A Good Way to Get Humble

Step 7—Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. Page 59, Alcoholics Anonymous.

During my initial journey through the Twelve Steps, I found that I needed lots of help from other alcoholics. And I got it. My sponsor probably got sick and tired of my inquiries. And he didn't even know that I was getting all kinds of advice and suggestions from the men and women of my home group.

I wore out several of them with Step 7.

"How humble do I have to be?" I recall asking Don M.

"Just be honest," the old-timer responded.

I told him and Dean K., and John C. and Maureen J. and Urban C. and lots of others that I wasn't even sure what a character defect was. And I told Bob E. as well. Bob said that a defect of character could be anything that got in the way of my being of service to my Higher Power.

"Anything?" I remember asking.

"Anything," Bob said emphatically.

So I started compiling a list of items about me that I wasn't too proud of and I started small. I wrote down procrastination. And dishonesty. And impatience. And some others.

And I asked the God of my understanding to remove them all. I was back to Bob in a week. I told him I had asked God -- as humbly as I could -- to remove what I considered character defects.

"OK," said Bob, "and what happened?"

"I still put things off until the last minute," I moaned, "and I'm almost always late. And I'm not as patient as I should be and I'm still struggling with honesty and ..."

"Hold it," Bob interrupted me. "You need to think about whatever it is you're asking and who you're asking. Maybe you could cut God a little slack with your demand for instant action on removing the defects. Do you think you could try to work on patience for a while?"

I said I could although I really wasn't sure that patience was what I needed. Then Bob delivered a lesson I hope I never forget. He probably got it elsewhere since most of what we hear in Alcoholics Anonymous is not original material. "When you take your requests to God," Bob said, "you can look forward to one of three responses. He may say 'Yes, no or I'll think about it.'"

So patience was vital. But I wasn't feeling very humble about it.

My home group reads a different Tradition on the last Friday of each month. In April of my second year we read and discussed the Fourth Tradition and the trials of Middleton Group No. 1. The coining of Rule No. 62 to take a lighter view of what had been a disaster allowed the Middleton promoter to "laugh at himself -- and that is the very acme of humility." The lesson wasn't lost on me and I'm grateful others had the learning experience for me.

George L., Westminster

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Wow, an awful lot of words to state a simple principle - we have to pay our own way! Now I see why the decision was made to come up with a short version of the traditions - Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. But even a simple principle can be misunderstood when it isn't fully explained to someone who might be uninformed – like a newcomer in A.A. I remember when I was new in A.A., drunk, carrying a court card and the worse kind of ignorant – "I don't know and I'm not gonna ask!" In my first meeting, after being thoroughly caught uninformed again. But there are some things that ultimately for my own good. Honoring the Seventh Tradition required that I give up some of the last vestiges of selfishness and become a giver. I quit buying the cookies each week — if the group wanted the cookies they would have to make that decision — and 17 years later, they still don't have cookies at that meeting.

About ten years ago, a new Spanish-speaking group had started in a Southern California city that had no Spanish-speaking groups. Attendance was very small (three or four members). But the local Spanish-speaking district, which met each week, encouraged members from other Spanish-speaking groups to visit the new group on different days and to be generous in their contributions to the members. Imagine that — fiscal responsibility in alcoholics.

A very wise man, my second sponsor, gave me another vital piece in understanding the Seventh Tradition, in fact, any tradition. He said that each tradition looks to the 12th Tradition as its spiritual goal — anonymity through humility. In looking to the 12th Tradition, each tradition tells me something I need to relinquish for the good of A.A., and ultimately for my own good. Honoring the Seventh Tradition required that I give up some of the last vestiges of selfishness and become a giver. I quit buying the cookies each week — if the group wanted the cookies they would have to make that decision — and 17 years later, they still don't have cookies at that meeting.

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasures which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

The last great truth about the traditions comes out of the 12th Tradition as its spiritual goal — anonymity through humility. In looking to the 12th Tradition, each tradition tells me something I need to relinquish for the good of A.A., and ultimately for my own good. Honoring the Seventh Tradition required that I give up some of the last vestiges of selfishness and become a giver. I quit buying the cookies each week — if the group wanted the cookies they would have to make that decision — and 17 years later, they still don't have cookies at that meeting.

