

Lifeline



SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

March, 2008

VOLUME XXXVIII No. 3



Orange
County
Intergroup
Association

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Get involved!

**“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 costs savings 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 9pm to 6am and 6am to 9am. 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 from 1pm to 4pm, 4pm to 7pm, 7pm to 10pm and 10pm to 6am. Sunday and Holiday shifts are 6am to 10am, 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 also 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 at (714) 556-4555 or the Satellite Office at (949) 582-2697.

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
Website: www.oc-aa.org
Office hours Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-9:00 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

The Orange County Intergroup Association Meeting
Wednesday, March 12th at 7:00 PM

Kaiser Hospital, 6670 Alton Parkway @ Sand Canyon, Irvine
The meeting will be held in the MOBII (New Building 5th Floor)
Rooms ASN-5209 + 5210

So Cal H&I Spaghetti Dinner & “Behind the Walls” Speaker Panel Fundraiser



*The 7th Tradition will be observed—
there is NO other fee for the dinner
and panel.*

Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 6:00pm
Church of the Foothills
19211 Dodge Ave
Tustin



Chapter 2

There is a Solution

Number 3 of 12 articles on the Big Book®



After many years of studying this chapter, I am convinced that this story could be more aptly titled, "There is a Spiritual Solution". As I relate my observations from this chapter, I need to let you know that much of my eye-opening experience, (spiritual awakening?) came from one page – page 25. From the early statements of the chapter, I identified with the idea that "*We are people who normally would not mix*". Do you remember looking around the room in your first A.A. meeting and thinking that you had found a family of peers? I know some people did, but I didn't. I was sure glad that those people had a place to go, and they genuinely seemed to like each other and appreciate their time together, but I surely was not like them. What might have contributed to this attitude is the fact that I carried a court-ordered Attendance Card, and I was drunk – stinkin' drunk, (is there any other kind?). But as soon as I arrived at a meeting sober, that attitude started to change, (subsequent to a fistfight with one of my new "peers" in my first sober A.A. meeting).

Attending meetings sober, I started to get a clue that (a), I had the same problem as everyone else – a problem compounded by the consequences of my drinking - and (b) there was a solution to my problem, and my peers had it, (page 25, "*But we saw that it really worked in others, and we had come to believe in the hopelessness and futility of life as we had been living it*". Oh – and I had some work to do, "...there was nothing left for us but pick up the simple kit of spiritual tools laid at our feet". On the same page, right after you tell me "*There is a solution.*", you tell me I'm not going to like it very much, "*Almost none of us liked the self-searching, the leveling of our pride, the confession of shortcomings which the process requires for its successful consummation*". I was bluntly informed that I had a decision to make encompassing two choices, "*We were in a position where life was becoming impossible, and if we had passed into the region from which there is no return through human aid, we had but two alternatives: One was to go on to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best we could; and the other, to accept spiritual help*".

Spiritual tools! Spiritual help! – are you trying to tell me something? Even before I got to page 25, you dropped the pronouncement on me, "*Our very lives as ex-problem drinkers depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may help meet their needs*". In Bill's Story, he talked about a statement by Ebby that "... melted the icy intellectual mountain in whose shadow I had lived and shivered many years. I stood in the sunlight at last." This statement, right from the start, made everything simple – I had to think of others needs before my own. Yes, BEFORE my own! And the rest of the process would allow me to do that without a second thought, (most of the time). When I help



others meet their needs, my needs are always met without my even trying – always!

Wow! There IS a spiritual solution - but we still need to look at the problem in more depth. Next month – *Chapter 3 - More About Alcoholism*

A member of A.A. in Orange County

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

WHATS HAPPENING

March 15, 2008
SO CAL H & I SPAGHETTI
DINNER & "BEHIND THE
WALLS" SPEAKER PANEL
FUNDRAISER
Church of the Foothills
Tustin, CA

March 21-23, 2008
THE ROAD TO FAITH IN
2008—23rd ANNUAL
ORANGE COUNTY
CONVENTION
Hilton Hotel
Costa Mesa, CA
www.oacaac.org

March 29, 2008, 10am-2pm
MEETING SECRETARY'S
Workshop
Newport Club, 414 E. 32nd St.
Newport Beach, CA

