The Miracles That Saved Us

Editor’s Note -- When Alcoholics Anonymous® observes its 74th anniversary on June 10, it will mark the longest-running program designed to arrest alcoholism in the history of our planet. The following is reprinted from the June, 2002, issue of Long Beach’s Harbor Light.

I’ve heard it said that the word "miracle" is the most overworked word in the Alcoholics Anonymous vocabulary. Maybe so. But it is probably with good cause. If you were looking for a list of A.A.’s heroes, Bill W. and Dr. Bob might not be on the slate.

In fact, Bill W.’s idea that one alcoholic might be able to get another alcoholic sober simply by talking to him nearly ended up on the scrapheap in 1935 when Bill told wife Lois that he was through with his "one drunk talking to another" project.

"None of these drunks have gotten sober," Bill is reported to have told Lois. She responded with an observation that changed history for every alcoholic.

"You did," she said.

You can call that the first of an avalanche of miracles that paved the way for Alcoholics Anonymous to begin.

Another miracle occurred in Akron, Ohio, in May of 1935. His dream of a successful business venture shattered, the still-sober Bill W. wandered the halls of that city’s Mayflower Hotel, contemplating a drink or two before returning to New York. He spotted a list of churches with the names and phone numbers of their pastors in the lobby. He recalled that he had promised some of his friends at home that he’d try to make contact with the Oxford Group in Akron before he left for home. Even that effort seemed doomed since his calls to the list of pastors netted no one willing to talk to him about the city's alcoholics. But the last minister on the list told him of a woman member of the Oxford Group who had spoke of a doctor who was having difficul-

Continued on page 2
And here's still another miracle. Bob and Bill talked for nearly five hours on that Monday afternoon. When they were done, the doctor told his wife: "He knows how I feel." Bob asked Bill to stay in Akron for a few days and although the doctor had another drunk in him in early June, he came out of the fog of alcohol addiction and by June 10th had covered the Four Absolutes of the Oxford Group and was standing tall as the first person to start a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. And the miracles just keep on coming. Just look around the room at your next A.A. meeting.

Arthur P., Long Beach

THE BALLOONIST

A man in a hot air balloon realizes he is lost. He reduces altitude and spots a man on the ground. As he draws closer, he calls out: "Excuse me. Can you help me? I promised a friend I'd meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am!"

The man on the ground yells back: "Yes, I can help. You are in a hot air balloon, floating at about — oh, I'd say, 40 feet above the ground. You are at latitude 40 degrees North and longitude 85 degrees West."

"Thanks a lot," said the balloonist, "You must be a sponsor."

"You're welcome," replied the man on the ground, "and, yes I am. But how did you know?"

"Well," said the lost balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea of what to make of the information. The fact is I'm still lost."

To which the man on the ground replies: "I see. And you must be a sponsee."

"I am," was the reply, "How did you know that?"

"Well," responded the man on the ground, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You've made a promise you can't keep and now you expect me to solve that problem for you. You're in the same jam you were in before we met, only now, somehow, it's become my fault.

Reprinted from, Akron Intergroup News, May, 2000

From the June, 1979, Lifeline

WILL WE SQUANDER OUR INHERITANCE?

Listen to the squanderer who says "A.A. should relax its Traditions," (Usually the person who says that doesn't even know the Traditions), or "I've done my share," or "I don't want the responsibility," or "I don't have time to get to meetings anymore," etc., etc., etc. Listen on the telephone while I make excuses to a sick woman calling for help because there are no sober women willing to make the call. One day, I was turned down by six gals in a row... "My hair is in curlers!" "I was just on my way out the door..." etc. (I can't remember ever making a twelfth step call that was convenient for me at the time.

Another sign of squandering is seen in the list for the answering service of only twelve people willing to accept calls after office hours.

WOULD THE PHONE HAVE RUNG UNANSWERED WHEN YOU CALLED? WOULD YOU BE ALIVE AND SOBER TODAY????

ANSWER THAT 12TH STEP CALL. THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!
STEP 6—Looking For the Defects

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. Page 59, Alcoholics Anonymous.

On one of my frequent hospital visits near the end of my drinking, I recall asking a counselor if she might be able to suggest something for me to do to get sober and stay sober. She smiled at me and said: "You're going to have to change, George." "Change what?" I asked.

"Everything," came the reply.

But paying attention was not something I did willingly and as a result I found myself revising my Ninth Step lists and congratulating myself on how well I was working the program -- sober less than a year and roaring through the Steps as if I'd been shot out of a cannon. I was neck-deep in arranging the amends needed to satisfy my obligation to Steps 8 and 9 when I suddenly got derailed. I was in my office on a certain Tuesday, making out my time card, and I wrote the number "2" in the box for overtime. Then I stopped and looked at the number. I hadn't worked five minutes of overtime that week. I hadn't worked any overtime before but I had written "2" or "3" in that week, too. I started a new time card and left the overtime box blank.