Meeting one night that the group hadn't made a donation to the Central Office or any General Service level in his memory. He proposed that we quit buying $25 worth of cookies a week, (no exaggeration) and send donations at the end of each month, (after setting aside a prudent reserve) to the General Service entities and Central Office. Mustering all my newly-sober indignation, I marshaled the courage to demand that we hang onto our money, and even though I didn't eat the cookies, they were a real attraction to the newcomer. A vote was taken, and I was absolutely astounded that the group voted to do what the GSR had suggested. Well, I'll show them — I bought $25 worth of cookies each week for the next 6 months and donated them to the meeting — so there! But somehow, I knew that the group had done the right thing, and I filed this new information away - self-support doesn't end at the group, it goes to all areas of A.A.

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About ten years ago, a new Spanish-speaking group had started in a Southern California city that had no Spanish-speaking groups. Attendance was very small (three or four members). But the local Spanish-speaking district, which met each week, encouraged members from other Spanish-speaking groups to visit the new group on different days and to be generous in their contributions to the 7th Tradition. I attended a meeting of the new group on their one year anniversary and it was a very festive and joyful occasion. The new group had survived and now had 21 members. So, was the new group fully self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions? Hadn't the groups visiting the new group been in violation of the tradition by not allowing the new group to sustain itself through the voluntary contributions of its own members? By a strict interpretation of the 7th Tradition, I would have to answer the questions "no" to the first question and "yes" to the second. The last great truth about the traditions comes out of the 12 & 12 when a group was having a great controversy about whether or not to kick out a member of the group. The controversy raged until a member of the group asked the other members of the group a simple question, "What would the Master do?" For me, knowing and doing what the Master would have me do is the practice of genuine humility and the achievement of the anonymity which is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions.

Member of A.A. in Orange County
Got a Problem? Send a Letter to “Dear Alkie Alma”

The Lifeline continues a new column this month. Alma will answer your questions about getting sober, staying sober and carrying the message of recovery. If you think Alma can help, please send your letters to “Dear Alkie Alma” c/o OCCO, 1526 E. Warner Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705, or email them to lifelineeditor@yahoo.com.

What are Those Concepts All About?

Dear Alma:

When I was five years sober, all I had ever heard about were the Steps and the Traditions. Then, I heard about the concepts. I still don’t know too much about them. Please, can you give me a brief description?

Bill W., La Habra

Dear Bill,

The “Twelve Concepts for World Service” were adopted at the General Service Conference in 1962. They grew out of Bill W.’s concern for the smooth functioning of A.A.’s service structure in future years. As he wrote in his Introduction they “are an interpretation of A.A.’s service structure”… so that “the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost.”

They go well beyond the Traditions in laying out the roles and limitations of the different elements of our service structure. Again, Bill writes, … they “carefully delineate those important traditions, customs, relationships and legal arrangements that weld the General Service Board into a working harmony with its primary committees and with its corporate arms of active service – A. A. World Services, Inc. and the A. A. Grapevine, Inc. This is the substance of the structural framework that governs the internal working situation of A. A.’s World Headquarters.”

If you want to delve into them further, Bill, you might purchase a copy of the A.A. Service Manual at a Central Office. It also incorporates the Concepts.

Alcoholics Defiant?

Dear Alma,

Why do so many alcoholics seem so defiant by nature?

Jack S., Seal Beach

Dear Jack,

Maybe “defiance” is rooted in the “denial” that active alcoholics so easily embrace about “the fatal nature of their situation.” Even in sobriety, it takes many of us a long time to stop defying authority, superiors and even “God as we understood him.” It does seem to be one component of our disease.

As Bill wrote in the Twelve and Twelve, “When we encountered A. A., the fallacy of our defiance was revealed. At no time had we asked what God’s will was for us; instead we had been telling him what it ought to be.” For myself, I had to develop the willingness to see that I was not always “right”, that there was a “power greater than myself” that was willing and able to help as soon as I was ready to accept that help. This acceptance has resulted in a sober life that has been rich in spiritual rewards… just another way of saying, “belief meant reliance, not defiance.”

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.

Learning to Stop Fighting

Since history is always a great teacher, I looked up hurricane in the Digital Archive and found this poignant story from the July 1965 Grapevine and reprinted it in the spirit of respect to the event and to those who suffered and are still suffering. In the Grapevine, the article was titled Learning to Relax.

