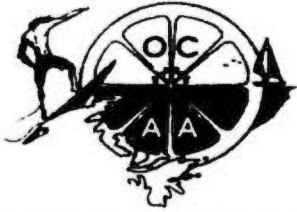


# Lifeline



## 2009



**Orange  
County  
Intergroup  
Association**

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The *Lifeline* is your paper.  
Your ideas, suggestions, jokes  
and articles are welcome and needed.  
Please submit to:  
LifelineEditor@yahoo.com

### Application for Membership ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

*Having read the Twelve Steps and having taken Step No.1, I apply for membership in the Montreal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

*When admitted to membership it will be my desire to cooperate with the group as fully as possible and not to harm it, interfere with it's work, or impede it's progress in any way.*

1. I agree not to attend any meeting on a day on which I have taken anything whatsoever of an alcoholic nature.
2. In the interests of complete honesty, if I do any drinking whatsoever at any time, I will make the fact known to my sponsor, or in his absence, to some other senior member of the group, and will not attempt to deliberately hide such drinking from the group.
3. Further, in the event that I continue drinking intermittently while ostensibly a member of this group, I agree to relinquish my membership if asked to do so by the group through my sponsor or the group secretary.
4. Understanding that although the aims and objectives of AA are well known, names and affairs of the group are definitely secret, I agree not to divulge names of members to outsiders or to discuss private affairs of the group with non-members.
5. I undertake to introduce new members to the group only after they have fulfilled whatever qualifications for membership the group may from time to time require.
6. I undertake to familiarize myself with the duties and obligations of a sponsor and when called upon to sponsor an applicant will make every effort to see that he becomes a good member.

JOHN N.

Applicant

Date

6/27/97

Dennis H.

Sponsor

*"Thank goodness for Tradition 3, 'The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.' Note the date. The fellowship didn't accept the Traditions until 1950 at the first International Convention in Cleveland."*

## Step Four Month In Orange County

*Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. - Step 4, Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 59.*

My first attempt at writing a fearless and moral inventory wasn't a total disaster. It was much worse than that.

It was the third year of this divorce and I wasn't doing well on any level. I was sober about three months and about all I had going for me was that I was about three months sober. Oh, yes, and I had managed to convince my sponsor that I was serious about staying sober.

So when he asked if I wanted to go over my Fourth Step with him, I said sure and we wound up in the little apartment I was renting on 5th Street in Seal Beach on a Sunday morning right after the Sun, Sand, Surf and Serenity meeting ended. I handed Bob the several typewritten pages and went to the kitchen to fix some eggs and chorizo and a couple of bagels with cream cheese. When I sat down, I saw that Bob had deposited my Fourth Step on the plate I had planned to use for brunch.

And I also saw that he had torn it in two.

"Why'd you do that?" I asked.

"Because it's not a Fourth Step." Bob replied. "I'm not impressed with this recitation of how mean people have been to you since kindergarten, how you got a bum deal in the Navy, how the guards picked on you in prison and how the bosses at the Press-Telegram don't like you and so on and so on ..."

"But, Bob," I began, "I Just ..."

He cut me off. "A Fourth Step is supposed to detail turning points in your life and how you responded to them. It's supposed to allow you to find out how you have screwed up relationships and how you might be able to repair them. It's not about you. It's about the people you have harmed. Want to try again?"

"Sure," I said. "But I don't know where to start."

"I can show you," he said. "Next week we'll be in April. It's the fourth month so a lot of the Step Study meetings will be focusing on Step Four. We should get some good insights in those meetings."

We did. And he got a good look at my fully-revised Fourth Step in May, which is the subject for next month's column. One more thing. This is April, the fourth month of 2009. If you're stuck on Step Four, you don't have to be. Use Bob's method and check out one of the 106 Step Study meetings sandwiched among the 1,275 A.A meetings that are scheduled for April across Orange County. You'll have a head start on a task that is a joy rather than an ordeal.

George L, Westminster



## Finding AA Meetings While Traveling

By way of introduction, my name is Chuck and I am an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous. If I don't drink and I don't die, I should be able to celebrate 25 years of sobriety April 19<sup>th</sup> 2009. I am currently 71 years old and have been retired for the past 11 years.

During my sobriety, I have found some great meetings around the world. I have been diving off the great barrier reef in Australia and got to a meeting the same day. Once I caught a 60 pound King Salmon off the Kenai River in Alaska and got to an AA meeting the same day. I was in Berlin Germany when I was celebrating 15 years of sobriety and was able to pick up a medalion that day.

I'm just one of those people that cannot live comfortably and peacefully with me, if I don't not attend meetings on a regular basis. Once in 25 (almost) years, I went 12 days without a meeting. If I remember rightly, it was in my second year, and my attitude was just short of homicidal. I never did that again. So seven days is my limit. At the end of seven days without a meeting, I become restless, irritable and discontent.

Now the wife and I have been retired for eleven years, and one of my retirement dreams was see my country. So, towing a 25 foot travel trailer, we would wander some of the back roads of the U.S.



three to four months out of the year. As a side note, because of our age, we recently gave up RVing. But since this is an honest program, I really think we gave it up as my wife was complaining about washing, cooking and cleaning while on the road. I kind of thought that was a bit narrow minded, but I learned a long time ago to say, "Yes Dear." (Married 44 years last October.)

Now this article is about my adventures in finding meetings while traveling. Now, it's a no brainer on cruise ships, these days. I have not seen a cruise in the last 20 years that does not have a Friend of Bill W. on board. But in an RV, we got to some pretty small towns and some pretty remote places.

Today, the internet has really come a long ways in listing meetings. We would set out on these trips and I would take the Western U.S. AA directory. It seemed to me that about 15-20 percent of the time, when I called, the phone was disconnected, or the contact person had gone back out, was in jail or died. Remember to reverse the percentages, and 80-85 percent of the time, I found an AA meeting.

The telephone. I would arrive in some small town, and if there was a listing for Alcoholics Anonymous, I would call. Once in a while the district office was a couple of hundred miles away and either had no listing or the data was not up to date. Not one to give up, I would go to either the local police station or local hospital. I have found meetings that way. I actually found a meeting, one time, by chasing a police car down the highway and flashing my head lights to get him to pull over. He actually knew where the meeting was.

Once I in a small town of Wyoming, I was in a U.S. Forestry information office and I asked the guy at the counter if he knew of or had heard of any AA meetings in the local area. God has a

*Continued on page 3*

# Tradition Four

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

Number 4 of 12 articles on the 12 Traditions

*With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.* 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition Long Form

Of all the 12 Traditions, (my opinion here) this one is the one that is most easily and effectively applied in my life outside the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, for the purpose of this article I will confine my writing to its application inside Alcoholics Anonymous.