Then I stopped and looked at the missing number. And I was able to put the correct label on that defect of character. Most people would call it theft.

I called my sponsor and told him of the overtime lapse. "Is that the only defect you haven't owned up to yet?" Bob asked. "I don't know," I answered. "I hope so."

When I took the Steps eight years later, there were new defects dogging my path. Identifying them made it easier to deal with them. Shortly before my mother died I was able to hire a woman to come to my home and care for my mom. She cooked and sat with my mother and the county and state both said I could be reimbursed for the time my mother’s caregiver was in the house. That proposal was tempting but -- thank God -- I remembered the earlier episode with the faked overtime and I managed to simply file for the woman's actual hours.

Through the entire Sixth Step process, that wonderful man who was my sponsor let me bounce each new defect off him and, without judging, ask me if it needed to be acted upon. (I don't recall even one that didn't need action.) It would appear that simply saying that I am entirely ready to have God remove the defects doesn't get the job done. I have to go looking for the defects and then I have to ask God to work His magic on them. When I do that and when God does His part, it’s amazing how happy, joyous and free I can become. Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I'm on the trail of a couple more shortcomings that require my attention. I'm pretty sure I'm never going to run out of defects and that's helpful for me. I'm sure that if I harbored the idea that I could ever clean up the entire slate I'd be simply deluding myself. And God wouldn't let me do that.

George L., Westminster, CA

Tradition Six

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Number 6 of 12 articles on the 12 Traditions

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one. 6th Tradition Long Form

How important is our tradition of non-affiliation? Remember when we looked at the long form of the 3rd Tradition, it read, “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”. So, it pretty much says that any A.A. can do much anything as long as it does not reach the level of affiliation with anything or anyone else. Tradition Four goes a little more into that – do you see a progression here?

It is Tradition 6 that may be A.A.’s single most important principle of Unity. As long as we don’t bind ourselves to anyone else, we will always make our own way. This is especially important in financial affairs, but also is vitally important in matters of how the public sees Alcoholics Anonymous. Can you imagine if A.A. affiliated with a particular religious sect, (as we did in our formative years, with our close relationship with the Oxford Groups). The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book says that we once considered affiliating with a whiskey distilling company in order to raise funds. Can you imagine where that would’ve probably gone?

So, it is our tradition of non-affiliation that (1) ensures that we never drive anyone away due to our affiliation with another organization, and (2) mandates that we must be fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

Next month: Tradition Seven – Money makes the world go ’round.

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

---

We’re Saving You a Seat

Dear Alma,

Please print this letter for Jeri B., wherever she may be.

“Dear Jeri B.,

I am the literature person for one of my weekly AA meetings. I went shopping for used Big Books and bought two of them at the Acres of Books used book store on Long Beach Boulevard. One of the books is yours, Jeri.

The book must have over 100 signatures on the front pages. There is also a message written on one of the front pages reading, ’Welcome to a sober, loving way of life...of sharing and caring’ (dated 1983). In the back of the book it says, ’Dear Jeri, it is good to have you back and I know the courage it took. Hang in there a day at a time. 8-7-83.’ On the same page there is a sticker with your name.

It struck me as odd that someone would get rid of a Big Book that was so personalized, unless they came to believe they didn’t need it anymore.

Jeri, if you are out there drinking successfully, our hats are off to you. But if you be alcoholic like us, it’s probably not working too well.

Jeri, I don’t want to give your Big Book away again, so it’s waiting for you down at the Harbor Area AA Central Office. Please come down and pick it up, and join us once again. There are a lot of sober people who care about you and want to support you on the road to recovery. We’ve got a seat saved for you.

G. L., Westminster”

---

We Are Not Doctors

Hi Alma,

I have heard of a sponsorship line that tells their sponsees not to take any drugs at all including those prescribed by physicians. I have read of deaths that have occurred due to this practice. I was told the key is that if medication is taken “as prescribed and not abused” then no problem should ensue.

In the AA pamphlet for sponsorship it states that we are not doctors, therapists, psychiatrists, etc. It would seem that sponsors that practice the idea of sponsees not taking any prescribed drugs are in error. Would you please clarify this? Thanks,

Robin T.

Dear Robin,

You are so right. In the pamphlet, Questions and Answers on Sponsorship, it states, “An AA sponsor does not provide any such services as those offered by a social worker, a doctor, a nurse, or a marriage counselor... And it is not professional training that enables a sponsor to help - it is just personal experience and observation.”

