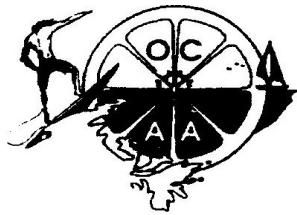


Santa Ana, CA

Lifeline



2009



Orange
County
Intergroup
Association

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At the Expense of Others

"I'm an alcoholic--and a drug addict." "I have to say this--for me." "I know this is a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous but.."

I used to think I *had* to share about my drug use. After all, AA teaches us to be rigorously honest, doesn't it? And as a younger person in AA, I was different than a lot of the older, "pure" alcoholics, wasn't I? Nobody is going to tell me what to say. Nobody did, either. (A couple of old-timers took me aside after the meetings to talk about this, but I dismissed them.)

One night, I was talking in the parking lot after a meeting of my home group. As the people cleared out, I realized there were just two of us left--myself and a newcomer. He was in his sixties. We got to talking and he actually seemed to be listening to me! I really felt amazed that a man old enough to be my grandfather would listen to me about anything, and especially about AA.



The meeting that night had been on Step One and many people, including me, recalled their use of drugs (some in great detail). This man and I began to talk about the meeting and then he dropped a bombshell on me. He didn't think he qualified to be an alcoholic because he hadn't used any drugs! Here was a man who drank for more years than I have been alive (most of them, by his account, alcoholically), yet he didn't feel like he belonged in AA. And we were supposedly talking about alcoholism!

Well, I sputtered and stammered for a while and I finally convinced him that the only requirement for membership was a desire to stop drinking and that there were no requirements for drug use involved. Thank God he is still sober.

Later that night, I really began to question myself and the message I was carrying. Sure, it was important that I qualified and identified myself, but were the details worth it at the possible expense of others? I realized I should stick to alcohol and alcoholism in order to keep the door wide open, not make it more narrow. If even one person gets the wrong idea and feels they don't belong, that is one too many. Besides, I had been sober for a while and I knew what I was.

I guess I started to think just a little more about other people than I did about myself. So that's why some groups are so concerned about AA's singleness of purpose--some groups in my area even read a statement of singleness of purpose before their meetings. It isn't just to be tedious and nitpicky and to "bust chops," especially the chops of young people. It is so all alcoholics can feel that they belong once they get to AA.

J. H., Dover, PA

AA Grapevine, March 1992, Vol. 48 No. 10

ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW DAY BY DAY
NOTHING CHANGES BUT WHEN YOU LOOK BACK
EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT?

STEP 3—Those Four Magic Words

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.

Step 3, p59, Alcoholics Anonymous

In the four years between the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous® on June 10, 1935, and the publication of our book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in April of 1939, our organization was racked by a wave of discussion that, at times, bordered on dissension. So severe was the debate over what was to go into the book bearing our name that it often seemed to threaten the very existence of the fledgling group.

The 1951 copy of the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous that serves as my guide says that the book tells “The Story of How Many Thousands of Men and Women Have Recovered from Alcoholism.” The foreword to the companion volume, “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,” has a different view. By 1938, the “!2 and 12” says, although three successful groups had emerged “it was hard to find two-score of sure recoveries in all three groups.”

The reason for the schism was apparent. One faction wanted the book to deal chiefly with God’s love; another group, composed largely of atheists and agnostics, wanted to see the subject matter concentrated on alcoholism.

Bill W. received some specific advice on how to write the book. His First Step spoke of calamity and disaster. The Second Step is an admission of defeat. And the Third Step appeals to a Higher Power for help. In Pass It On, Bill notes that he received some calls objecting to “the frequent use of the word ‘God’ and to asking on one’s knees to have one’s shortcomings removed.” P-199, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. On the same page, Bill says “Jimmy B. opposed the strong references to God” and that “Hank wanted to soft pedal them.” But Fitz insisted that the book express “Christian doctrine and use Biblical terms and expressions.”

Ruth Hock, the non-alcoholic secretary employed at A.A. at the time, recalled that the gulf between those disparate views was so pronounced that it seemed agreement could not be found. Without naming anyone in particular as the author, Ruth said that out of the debate came the phrase “God as we understood Him.” And she didn’t think it “ever had much of a negative reaction anywhere.

But Bill considered the phrase as “concessions to those of little or no faith.” Still, he called them “the great contribution of our atheists and agnostics” and he added that “They had widened our gateway so that all who suffer might pass through, regardless of their belief or lack of belief.” So Step Three appeared in the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous not as Bill originally wrote it but with the added clause, “God as we understood Him.”

About six years ago, at a Big Book study in Huntington Beach, a young man stood and asked what the phrase meant. A dozen hands went up and the leader tactfully asked each one to explain what “God as we understood Him” meant to them. The responses were markedly similar although some responded with some bitterness toward the God they knew in childhood. To me, the best response was so simple that even Dr. Bob would have been amazed.

“It means,” said a young woman, “that I don’t have to worship someone else’s God.” And neither do you. Or me.

George L., Westminster



From the March, 1979, Lifeline

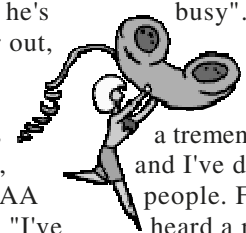
TELEPHONITIS

"You can be sure I won't call you unless it is absolutely necessary. I know how busy you are." In such a manner did the newcomer respond to being given my phone number and the assurance that he could call me "anytime, day or night." Less than a month earlier this same man had been annoying his relatives and friends with his telephonitis. Now he has suddenly become ultra-concerned about annoying people.

Why does sobriety do this to us? We don't have the slightest hesitation about making that call when we are drinking. Last week, for example, a gal said in her pitch that she had "called the President of the United States." "He wasn't in," she informed us.

Then the moment we get sober, and our new found friends urge us to use the telephone at every opportunity, we become very coy and think of a million reasons why we "shouldn't bother" the callee. "Maybe he's busy". "Maybe he's eating, or sleeping, or out, or whatever." "Maybe he'll think that's a dumb reason to call." etc.etc. etc. etc.