The genesis of this tradition, as revealed in Bill W's personal correspondence was a great concern that Bill had with the fact that many A.A. groups, (at the time – the mid 1940's) excluded black alcoholics from membership. Where Bill expressed his



deep concern regarding the exclusion of any alcoholics from membership, he was profoundly influenced by the experience of the Washingtonians who had let issues of this kind tear them apart and consign them to historical footnotes. Bill sensed that if the A.A. groups were given a vehicle to exercise the group conscience, which he had defined in Tradition Two, the groups would eventually see the terrible error of racial exclusion and would correct themselves, or those groups would cease to exist. He was eventually proven to be correct.

I absolutely love Bill's words describing the use of "trial and error" in the development of A.A. *"Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today. When A.A.'s Traditions were first published, in 1946, we had become sure that an A.A. group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So confident of this had we become that the original statement of A.A. tradition carried this significant sentence: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation".*

We usually hear two tired refrains where arguments are made against change in A.A.: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" and "Let's keep it simple". Of course, how can we know if

it isn't "broke" unless we try to fix it. And, who will ultimately define just how simple we need to keep it? Where's the threshold where things become complex? This is one instance where the old ways, as described by Bill in his chapter on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition has served A.A. better than the way we mostly do things today, (oops! another opinion found its way in there).

Just maybe we might occasionally try to refer to Appendix II in the Big Book when looking at changing things: *"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance - that principle is contempt prior to investigation."*

Lastly, this is the chapter in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book where "Rule 62" is defined – *"Don't take yourself too damned seriously"*. And, yes, it does say damned. My sponsor used to say to me that this Tradition could be restated in five words: "Mind your own business, \_\_\_\_\_". Sponsors are like that.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

Next month: Tradition Five – Oh, how we have misinterpreted the original intent of this Tradition!!

Text in italics re-printed from the Big Book with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, (AAWS)

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*Continued from page 2*

sense of humor. The guy I asked had eleven years of sobriety and took me to a meeting.

After while, I found my main source of meetings in a small town was the Tourist Information office. That turned out to be a really great choice. Sometimes the town was so small that there was only one, maybe two meetings per week. One of my great experiences was in a small town of Huston, British Columbia. I stopped at the tourist info. Office; there was a meeting on Wednesday and Sunday night, and I was there for a one night stay on a Friday night. So, I'm the type of guy that calls anyway. Well, the guy on the other end of the phone tells me the Wednesday night meeting folded and all they had was Sunday nights. But before I could get disappointed, he made me an offer. He told me to get set up in the local RV Park and give him a call and he would come down and we would have a meeting. That's exactly what I did. Les came down to the trailer, I brewed up some coffee and we talked. He had 39 years of sobriety and I got to learn what it was like to get sober in the logging camps of Canada. It was a wonderful meeting.

I had the opportunity to meet Les 9 years later (2007 while returning from Alaska) with 48 years of sobriety. Oh what a joyful experience.

I will close with a touch of humor. When living in a 25 foot by 8 foot travel trailer for three to four months at a time, sometimes the trailer would get a bit too small for the two of us. Once in a while, I can remember my wife standing in the doorway of the trailer, waving her Alanon finger at me and stating, "And don't you come back until you have a different attitude!" That's what a meeting will do for me, change my attitude.

I still love to go to meetings.

Chuck H.  
Laguna Woods, CA

## THE TURNING POINT

*Editor's Note: We continue this new feature in the Lifeline called "The Turning Point". Please share your story by emailing it to lifelineeditor@yahoo.com.*

"We stood at the turning point." Then, the next line in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, states, "We asked his protection and care with complete abandon." During my days of relapsing, I spent a lot of time pondering these sentences during the first shaky, sweaty, unpleasant days of withdrawal, when I was trying hard not to drink. Motivation is strong to seek protection and care when you are decrepit, broke and hopeless. Down the road a few days, I would slowly, imperceptively imperceptibly, begin to drift in a direction away from God, and my attitude and outlook would change for the worst. I would start to think thoughts such as, "Life sucks! Work stinks! Who cares? I've messed up my life so bad, and what's the use anyhow?" For me back then, these thoughts were always the prelude to relapse.

Then, in 1984, I became willing to participate in the "design for living" that is discussed in the books. More than ever before, I abandoned my own ideas and turned to a God of my understanding as described in the "Big Book" of AA. The actions I finally became willing to undertake include doing the 12 steps with a sponsor, attending and participating in meetings, cleaning house, trusting God and helping others. As soon as it was OK, I began going on H&I panels and sharing. Instead of my usual several days or, my occasional several weeks of dryness, I built up several months of sobriety, for which I learned the definition is, "soundness of mind." I began to develop a new attitude and outlook on life that was far less negative, far less critical of the world, far less cynical about other people and me.

Somewhere along the way, I realized that I was making it past those low points that previously were my downfall. I also realized something else. Every time during my sobriety when my faith got a little weak, when my attitude became a little poor, when people started to seem unfriendly,

untrustworthy and unlikable, I stood at another turning point. But now I was no longer turning back to alcohol in a desperate and vain search for a solution to these dilemmas. Now when I stood at that turning point, I sought His protection and care instead. It often took more than one day, but with a renewed effort on my part to clean up my messes and to improve my conscious contact with God, those moments of weakness and lack of faith would pass. And instead of drinking, and destroying all the progress I had made, I was experiencing sanity and sobriety, just like the Big Book talked about. Before, when I was not immersed in the program, I had been blind to the many turning points in my life.

Now I realize that we as alcoholics not only stand at the turning point when we are coming off a terrible drunk, facing the opportunity to achieve sobriety. Progressing down the sober road, I have arrived at and walked through many of them. The correct path is always the same, "We asked His protection and care with complete abandon."



Were I ever to turn back to my disease, falsely believing that there is any comfort for me in the consumption of alcohol, I would reenter a life of torment and sorrow. As

soon as I turn to God when experiencing these moments of weakness, I start to be OK again. I feel blessed that I am now aware of the facts. This awareness is an important component of my soundness of mind. It is built upon the foundation of doing the twelve steps, and the realization through many positive sober life experiences, that God's plan for me is far better than the lifestyle that I used to have. Today I can live, participate in worthwhile activities, and enjoy life without drinking. I am truly blessed.

Greg T.



### INNER PEACE

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
 If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
 If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,  
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you anytime,  
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
 If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
 If you can relax without liquor,  
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
 ...Then You Are Probably The Family Dog!

**GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL OFFICE— February**

	FEB	YTD					
<b>ALISO VIEJO</b>	^	^	We 6:30P-B. B. Topic Disc., 5001 Nwprt	\$98	\$521	We 7:30P-BB Stdy, 600 St. Andrew	\$45
<b>BUENA PARK</b>	^	^	We 8:00P-12 Solutions SS, Harvard	\$100	\$100	We 8:00P-Recovery Radicals, 301Nwprt	\$200
<b>CAPISTRANO BEACH</b>	^	^	Th 12:00P-Irvine (M)'s Lunch, 5001 Nwprt	\$78		Th 7:30P-Balboa Spkr Grp, 414 E. 32nd	\$70
Sa 9:30A-Pines Park Disc, Pine Bluffs		\$40	Th 6:30P-(W)'s Gypsies, Deerfield & Turtle	\$120		<b>ORANGE</b>	^
<b>CORONA DEL MAR</b>	^	^	Fr 10:30A-Over 50 Grp, 6670 Alton	\$70	\$70	Dly 7:00A-Early Birds, 812 Town&Cntry	\$280
Mo 7:00P-Baywood Disc, 1601 Marg	\$77	\$227	Fr 12:00P-(W)'s Topic Disc, 5101 Alton P	\$113	\$113	M-F 5:30P-Tustin Rush Hour, 1800 E. La V	\$402
Tu 7:00P-(M)'s Part, 611 Heliotrope	\$1,000		Fr 5:30P-Topic Disc.Grp, 6650 Alton (Kaiser)	\$96	\$96	Su 11:00A-Sun Pumps, 705 W LaVeta	\$70
We 7:00A-Women's B/B Study, 3233 Pacific	\$105	\$105	Sa 9:15A-SS, 5101 Alton Pky	\$120	\$187	Su 7:00P-Spkr/Orange,1800 E LaVeta	\$40
Th 6:00P-Happy Hour (M)'s Pacific View	\$35	\$35	Sa 11:00A-B.B Stdy, 1 Sunnyhill - Turtle	\$90	\$180	Su 7:00P-Sober & Crazy Spkrs,1310 E. Wa	\$35
Th 7:00P-Big Book Study, 611 Heliotrope	\$70		Sa 7:00P-Spkrs, 1 Sunnyhill - Turtle	\$120		Mo 7:00P-(W)'s Step Stdy, 161 Orange	\$83
Fr 8:00P-BB Stdy, 3233 Pacific View	\$70	\$70	<b>LAGUNA BEACH</b>	^	^	Tu 7:00P-(W)'s Keep It Simple, 1310 E Wal	\$41
<b>COSTA MESA</b>	^	^	Dly 7:00A-Attitude Adj, 20456 LCR	\$270	\$270	Fr 7:00P-As Bill Sees It, 161 S. Orange	\$90
Dly 7:00A-Daily Reflect, 2040 Placentia	\$50	\$50	Dly 7:05A-Attitude Adj, 31106 PCH (C)	\$300		<b>RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA</b>	^
M-F 6:45A-Morning Meditat, 183 E. Bay	\$60	\$132	Su 7:05A-Montage Grp, (Montage)	\$102	\$154	Tu 7:30P-Old Time BB Stdy, 30322 VCD	\$240
M-F 12:00P-Noon Rec, 420 W. 19th St.	\$235	\$433	Su 10:00A-Heisler Park Disc, Cliff	\$70	\$70	We 6:30A-Att & Grat, 30605 Ave D/L Flores	\$200
Su 7:00P-Sun Speaker, 678 W. 19th St.	\$100		Su 6:00P-GV Stdy, 21632 Wesley Dr	\$125		Fr 7:30P-Roads End Part, 30322 VCD	\$90
Tu 7:30P-Balboa Broads, 420 W 19th St	\$75	\$75	Mo 6:30P-(W)'s Perspect, 20456 LCR	\$42		Sa 10:30A-(W)'s BB Stdy, VCD	\$100
We 12:00P-High Noon Step, 183 E. Bay St.	\$50	\$50	Mo 7:00P-Mon Night (M)'s Stag @Pat's	\$60		<b>SAN CLEMENTE</b>	^
We 7:30P-Day By Day Serenity, 1865 Anahe	\$50	\$50	Mo 8:00P-(M)'s Stag, 20456 LCR	\$50	\$50	Mo 7:00P-N.O.I. (M)'s, Camino Capist	\$70
Sa 9:30A-(M)'s By The Book, 3080 Airway	\$180		Mo 8:00P-S/Coast (M)'s, 340 S/Ann's	\$116		Tu 6:30P-(M)'s Stag/Munchies, 35522 Cam.	\$214
Sa 9:30A-Sisters/Sobriety 2040 Placentia	\$140		Tu 7:00A-BB Stdy, 20456 LCR	\$231		<b>SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO</b>	^
Sa 6:00P-Cover-To-Cover, 183 E. Bay St.	\$40		Tu 12:30P-Serenity-Sea (W)'s, 340 St Ann's Dr.	\$125	\$125	Dly 7:00A-SJGroup Eye Opener, 27514 C A	\$245
Sa 8:00P-Keep It Simple, 2850 Fairview	\$50	\$50	Tu 6:30P-(M)'s Beg, 31872 So/Coast	\$700		Dly 6:00A-Taking a Trip, 27174 Ortega Hwy	\$350
<b>CYPRESS</b>	^	^	Tu 6:30P-(W)'s Disc, 31872 So/Coast	\$70		Su 5:00P-SJGroup 1 Hr Top Disc, 27514 C	\$180
We 7:00P-Cypress Women's S/S, 5100 Cerrit	\$97		Tu 7:30P-By The Book, 20456 LCR	\$162	\$162	Th 9:30A-(W)'s Back 2 B B/S, 27122A Pase	\$60
<b>DANA POINT</b>	^	^	We/Sat 7:00A-Whale Watch (M)'s, PCH	\$354		<b>SANTA ANA</b>	^
Dly 7:00A-Hard Core Harbor, 34451 Ens	\$4,579		Th 6:30P-(M)'s BYOB 12& 12 SS, 21632	\$37		<b>SEAL BEACH</b>	^
Mo 5:30P-(W)'s Disc, Ensenada & DPH	\$70		Fr 7:30P-Candlelight Acceptance., 20456 LCR	\$70		We 7:30P-(M)'s SS, 8th & Central	\$50
<b>FOUNTAIN VALLEY</b>	^	^	Sa 7:00A-Whale Watchers Men's, PCH@Wesley	\$196		<b>SILVERADO CANYON</b>	^
M-F 8:30A- Morning Meeting, 16581 Brookhur	\$25		Sa 12:30P-Into Action, 20456 LCR	\$40	\$40	Th 7:30P-Fireside Disc, 17641 Silverado C	\$51
We 8:00P-Disc, 10280 Slater	\$70	\$70	Sa 5:00P-Big Book Study, 20456 LCR	\$33	\$33	<b>SUNSET BEACH</b>	^
<b>FULLERTON</b>	^	^	Sa 8:00P-Night Spkr Mtg, 20456 LCR	\$300		Su 10:00A-Sunset Bch Mtg, PCH & Warner	\$60
<b>GARDEN GROVE</b>	^	^	<b>LAGUNA HILLS</b>	^	^	Tu 8:00P- Nomad'sBB Study, 16865 PCH	\$15
