

LIFE LINE

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Orange County
Intergroup Association

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS 60 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG

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The 10th International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous was held June 29 - July 2, 1995 in San Diego, California with the theme of A.A. - **Everywhere - Anywhere** celebrating A.A.'s 60th birthday, and what a bash! If you missed it, you truly missed the party of the year. For this alcoholic, my celebration of the International began on Monday, June 26th at my normal evening shift answering the phones at Central Office. We got many calls from foreign visitors looking for meetings in Orange County to attend before proceeding on to San Diego. However, I didn't get to San Diego until Thursday, June 29th, and upon arrival we got into the wonderful traffic jam on Harbor Drive near the Convention Center, and the area was abuzz with people having a good time. Hats are off to the host committee of San Diego, which included many volunteers from Southern California alkies too. The party officially began with a block party along the Embarcadero from the Convention Center to Seaport Village on Thursday night. And, at the stroke of midnight, marathon meetings began in the Convention Center and at the Marriott Hotel which went on the entire time until the closing meeting.

On Friday and Saturday there were meetings, meetings, meetings! You think the 3rd step is a hard one in making a decision -

nope, piece of cake. Try making a decision on which meeting to go to at the International Convention! There were no fewer than 8 meetings happening at any one time and usually many more. All kinds of meetings in different languages, various topics and wonderful speakers. It was a real treat to hear the 3rd Tradition in action and there was truly a singleness of purpose. All the A.A. speakers I heard identified as **alcoholic only**. One thing for sure was that the **LANGUAGE OF THE HEART** was spoken at this convention. You couldn't speak the language of some, but there was an understanding. The press did a great job in covering us and abided by our Traditions as they often alluded to them in their reports. The way the San Diego Union-Tribune described us was "Watch out Disneyland - there's a rival for the title 'Happiest Place on Earth' and it's San Diego this week." Oh, how true.

Also on Friday was a lovely Central Office Intergroup Luncheon at the Pan Pacific Hotel. A lady from Iceland travelled the furthest to attend this meeting. George D., General Manager of GSO was the 20 minute speaker and Cliff R. from Oceanside was the main speaker. Cliff spoke on his involvement with Central Office and what it takes to start a new

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CENTRAL OFFICE

HOURS

Weekdays	8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Saturdays	9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Sundays & Holidays	10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

2712 S. Grand Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone (714) 556-4555

From San Clemente, Dana Point, Laguna
Beach & Capistrano Valley Areas -
Phone (714) 581-2694
TDD 556-4559

GREEN BEANS

It has occurred to me that, even though I like green beans, I do not have a problem, nor am I powerless over them. I can say this for the following reasons:

- I can't tell you the last time I ate green beans and how many I ate.
- I am not planning the next time I will eat green beans or how many I will eat.
- I don't know if we have any green beans in the house, and if so, where they are.
- I have never hidden green beans around the house.
- I have never lied about how many green beans I ate or what I did when I ate them.
- I have never forgotten what I did after eating green beans.
- I have never embarrassed or abused myself or my family after eating green beans.
- I have never stolen money from my employer to pay for my green beans.
- I have never cheated on my wife after eating green beans.
- I have never been stopped by the police for driving while eating green beans.
- I have never been unable to stop eating green beans once I started.

None of these things has ever occurred as a result of eating green beans. And I think I can safely say that if any of them had occurred, I would have had serious reservations about ever eating another green bean.

And yet all of these things happened when I drank alcohol, and I thought they were perfectly normal. Sure sounds like powerlessness to me!

*Reprinted from the
Cleveland Central Office Bulletin*

A.A. Turns Sixty

(Continued from front page)

one. It's very simple, there are only two requirements - first of all there has to be a need, and secondly, there must be a resentment. We sure understand that one! It was my privilege to be seated at a table with the Central Office Manager and Board President of Minneapolis, which is where the next International Convention will be held in the year 2000.

AAwesome - Friday night, June 30, 1995, Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, California. It wasn't a Padres and Dodgers game (they wouldn't get the attendance), but a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous with approximately 60,000 members of A.A., Al-Anon and Alateen in attendance. The only place that you could not sit was on the baseball diamond and the stands were full. Prior to the meeting, we did "the wave" and got pretty good at it; there was a congo line of those with energy weaving around on the stadium floor. Lots of energy and gratitude being shown for sobriety. As with any celebration you must have a parade, and ours was the parade of nations. Flags from 87 nations were presented on those in attendance. Did you know that A.A. existed in Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Turkey, Western Samoa, Aruba, Iran? How about Peoples Republic of China, Belarus, Romania, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Aruba, Slovak Republic, ad infinitum? How can you not believe in a Higher Power, when you see the results of one drunk talking to another and how it has expanded worldwide regardless of politics, etc. **Thank you, Bill and Dr. Bob.** Thus, the parade set the tone for the opening meeting at which we heard three speakers, one from Canada, one from the United States (California) and one from South Africa. Also at this meeting was the sobriety countdown, and the most sobriety was in excess of 54 years, as the man sat down when they announced 55 years.