The telephone plays a tremendously important role in my sobriety, and I've developed effective reasons for calling AA people. For example, to call an old-timer, I say, "I've heard a rumor that you're still sober and I'm calling to see if it's true." To call any member of AA I can always say, "I'm running a sobriety check. How are you?" Of course one of the nicest reasons is, "I just wanted you to know I was thinking of you and that I care about you," or more simply, to just say, "Don't have a reason-just thought I'd call."



I like to keep in mind that ordinarily we are paying the person a compliment and doing them a favor when we call. This can sometimes be dramatically obvious. Three weeks ago, a young lady called to talk about "fear" because I had mentioned it in a pitch a month earlier. Last week, for no particular reason, I phoned her during the evening in another town. Her husband answered the phone. After we talked for a few moments, he admitted that they had been in the middle of a big fight, and "when the phone rang, I thought it was the police telling us to quiet down." He was so impressed by the timing of my call and the fact that I did not know then, and had no reason to call, that he hasn't raised his voice since.

Sometimes I wonder if AA would be around if it weren't for the telephone. Certainly I wouldn't be sober without AA, and certainly AA wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for Alexander Graham Bell's invention. Don't think about the call. Just pick up the phone and start dialing.

Paul O., Anaheim

MEETING CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 9, 2009

SUNDAY SANTA ANA

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

MONDAY 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, Newport Beach, CA (Newport Barbor 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

NEWPORT BEACH

6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr, Newport Beach, CA (Newport Barbor 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

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

6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr, Newport Beach, CA (Newport Barbor Lutheran Church) New meeting

THURSDAY

NEWPORT BEACH

6:45 AM ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT II 798 Dover Dr, Newport Beach, CA (Newport Barbor Lutheran Church) New meeting

FRIDAY

LAGUNA BEACH

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

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

MEETING DELETIONS SINCE January 9, 2009

MONDAY

FULLERTON

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

TUESDAY

NEWPORT BEACH

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

THURSDAY

FOUNTAIN VALLEY

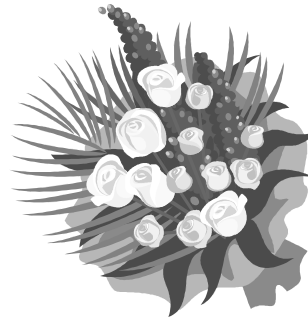
8:00 PM AA KEEPING IT REAL, PARTICIPATION 16581 Brookhurst St

FULLERTON

8:00 PM 11TH STEP 530 W. Commonwealth

YORBA LINDA

7:30 PM SERENITY SEEKERS 18372 Lemon Dr.



*Mary Ann M.
A Friend Never Forgotten
July 31st 1946 - December 14th 2008*

The Memorial for Mary Ann M. took place at H.O.W. Hall in Huntington Beach on January 17th 2009. It was standing room only. People came from all over the place, including her surviving cousin, and her family. We were all there to pay our respects to a

very special lady who touched our hearts in so many ways over the passing years. She was (MAALKY) for those of us that had that special opportunity to spend time with her. Her sobriety date was August 8th 1978, so she was 30 years sober at the time of her passing. She was very active in A.A., as well as her personal life. She served on the Board of the Villa Woman's Recovery Home as their Treasurer, and she was also involved with Intergroup at one time, as well as serving on the Board. In 1992, she was the Chairman of the Orange County Convention. She was involved for over two decades in General Service; she was DCMC of District 6 and, currently, was DCM of District 6. She also sat on the finance committee for Mid Southern California Area 09; she helped start H.O.W. Hall, and served on their board. She was instrumental in starting the Saturday speaker meeting there. She was also involved in an online A.A. meeting, and enjoyed playing online pinochle. She was also a member in good standing in the order of Eastern Star, Mt. Whitney Chapter, Bishop, CA. She will be missed by all. We love you Mary Ann.



**37th Annual ACYPAA Round-Up!
Hosted in Orange County at the Irvine Marriott
March 12th - 15th, 2009**

What Is ACYPAA?

In 1973, the All California Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Round-Up was established as an annual gathering in California to provide an opportunity for young AA's to come together and share their experience, strength, and hope. ACYPAA is visible evidence that large numbers of people are achieving a lasting and comfortable sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous. AA's who attend an ACYPAA Round-Up return home better prepared to receive young alcoholics who come to AA seeking recovery.

www.ACYPAA2009.org

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.

Dear Alma,
I've got a sponsor, I'm working on the Steps, but I'm still so sensitive.

Janice A., Orange

Dear Janice,
As Bill W. wrote in Step 12 of the “12 and 12” after several doctors did a study of a group of “problem drinkers”, “They finally came up with a conclusion that shocked the A.A. members of that time...” they “had the nerve to say that most of the alcoholics under investigation were still childish, emotionally sensitive, and grandiose.” Read the section on Tradition 4. Try to practice Rule 62. Also see Number 9 below.

Dear Alma,
I've really, totally accepted the First Step; boy, am I powerless. Trouble is, I am stuck there. I can't seem to move on to Two and Three. I turned my back on formal religion years ago, but now I am supposed to “come to believe.” Can an atheist like me ever make it in A.A.?

Brent V., Tustin

Dear Brent,
I can sympathize. I struggled with this as well when I was around a year sober. Then, one night at a discussion meeting after an “old timer” had droned on and on about the “God business”, a hand went up went the back of the room. Finally recognized by the leader, “Hostile” Bob H. proclaimed, “You don't have to buy all this God stuff. All you need to do is achieve a massive psychic change.” I figured, I could do that, so I relaxed and worked Two, Three, Four and Five as best as I could. Guess what? I was relieved of my obsession, and now wanted AA with all my heart. Guess that's what “Hostile” Bob meant. There are so many examples of how many members came to believe. Check our books and the *Grapevine* Archive online. Here are two: *From the January, 1968, Grapevine*. “On Saturday, October 7, 1967, Bill W., AA's co-founder, celebrated his thirty-third AA anniversary in company with more than 3,000 AAs who gathered in the main ballroom of the New York Hilton for the impressive occasion, sponsored each year by New York AA Intergroup.” Bill sketched some AA history, and then paid homage to Dr. Carl Jung, “You will recall Dr. Jung as one of the three first pioneers in the art of psychiatry. The thing that distinguished him from his colleagues, Freud and Adler, was the fact that he was spiritually animated--something

that was to make all the difference to each and every one of us now here, and will make the difference for all yet to come...” Jung had treated Roland H. who in turn carried a message of spiritual recovery to Ebby, who carried it to Bill. “As Jung had told Roland that his case was hopeless and that medicine and psychiatry could do nothing more for him...” Jung said in his letter to Bill, “His craving for alcohol was the equivalent, on a low level, of the spiritual thirst of our being for wholeness, expressed in medieval language: the union with God.” Jung continued, “The only right and legitimate way to such an experience is, that it happens to you in reality and it can only happen to you when you walk on a path which leads you to higher understanding.”