Tu 7:00P-Top/Key Book Stdy, 9th & Lamp	\$70	\$70	Su 7:30P-Legacy Grp, 23802 Ave de la Carlotta	\$387	\$387	We 12:00P-Promises Meet, 16865 PCH	\$30
Tu 7:00P-Heartspeak (W)'s, 13082 Bowen St.	\$50		Mo 6:00P-(W)'sDisc, 23802 A D Carlota	\$210	\$210	Sa 7:30A-Disc, 16865 PCH	\$66
<b>HUNTINGTON BEACH</b>	^	^	Th 12:30P-(W)'s Topic Disc, 23181 Verdugo	\$80		<b>TUSTIN</b>	^
Dly 7:00A-Hggrs/Bill Sees It, 8200 Ellis	\$450		Sa 11:00A-Acceptance Grp, 23802 Ave de la Carl	\$313	\$313	Dly 6:00A-Foothill Early Risers, 19211	\$250
Dly 8:00A-Hggrs II, H.B Lifegrnd Tower 11	\$180	\$634	<b>LAGUNA NIGUEL</b>	^	^	Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 1221 Wass	\$241
Su 9:00A-On/Beach, Lifegrnd Tower 11	\$90		Mo 7:00A-Mom (M)'s Stag B2B, 30121 Nig	\$200		M-F 12:00P-Alkies Winners, 555 W.Main	\$324
Su 7:30P-Disc, 20444 Magnolia	\$150		Mo 10:30A-(W)'s 12X12 Stdy, 27802 El Lazo	\$305	\$305	Mo 6:16P-Tustin (W)'s 12X12, 1221 Wass	\$20
Mo 12:00P-(W)'s Bill Sees It, 18631 Chap	\$60	\$150	Mo 8:00P-12&12 Stdy, 30121 Niguel Rd	\$100		Tu 7:00P-BB Stdy, 19211 Dodge	\$174
Mo 6:00P-Spkr/Q&A/Part, 6622 Lakeview	\$50	\$50	Tu 6:30P-(M)'s Disc/Munch L N Reg Park	\$207	\$207	Tu 8:00P-Steps 1-4, 1201 Irvine	\$60
Mo 7:00P-(W)'s Sans, 18631 Chapel Ln.	\$96	\$96	Fr 7:00A-Back to Basics Men's, 30120 Town C D	\$280	\$280	Fr 11:00A-(W)'s B/B Study, 14402 S. Pros	\$7
Mo 7:30P-(M)'s BB & 12&12, 1912 Florida	\$34	\$167	<b>LAGUNA WOODS</b>	^	^	Fr 8:00P-Disc, Pinetree Park (130 W Main)	\$100
Tu 7:30P-(W)'s Disc., 8200 Ellis	\$15	\$30	Dly 7:30A-Do It Sober, 24442 Moulton	\$300		Sa 8:00P-Visiting Spkrs 1221 Wass	\$50
Tu 7:30P-(W)'s Serenity BB, 20444 Magn	\$120		We 1:15P-(W)'s BB Stdy, 24351 El Toro	\$120	\$120	<b>VILLA PARK</b>	^
We 7:30A-Attitude Mod, 18582 Beach	\$60		Fr 10:00A-Top/Hill Gang, 24252 El Toro	\$140		Dly 7:30A-24 Hour Book Grp, 17855 Santia	\$253
We 6:30P-(W)'s Step Stdy, 7641 Talbert	\$30	\$30	<b>LA HABRA</b>	^	^	Fr 12:00P-(W)'s BB Stdy, 17855 Sant	\$52
We 7:00P-Triangle Grp B/B Study, 2721 Dela	\$80	\$80	<b>LAKE FOREST</b>	^	^	<b>WESTMINSTER</b>	^
Th 7:30A-Attitude Mod, 18582 Beach	\$60		Th 7:30P-Mustard Seed SS, 23262 El Toro	\$35		Mo 7:30P-12&12Beginners, 15750 Mag	\$30
Th 6:00P-Ovr 40/Going Strong, 18582 Bch	\$5		<b>LA MIRADA</b>	^	^	<b>WHITTIER</b>	^
Th 7:30P-11th Step Disc., 1912 Florida	\$60	\$60	<b>LAS FLORES</b>	^	^	<b>UNLISTED GROUPS</b>	^
Fr 10:00A-Step Sisters, 18631 Chapel Ln.	\$60	\$108	Sa 7:15P-Mission Spkrs., 26111 Antonio	\$80		Women's Meeting Coyote Grill	\$109
Fr 8:00P-HB Downtowners, 2721 Delaware	\$60	\$60	<b>LOS ALAMITOS</b>	^	^	Fr 5:30P- B/B Study, Irvine UL	\$88
Sa 7:30A-(M)'s Stag, 18582 Beach	\$70		We 7:30P-Ice Breakers Grp, 4111 Katella	\$100		<b>WANDERING GROUPS</b>	^
Sa 7:30A-(M)'s Disc 9812 Hamilton	\$60	\$60	<b>MISSION VIEJO</b>	^	^	(W)'s Wandering-South County UL	\$54
Sa 9:30A-W BB Stdy, 18582 Beach	\$60	\$60	Mo 7:00P- (W)'s SS, 26051 Marg.	\$180		<b>MISC. DONATIONS</b>	^
Sa 9:30A-Charle St. Overflow, 9812 Hamilton	\$40	\$40	Mo 7:00P-(W)'s Book Stdy, 26558 Marg.	\$50		OCCO Change Can	\$8
Sa 10:00A-(W)'s BBStdy, 18631 Chapel	\$70	\$210	We 8:30P-Missionaries Disc, 26558 Marg.	\$85		Satellite Office Change Can	\$7
Sa 7:00P-Sat Nite Live BB, 18631 Chapel	\$90		<b>NEWPORT BEACH</b>	^	^	Intergroup Meeting	\$85
<b>IRVINE</b>	^	^	Dly 6:30A-Jumpstart Disc, 414 E. 32nd St.	\$600		Laguna Beach 4th Step Workshop	\$100
Dly 6:30A-Sunrise Sobriety, 4400 Barr	\$1,203	\$1,203	M-F 5:30P-Fish Out'a Water, 414 E. 32nd	\$120	\$120	Men's Banquet 2008	\$703
M-F 12:00P-Irvine Noon Grp, 5101 Alton	\$200	\$500	Su 9:30A-Sandy Survivors, On/Beach	\$200		<b>PERSONAL DONATIONS</b>	^
Su 10:00A-Donut Mtg, 6670 Alton Pky	\$100	\$150	Su 7:30P-Spkrs, 414 E. 32nd St	\$945		Anonymous	\$200
Su 7:30P-BonitaCnry Disc, 5001 Nwprt	\$80		Mo 8:00P-(M)'s Disc, 301 Nwprt Blvd	\$210	\$490	June L., Irvine	\$75
Tu 12:00P-(W)'s BB Stdy, 5101 Alton Pky	\$137		Tu 7:00P-(W)'s B/Stdy, 2414VistaDelOro	\$172		Wanda R., Huntington Beach	\$25
Tu 7:00P-(M)'s K.I.S. 12X12, 14301 Yale	\$70		We 6:00P-Men's, 414 E. 32nd Street	\$30	\$64	Wanda M., Irvine	\$20
Tu 7:30P-(M)'s Stag BB Grp, 4445 Alton	\$108	\$108	We 6:30P-Wed Nite W's 12+12, 883 W. 15th St.	\$140	\$140	Theresa W., Newport Beach	\$125
			We 7:30P-Wed Night (M)'s, 2401 Irvine	\$100	\$100		