When I was a small boy living in the City of New Orleans, a tropical hurricane practically wrecked the city but my home was untouched. After the storm, my father and I were walking in Audubon Park, surrounded by the casualties of the gale. Giant oak trees lay on all sides, uprooted after centuries of leafy grandeur. We came to a small grove of willow trees and these tender saplings were not uprooted, were not even damaged, but swayed gently in the breeze that was the aftermath of the storm. My father said to me: “They lived, for they were able to bend with the power of the wind. The oaks could not do this and they died.”

That is essentially what the A.A. admonition to stop fighting everything and everybody means to me. As an alcoholic I have come to know that I must learn to relax with the tensions of life, or they would destroy me. In short, there are forces in life far more powerful than I – alcohol is one of them – against which it is suicide to struggle. So I must accept this parade of powers as something I cannot change. To fight forces more powerful than I is to beat the air in frustrating futility. I stopped fighting and, lo, the enemy has retreated, the compulsion to drink has gone away.

V.W., Los Altos CA.,
The Grapevine, July, 1965
Thus began an effort that had treated over 5,000 suffering alcoholics at St. Thomas’ up until Dr. Bob’s death in 1950. Meanwhile, the fellowship surged in Cleveland after “the wonderful publicity which the Cleveland Plain Dealer gave us in the fall of 1939.” “Meanwhile Cleveland’s membership soared to hundreds in a month of months. There at Cleveland in the winter of 1939, they proved that mass production of sobriety was a glad fact. This is Cleveland’s great and rightful claim to distinction as a pioneer group.”

But this prodigious effort had to have help from the town’s hospitals. Such amazing results could have been obtained in no other way. As in Akron, after the excitement died down, some of the hospitals got weary of drunks. But Cleveland’s (St. Vincent) Charity Hospital never did. Since 1940, it has admitted alcoholics and has provided a ward for them. Though Cleveland was lacking a ‘Dr. Bob,’ the Charity ward did nevertheless prosper nobly under the guidance and devoted interest of Sister Victorine and Father Nagle, the hospital’s Chaplain.”

Sister Ignatia was transferred to St. Vincent in 1952, and, working with Sister Victorine, continued this noble work until her death in 1966.* So, Sandy C. R.’s letter provides a direct link to those good Sisters who gave such effective support to the efforts of those early A.A.’s in Akron and Cleveland.

*See the August, 1966, *Grapevine*, for Bill’s tribute to Sister Ignatia.

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**EVENTS**

**33rd Annual Sequoia Campout**
Sequoia National Forest
July 3-7, 2009

**2009 MAAD DOG DAZE**
“We are Not a Glum Lot”
The Doral Desert Princess Resort
Cathedral City, CA
August 7-9, 2009
www.maddogdaze.org

**24th Annual Alcoholics Anonymous Summer Serenity in the Sierras**
Evergreen Conference Center
Oakhurst, CA
August 14-16, 2009

**Monterey Bay Area Roundup**
Monterey Conference Center
Monterey, CA
September 4-6, 2009

**Woman to Woman San Diego**
September 25-27, 2009
The Dana of Mission Bay
San Diego, CA
www.womantowomansandiego.com

**2010 International Convention of A.A.**
“A Vision for You”
July 1-4, 2010
San Antonio Convention Center
San Antonio, TX

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**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.
07/03 Terrel S., Garden Grove
07/10 Liz K., Placentia
07/17 Haven House Women’s Christian Sober Living Panel
07/24 Danny & Mary B., AA couple
07/31 Sean M., AA & Jen M., Alanon

**Garden Grove**
8:00 pm
Thursday Night Speaker Meeting
Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Dr
Contact: John S.

8:00 pm
Saturday Night Speakers
Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Dr
Contact: Jon W.

**Huntington Beach**
7:00 pm
Saturday Night Lite Speakers
HOW Hall, 18582 Beach Blvd
Behind Flower Kiosk @ Ellis
Contact: Kevin B.