From the April, 1982, Grapevine

“Sometimes, I have thought of creating a Slob's Guide to Spiritual Growth, for those of us who can't walk around with our hands folded and a slight, mysterious smile on our faces. It might go something like this

1. It is better to watch the game in your undershirt with a can of cola in your hand than a can of beer.
2. When you holler at somebody, you always feel lousy afterward--like a hangover.
3. Life is a steady drizzle of small things--carry an umbrella.
4. Tomorrow is another day.
5. Never give up.
6. Concentrate on what you're doing--it beats thinking.
7. If you let the other fellow alone and don't get so upset about how he's living his life, you can watch more TV.
8. It is more fun to be happy than angry.
9. Don't take anything too seriously, including all of the above.
10. This, too, shall pass.

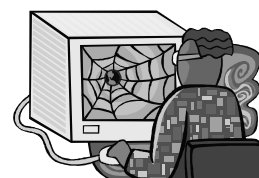
That's a start. All that wisdom leads me to suspect that the path of spiritual progress is perhaps not so steep and dark as I had imagined. At least, I can try to understand it without getting all smug and lofty. For starters, I know that I am a walking miracle. Literally overnight, I went from years of twenty-four-hour crash drinking to total sobriety, after everything had failed except total surrender to the AA program. That is a fact I can stand on.”

Lighten up, Brent. Press on the with the Steps. You'll make it.

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 9,067 times. Individual issue files have been viewed 16,207 times.

In January, there were 17,190 “visits” to www.ocaa.org. From March, 2008, through January, 2009, visits averaged 16,457 per month.



Another A.A. Myth Bites the Dust



Alcoholics Anonymous has a lot of myths.

For example, you have probably heard some A.A. members say that you should not make any major changes in your life in the first year of sobriety. That's probably a good idea but you won't find it in the Big Book. If it's not in the Big Book, it's an opinion and not a part of our program.



You have probably heard some folks say: "The word 'must' does not appear in the Big Book." Well, there are least 57 times the word 'must' does appear and there may be more since our statistician stopped counting at page 164 in the Big Book. Here they are:

Page Usage

- xxii Must present to others
- xxiv Must believe
- xxvi Must have depth
- xxvi Must be grounded in a power greater than ourselves
- xxvii Must stop drinking
- xxvii Must help
- xxvii Must feel
- xxvii Must admit
- 33 Must be no reservations
- 43 Must come from a higher power
- 44 Must find a spiritual basis of life
- 62 Must be rid of selfishness
- 62 Must or it kills us
- 66 Resentments must be mastered
- 69 Must be willing
- 69 Must make amends
- 73 Must be entirely honest
- 74 Must confess
- 75 Must be hard on ourselves
- 76 Must not postpone
- 78 Must lose fear
- 79 Must not shrink at anything
- 80 Must not shrink
- 82 Must keep sober
- 83 Must take the lead
- 83 Must remember
- 85 Must carry the vision
- 85 Must go with us
- 85 Must go further
- 86 Must be careful
- 89 Must not miss
- 90 Must decide these things

- 93 Must be accompanied by action
- 94 Must come from within
- 99 Must be done
- 99 Must try to repair damage
- 99 Must be on a better basis
- 100 Must walk in the path of spiritual progress
- 112 Must start anew
- 113 Must act
- 115 Must be on guard
- 115 Must apologize
- 117 Must carry
- 118 Must not expect
- 127 Must realize
- 127 Must see danger
- 135 Must be convinced
- 143 Must change
- 144 Must abide
- 144 Must decide
- 146 Must be honest
- 152 Must get along
- 153 Must find a way out
- 156 Must keep spiritually active
- 159 Must help others
- 164 Must rely on God

Harbor Light, Long Beach, October-1998

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.
03/06 Plumber Jim, Anaheim
03/13 Leezette, Fullerton
03/20 Duane I., Placentia
03/27 John H & Mary H., Buena Park

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.
03/07 Nick B.

Orange

8:00 pm
No Puffers Speaker Meeting
Community of Christ Church
385 S. Tustin Ave
Contact: Garry B.

7:00 pm
Sober & Crazy Sunday Night Speakers
7th Day Adventist Church
1310 E. Walnut Ave, near Tustin Ave
Contact: Betsy S.

03/01 Eric S., North Tustin
03/08 Theresa M., Orange
03/15 Rob C., O.C.
03/22 Garry, Orange
03/29 Max M., O.C.

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.
03/07 Ken G., Fallbrook
03/14 Tammy A., Santa Ana
03/21 Brenda P., Tustin
03/28 Scott R., Buena Park
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

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

A little AA history.....

**Henry G. P.
"The Unbeliever"
(1895 - 1954)**

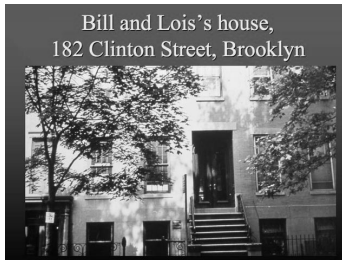
Henry G. P. was born March 13, 1895 in Marion, Iowa. He is considered to be A.A. #2 in the New York contingent of Alcoholics Anonymous, and was Bill's first "sponsee." Henry (Hank) was from Teaneck, New Jersey, and could be considered to be the fifth* member of A.A.