**EVENTS**

**32 Annual San Diego Spring Round Up**

**April 9-12, 2009**

Town & Country Resort Hotel  
www.SanDiegoSpringRoundUp.com

**24th Annual Orange County A.A. Convention**

*A Day at a Time in 2009*

**April 10-12, 2009**

Hilton Hotel, Costa Mesa, CA  
www.oaac.org

**28th Annual Southern California Hospital and Institution Conference**  
*"Carrying The Message"*

**April 24-26, 2009**

Doubletree Hotel, Orange, CA  
www.socalhandi.org

**A.A. Desert Pow Wow**

**June 18-21, 2009**

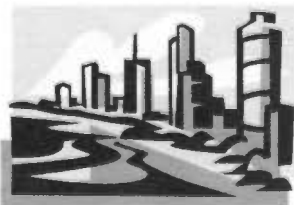
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort  
Indian Wells, CA  
www.desertpowwow.com

**2010 International Convention of A.A.**

*"A Vision for You"*

**July 1-4, 2010**

San Antonio Convention Center  
San Antonio, TX



**SPEAKER MEETINGS**

Costa Mesa

7:00 pm  
Sunday Night Speaker Meeting  
Bethel Towers, Social Hall  
678 West 19th St.  
Contact: Pat M.

Fullerton

8:00 pm  
Dreams Come True  
Friday Night Speaker Meeting  
1st Christian Church  
109 East Wilshire Avenue  
Contact: Paul P.  
(714) 313-7883  
04/03 Fernando H., Fullerton  
04/10 Convention (no meeting)  
04/17 "Dreams" Sober Living Panel  
04/24 Mike and Misty, Fullerton

Garden Grove

8:00 pm  
Thursday Night Speaker Meeting  
Garden Grove Alano Club  
9845 Belfast Dr  
Contact: John S.  
04/02 Gladys, The Villa  
04/09 Arron F., Garden Grove  
04/16 Carlos B., Garden Grove  
04/23 Larry E., Santa Ana  
04/30 Cathy K., Garden Grove

8:00 pm

Saturday Night Speakers  
Garden Grove Alano Club  
9845 Belfast Dr  
Contact: Jon W.  
(714) 235-0215

Huntington Beach

7:00 pm  
Saturday Night Lite Speakers  
HOW Hall, 18582 Beach Blvd  
Behind Flower Kiosk @ Ellis  
Contact: Kevin B.  
(714) 329-3942

Orange

8:00 pm  
No Puffers Speaker Meeting  
Community of Christ Church  
385 S. Tustin Ave  
Contact: Joe C.  
(714) 396-0887  
04/03 Bob D., Tustin  
04/10 Surprise  
04/17 Mike C., Orange  
04/24 Shannon S., Garden Grove

7:00 pm

Sober & Crazy Sunday Night Speakers  
7th Day Adventist Church  
1310 E. Walnut Ave, near Tustin Ave

Contact: Betsy S.  
04/05 Dana S., Fullerton  
04/12 Jim A., Orange County  
04/19 Dexter, Orange County  
04/26 Mike M., Silverado

San Clemente

8:00 pm  
Thursday Night Big Speaker Mtg.  
San Clemente Friendship Center  
Contact: Bob B.

Tustin

8:00 pm  
Saturday Night Visiting Speaker  
St. Paul's Church, 1221 Wass St.  
Contact: Keith S.  
(714) 720-4353  
04/04 Wendy C., Orange  
04/11 Jeryl T., Costa Mesa  
04/18 Brenda D., Diamond Bar  
04/25 Dr. Dan L., Anaheim  
05/02 Mae W., Tustin  
05/09 Paul C., Oceanside  
05/16 Lisa F., Torrance  
05/23 Eric S., N. Tustin  
05/30 Cecilia S., Villa Park  
06/06 David S., Tustin  
06/13 Melissa F., Fullerton  
06/20 Lori P., Anaheim  
06/27 Tyson H., Villa Park

*Submit speaker information to  
LifelineEditor@yahoo.com  
by the 15th of the month.*

**CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY-  
February**

Total Calls Handled by Both Offices:  
1891

**Main and Satellite Office Volunteers**

12 Step Calls	11
Meeting Information	630
General Information	315
Walk-in Customers	216

**Night Owl Volunteers**

12 Step calls	9
Meeting Information	522
General Information	261

**Group Contributions continued from page 5**

IN LOVING MEMORY		A	A
GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED		A	A
Receipt#1198 SJC			\$100
Receipt#1202			\$90
Receipt#1134			\$130
Receipt#1241		\$112	\$112
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$10,914</b>	<b>\$33,100</b>

# Welcome 2009 Orange County Intergroup Service Board

*Announcement!*

Chair, Frank M.  
Vice Chair, Pearl  
Treasurer, Art H.  
Secretary, Nick N.  
Central Office, Roxanne R.