Saturday night there was a first for the International Convention - an Oldtimer's meeting held at the stadium. At this meeting there were 129 alcoholics with 40 years or more of sobriety. In order to have as many share as possible, they drew 15 names from the hat and allowed each one to share for 5 minutes. Not much time for all of their years

of sobriety, and they did hit a gong if the person went beyond the time limit. The first lady to share was from the east coast was named Ruth and just as her story was getting good they hit the gong, so thereafter throughout the meetings at the stadium there was a chant for RUTH!!!! However, it did sound like the person at the podium was being booed; that was not the case, our spiritual growth has surely taken us beyond that. Sunday morning found us back at the stadium bright and early for a 9:00 AM closing meeting with 3 more great speakers and an AAwesome feeling in the final prayer that it was all over, and if I had just had one more drink 17 years ago I would have missed it all.

It is truly a privilege to be asked by the Lifeline Committee to write about the International Convention. I know that prior to going to the Convention I heard complaints about the cost of \$65.00 for registration. I don't know about you, but I sure spent a lot more than \$65.00 on King Alcohol. Conventions do not happen by osmosis. Our 7th Tradition tells us we are self-supporting through our own contributions and New York determined that \$65.00 was the amount. Unfortunately, the International cannot be done like our local conventions with totally volunteer work. Jack Murphy stadium for 3 days and space for various hotels for meetings? How about 500 buses to provide transportation from the various hotels to the convention sites at no charge? No way, Jose. It seems that some of us become extremely cheap once we get sober and don't even do a very good job of supporting our local A.A. I don't know about you, but for me \$65.00 is a drop in the bucket for what my sobriety means to me. So, take some personal responsibility and start saving for the next International in the year 2000 in Minneapolis. It was said that if you started saving a dollar a day now, you will have enough to go when the next one rolls around. I've started saving mine, how about you?

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Mary Ann M., Huntington Beach



AA BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Donations...

Many AA members celebrate their AA birthdays by sending a donation to Central Office. These donations help keep the doors of Central Office open, so that new members may get the same help so many of us have received. Some members send one or two dollars for each year of sobriety. Others make a personal donation monthly or on a quarterly basis. This month we'd like to extend thanks to:

Happy Birthday!



John S.	Corona Del Mar	3 years
Michael H.	Anaheim	4 years
Steven G.	Huntington Beach	4 years
Carolyn F.	Huntington Beach	17 years
Roddy C.	Laguna Hills	22 years
Bob K.	Garden Grove	44 years
Lenard S.	Howell, MI	not stated

IN MEMORIAM

of
Bob Schwab
Sobriety 7-1-66



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LIFELINE COMMITTEE:

Allen M., Ellery S., Karen L.,
Roberta B., Rick C., Jan T.

Tradition of the Month

TRADITION EIGHT

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12th Step" work is never to be paid for."

Ask Yourself...

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get *some* reward — even if not money — for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? To the pamphlet *AA Tradition — How it Developed*?

—Reprinted from the AA Grapevine
Traditions Checklist



UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AA

The events listed below are for your information only. If you have any questions regarding any event, we suggest that you contact the organization conducting the event.

August 12th, 1995
 Singleness of Purpose Workshop
 2:00pm-4:00pm
 Garden Grove Alano Club
 9845 Belfast Dr., Garden Grove, CA

September 1st-4th, 1995
 Living Sober 20th Anniversary
 San Francisco Fashion Center
 Western Roundup Registration
 P.O. Box 420974,
 San Francisco, CA 94142

September 24th, 1995
 "Our AA Heritage"
 Longtimers Sharing Those Early
 Events in AA History
 1:30pm to 4:30pm
 2501 Palo Verde Ave. (Church)
 Long Beach, CA

August 13th, 1995
 Orange County Intergroup
 Annual Picnic
 10:00 am to ??
 Mile Square Park, Space 17
 Fountain Valley

September 8th-10th, 1995
 End of Summer Fling
 "Spiritually Speaking"
 Walnut Creek Marriott
 2355 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, CA
 For information call (916) 538-8917,
 (510) 376-1641 or (510) 682-3455

Sept. 29th-Oct. 1st, 1995
 44th Southern California Convention
 "Make Life a Masterpiece"
 Holiday Inn and Convention Center
 Bakersfield, California
 call: Joe W. (714) 847-3581, Kathy O.
 (909) 674-3022, Stu or Harriet W. (619)
 582-3943, Carol C. (714) 761-9702

August 16th, 1995
 Open Planning Meeting
 11th Annual Orange County Convention
 7:30 PM
 Roque Center
 9843 13th St., Garden Grove, CA

August 25th-27th, 1995
 New Mexico's Conference of Young
 People in A.A. (NMCYPAA)
 Ramada Inn, Hotel Circle Road
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Kim (505) 246-0786/John (505) 244-9634

August 25, 26 & 27th, 1995
 19th Annual High Sierra Campout
 Box 3151, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
 Pumice Flats Campgrounds
 call: (619) 934-7391 or 924-2713



"Twelfth Step work requires tolerance, persistence, understanding, and resisting the urge to take the phone off the hook."

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

A gift for a friend, for someone who can't get out to meetings, for a newcomer? All of these are good reasons to give a LIFELINE subscription. All of this for only \$1 a month. We make it easy, just one check (we do accept cash).

Number of Subscriptions @ \$12 per year. \$ Enclosed

Name Phone

Street City Zip

Comments:

(Attach a separate sheet for additional subscriptions)

Send To:
 The Lifeline
 c/o Orange County Central Office
 2712 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana 92705