**Orange**
8:00 pm
No Puffers Speaker Meeting
Community of Christ Church
385 S. Tustin Ave
Contact: Guillermo S.
07/03 Darren R., Garden Grove
07/10 Unknown at time of print
07/17 Jim S., Cypress
07/24 Wendy A., Santa Ana
07/31 Cisco., Santa Ana
08/07 Jill H., Newport Beach
08/14 Terrel S., Anaheim
08/21 Lisette L., La Habra Heights
08/28 Tim S., Newport Beach
7:00 pm
Sober & Crazy Sunday Night Speakers
7th Day Adventist Church
1310 E. Walnut Ave, near Tustin Ave
Contact: Betsy S.
07/05 Jim S., Cypress
07/12 Lynn S., Foothill Ranch
07/19 Duane L, Placentia
07/26 Brad G., Anaheim

**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.
07/04 Uncle Surprise
07/11 Barbara M., Santa Ana
07/18 Mike M., San Pedro
07/25 Regina K., Laguna Beach
08/01 Alex D., Irvine
08/08 Norma R., Yorba Linda
08/15 Brian R., Hesperia
08/22 Denise M., Garden Grove
08/29 Patrick S., Orange County
09/05 Nikki J., Laguna Beach
09/12 Paul C., Oceanside
09/19 Linda C. & Jim C., Costa Mesa
09/26 Andy E., Corona

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**WEB STATISTICS**

"The first on-line issue of the Lifeline was posted to our web site in July of 2006. However, when our site hosting company changed servers in June, 2007, some usage statistics before then were lost. Since January, 2007, the Lifeline home page has been viewed 10,561 times. Individual issue files have been viewed 18,669 times."

In May, there were 15,879 "visits" to www.ocaa.org.
Welcome 2009 Orange County Intergroup Service Board

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!

Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor.

INCH BY INCH, IT’S A CINCH. BUT BY THE YARD, IT’S VERY HARD.

The Amazing Versatility of Alcohol

A friend said that he read a newspaper article that said alcohol will remove stains from clothes. This is correct, he says, and it just goes to prove the amazing versatility of alcohol.

If used in sufficient quantity, alcohol will also remove clothes from a man, as well as from his wife and children.

Alcohol will remove good reputation, good jobs, good friends, happiness from children’s hearts, sanity, freedom, and even life itself. As a remover of things, alcohol has no equal.

Viewpoint, North County Newsletter
MEETING CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 9, 2009