## Who? What? When? Where?

Public Relations Committee, Barry P.

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm

Group Relations Committee, Carlos T.

Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm

Lifeline Committee, Bill W.

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm

Special Events Committee, Ann M.

Meetings scheduled as needed

H & I Committee, Nick M.

Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Garden Grove Alano Club. Institutions meet at 4:00 pm; Hospitals meet at 6:00 pm. South Orange County H & I meets at the Laguna Beach Canyon Club the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

With the exception of H & I, the above committees meet at Central Office, 1526 Brookhollow, Suite 75, Santa Ana, CA 92705. If you are interested in serving on a committee or would like more information please contact the above or Central Office at 714-556-4555.

Your service is appreciated!

The Orange County Intergroup Association Meeting

**Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 PM**

Please call Central Office for the April Intergroup Meeting Location.  
(714) 556-4555



*Orange County H & I*

On the 2nd Sunday of the month  
Garden Grove Alano Club, 714-534-2244  
9845 Belfast Drive, Garden Grove, CA  
For additional info call 714-979-8524  
Or Central Office: 714-556-4555

*To Carry the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Alcoholic who is confined in a Hospital or Institution*

*South Orange County H & I*

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm  
Laguna Canyon Club, 949-497-1823  
20456 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach

# Happy Birthday!!



Help keep the doors of AA open so that new members may receive the same help so many of us have already received. Make a donation of any amount for an AA Birthday—yours or someone else's—and we will help celebrate by publishing their name and years of sobriety in the *Lifeline*.

Please send donations to:  
Orange County Central Office  
1526 E. Warner  
Suite 75, Santa Ana California 92705

Patti L.	Laguna Niguel	1 year
Linda H.	Dana Point	2 years
Jahmal	Dana Point	5 years
Sue S.	Laguna Niguel	5 years
Robin T.	Costa Mesa	6 years
Sharon T.	Anaheim	6 years
Noreen G.	Orange	7 years
Paul S.	San Clemente	8 years
Bob M.	Westminster	10 years
Ken C.	Santa Ana	12 years
Larry E.	Santa Ana	12 years
Miles T.	San Juan Capistrano	14 years
Carol W.	Orange	17 years
Bill D.	Laguna Niguel	17 years
Dee S.	Tustin	18 years
Doug P.	Irvine	18 years
Steve L.	Dana Point	20 years
Heidi McG.	Orange	20 years
Steve H.	Orange	21 years
Melody N.	Tustin	23 years
Joyce D.	Mission Viejo	25 years
Dotty B.	Laguna Niguel	26 years
Laura D.	Capistrano Beach	27 years
Kathleen W.	Laguna Niguel	29 years
Barbara B.	Laguna Woods	30 years
Bill W.	Laguna Niguel	35 years
Millie D.	Huntington Beach	37 years

## ORANGE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

1526 Brookhollow, Suite 75  
(Mailing address: 1526 E. Warner, Suite 75)  
Santa Ana, California 92705  
Phone: (714) 556-4555, Fax: (714) 556-7231  
E-mail: ocaa7664@sbcglobal.net

Web site: [www.oc-aa.org](http://www.oc-aa.org)  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Sat 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

South County Office: 27281 Las Ramblas, Ste.135  
Mission Viejo 92691  
Phone: (949) 582-2697, Fax: (949) 582-2611  
E-mail: socoaa@sbcglobal.net  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00AM to 5:00 PM

**MEETING CHANGES SINCE  
JANUARY 9, 2009**

**SUNDAY**

**SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

3:00 PM THE THINK GROUP 32171  
Avenida Los Amigos (House) New meeting

**SANTA ANA**

9:00 AM WISE WOMEN OF AA On Broadway btwn 15th Street & Washington enter from Sycamore (Y-Place) New meeting

**MONDAY**

**LAGUNA BEACH**

5:00 PM AA FOR DUMMIES 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd New meeting

**LAKE FOREST**

6:00 PM READY FOR RECOVERY 23861 El Toro Rd c/s Rockfield (7th floor of WaMu Building) New meeting

**NEWPORT BEACH**

6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr @ 16th Street (Newport Harbor Lutheran Church) New meeting

**RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA**

7:00 PM (C) WOMEN'S STAYING SOBER 30382 Via Con Dios c/s RMS Pkwy (Church) Address correction

**TUESDAY**

**LAGUNA NIGUEL**

7:00 AM (C) TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BIG BOOK/STEP STUDY 30121 Niguel Road @ Crown Valley (Church) New meeting

**LAGUNA WOODS**

7:30 AM (C) 12 STEP MEETING 24442 Moulton Pkwy (United Methodist Church's Youth Room) New meeting

**NEWPORT BEACH**

6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old Newport Blvd @ Hospital Rd (Zubie's Restaurant) New location & Name  
6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr @ 16th Street (Newport Harbor Lutheran Church) New meeting

**RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA**

7:30 PM (C) OLD TIME AA BIG BOOK STUDY 30382 Via Con Dios c/s RMS Pkwy (Church) Address correction

**WEDNESDAY**

**BREA**

6:30 AM WOMEN'S 11TH STEP MEETING 300 E Imperial Hwy @ S Brea Blvd (Brea Congregational Church) New meeting

**COSTA MESA**

7:00 PM (C) 420 BEGINNERS MEN 420 W 19th St. (1st Methodist Church across from Triangle Square) New name & time

**GARDEN GROVE**

8:00 PM NOT TAKING A TRIP 13472 Gilbert St @ Trask New meeting

**LA HABRA**

7:00 PM (C) WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

631 N. Euclid @ E Whittier Blvd (Methodist Church) Time change

**LAGUNA BEACH**

7:00 AM BIG BOOK STUDY 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd. New meeting

**MISSION VIEJO**

9:30 AM (C) WOMEN 26051 Marguerite Pkwy @ Oso (Church - babies under age one welcome)

**NEWPORT BEACH**

6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old Newport Blvd @ Hospital Rd (Zubie's Restaurant) New location & name  
6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr @ 16th Street (Newport Harbor Lutheran Church) New meeting

**TUSTIN**

6:00 AM 6:00 AM FOOTHILL EARLY RISERS WOMEN 19211 Dodge Avenue (Church of the Foothills) New meeting

**THURSDAY**

**NEWPORT BEACH**

6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old Newport Blvd @ Hospital Rd (Zubie's Restaurant) New location & name  
6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr @ 16th Street (Newport Harbor Lutheran Church) New meeting