April 11-13, 2008
RENO SPRING FESTIVAL 2008
Circus-Circus Hotel-Casino
Reno, NV

April 25-27, 2008
27th ANNUAL SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA HOSPITALS &
INSTITUTIONS CONFERENCE
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE
Double Tree Hotel
Orange, CA

April 25-27, 2008
A.A. Convention
MIRACLES HAPPEN 2008
with Al-Anon participation
Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course
Laguna Beach, CA
www.miracleshappen.org



April 25-27, 2008
THE 5th ANNUAL ROUND-UP
Saddle West Hotel and Casino
Pahrump, NV

April 26, 2008
OOPS! I FORGOT! GOD'S
IN CHARGE Workshop
Sierra Pines Church
Oakhurst, CA

May 16-18, 2008
TRI-STATE 24th ANNUAL
ROUND-UP
Riverside Resort Hotel
& Casino
Laughlin, NV
www.tristate-roundup.com

July 3-6, 2008
50th ICYPAA 2008
Renaissance Marriott
Oklahoma City, OK
www.50thicyppaa.org



Submit events by the
15th of the month to
lifelineeditor@yahoo.com

My Favorite Meeting

Editor's note: We continue our new feature in the Lifeline this month. It's called "My Favorite Meeting" and it can allow readers to become part of this publication. Got a favorite meeting? Write 300 words about it and send it to us at lifelineeditor@yahoo.com.

Getting Sober at the Beach

For the past 47 years, alcoholics in northern Orange County have flocked to the City of Seal Beach for a regular Thursday night meeting that has helped keep hundreds of once-hopeless drunks sober a day at a time.

For much of that time frame the meeting place was the school and cafeteria of St. Anne's Church on 10th Street in Seal Beach, where the meeting had relocated from a hall in Long Beach. When Jack M. – better known as "Chicago Jack" – learned that Seal Beach had no regular Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, he picked up his phone. "I had plenty of help from the Long Beach meetings I had been attending," said Jack. "Frank H., George D., Ray G. and Urban C. called on their numerous A.A. acquaintances to help fill the meeting room."

Jack, George, Alan R., Urban, "Every Day's a Holiday Kent" and the other old-timers who helped set the tone for recovery at the Seal Beach Group are absent now, gone to the Big Meeting in the Sky. But there are men and women in the meeting, some with 20, 30 and more years of sobriety, letting the newcomers know it is possible to get sober and stay sober for protracted periods of time.

"It's too bad all those old-timers are gone," said George L. "These newcomers will not get to hear their stories."

"There are still a lot of old-timers," said Fred P., sober over 30 years. "It's just that we are them."

Mike M. came to Seal Beach Group in 1987, as soon as he left the hospital. Eighteen years later, he counts his time at Seal Beach as the key to staying sober. Says Mike: "I found my sponsor in this group and Ray G. helped me get grounded in A.A."

Doug S., sober for 28 years, still attends the Seal Beach Group in addition to several other meetings each week. "These people are all old friends or destined to become old friends," said Doug. "The sharing is always good and the meeting, well, it's been there forever."

Joanie S., who serves as the group's court card signer, tells of her early and largely unsuccessful efforts to get sober before finally accepting the program and accumulating some 27 years of sober living. "I try not to miss the meeting," she said. "I always hear something that helps me keep coming back."

John B., sober 13 years, said he had difficulty getting sober at first. "I used to say it couldn't get any worse. Believe me, it got worse."

Josh K., sober for 5 years, says it is the diversity of experience that attracts him. "There is a super mix of old-timers and newcomers," he says. "I never know what I'll hear next."

Kristin K., sober for nearly two years, agreed. So did Gina S., sober for 12 years, and Richard L., sober 18 years.

"It's the large number of newcomers that keeps me coming back to the meeting," said Toni S., sober for 24 years. "I feel like I'm at my best when I'm working with people who are

new or nearly new to the program. And I believe in being of service."

Rick G., sober 13 years, Mike H., sober 22 years, and Harry L., sober 29 years, agreed that service is the driving force that brings them back week after week. When the group was invited to leave St. Anne's after some 40-plus years at the church, members conducted a quick search and found that the Rossmore Recreation Center at 3333 St. Cloud Drive was available. Now in their fifth year at the new location, the group has managed to keep on track with the simple policy of delivering the A.A. message every Thursday evening to the alcoholic who still suffers. On a recent Thursday evening a young woman stood up at the table. "I don't know if any of you remember me from last week but I have nine days clean and sober today. You guys gave me hope and so far it's working. You guys made it possible. Thank you so very much."