More to the point is the pamphlet The A.A. Member-Medications & Other Drugs. Prepared by doctors who are A.A. members, it provides practical guidelines for the use of medications. In summary, it makes these points:

1. Remember that as a recovering alcoholic your automatic response will be to turn to chemical relief for uncomfortable feelings and take more than usual, prescribed amount. Look for non-chemical solutions ... 3. No A.A. Member Plays Doctor 4. Be completely honest with yourself and your physician regarding use of medication...”

The pamphlet also includes the shared experience of several members which should provide practical insight into your concerns.

In the end, each member needs to examine their own situation with “rigorous honesty” to determine the right course of action.

---

WEB SITE 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 10,181 times. Individual issue files have been viewed 18,590 times.

In April, there were 15,668 "visits" to www.ocaa.org. From June, 2008, through April, 2009, visits averaged 16,339 per month.
MEETING CHANGES SINCE
JANUARY 9, 2009

SUNDAY
NEWPORT BEACH
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 AA On Broadway btwn 15th
Street & Washington enter from Sycamore (Y-Place) New
meeting

MONDAY
FULLERTON
6:00 PM FULLERTON BIG BOOK 215 North Lemon btwn
Commonwealth Ave (Behind Church) 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 meet-
ing

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA
7:00 PM (C) WOMEN'S STAYING SOBER 30832 Via Con
Dios c/s RMS Pkwy (Church) Established meeting

TUESDAY
BREA
7:00 PM STEP STUDY WORKSHOP 300 E. Imperial Hwy
@ Brea Blvd (Congregational Church) Time change

CYPRESS
7:30 PM FIRST HALF OF THE FIRST STEP 5691 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

NEWPORT BEACH
6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old New-
port 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 meet-
ing

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
8:00 PM (C) NO NONSENSE 12 X 12 7056 South Wash-
ington 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 Babies under age one under age one
welcome)

NEWPORT BEACH
6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old New-
port 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

ORANGE
7:30 PM (C) EASY DOES IT 4201 Chapman Ave @ Lewis
St (Kaiser Medical Center - 2nd Fl) New address

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

NEWPORT BEACH
6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old New-
port 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 Thrush St @
Victoria St (Grange Hall) Address correction

LAGUNA BEACH
7:45 PM DINNER W/ WELCOME 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd.
New time

LOS ALAMITOS
7:00 PM (C) NO NONSENSE 12 X 12 7056 South Washing-
ton Ave. c/s Wardman(Church)(LA) Established meeting

MISSION VIEJO
8:30 PM COUCH MEETING 26001 Murriaths Blvd @ La
Paz (Shepherd of the Hills Church) Change to open

NEWPORT BEACH
6:30 AM CHICKEN COOP ROUND TABLE 414 Old New-
port 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

TUSTIN
12:00 PM (C) THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE 14402 S.
Prospect Ave. (Unity Church's Victoria house) New meet-
ing

YORBA LINDA
12:00 PM (C) DAILY REFLECTIONS 19771 Yorba Linda
Bivd. @ Fairmont (St. Martin's Church) New meeting

SATURDAY
FULLERTON
6:00 PM SAT. NITE LIVE 1465 W. Orangetherpe @
Basaque (Church) Correct Thomas Guide

IRVINE
6:30 AM THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE 14402 S.
Prospect Ave. (Unity Church's Victoria house) New meet-
ing

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

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

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

MEETING DELETIONS SINCE
January 9, 2009

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

LAKE FOREST
6:00 PM MEETING DELETIONS SINCE 23861 El Toro Road

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

Continued on page 6
Interesting proposition: If my sobriety was a roadmap it would be full of numerous twists, u turns and a few off-roading adventures.

The biggest turning point in my life would have to be May 18, 1993, the day of my last drink. I was 30 years of age, living with my parents, had recently finished a one year commitment with the Orange County Sheriff, my drivers license had been revoked, I was getting ready to file bankruptcy, and I was working at a job way below my standards (only because my mom made me get a job). Nobody would talk to me. I went to a bar where the barmaid had been kind to me once hoping to get some conversation. Nobody there wanted anything to do with me either. I caught a look at myself in the famous mirror behind the bar and saw myself for what I was, a drunken bum.

Now I had been to AA before. At the age of 19 I was sentenced to my first AA meeting. I went drunk (which was to become a pattern) and wanted nothing to do with AA. So at the age of 30 I had one more drink. It was a 24 ounce Mikes. I went home to my parents and prayed to God “PLEASE HELP ME.” I was not raised in any religion, but I had been sent to a lot of AA meetings over the years. Something must have sunk in.