New Jersey A.A can trace its roots to Hank. Hank had once been the Assistant General Sales Manager for Standard Oil of New Jersey and had been fired for his drinking. Bill found him in September of 1935 in Towns Hospital, and offered him the solution that had worked for him, Doctor Bob and Bill D. Hank, who had been treated numerous times previously at Towns and was an avowed atheist, reluctantly accepted the "spiritual" solution. His story, "The Unbeliever" was published in the 1st edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Hank is first mentioned in "The Doctor's Opinion" on page xxix** of the Big Book. Dr. Silkworth describes his case in detail:

"He has lost everything worthwhile in life and was only living, one might say, to drink. He frankly admitted and believed that for him there was no hope. Following the elimination of alcohol, there was found to be no permanent brain injury. He accepted the plan outlined in this book. One year later he called to see me, and I experienced a very strange sensation. I knew the man by name, and partly recognized his features, but there all resemblance ended. From a trembling, despairing, nervous wreck, had emerged a man brimming over with self-reliance and contentment. I talked with him for some time, but was not able to bring myself to feel that I had known him before. To me he was a stranger, and so he left me. A long time has passed with no return to alcohol."

Hank is again mentioned in the chapter "A Vision for You" on page 163 as the ". . . A.A. member living in a large community." This refers to Hank's home on N. Fullerton Street in Upper Montclair, where he was living in 1939 when the big book was first published.



Bill and Lois's house,
182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn

Hank has been described as a red haired, tall, broad-shouldered former athlete with a salesman's drive and enthusiasm. Hank was a hard-driving promoter who was once described as "having an idea a minute." He and his wife Kathleen had two sons, Henry and Robert (Hank Jr., and Bob.)

Hank and his wife Kathleen began attending the meetings on Tuesday nights that Bill and Lois held at their Brooklyn home at 182 Clinton Street. These meetings which began in the fall of 1935 would continue until April of 1939. Hank also attended Oxford Group meetings with Bill and another New York recruit named John M.

One A.A. story has Hank in early recovery one night with

Bill and Fitz driving down Park Avenue in Hank's convertible. Hank suddenly stood straight up, grasping the steering wheel in both hands, with the wind beating against him, yelling, "God! God almighty, booze was never this good."

Hank had an office at 911 Hill Street in Newark, which later moved to 17 William Street. The office was "the headquarters for a rapidly failing business," according to Bill. The business was Honor Dealers, which Hank had conceived, according to one source, as a way of getting back at Standard Oil; the company that had fired him for his drinking. His business plan was to provide selected gasoline stations with the opportunity to buy gasoline, oil, and automobile parts on a cooperative basis. Bill Wilson was hired to be a salesman for the company, and was later joined by Jimmy B., another pioneer of A.A.

Ruth H. was hired as the secretary of Honor Dealers, and would later become the A.A. Foundation's first national secretary. Ruth remembered very little gasoline business being conducted there. A lot of people dropped in to discuss their drinking problems, and on more than one occasion she observed Bill and Hank kneeling in prayer by the side of Hank's desk with one of these visitors, an Oxford Group custom when seeking God's guidance. It was here in the offices of Honor Dealers that the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* was to be written.

In 1937, on February 13th, the "Alcoholic Squadron" of the New York Oxford Group held a meeting in New Jersey at Hank's Teaneck home on Wyndham Road. It was the first time the group of drunks met in New Jersey to conduct an "alcoholic style" Oxford Group meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce William R. ("A Business Man's Recovery") of Hackettstown to the fledgling fellowship.

March of 1938 marked the beginning of the writing of the Big Book at Hank's office. The project needed funding so Hank wrote up a prospectus for "The 100 Men Corporation." They offered 600 shares for sale at \$25 par value. Hank went down to a stationary store, bought blank stock certificates, typed in his full name, followed by the title "President." The name of the publishing company was "Works Publishing Co.," but the corporation was not registered until several years later. Hank and Bill were each to keep 200 shares for their work on the book, the balance of the 200 shares would be sold for \$25 per share. This would raise the \$5,000 needed to publish the book.

Although Bill was the primary author of the book, Hank is credited with "writing" Chapter 10, "To Employers." Without Hank and his hard driving, raising money, promoting and keeping Bill on task, the book may never have been written.

On April 26, 1939 Bill and Lois were evicted from their home at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn. They moved in with Hank and Kathleen P. who were now living in Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

On May 14, 1939, a Sunday afternoon, the very first meeting of what was to become the New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous took place in the home of Hank and Kathleen in Montclair.

Meetings that had been formerly held in Brooklyn were now held in New Jersey for the next 5 or 6 weeks. The meetings began at 4:00 PM and went most of the night.

They rotated speakers for the first portion according to


Tradition Three

Long Form: Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. 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 affiliations

Short Form: *The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.*

Without at least a working knowledge of A.A. history, this tradition could easily be taken for granted – of course we don't exclude anybody from membership who wants to be a member.

But it hasn't always been that way. At the time the Big Book was written, about 3-4 years into our existence, exactly who could belong to Alcoholics Anonymous? Well, you had better be white, male, Protestant, professional and married. And Al M., one of the founding members of A.A. in Southern California, in a talk in 1984 described the membership requirements this way:

 “We had sniffers at the door, and if you smelled like alcohol, you didn't get in. And if you had a wife, she was asked if she would do whatever it took to help you stay sober, and if she demurred, you didn't get in”. *(Quoted from a talk at the Drop The Rock Speaker meeting in Tustin, 1984).*

But with the founding of the A.A. group in Cleveland things began to change. The Cleveland Group welcomed all who admitted to being an alcoholic, (or addicted to alcohol, a much more common terminology of the times). The first large group who had been left on the outside but were now allowed admittance were the Catholics. “Who'd think it – Catholic alcoholics – you coulda knocked me over with a feather!” This A.A. group quickly grew to 500 members within a couple years - an astounding rate of growth for the still newly-formed Fellowship!

As the Fellowship continued to grow in new places all over the United States and Canada, and into Mexico and Central America, a frightful occurrence was taking place. Bill W. asked all the groups to send him a list of their membership rules, and it was discovered that if all of the membership rules were applied, neither he or Dr. Bob could have joined A.A. The outcome of this occurrence – many who could've recovered were dying of alcoholism.

This was the environment in which Bill started to think about a tradition that would guarantee membership to all who sought recovery from alcoholism. No conformance to any rules or codes would be imposed as a requirement for membership.

Did you ever see someone who you thought probably didn't belong in A.A.? Maybe someone who had only drunk a couple times, or someone who was just too much a contrarian to be afforded A.A. membership, (anybody ever feel that way about Ken '45, who happened to be my sponsor for almost 10 years). Or somebody who just doesn't seem to be taking the illness of alcoholism serious enough to suit you? Well, because of the principles espoused in the Third Tradition, they all get to stay in A.A. – we can't keep them out.