**FRIDAY**

**COSTA MESA**

8:00 PM (C) BIG BOOK ADVENTURERS 2144 Thurin St @ Victoria St (Grange Hall) Address correction

**LAGUNA BEACH**

7:45 PM SURRENDER TO WIN 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd New time

**NEWPORT BEACH**

6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old Newport Blvd @ Hospital Rd (Zubie's Restaurant) New location & name

**RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA**

7:30 PM ROADS END PARTICIPATION 30382 Via Con Dios c/s RMS Pkwy (Church) Address correction

**SATURDAY**

**NEWPORT BEACH**

8:30 AM (C) MEN'S BOOK STUDY 414 E. 32nd St. New meeting

**RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA**

10:30 AM (C) WOMEN'S BIG BOOK STUDY 30382 Via Con Dios c/s RMS Pkwy (Church) Address correction

**WHITTIER**

10:30 AM (C) WOMEN'S ACCEPTANCE 16153 Russell Ave @ Borgardus (Whittier Hills Baptist Church) New Location

**MEETING DELETIONS SINCE  
January 9, 2009**

**MONDAY**

**FULLERTON**

7:30 PM 12 STEP STUDY PARTICIPA-

TION 2505 Yorba Linda Blvd (Eastside Church)

**TUESDAY**

**NEWPORT BEACH**

4:00 PM (C) WOMEN'S CALIFORNIA CLAPPERS 798 Dover @ 16th

**WEDNESDAY**

**COSTA MESA**

7:00 PM OPEN DISCUSSION 2800 S. Harbor Blvd Suite C

**THURSDAY**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY**

8:00 PM AA KEEPING IT REAL, PARTICIPATION 16581 Brookhurst St @ Heil & Warner (Mile Square Plaza)

**FULLERTON**

8:00 PM 11TH STEP 530 W. Commonwealth

**YORBA LINDA**

7:30 PM SERENITY SEEKERS 18372 Lemon Dr. @ Main St

**OLD TIMER'S PRAYER**

*Lord, keep me from the habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details -give me wings to get to the point. I ask for the grace to listen to the tales of others pains. Help me to endure them in patience. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains - they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all - but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends in the end.*



From the May, 1979, *Lifeline*

### I ACT THIS DAY

What does it mean to "practice these principles in all my affairs?" I have heard many answers to this question in meetings and at the coffee shop. Some have become my daily practice and as I look back, this has had an enormous impact on my life - my days have. the. cumulative. Spiritual quality of the little acts of each moment. I collect these suggestions below, arranged mnemonically by the words "HALT-HOW-HAS:"

**HUNGRY** I have not always used the correct fuel: I will eat a moderate, balanced diet at regular meals (sweet food may diminish an urge to drink) .

**ANGRY** Words once uttered cannot be recalled: I will speak moderately today or not at all, or avoid confrontation entirely. Today I will say a pleasant truth about someone I dislike.

**LONELY** Alone I may be in bad company: I will talk to a sober alcoholic today - go to a meeting and greet a newcomer there.

**TIRED** I once treated my body with contempt- today I will do some moderate exercise out of doors, like take a walk; not allow obsessive work, play or coffee to trick me out of enough sleep; take appropriate steps if I am ill.

**HONESTY** My resistance to this is amazing: I will pay my bills scrupulously - not steal, even a little - take the 10th Step with some-one this day (I do not lack the opportunity) —avoid promises and boasts.

**OPEN MINDEDNESS** For this I need practice: I will learn something new today, perhaps by looking up a word in the dictionary. I will interrupt a habit this day, perhaps by trying a new food, or perhaps by observing every traffic law exactly as it says. I will think twice before saying "no".

**WILLINGNESS** I can show others the way here: I will be on time today -obey the rules, to fit in — do some useful work this day, such as clean up ash trays.

**HUMILITY** This is a game: I will do something for some one today without getting caught, so no one ever finds out. I will accept criticism and will not defend myself or be right. I will accept every compliment with understanding instead of belief.

**ACTION** It is easy moment by moment: I will look for and recognize. The small chores that come my way all day long, like dishwashing, and do them now, completely finish whatever I start — put things away when I'm done.

**SOBRIETY** In each of these acts I will not ask myself if I want to do it; rather I will accept fun in the doing. I encourage myself with the fact of today's sobriety and will not be discouraged by mistakes I make. I will not snivel.

George McC., Laguna Beach

### *Funny stuff*

A man and his wife are having a huge argument when their car is stopped by a police officer. The following exchange takes place....



*The man says:* "What's the problem officer?"  
*Officer:* "You were going at least 75 in a 55 zone."

*Man:* "No sir, I was going 65."  
*Wife:* "Oh, Harry. You were going 80."  
[Man gives his wife a dirty look.]

*Officer:* "I'm also going to give you a ticket for your broken tail light."

*Man:* "Broken tail light? I didn't know about a broken tail light!"  
*Wife:* "Oh Harry, you've known about that tail light for weeks."  
[Man gives his wife a dirty look.]

*Officer:* "I'm also going to give you a citation for not wearing your seat belt."

*Man:* "Oh, I just took it off when you were walking up to the car."  
*Wife:* "Oh, Harry, you never wear your seat belt."

Man turns to his wife and yells: "Shut your mouth, woman!"

Officer turns to the woman and asks, "Ma'am, does your husband talk to you this way all the time?"  
Wife says: "No, only when he's drunk."



*Believe more deeply,  
Hold your face up to the  
Light, even though for the  
moment you do not see.*

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

**RECOVERY WORD SEARCH**

A WORD SEARCH, like all the others you've seen: words can be up, down, across or diagonal.  
 Have fun, and win a few minutes of free sobriety!  
 Reprinted from the Ventura County Tradition, with thanks.

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

- |            |             |              |          |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Service    | Steps       | Reflect      | Fun      |
| Stay Sober | Contribute  | Self Support | Hugs     |
| Sponsor    | Principles  | Desire       | Meditate |
| Spiritual  | Willingness | Greet        | Pray     |
| Faith      | Let Go      | Attitude     | Read     |
| Share      | Honesty     | Balance      |          |
| Ask        | Give        |              |          |

*Besides the original author's word listing, there are several other words you can find easily, such as GIN, SEX, COW, BUG, EAR, DIN, BAR, and ZAP. And maybe many more. Good hunting!*

***Suggested Alternative Closing Prayer...***

*I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness, no longer must we depend on our own unsteady willpower. We are all together now, reaching out our hands for power and strength greater than ours, and, as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond our wildest dreams.*

From A.A. in Russia as reported in the BC/Yukon area newsletter.