On May 19th I went to my first AA meeting this time around. I did not go in the meeting. I sat in the parking lot hoping to see somebody I knew. I was riddled with fear and could not go in. This continued for the next five days. I would sit in the parking lot of some meeting then turn around and go back to moms. On the fifth day I was actually thinking maybe I have overreacted here. I’m not that bad, I feel ok. But for some reason I went to the meeting and actually went inside. In this meeting I met the man who was to become my first sponsor. He offered me a ride home and offered to pick me up the following evening, another turning point as I accepted the help that was offered. All my life I had kept people at arms length, at least when I sensed their help would require some effort on my part.

Another turning point would have to be sharing my fourth step with that man. I found out we were not all that different. A year later I told him about the part I left out. A small detail at the time of the fifth step but huge a year later. From there I got commitments, moved into sober living, jobs got progressively better, etc.

Paul P., Fullerton
**Speaker Meetings**

**Fullerton**
8:00 pm
Dreams Come True
Friday Night Speaker Meeting
1st Christian Church
109 East Wilshire Avenue
Contact: Paul P.
06/05 Carol F., Fullerton
06/12 Noel E., Huntington Beach
06/19 Lew D., Huntington Beach
06/26 Donny & Jill M., Fullerton

**Garden Grove**
8:00 pm
Thursday Night Speaker Meeting
Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Dr
Contact: John S.
06/04 Roger M., Huntington Beach
06/11 Erick D., Buena Park
06/18 George R., Anaheim
06/25 Matt R., Cypress
8:00 pm
Saturday Night Speakers
Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Dr
Contact: Jon W.

**Huntington Beach**
7:00 pm
Sober & Crazy Sunday Night Speakers
Community of Christ Church
385 S. Tustin Ave
Contact: Joe C.
7:00 pm
7th Day Adventist Church
1310 E. Walnut Ave, near Tustin Ave
Contact: Betsy S.
06/02 Tammy S., Orange
06/14 Herb N., San Clemente
06/21 Jeanette M., Orange
06/28 Bill M., Corona

**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.

**Secretary’s Workshop**
If you want to learn how to be a Secretary of a meeting or if you’re already a secretary this is a great workshop to be at. We will have guest speakers from different service functions and a chance to ask questions, like what makes a group or even about the Traditions. This is a chance to pass on experience and strength from years of action and continuous service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Garden Grove Alano Club**
9845 Belfast Dr.
Garden Grove, CA.
June 21, 2009
2pm—5pm

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

**Events**

**A.A. Desert Pow Wow**
June 18-21, 2009
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort
Indian Wells, CA
www.desertpowwow.com

**36 Annual Antelope Valley Round Up**
June 26-28, 2009
Antelope Valley Inn & Convention Center
Lancaster, CA

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

**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
Beach Canyon Club the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Special Events Committee, Ann M. Vice Chair, Pearl David H. Lake Forest 50 years Bob T. Laguna Woods 30 years John C. Huntington Beach 24 years Brenda D. Diamond Bar 5 years Alan S. Dana Point 1 year Richard H. Yorba Linda 21 years Judy C. Huntington Beach 24 years Bob T. Laguna Woods 30 years David H. Lake Forest 50 years

Dear Lord,

And for what you have given me; For what you have taken away from me; And for what you have left me.

ORANGE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE
1526 Brookhollow, Suite 75
Santa Ana, California 92705
Phone: (714) 556-4555, Fax: (714) 556-7231
E-mail: occa@sbglobal.net
Web site: 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: socoa@sbcglobal.net
Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00AM to 5:00 PM
The difference between a problem drinker and an Alcoholic is that:

When alcohol is taken away from the problem drinker, the problem goes away.

When alcohol is taken away from the Alcoholic, the problem begins.
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 then 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 obstreperous newcomer was being advised by a couple of old timers.

“We think,” said one of them, “that it would help a lot if you could achieve a little more humility.”

“What do you mean, humility!” exploded the newcomer. “Why, when it comes to humility, I’m tops!”

COUNSEL (to police witness): “But if a man is on his hands and knees in the middle of the road, that does not prove he is drunk.”

Policeman: “No, sir, it does not. But this one was trying to roll up the white line!”

“What’ll you have, gents?” Joe asked the three newly-arrived customers.

“A double Martini on the rocks for him and plain ginger ale for us,” said one of the three.

As he set the glasses on the bar, Joe addressed the ginger ale drinkers. “I’ll bet you two fellows are in AA,” he said.

“All three of us are,” one of the men told him. “You see, we come from a small group upstate. In fact, we’re the only members.” He nodded toward the Martini gulper. “So we take turns Twelfth-Stepping one another.”

Copyright ©1944-2009 The AA Grapevine, Inc.