SUNDAY
NEWPORT BEACH
7:15 AM (C) MEN’S CLOSED BIG BOOK STUDY 798 Dover Dr @ 16th Street (Newport Harbor Lutheran Church) New meeting
7:30 PM HERE & NOW DISCUSSION 414 E. 32nd St. Changed to open
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
3:00 PM THE THINK GROUP 32171 Avenida Los Amigos (House) New meeting
SANTA ANA
9:00 AM WISE WOMEN OF A.A. 1411 N Broadway c/s 17th Street (Old YMCA enter on Sycamore) New meeting
MONDAY
FULLERTON
6:00 PM FULLERTON BIG BOOK 215 North Lemon btwn Commonwealth Ave & Chapman Av (Behind Church) New meeting
IRVINE
5:00 PM (C) BIG BLUE WOMEN’S GROUP 5001 Newport Coast Dr c/s Bonita Cyn (Mariners Church, Rm191) New meeting
LAGUNA BEACH
5:00 PM AA FOR DUMMIES 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd. 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
12:00 PM (C) THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE 14402 S. Prospect Ave. (Unity Church’s Victoria house) New meeting
8:00 PM MEN’S PARTICIPATION 225 W. Main @ C. (Presbyterian Church Rm C205) Change to Open
BREA
7:00 PM STEP STUDY WORKSHOP 300 E. Imperial Hwy @ Brea Blvd (Congregational Church house) Time change
CYPRESS
7:30 PM FIRST HALF OF THE FIRST STEP 5681 Vonnie Lane c/s Walker & Lincoln New meeting
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
MISSION VIEJO
12:00 PM MEN’S MEETING 23166 Los Alisos Blvd @ Oak Tree Village (#238 above market, park in rear) Change to open
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
WHITTIER
7:00 PM (C) NO NONSENSE 12 X 12 7056 South Washington Ave. c/s Wardman (Church) (LA) Established meeting
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) 7:30 PM “GET HONEST” DISCUSSION 23166 Los Alisos Blvd @ Oak Tree Village (#238 above market, park in rear) New address
NEWPORT BEACH
6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old Newport Blvd @ Hospital Rd (Zubie’s Restaurant) New location & name
ORANGE
7:30 PM (C) EASY DOES IT 4201Chapman Ave @ Lewis St (Kaiser Medical Center - 2nd Fl) New address
TUSCANY
6:00 AM 6:00 AM FOOTHILL EARLY RISERS WOMEN 19211 Dodge Avenue (Church of the Foothills) New meeting
12:00 PM (C) THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE 14402 S. Prospect Ave. (Unity Church’s Victoria house) New meeting
THURSDAY
ANAHEIM
6:30 PM (C) BILLS BABES WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY 311 W South St Btw S Anaheim & S Harbor (St Michaels Episcopal) New meeting
8:00 PM PIONEER SPEAKER GROUP 202 W. Broadway @ Lemon Time change
LAGUNA BEACH
7:00 AM 11TH STEP MEDITATION 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd. (Rm 2) Name change
MISSION VIEJO
12:00 PM (C) MEN’S DISCUSSION 23166 Los Alisos Blvd @ Oak Tree Village (#238 above market, park in rear) Change to closed
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
SILVERADO
7:30 PM FIRESIDE DISCUSSION 27641 Silverado Canyon Rd. (Community Center) Address correction
FRIDAY
COSTA MESA
6:30 PM WOMEN’S CANDLELIGHT 12&12 RECOVERY STEP STUDY 393 Hamilton St c/s Harbor (Costa Mirage Appts Clubhouse) New meeting
8:00 PM (C) BIG BOOK ADVENTURERS 2144 Thrut St @ Victoria St (Grange Hall) Address correction
HUNTINGTON BEACH
8:00 PM REBOS PARTICIPATION 18831 Chapel Lane @ Ellis (St. Wilfrid’s Church) Time change
IRVINE
7:30 PM (C) BROTHERS IN SOBRIETY 4400 Barranca Pkwy btwn Lake Rd & W Yale New name
LAGUNA BEACH
7:45 PM SURRENDER TO WIN 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd. New time
LOS ALAMITOS
8:00 PM LA PALMA BIG BOOK SPEAKERS 11600 Los Alamitos c/s Orangewood (Good Shepard Church) New meeting
MISSION VIEJO
6:00 AM STEP STUDY 23166 Los Alisos Blvd @ Oak Tree Village (#238 above market Rm2, park in rear) New meeting
8:30 PM COUCH MEETING 26001 Muirlands Blvd @ La Paz (Shepherd of the Hills Church) Change to open
NEWPORT BEACH
6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old Newport Blvd @ Hospital Rd (Zubie’s Restaurant) New location & name
7:00 PM BARE KNUCKLES AA 414 E. 32nd St. (Upstairs) New meeting
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
7:30 PM ROADS END PARTICIPATION 30382 Via Con Dios c/s RMS Pkwy (Church) Address correction
TUSCANY
12:00 PM (C) THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE 14402 S. Prospect Ave. (Unity Church’s Victoria house) New meeting
YORBA LINDA
12:00 PM (C) DAILY REFLECTIONS 19771 Yorba Linda Blvd. @ Fairmont (St. Martin’s Church) New meeting
SATURDAY
COSTA MESA
2:30 PM BIG BOOK STUDY & DISCUSSION 275 Victoria St @ Newport Blvd (College Hospital Bldg 275 Conf Rm B) New meeting
FULLERTON
6:00 PM SAT. NITE LIVE 1465 W. Orangethorpe @ Basque (Church) Correct Thomas Guide
Continued on page 8
Meeting Changes Continued from page 7

IRVINE
6:30 AM BACK ROOM STEP STUDY 4400 Barranca Pkwy btwn Lake Rd & W Yale (in back of Church)  New name

MISSION VIEJO
7:30 AM (C) DISCUSSION 23166 Los Alisos Blvd @ Oak Tree Village (#238 above market, park in rear)  Change to closed

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/o RMS Pkwy (Church)  Address correction

SAN CLEMENTE
8:00 PM SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE 929 Calle Negocio, Ste H @ Calle Amanecer  New meeting

