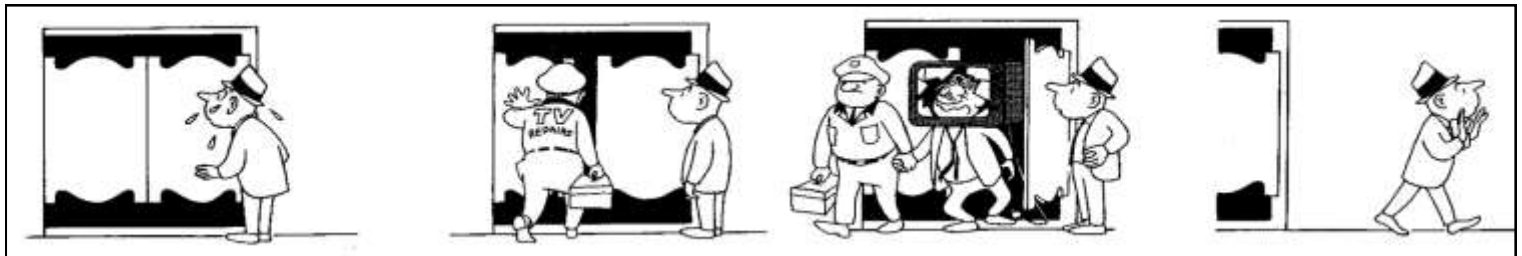
Central Intergroup Office of the Desert  
 10000 S. 10th Ave., Suite 100  
 Las Vegas, NV 89143  
 (702) 735-1111  
 www.desertlifeline.org

## Central Intergroup of the Desert

### Budget Report

July - August, 2025

|                                      |                 | TOTAL           |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                      | ACTUAL          | BUDGET          | OVER BUDGET     |
| <b>Revenue</b>                       |                 |                 |                 |
| Contributions - Groups & Individuals | 12,635          | 12,000          | 635             |
| Gratitude Dinner                     | 24,874          | 8,000           | 16,874          |
| Interest Income                      | 6               | 450             | (444)           |
| Sales                                | 20,771          | 18,000          | 2,771           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                 | <b>\$58,287</b> | <b>\$38,450</b> | <b>\$19,837</b> |
| <b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>            |                 |                 |                 |
| Cost of Goods Sold                   | 12,589          | 11,700          | 889             |
| POS Inventory Adjustment             | (876)           |                 | (876)           |
| <b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>      | <b>\$11,713</b> | <b>\$11,700</b> | <b>\$13</b>     |
| <b>GROSS PROFIT</b>                  | <b>\$46,574</b> | <b>\$26,750</b> | <b>\$19,824</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Accounting Services                  | 2,000           | 2,000           | 0               |
| Computer Expense                     | 1,098           | 1,070           | 28              |
| Credit Card Fees                     | 719             | 639             | 80              |
| Insurance - Health                   | 1,106           | 1,375           | (269)           |
| Insurance - Liability                | 620             | 630             | (10)            |
| Newsletter Expense                   | 477             | 450             | 27              |
| Office Expense                       | 2,638           | 3,000           | (362)           |
| Outreach                             |                 | 200             | (200)           |
| Payroll Expenses                     | 12,716          | 12,700          | 16              |
| Rent                                 | 3,455           | 3,456           | (1)             |
| Storage                              | 538             | 538             | 0               |
| Utilities                            | 1,355           | 1,600           | (245)           |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>            | <b>\$26,723</b> | <b>\$27,658</b> | <b>\$ (935)</b> |
| <b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>         | <b>\$19,851</b> | <b>\$ (908)</b> | <b>\$20,759</b> |
| <b>NET REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$19,851</b> | <b>\$ (908)</b> | <b>\$20,759</b> |



## Central Intergroup of the Desert

## Contributions - Groups &amp; Individuals

August 2025

|                                                  | TOTAL             |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                  | AUG 2025          | JUL - AUG, 2025 (YTD) |
| 3rd 7th 11th Step Meeting                        |                   | 288.40                |
| 5th Tradition 7AM Attitude Adjustment Group #100 | 1,776.61          | 1,776.61              |
| 630 AM PDCC Zoom Joyce Medford                   |                   | 120.00                |
| Alano Club Palm Springs                          | 200.00            | 200.00                |
| Anonymous No Group Given                         | 782.22            | 2,620.44              |
| As Bill Sees it Sunny Dunes 830AM                | 380.39            | 380.39                |
| As She Sees It La Quinta                         | 59.00             | 124.00                |
| Big Book Study L Quinta Library                  |                   | 372.92                |
| Bill's Hour                                      |                   | 82.25                 |
| Birthday Contributions                           | 31.00             | 82.00                 |
| Black Sheep Group                                | 250.00            | 250.00                |
| Central Intergroup Cathedral City                |                   | 37.00                 |
| Daily Reprieve-Daily Palm Desert                 | 509.56            | 662.45                |
| Dolls of Valley Palm Desert                      |                   | 142.86                |
| Double Winners                                   | 70.00             | 95.95                 |
| Happy Hour Book Study Palm Desert                |                   | 84.00                 |
| Happy Hour Group Sunny Dunes                     | 816.00            | 816.00                |
| It's A Better Deal Yucca Valley                  |                   | 50.00                 |
| Jaywalkers                                       |                   | 84.90                 |
| Just the Black Print                             | 579.32            | 579.32                |
| Last Call Group 104                              | 165.77            | 165.77                |
| Living Sober Group-Joshua Tree                   | 10.00             | 10.00                 |
| Living Sober Women Sat. La Quinta                |                   | 59.00                 |
| Men's Stag Book Study                            | 100.00            | 100.00                |
| No Matter What Women's Group                     | 133.51            | 133.51                |
| No Rules La Quinta                               |                   | 500.00                |
| Ojai Women's Meeting                             | 21.35             | 21.35                 |
| Palm Desert 7 AM Attitude Adj.                   | 201.00            | 399.00                |
| Palm Springs Attitude Adjustment Group Group     | 50.00             | 50.00                 |
| Playing With A Full Deck Palm Desert             |                   | 245.60                |
| Ray's Wed. Nite Meeting Joshua Tree              | 183.26            | 183.26                |
| Serenity Seekers Palm Desert                     | 240.00            | 240.00                |
| Singleness of Purpose Men's Stag                 |                   | 880.00                |
| Sober Divas                                      | 75.00             | 150.00                |
| Stepping Stones                                  |                   | 127.00                |
| Sunday Serenity Group                            | 65.00             | 185.00                |
| Sunrise Celebrators Palm Desert                  | 97.96             | 175.93                |
| Tuesday Gut level                                | 60.00             | 60.00                 |
| Vets for Vets Palm Desert                        | 50.00             | 50.00                 |
| Winners Meeting Yucca Valley                     |                   | 50.00                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>\$6,906.95</b> | <b>\$12,634.91</b>    |

*Grateful in the Desert!*



# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Gratitude Dinner!

**Earl H. Vista, CA**

*Fellowship ~ Raffles ~ Live Music*

SCAN TO  
PAY



**November 2, 2025 5 PM - 8:30 PM**

Palm Springs Air Museum 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, P.S., CA 92262

Online Ticket Sales: [www.aainthedesert.org](http://www.aainthedesert.org)

*A fundraiser hosted by your AA Central Office Intergroup Committee*