**AA is.....**

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualification for membership is that they can't hold their liquor and don't want to learn how. It has no rules, dues or fees, nor anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program, except that it works. The groups are always broke, yet always seem to have money to carry on. They are always losing members but seem to grow. They claim AA is a self-ish program but always seem to be doing something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements which everyone blithely ignores, members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing happened and greeted accordingly. Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and survive magnificently. Nothing in AA is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God made man and woman. He made laughter, too. Perhaps He is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe He is pleased, not with our perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe He is pleased with our trying to be nobody, but ourselves. We don't know how it works, but it does and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their AA investments. It is smart to be sober and it is much easier, my friends, to stay sober than to get sober.

-Unknown

## CALL FORWARDING

**“Alcoholics Anonymous, how may we help you?”**



### **CALL FORWARDING:**

The call forwarding program instituted by Orange County Central Office insures that our help line phones are answered by volunteers 24/7. During hours when the Central Office is closed, calls to the Central Office are forwarded to a call forwarding volunteer's home or cell phone, where the volunteer answers the calls just as if he or she were sitting in the Central Office. This service allows the Central Office to realize a significant cost saving because we do not need to contract with a phone answering service. Even more vital, when a call is placed to Alcoholics Anonymous in Orange County, the caller will be talking to an Alcoholics Anonymous member not a phone service! This truly is "front-line" 12<sup>th</sup> Step work and we would appreciate any time you can give.

### **SHIFTS:**

Monday thru Friday shifts are 6am to 9am, 6pm to 9pm and 9pm to 6am. Saturday shifts start with the 6am to 9am. The Central Office opens and covers from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. The phones are than forwarded to volunteers to cover the phones from 1pm to 4pm, 4pm to 7pm, 7pm to 10pm and 10pm to 6am. On Sundays and Holidays shifts begin at 6am with the 6am to 10am, and continue with 10am to 2pm, 2pm to 6pm, 6pm to 10pm and 10pm to 6am.

**New evening shifts available  
6pm to 9pm  
Monday thru Friday**

### **VOLUNTEERING:**

In order to volunteer for this service it is suggested that you have two years of sobriety. You must than arrange with the Central Office Manager in Santa Ana or the Satellite Office Manager in Mission Viejo for a brief orientation session which will be held at one of the offices. Shifts are available please call the Central Office at (714) 556-4555 or the Satellite Office at (949) 582-2697.

## ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF AA

Statement of Income and Expenses for Period Ending 02/28/2009

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Group Donations	\$10,497.26	\$32,282.03
Individual/Fellowship	\$332.00	\$620.00
Literature Sales	\$8,849.85	\$18,480.49
Birthday Donations	\$361.65	\$1,184.65
In Memoriam	\$0.00	\$0.00
Intergroup Donations	\$85.00	\$196.50
Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$196.71	\$356.65
Misc. (Repaid Bounced Checks)	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$20,322.47</b>	<b>\$53,120.32</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Audits/Accounting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auto (All Managers)	\$26.77	\$103.03
Bank Charge	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash/Invoices OverShort	\$2.27	\$1.77
Insurances	\$32.84	\$1,168.23
Intergroup Expense	\$195.50	\$195.50
Lease Expense	\$389.07	\$778.14
Maintenance & Repairs	\$0.00	\$378.08
Volunteers Coffee + Water	\$49.30	\$211.22
Offices' Supplies + Expenses	\$210.77	\$412.97
Pension Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$135.61	\$179.31
P/I, Donated Literature	\$481.65	\$521.65
Rent Main/Satellite Offices	\$2,797.75	\$6,459.50
Salaries	\$10,399.38	\$20,383.86
Reimb. Health Insurance	\$280.17	\$560.34
Payroll Tax Expense	\$795.57	\$1,560.87
Taxes & Licenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Telephone Expense	\$548.93	\$1,044.82
LIFELINE Expense	\$1,200.90	\$2,463.61
Cost of Literature Sold	\$7,644.34	\$15,963.11
Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. (Returned Checks)	\$0.00	\$59.89
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$25,190.82</b>	<b>\$52,445.90</b>
<b>INCOME/(LOSS):</b>	<b>-\$4,868.35</b>	<b>\$674.42</b>

**THE LIFELINE, 1526 BROOKHOLLOW DR., SUITE 75, SANTA ANA, CA 92705- Published monthly by the Orange County Intergroup Association**  
**Purpose:** The Orange County Lifeline Committee is a committee of volunteer A.A. members, charged with the responsibility of producing and distributing the Orange County Lifeline, (a publication of the Orange County Intergroup Association). The Lifeline is published monthly and is supported solely through contributions from the A.A. groups and members of Orange County. The Lifeline is published to meet the following needs of the Orange County A.A. membership: to inform the A.A. membership regarding A.A. service, A.A. events and A.A. announcements; also to share experience in recovery, unity and service; to keep the A.A. membership informed regarding the actions, finances and meetings of the Orange County Intergroup Association and other Central Office committees.

**Lifeline Committee: Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at the Central Office. Join us @ 7PM.**

Bill W. (Chair), Jim S., Phil F., Nick M., George L., Dave H., Tarcy H. (Editor)

Mail submissions to the above address or send email to: [lifelineeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:lifelineeditor@yahoo.com)

# We Are Not A Glum Lot

CLASSIC CARTOONS AND JOKES  
FROM THE AA GRAPEVINE



"Rigorous honesty... rigorous honesty... rigorous honesty..."

ONE DAY, I SAW A SMILING, ELDERLY woman sitting on her porch, so I walked up to her and said, "I couldn't help noticing how happy you look. What is your secret for such a long, happy, life?"

With a smile as slow as her words, she said "I smoke five packs of cigarettes a day, I drink light beer, dark beer, and that carb-friendly beer. When I wake up in the morning, I mix a little whiskey in my coffee and then polish off the whole bottle for lunch. I eat only junk food, I never exercise, and on weekends, I may raid the medicine cabinet to liven things up a little bit."

"That's amazing!" I exclaimed. "How old are you?"

"Twenty-four," she replied.

It was W. C. Fields who said, "I drink to steady my nerves, and sometimes I get so steady I can hardly move."

Heard from an old-timer: "I probably only need one meeting a week, but I go every day because I don't know which one it's going to be."

How do you set up a drunk in a nice, small business?

Set him up in a nice, big business, and then wait.

The recently appointed director of the Grand Rapids alcoholism rehabilitation center is a big man in the eyes of his nine-year-old son, says a clipping from a local paper.

The boy, starting classes at school, was asked by his teacher: "What is your father's occupation?"

The boy replied: "My father is the chief alcoholic in Grand Rapids."