Then she sat down, just one more miracle, courtesy of A.A. and the Seal Beach Group. Me, I know I can't do it by myself. I have to have help. And I've been getting it here for the last year and a half. I'm Rachel V., and I'm an alcoholic.



Step 3 and the avowed Atheist

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

In last month's *Lifeline*, the Step Two story (Cold Sober) concerned an alcoholic priest, far from home in a hospital meeting, being asked if he could consider a large refrigerator as a Power greater than himself, and his initial horrified rejection of such heresy. On second thought, he realized that his background in theology and years of prayer had been of no help in getting him sober or keeping him sober, and that *any* suggestion from a sober alcoholic might prove worth listening to.

His acceptance of the program led to 15 years of sobriety before he wrote his great short story about the refrigerator. Anybody around AA for a while will hear references made to using a chair, or a doorknob, as your Higher Power, in half-hearted attempts to avoid talking about God, although just how "Surrendering your will and your life to the care of that doorknob," would work is a mystery.

Another *Grapevine* story (A Program of Action) is told by an atheist relating how he resolves his atheist philosophies with the program's strong reliance on belief in God's power. He noted that many people told him that they had gotten the most benefit from applying Step Three, but that many found it a stumbling block. Also, it contains an absolute declaration for belief in God. Big problem. He also notes that countless numbers of people have told him that they recite the Serenity Prayer as a tool for engendering an attitude of acceptance and turning it over. He states that he regards the statements in that prayer, except for the part about asking it to be a grant from God, as a description of a sensible way to approach life. Even atheists, he continues, can learn the futility of non-acceptance, the value of risking changes, and so forth.

In every way, he gets relief from anxieties and fears the same way the believers do – by not concentrating on what dismays him and directing his attention to activities that are productive. After rationalizing and explaining his way around the obvious

Continued on page 4

Searching our Hearts for the Hidden Things

Recently I have been working Step 4 of my program, and to my surprise something came up that I had forgotten long ago. I was coming out of the first grade and expecting to go into the second grade home room with all the friends that I had made in the first grade when my mother interfered. She convinced the principal to place me in a different second grade class. She had heard from some of the other parents that the teacher in this other class was better, and she wanted me to have the best. Her intentions were good, and I remember my first grade teacher asking me why my mother had done this? She knew something that we didn't. I could not tell her at the time as I didn't understand it either. I just knew everyone, including my best friends, kept asking me why.



As it turned out my mother had received some bad information. This other teacher was not a good one, and had done some things to students that didn't come out until later. I remember once during class that one of the parents came to our home room door, pounded on the door and yelled obscenities at the teacher about something hurtful that she had done to her child. I didn't understand it all, but the parent proceeded into our classroom and started slapping and hitting the teacher right there in front of us. They both became violent with each other slapping, pulling hair, and scratching each other with their finger nails. There was blood, and the teacher had a black eye for several days afterwards. The police arrived and took the irate parent away! My God, to this day, I can not watch two women fight without feeling a deep hurt. Later that year this teacher, who had a habit of belittling students in front of their peers, did the same to me. She embarrassed me, told the class that I was no good and would never amount to anything. I went home in tears telling my mother of what had happened.

Mom seemed indifferent at the time saying that I must have misunderstood the teacher, etc. Mom found out later about the fight and some other things that happened that year from other parents, and realized that she should have taken me more seriously. I had somehow blocked out the fight, and neglected to tell my mother anyway. My mother was a good mother and she gave me a lot of affection at times, but she had serious emotional problems of her own and was detached a lot of the time from us kids.

I had an older brother and a younger sister. I spent a lot of time living with my grandmother who practically raised me when my father died. He was an alcoholic and drug user who was killed after falling asleep at the wheel and hitting a 18 wheeler. They said that he died on impact, and this devastated my mother. I do not remember him since I was only 2 years old when this happened. My mother's own father had been abusive to her in her youth so she had a lot to deal with already before marrying my father who apparently loved us but had his own worries with the substance abuse. Then she remarried another man who abused me physically and verbally. Their marriage lasted 10 years before ending in divorce which also devastated her, and she was a cold and bitter person in her later years. I had long ago forgiven my step father and made peace with him. Just before he died, we talked at length. God really did work in my heart, and I honestly forgave him.