It is to our peril that we ignore the principles put forward in this tradition – the peril of A.A., the peril of the group and most

importantly, to my own peril. If I don't have to worry about who gets into A.A., I have a much better chance of staying in A.A. myself.

Next month: Tradition Four – It's none of my business!

A member of A.A. in Orange County



Continued from page 6

Jim B. who was also living at Hank and Kathleen's home as well, at that time.

In the early summer of 1939 there was a falling out between Bill and Hank. Hank wanted to leave his wife and marry Ruth H., the secretary from Honor Dealers. She refused his proposal, and Hank felt that Bill had interfered. In late June, Hank and Kathleen would split up. Hank moved to East Orange, Bill and Lois left to stay at the Bungalow owned by Horace C. (a New York member) in Green Pond, New Jersey.

In early September, Hank P. had returned to drinking. Bill's first sponsee, the great promoter of the Big Book and the founder of A.A. in New Jersey would never again enjoy long term sobriety. Hank would nurse resentments against Bill for the rest of his life and cause great division within the A.A. ranks in the months to come.



In March of 1940, Bill and Ruth moved the office of the Alcoholic Foundation to Vesey Street in Manhattan. Not long after, Hank showed up dirty, drunk and in a bad way. He complained that the furniture in the office was still his, and Bill offered him \$200 for the furniture provided he signed over his 200 shares of Works Publishing Co. to the Alcoholic Foundation. Hank in desperation complied.

Hank had periods of sobriety over the next 14 years despite periodic episodes of drinking. At one point he married the sister of Clarence S.'s wife Dorothy and had Clarence working for him as a salesman for a company called Henry G., Fine Porcelains.

Hank's third marriage was to a Houston oil heiress. She reportedly was the love of his life. She died leaving Hank an inheritance which he later used to remarry Kathleen and purchase a chicken farm in Pennington, New Jersey.

The chicken coup caught fire and was destroyed in January, 1954. The story was reported in the Pennington Post, which also carried Hank's obituary on the very same day.

Hank died January 18, 1954, at Mercer Hospital in Pennington, New Jersey. Lois W. said his death was due to drinking. Others claimed it was pills. Some thought it was both. His obituary says only that he died after a lengthy illness.

Despite Hank's difficulties, A.A. owes Henry P. its thanks and gratitude. Without Hank, the Big Book and A.A.'s early history might be remarkably different from what we have

Continued on page 8

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.

Amazing Grace – One Day at a Time

My personal adventures and experiences, before and after, have made clear those three pertinent ideas: a. that we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives; b. that probably no human power could have relieved our alcoholism; c. that God could and would if He were sought.

A little over six years ago I found myself at a place where I did not know what to do. I called two AA friends for help and shortly thereafter "passed" a "current test" for untreated alcoholism. It is in our book *Alcoholics Anonymous* on page 52, the middle paragraph. It lists, in detail, our bedevilmets (our disease) and then asks the question, "Was not a basic solution of these bedevilmets more important than whether we should see newsreels of lunar flight?"

I was distraught and bewildered as I completely identified with "the test" though I had not had a drink in many years. I was suffering from full blown untreated alcoholism. There was nothing to do but accept the truth of where I found myself. Acceptance of my dilemma and getting into action would eventually help me know a new freedom and a new happiness.

I allowed another member of AA to take me through the Big Book and the 12 Steps as if I had never taken the steps before. I hardly dared believe that it would help. I had seemingly lost faith in everything; our fellowship, our loving God and most of all in my ability to grasp and develop our "manner of living." In effect, I was to set everything aside so that I might have an open mind and a new experience of our program, God and myself. Sluggish and very depressed, I was moved into action.

Today I am still sober and very much alive. I have a relationship with God and my fellows that I never would have thought possible. Our program works. It really does. Daily is the practice of acceptance and then taking action from that place.

The following paragraphs in the Big Book from the story entitled "Keys of the Kingdom" express my feeling and sentiments about AA better than I could myself:

"A.A. is not a plan for recovery that can be finished and done with. It is a way of life, and the challenge contained in its principles is great enough to keep any human being striving for as long as he lives. We do not, cannot, outgrow this plan. As arrested alcoholics, we must have a program for living that allows for limitless expansion. Keeping one foot in front of the other is essential for maintaining our arrestment. Others may idle in a retrogressive groove with out too much danger, but retrogression can spell death for us. However, this isn't as rough as it sounds, as we do become grateful for the necessity that makes us toe the line, and we find that we are compensated for a consistent effort by the countless dividends we receive.

"A complete change takes place in our approach to life. Where we used to run from responsibility, we find ourselves ac-

cepting it with gratitude that we can successfully shoulder it. Instead of wanting to escape some perplexing problem, we experience the thrill of challenge in the opportunity it affords for another application of A.A. techniques, and we find ourselves tackling it with surprising vigor.

"The last fifteen years of my life have been rich and meaningful. I have had my share of disappointments because that is life, but also I have known a great deal of joy and a peace that is the handmaiden of an inner freedom. I have a wealth of friends and, with my A.A. friends, an unusual quality of fellowship. For, to these people, I am truly related. First, through mutual pain and despair, and later through mutual objectives and newfound faith and hope. And, as the years go by, working together, sharing our experiences with one another, and without strings, without obligations – we acquire relationships that are unique and priceless.

"There is no more aloneness, with that awful ache, so deep in the heart of every alcoholic that nothing, before, could ever reach it. That ache is gone and never need return again.

"Now there is a sense of belonging, of being wanted and needed and loved. In return for a bottle and a hangover, we have been given the Keys of the Kingdom."

I believe my sobriety is the gift of a Loving God's Grace. And I hear God everyday as God speaks through you, my fellows. I thank God often for giving us this amazing life saving and life changing fellowship and program. As you may have noticed, I fall into the "sometimes slowly" group of recovery and am now grateful for it. Grateful, too, am I to the many, many members who have loved and tolerated me when I could not love nor tolerate myself. And finally, thank you for 38 years of Amazing Grace, of sobriety, One Day at a Time.

Vaun I., March 5, 1971
Laguna Beach, CA



Continued from page 7

today. A.A. in New Jersey and its history are the direct result of Hank P's involvement in A.A. during its "flying blind" period.