MEETING DELETIONS SINCE January 9, 2009

SUNDAY
ORANGE
6:00 PM CHAPTER 9 FAMILY AFTERWARD BB STUDY 250 Prospect Delete

MONDAY
FULLERTON
7:30 PM 12 STEP STUDY PARTICIPATION 2505 Yorba Linda Blvd (Eastside Church) Delete

LAKE FOREST
6:00 PM READLY FOR RECOVERY 23861 El Toro Road Delete

TUESDAY
FULLERTON
7:30 AM BIG BOOK STUDY 12&12 1145 W Valencia Mesa Dr Delete

NEWPORT BEACH
4:00 PM (C) WOMEN’S CALIFORNIA CLAPPERS 798 Dover @ 16th Delete

WEDNESDAY
(C) CONVICTS WANDERING AA MEETING Delete

COSTA MESA
10:00 AM SEEKING THE STEPS WOMEN’S 2833 Europa Dr Delete
7:00 PM OPEN DISCUSSION 2800 S. Harbor Blvd Suite C (Nata’le) Delete

FULLERTON
7:30 AM BIG BOOK STUDY 12&12 1145 W Valencia Mesa Dr Delete

LA HABRA
8:00 PM (C) SOLD ON SOBRIETY 12 & 12 150 N. Palm (Church) Delete

MISSION VIEJO
5:30 PM YOUNG PEOPLE 23166 Los Alisos Blvd Delete

NEWPORT BEACH
6:45 AM ATTITUED ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Drive Delete

THURSDAY
COSTA MESA
5:30 PM TOPIC DISCUSSION 3151 Airway Avenue Delete

FOUNTAIN VALLEY
8:00 PM AA KEEPING IT REAL PARTICIPA- TION, 16581 Brookhurst St @ Heil & Warner (Mile Square Plaza) Delete

FULLERTON
7:30 AM BIG BOOK STUDY 12&12 1145 W Valencia Mesa Dr Delete
8:00 PM 11TH STEP 530 W. Commonwealth Delete

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
6:00 PM DO THE STEPS 32222 Del Obispo Delete

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

FRIDAY
CERRITOS
8:00 PM FRIDAY BIG BOOK 12881 166th St, Remax bldg #110 Delete

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

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

Photo taken on the R527. More than 30% of all fatalities in road accidents in South Africa are pedestrians. Many of these accidents happen in poorly lit rural areas on weekends, when both motorists and pedestrians have had a “few”.

CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY-May
Total Calls Handled by Both Offices: 2152

Main and Satellite Office Volunteers

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<th>Service</th>
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<td>General Information</td>
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<td>Walk-in Customers</td>
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Night Owl Volunteers

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Non-alcoholics change their behavior to meet their goals; active alcoholics change their goals to meet their behavior.

An active alcoholic can be in the gutter and still look down on people.

If the cure works, chances are you have the disease.

Three most dangerous words for an alcoholic:....."I've been thinking".

The newcomer said, “I think my drinking is over. I told my friend last winter, ‘I will go to A.A. when PIGS FLY.’ Wouldn’t you know it, this Spring—SWINE FLU.” Submitted by: Merle N., Huntington Beach
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” 12th 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 then 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.

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.

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., Jack J., Tarcy H. (Editor)
Mail submissions to the above address or send email to: lifelineeditor@yahoo.com
GREAT THINGS I’VE HEARD AT MEETINGS.

Acceptance isn’t necessarily approval.
Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.
Don’t get resentful of a resentful person.
Every problem has a lifespan that only God knows.
It’s hard to keep an open mind with an open mouth.
Feed your faith and starve your doubt.
Self-esteem is a matter of discipline.
Complaining is not an action step.
Gratitude is the aristocrat of virtues.

As we go to press, a lady A.A. from California, who has spent many years in social service work, submits the following conclusion: “I am convinced that there are two things which cannot be concealed—alcoholism and pregnancy.”

Tolerance is the ability to sit quietly in a closed meeting and hear everybody in the room say everything you were going to say when your turn came.

Sign in a Chicago gin mill: WE KNOW THERE’S A RECESSION ON, BUT PLEASE—ONLY ONE CUSTOMER TO A DRINK.

Only in the dictionary does success come before work.

A man is always as young as he feels, but seldom as important.

All of those “little things,” sleep, health, picking a rose, taking a walk in a summer shower, are not fully enjoyed until after they have been interrupted.

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