Anyway back to the program. I did not realize that I still carried the trauma of that second grade class. I also didn't realize that I still fought against my mother and that teacher (both now deceased) for having me put in that class to start with. It's funny how we think that all is ok, and when we search our hearts, I mean

really search our hearts, that we still find things that need to be dealt with. So I had just recently forgiven my mother and that teacher for something that I had apparently blocked out years ago! I feel so liberated and at peace today.

I remember reading a few years ago about several American companies that were authorized to bury toxic waste products underground. They filled large metal drums with chemical waste, and buried them deep down underground. They thought that was the end of it. Within a few years however, many of the drums began to leak, and the toxic waste started seeping to the surface causing all sorts of problems. What Happened?

They tried to bury something that was too toxic. They never dreamed that the waste that they buried was so powerful that it ate through the metal containers. They never dreamed that one day those harmful chemicals would resurface, and they would have to deal with the problem all over again.

It is the same with body hurts us, instead of trusting God to make it
it deep down inside.
child when this happened
how to deal with it, but I
has now resurfaced! For-
to being free from toxic



me. When some-
letting it go and
up to us, we bury
Granted I was a
and had no idea
thank God that it
giveness is the key
bitterness. Forgive

those who hurt you, including yourself. Forgive the people who hurt you. Forgive the friend who betrayed you. Forgive the parent or teacher who mistreated you when you were younger. Don't let the root of bitterness grow deeper and continue to contaminate your life.

I have to remember that when I forgive it is not for the other persons benefit, but it is for mine! I am forgiving so that toxic poison no longer contaminates my life. If someone has done me wrong, I don't want to continue to hold on to it. I need to search my heart, and ask the God of my understanding to reveal to me any hurts or wrongs anyone has done to me that I may have subconsciously buried deep inside. I'm only hurting myself, if I don't do this. But, if I will learn to let go of old things, I will live a more joyful life, and then I will be truly able to help others. I remember what we say in Alcoholics Anonymous, "...we cannot transmit something we haven't got," and that is so true!

Paul H., Trabuco Canyon

Continued from page 3

problems inherent to this viewpoint, he finishes by saying that *his* Step Three might say, "Made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of reasonable action."

As lame as this might sound, the atheist had been sober for 16 years when he told his story. He certainly had read chapter four of the Big Book, "We Agnostics," which says a great deal about a "Power greater than ourselves." and finishes with a powerful quote from a later story:

"Who are you to say there is no God?"

Stories like these, coming from as divergent viewpoints as those of the priest and the atheist point out the power of AA and the magic in these rooms, and around these tables, to transform lives. As an old friend of mine once said, "I came to AA to get sober, and I found a whole new way of life. " This will always be so, if we just keep coming back.

Jim S. – Costa Mesa

**ORANGE COUNTY
INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF AA**
Statement of Income and Expenses for Period Ending 1/31/2008

	JANUARY	YTD
INCOME		
Group Donations	21,988.09	21,988.09
Individual/Fellowship	180.00	180.00
Literature Sales	10,289.24	10,289.24
Birthday Donations	404.00	404.00
In Memoriam	0.00	0.00
Intergroup Donations	91.25	91.25
Special Events	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	233.74	233.74
Misc. (Repaid Bounced Checks)	266.83	266.83
TOTAL INCOME:	33,453.15	33,453.15
EXPENSES		
Audits/Accounting	4,000.00	4,000.00
Auto (All Managers)	71.30	71.30
Bank Charge	0.00	0.00
Cash/Invoices Over-Short	28.07	28.07
Insurances	3,286.25	3,286.25
Intergroup Expense	235.50	235.50
Lease Expense	389.07	389.07
Maintenance & Repairs	152.46	152.46
Volunteers Coffee + Water	48.77	48.77
Offices' Supplies	544.58	544.58
Pension Fund	166.68	166.68
Postage	0.00	0.00
P/I, Donated Literature	1,016.98	1,016.98
Rent Main/Satellite Offices	3,552.71	3,552.71
Salaries	10,216.10	10,216.10
Payroll Tax Expense	781.54	781.54
Taxes & Licenses	0.00	0.00
Telephone Expense	457.64	457.64
LIFELINE Expense	1,218.50	1,218.50
Cost of Literature Sold	8,078.86	8,078.86
Special Events	302.00	302.00
Misc. (Returned Checks)	447.63	447.63
TOTAL EXPENSES:	34,994.64	34,994.64
INCOME/(LOSS):	-1,541.49	-1,541.49