*John B.
The Big Book Study Group of
South Orange, New Jersey*

*Hank being the "fifth" member, in Hank's 1st edition story he says: "Told him it sounded like self hypnotism to me and he said what of it . . . didn't care if it was yogi-ism, self-hypnotism, or anything else . . . four of them were well."

["Four of them well" likely refers to Bill, Dr. Bob, Eddie R., and Bill D. Eddie did not remain sober or stay a member for long, but he did achieve sobriety in 1949.]

** Page XXXI in the Fourth Edition

The following sources are gratefully acknowledged:

Biographies separately published by both Mike O. and Nancy O.
A History of The Big Book - Alcoholics Anonymous, Written by Donald B.

Postings of AA History Lovers, yahoo.com <<http://yahoo.com/>>
A Narrative Timeline of AA History 2007 Arthur S.

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, AAWS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 1st ed.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 3rd ed.

Pass It On, AAWS

Not God, Kurtz

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL OFFICE— January

	JAN	YTD					
ALISO VIEJO	^	^	Mo 8:00P-12&12 Stdy, 30121 Niguel Rd	\$100	\$100	IN LOVING MEMORY	^ ^
BUENA PARK	^	^	LAGUNA WOODS	^	^	GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED	^ ^
CAPISTRANO BEACH	^	^	Dly 7:30A-Do It Sober, 24442 Moulton	\$300	\$300	Receipt#1198 SJC	\$100 \$100
Sa 9:30A-Pines Park Disc, Pine Bluffs	\$40	\$40	Fr 10:00A-Top/Hill Gang, 24252 El Toro	\$140	\$140	Receipt#1202	\$90 \$90
CORONA DEL MAR	^	^	LA HABRA	^	^	Receipt#1134	\$130 \$130
Mo 7:00P-Baywood Disc, 1601 Marg	\$150	\$150	LAKE FOREST	^	^	TOTALS	\$22,186\$22,186
Tu 7:00P-(M)'s Part, 611 Heliotrope	\$1,000	\$1,000	Th 7:30P-Mustard Seed SS, 23262 El Toro	\$35	\$35		
Th 7:00P-Big Book Study, 611 Heliotrope	\$70	\$70	LA MIRADA	^	^		
COSTA MESA	^	^	LAS FLORES	^	^		
M-F 6:45A-Morning Meditat, 183 E. Bay	\$72	\$72	Sa 7:15P-Mission Spkrs., 26111 Antonio	\$80	\$80		
M-F 12:00P-Noon Rec, 420 W. 19th St.	\$198	\$198	LOS ALAMITOS	^	^		
Su 7:00P-Sun Speaker, 678 W. 19th St.	\$100	\$100	We 7:30P-Ice Breakers Grp, 4111 Katella	\$100	\$100		
Sa 9:30A-(M)'s By The Book, 3080 Airway Ave	\$180	\$180	MISSION VIEJO	^	^		
Sa 9:30A-Sisters/Sobriety 2040 Placentia	\$140	\$140	Mo 7:00P-(W)'s SS, 26051 Marg.	\$180	\$180		
Sa 6:00P-Cover-To-Cover, 183 E. Bay St.	\$40	\$40	Mo 7:00P-(W)'s Book Stdy, 26558 Marg.	\$50	\$50		
CYPRESS	^	^	We 8:30P-Missionaries Disc, 26558 Marg.	\$85	\$85		
We 7:00P-Cypress Women's S/S, 5100 Cerrito	\$97	\$97	NEWPORT BEACH	^	^		
DANA POINT	^	^	Dly 6:30A-Jumpstart Disc, 414 E. 32nd St.	\$600	\$600		
Dly 7:00A-Hard Core Harbor, 34451 Ens	\$4,579	\$4,579	Su 9:30A-Sandy Survivors, On/Beach	\$200	\$200		
Mo 5:30P-(W)'s Disc, Ensenada & DPH	\$70	\$70	Su 7:30P-Spkrs, 414 E. 32nd St	\$945	\$945		
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	^	^	Mo 8:00P-(M)'s Disc, 301 Nwprt Blvd	\$280	\$280		
M-F 8:30A- Morning Meeting, 16581 Brookhurs	\$25	\$25	Tu 7:00P-(W)'s B/Stdy, 2414VistaDelOro	\$172	\$172		
FULLERTON	^	^	We 6:00P-Men's, 414 E. 32nd Street	\$34	\$34		
GARDEN GROVE	^	^	We 7:30P-BB Stdy, 600 St. Andrew	\$45	\$45		
Tu 7:00P-Heartspeak (W)'s, 13082 Bowen St.	\$50	\$50	We 8:00P-Recovery Radicals, 301Nwprt	\$200	\$200		
HUNTINGTON BEACH	^	^	Th 7:30P-Balboa Spkr Grp, 414 E. 32nd	\$70	\$70		
Dly 7:00A-Hggrs/Bill Sees It, 8200 Ellis	\$450	\$450	ORANGE	^	^		
Dly 8:00A-Hggrs II, H.B Lifegr Tower 11	\$454	\$454	Dly 7:00A-Early Birds, 812 Town&Cntry	\$280	\$280		
Su 9:00A-On/Beach, Lifegr Tower 11	\$90	\$90	M-F 5:30P-Tustin Rush Hour, 1800 E. La Ve	\$364	\$364		
Su 7:30P-Disc, 20444 Magnolia	\$150	\$150	Su 11:00A-Sun Pumprs, 705 W LaVeta	\$140	\$140		
Mo 12:00P-(W)'s Bill Sees It, 18631 Chap	\$90	\$90	Su 7:00P-Spkr/Orange, 1800 E LaVeta	\$40	\$40		
Mo 7:30P-(M)'s BB & 12&12, 1912 Florida	\$133	\$133	Su 7:00P-Sober & Crazy Spkrs, 1310 E. Wal	\$76	\$76		
Tu 7:30P-(W)'s Disc., 8200 Ellis	\$15	\$15	Tu 7:00P-(W)'s Keep It Simple, 1310 E Wain	\$41	\$41		
Tu 7:30P-(W)'s Serenity BB, 20444 Magn	\$120	\$120	RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA	^	^		
We 7:30A-Attitude Mod, 18582 Beach	\$60	\$60	We 6:30A-Att & Grat, 30605 Ave D/L Flores	\$200	\$200		
Th 7:30A-Attitude Mod, 18582 Beach	\$60	\$60	Fr 7:30P-Roads End Part, 30322 VCD	\$90	\$90		
Th 6:00P-Ovr 40/Going Strong, 18582 Bch	\$5	\$5	SAN CLEMENTE	^	^		
Th 7:30P-11th Step Disc., 1912 Florida	\$60	\$60	Tu 6:30P-(M)'s Stag/Munchies, 35522 Cam.	\$214	\$214		
Fr 10:00A-Step Sisters, 18631 Chapel Ln.	\$48	\$48	SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO	^	^		
Fr 8:00P-HB Downtowners, 2721 Delaware	\$60	\$60	Dly 7:00A-SJGroup Eye Opener, 27514 C Ar	\$494	\$494		
Sa 7:30A-(M)'s Stag, 18582 Beach	\$70	\$70	Su 5:00P-SJGroup 1 Hr Top Disc, 27514 C	\$180	\$180		
Sa 10:00A-(W)'s BBStdy, 18631 Chapel	\$140	\$140	Th 9:30A-(W)'s Back 2 B B/S, 27122A				
Sa 7:00P-Sat Nite Live BB, 18631 Chapel	\$90	\$90	Paseo Espada	\$60	\$60		
IRVINE	^	^	SANTA ANA	^	^		
M-F 12:00P-Irvine Noon Grp, 5101 Alton	\$300	\$300	SEAL BEACH	^	^		
Su 10:00A-Donut Mtg, 6670 Alton Pky	\$50	\$50	SILVERADO CANYON	^	^		
Su 7:30P-BonitaCnyn Disc, 5001 Nwprt	\$80	\$80	SUNSET BEACH	^	^		
Tu 12:00P-(W)'s BB Stdy, 5101 Alton Pky	\$137	\$137	We 12:00P-Promises Meet, 16865 PCH	\$30	\$30		
Tu 7:00P-(M)'s K.I.S. 12X12, 14301 Yale	\$70	\$70	Sa 7:30A-Disc, 16865 PCH	\$66	\$66		
We 6:30P-B. B. Topic Disc., 5001 Nwprt	\$423	\$423	TUSTIN	^	^		
Th 12:00P-Irvine (M)'s Lunch, 5001 Nwprt	\$78	\$78	Dly 6:00A-Foothill Early Risers, 19211	\$250	\$250		
Th 6:30P-(W)'s Gypsies, Deerfield & Turtle	\$120	\$120	Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 1221 Wass	\$201	\$201		
Sa 9:15A-SS, 5101 Alton Pky	\$67	\$67	M-F 12:00P-Alkies Winners, 555 W.Main	\$405	\$405		
Sa 11:00A-B.B Stdy, 1 Sunnyhill - Turtle	\$90	\$90	Mo 6:16P-Tustin (W)'s 12X12, 1221 Wass	\$20	\$20		
Sa 7:00P-Spkrs, 1 Sunnyhill - Turtle	\$120	\$120	Tu 8:00P-Steps 1-4, 1201 Irvine	\$60	\$60		
LAGUNA BEACH	^	^	Fr 11:00A-(W)'s B/B Study, 14402 S. Pros- pect	\$7	\$7		
Dly 7:05A-Attitude Adj, 31106 PCH (C)	\$300	\$300	Fr 8:00P-Disc, Pinetree Park (130 W Main)	\$100	\$100		
Su 7:05A-Montage Grp, (Montage)	\$52	\$52	Sa 8:00P-Visiting Spkrs 1221 Wass	\$50	\$50		
Su 6:00P-GV Stdy, 21632 Wesley Dr	\$125	\$125	VILLA PARK	^	^		
Mo 6:30P-(W)'s Perspect, 20456 LCR	\$42	\$42	Dly 7:30A-24 Hour Book Grp, 17855 Santia	\$253	\$253		
Mo 7:00P-Mon Night (M)'s Stag @Pat's	\$60	\$60	Fr 12:00P-(W)'s BB Stdy, 17855 Sant	\$52	\$52		
Mo 8:00P-S/Coast (M)'s, 340 S/Ann's	\$116	\$116	WESTMINSTER	^	^		
Tu 7:00A.-BB Stdy, 20456 LCR	\$231	\$231	WHITTIER	^	^		
Tu 6:30P-(M)'s Beg, 31872 So/Coast	\$700	\$700	UNLISTED GROUPS	^	^		
Tu 6:30P-(W)'s Disc, 31872 So/Coast	\$70	\$70	WANDERING GROUPS	^	^		
We/Sat 7:00A-Whale Watch (M)'s, PCH	\$354	\$354	MISC. DONATIONS	^	^		
Th 6:30P-(M)'s BYOB 12& 12 SS, 21632	\$37	\$37	OCCO Change Can	\$8	\$8		
Fr 7:30P-Candlelight Acceptance., 20456 LCR	\$70	\$70	Intergroup Meeting	\$112	\$112		
Sa 7:00A-Whale Watchers Men's, PCH@Wesl	\$196	\$196	Laguna Beach 4th Step Workshop	\$100	\$100		
Sa 8:00P-Night Spkr Mtg, 20456 LCR	\$300	\$300	Men's Banquet 2008	\$703	\$703		
LAGUNA HILLS	^	^	PERSONAL DONATIONS	^	^		
Th 12:30P-(W)'s Topic Disc, 23181 Verdugo	\$80	\$80	Anonymous/January	\$160	\$160		
LAGUNA NIGUEL	^	^	June L., Irvine	\$75	\$75		
Mo 7:00A-Morn (M)'s Stag B2B, 30121 Nig	\$200	\$200	Wanda R., Huntington Beach	\$25	\$25		
			Wanda M., Irvine	\$20	\$20		

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

A Day at a Time in 2009

April 10-12, 2009

Hilton Hotel, Costa Mesa, CA

www.oacaac.org

28th Annual Southern California

Hospital and Institution Conference

"Carrying The Message"

April 24-26, 2009

Doubletree Hotel, Orange, CA

www.socalhandi.org

**32 Annual San Diego
Spring Round Up**

April 9-12, 2009

Town & Country Resort Hotel
www.SanDiegoSpringRoundUp.com

*I have held many things in
my hands, and I have lost
them all; but whatever I have
placed in God's hands, that I
still possess.*

CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY-January

Total Calls Handled by Both Offices: 2252

Main and Satellite Office Volunteers

12 Step Calls	16
Meeting Information	873
General Information	391
Walk-in Customers	269

Night Owl Volunteers

12 Step calls	12
Meeting Information	663
General Information	297

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!