John C.	San Clemente	3 yrs
Chele R.	Huntington Beach	4 yrs
Mary W.	Santa Ana	9 yrs
Kelly C.	Laguna Niguel	11 yrs
Michelle O.	San Clemente	17 yrs
John T.	Huntington Beach	20 yrs
Jim C.	Huntington Beach	25 yrs.
David T.		26 yrs
Linda C.	Costa Mesa	28 yrs

Birthday Contributions

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*.

CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY-December

Total Calls Handled by Both Offices: 2778

Main and Satellite Office Volunteers

12 Step Calls	8
Meeting Information	967
General Information	526
Walk-in Customers	346

Night Owl Volunteers

12 Step calls	5
Meeting Information	600
General Information	326

One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time. Andre Gide



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 1,672 times. Individual issue files have been viewed 6,664 times.

In January, there were 15,318 "visits" to www.ocaa.org. From July, 2007, through January, visits average 13,443 per month.

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



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

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

TRADITION 3

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

When the first edition of our book, Alcoholics Anonymous, was published in April of 1939, there were no Traditions as we know them. The Steps were in place and it was widely thought that those who adopted the Steps as a way of life would likely provide the core of A.A.'s membership.

From its birth in 1935 until 1950, there were never formal rules for membership in A.A.. In obvious contradiction, rules appeared in virtually every meeting. Some of these rules formed the basis for disputes between (and even within) the groups. That's when Bill W., one of our two founding members, took pen in hand and wrote the Twelve Traditions. They were confirmed by the Fellowship at what became the first International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous held in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950. Those Traditions were in what we call the "long form."

It became readily apparent that a shorter version of the Traditions was necessary, something that could be read aloud at each meeting without consuming the entire meeting. The "short form" was quickly written and - for the most part - has served nicely. But the short form of Tradition Three omits some vital and significant facets of the long form.

This Tradition, the simple sentence that opened this column, apparently gives membership in A.A. to anyone who has the slightest inclination for abstinence from alcohol. That's not what Bill intended and that's not what the Fellowship endorsed when it approved the Traditions in 1950. The purpose then was to include all "who suffer from alcoholism."

The short form of this Tradition doesn't even mention alcoholism. The long form also made it clear that A.A. could "refuse none who wish to recover" from alcoholism. The short form, again, fails to include this condition.

Is that how A.A. deals with membership? Not in this county in 2008. In our meetings we see men and women who identify as "alcoholic-addict" or "addict-alcoholic" or name any of a number of other afflictions which have been helped by the use of the Twelve Steps. (The Fellowship has historically offered our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to any group that wishes to use them for recovery from a whole host of afflictions. Most of the groups who use the Steps have been fully responsible in their usage although some of their members have not.)

On page 84 of our Big Book, we see that "love and tolerance of others is our code." But we still read a little blue card at most meetings defining an open meeting and a closed meeting. We do ask persons who do not identify as "alcoholic" to leave our closed meetings. And we do advise all who attend our open meetings to confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

Most times it works, because of the power of identification. When it does, most of us are pretty happy. When it doesn't, some of us feel fairly irritated, particularly the addict-alcoholic who feels left out.

While that may offend the non-alky, it is firm assurance that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous will continue its life-saving mission.

George L., Westminster

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Garden Grove

Thursday Night Speaker Mtg
8:00 pm
Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Dr
Contact: John S.
3/06 Ryan O., Huntington Beach
3/13 Neal J., Stanton
3/20 Vic R., Garden Grove
3/27 Fernando A., Tustin
Birthday night

Garden Grove

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

Huntington Beach

Saturday Night Lite Speakers
7:00 pm
HOW Hall, 18582 Beach Blvd
Behind Flower Kiosk @ Ellis
Contact: Kevin B.
3/01 Father Leo, Long Beach
3/08 Jimmy P., Westminster
3/15 Kimberly H., Garden Grove
3/23 Brian W., Huntington Bch
3/29 Podium participation in respect
to the OC Convention