The Orange County Intergroup Association Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 PM

Please call Central Office for the March 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

Jonathon	Dana Point	2 years
Lynn S.	Foothill Ranch	3 years
John C.	San Juan Capistrano	4 years
Lowell G.	Dana Point	4 years
Scott S.	Costa Mesa	4 years
Mike R.	Dana Point	5 years
Josephine	Lake Forest	10 years
Susan J.	Orange	11 years
Kelly C.	Laguna Niguel	12 years
Chris G.	San Juan Capistrano	13 years
Timothy K.	Lake Forest	14 years
Jacqueline S.	San Clemente	17 years
Michelle O.	San Clemente	18 years
Jill L.	Fountain Valley	20 years
Mae W.	Tustin	25 years
Mark Z.	Costa Mesa	26 years
Jim C.	Huntington Beach	26 years
David T.	Laguna Niguel	27 years
Linda C.	Costa Mesa	29 years
Merle N.	Huntington Beach	31 years
Cheri C.	Aliso Viejo	33 years
Vaun I.	Laguna Beach	38 years

I am the black sheep of the family.
 I came to the Rooms and Discovered the Rest of My Flock

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
 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

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 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 01/31/2009

	JANUARY	YTD
INCOME		
Group Donations	\$21,784.77	\$21,784.77
Individual/Fellowship	\$288.00	\$288.00
Literature Sales	\$9,630.64	\$9,630.64
Birthday Donations	\$823.00	\$823.00
In Memoriam	\$0.00	\$0.00
Intergroup Donations	\$111.50	\$111.50
Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$159.94	\$159.94
Misc. (Repaid Bounced Checks)	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$32,797.85	\$32,797.85
EXPENSES		
Audits/Accounting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auto (All Managers)	\$76.26	\$76.26
Bank Charge	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash/Invoices OverShort	-\$0.50	-\$0.50
Insurances	\$1,135.39	\$1,135.39
Intergroup Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lease Expense	\$389.07	\$389.07
Maintenance & Repairs	\$378.08	\$378.08
Volunteers Coffee + Water	\$161.92	\$161.92
Offices' Supplies + Expenses	\$202.20	\$202.20
Pension Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$43.70	\$43.70
P/I, Donated Literature	\$40.00	\$40.00
Rent Main/Satellite Offices	\$3,661.75	\$3,661.75
Salaries	\$9,984.48	\$9,984.48
Reimb. Health Insurance	\$280.17	\$280.17
Payroll Tax Expense	\$765.30	\$765.30
Taxes & Licenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Telephone Expense	\$495.89	\$495.89
LIFELINE Expense	\$1,262.71	\$1,262.71
Cost of Literature Sold	\$8,318.77	\$8,318.77
Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. (Returned Checks)	\$59.89	\$59.89
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$27,255.08	\$27,255.08
INCOME/(LOSS):	\$5,542.77	\$5,542.77

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

We Are Not A Glum Lot

CLASSIC CARTOONS AND JOKES
FROM THE AA GRAPEVINE



If “GH” stands for “p,” as you will find from the last letters of “hiccough”; “ough” for “o,” as in “dough”; “phth” stands for “t” as in “phthistic”; “eigh” stands for “a,” as in “neighbor”; “tte” stands for “t,” as in “gazette”; and “eau” stands for “o,” as in “beau”; then, “Ghoughphtheightteeau” spells potato.

“Hello, the woman said,. “Is this the missing persons bureau? ---My husband has disappeared. Can you help me find him?”

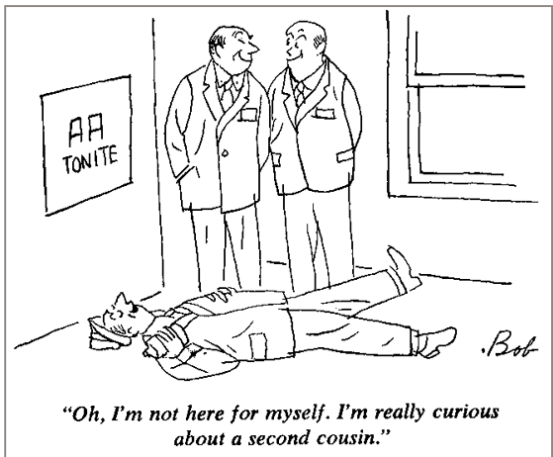
“Certainly, madam,” the bureau chief said. “Can you describe him?”

“Well,” the woman said, “he's short. Very fat. Bald. He likes blondes and double bourbons. He wears thick glasses, has a red nose and a high-pitched, squeaky voice. He's---Oh, to hell with him. Never mind.”

“You did me a favor ten years ago,” said the ragged stranger, “and I've never forgotten it.”

“So?” said the good man. “And now, I take it, you've come back to repay me?”

“Not exactly,” said the stranger. “I just got into town and found I need another favor, so I thought of you right away.”



“Oh, I'm not here for myself. I'm really curious about a second cousin.”

After the company picnic, the boss reprimanded one of his employees for being intoxicated and pushing a wheelbarrow.

“But I thought you approved,” said the employee.

“Of course not,” came back the boss. “Why should I?”

“Because you were riding in the wheelbarrow.”

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

In his reportorial days, H. Allen Smith once phoned the office and said he couldn't come to work because he'd slipped on the ice.

“Yeah?” said his city editor. “How'd you ever get your foot in a highball glass?”



*“Okay! I just finished my ninety meetings in ninety days!
When will you people tell me how this thing works?”*

The great Canadian physician, Sir William Osler, was lecturing one day on the effects of alcohol.

“Is it true,” asked a student, “that alcohol makes people do things better?”

“No,” replied Sir William, “it just makes them less ashamed of doing them badly.”

A lady opened her refrigerator one morning to find a tipsy little man sitting in there on the oranges.

“What are you doing here?” she demanded.

“This is a Westinghouse, isn't it?” he drawled.

“Yes.”

“Well, I'm westing.”