Laguna Woods

Saturday Night Surprise Speaker
Meeting, March 8th @ 7:30pm
Do it Sober Location
24442 Moulton Pkwy

Newport Beach

Balboa Speaker Meeting
7:30 pm, Thursday
Newport Club, 414 East 32nd Ave
Contact: Jim K.
3/06 Laura A., Los Angeles
3/13 Doug R., Tijuana
3/20 Debbie M., Santa Monica
3/27 Ira T., Manhattan Beach
4/03 Karen G., Los Angeles
4/10 Chuck G., N. Hollywood
4/17 Cliff R., Oceanside
4/24 Michelle L., Tustin

Orange

No Puffers Speaker Meeting
8:00 pm, Friday
Community of Christ Church
385 S. Tustin Ave
Contact: Garry B.
3/07 Budd N., Tustin
3/28 Betsy S., Tustin
4/04 Gary K., Corona
4/11 Catie F., Irvine
4/18 Tara E., Fullerton
4/25 Alex N., Orange

San Clemente

Thursday Night Big Speaker Mtg
8:00 pm, Thursday
San Clemente Friendship Center
Contact: Sean M..
3/06 Frank O., Santa Ana
3/13 Rob H., Laguna Niguel

Tustin

Saturday Night Visiting Speaker
8:00 pm
St. Paul's Church, 1221 Waas
Contact: Glenn H.
3/01 Bob M., Westminster
3/08 Joanie V.H., Orange
3/15 Keith S., Tustin
3/22 Cynthia E., Lake Forest
3/29 Coral S., Orange
4/05 Jim R., Irvine
4/12 Tina B., Santa Ana
4/19 Brian L., Costa Mesa
4/26 Don O., Irvine
5/03 Kevin S., Irvine
5/10 Betsy S., Tustin
5/17 Lou L., Tustin
5/24 Leslie R., Tustin
5/31 Robert E., Tustin

Tustin

Participation, Speaker, Q & A
9:02 am—11:00 am, Sunday
130 West Main Street (Hall)
Contact: Jack B.
3/09 Alex N., Anaheim
3/16 Gwen O., Irvine
3/23 Sam H., Yorba Linda
3/30 Brian S., Orange

Tustin

Sober & Crazy Sunday Night
Speakers 7:00 PM
130 West Main Street (Hall)
Contact: Heather V.
3/02 Wendy B.
3/09 Rich
3/16 Leslie
3/23 Mike E.
3/30 Jennifer M.

***Please submit speaker
information to
the editor at
lifelineeditor@yahoo.com***

The listed speakers have been invited by the respective groups and their message does not imply the endorsement of the Orange County Intergroup nor their Central Office.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL OFFICE— January

GROUP DONATIONS 2008 BY MONTH									
CITY AND MEETINGS		JAN	YTD						
BUENA PARK		^	^	Fr 7:00P Winning Tkt Bk Stdy, 1 Sunnyh	\$50	\$50	Fr 8:00P-51/50, 614 Bush Street	\$30	\$30
CAPISTRANO BEACH		^	^	Sa 9:15A-SS, 6670 Alton Pky	\$137	\$137	SEAL BEACH	^	^
CORONA DEL MAR		^	^	Sa 7:00P-Sprks, 1 Sunnyhill - Turtle	\$100	\$100	Mo 7:30P-Seal Bch Spkrs, 500 Marina Dr	\$360	\$360
COSTA MESA		^	^	LAGUNA BEACH	^	^	SILVERADO CANYON	^	^
Dly 7:00A-Solutions Oasis, 5th & Marg	\$1,750	\$1,750	Su 7:05A-Montage Grp, (Montage)	\$192	\$192	SUNSET BEACH	^	^	
Mo 7:00P-Baywood Disc, 1601 Marguerite	\$50	\$50	Su 6:00P-GV Stdy, 21632 Wesley Dr	\$158	\$158	Su 10:00A-Sunset Beach			
Fr 7:30P-Rebels Disc, 611 Heliotrope	\$280	\$280	Su 7:30P-Su Participation, 20456 LCR	\$50	\$50	Mtg., PCH&Warner	\$88	\$88	
DANA POINT		^	^	Mo 6:30P-BB Stdy, 20456 LCR	\$53	\$53	Mo 7:00A-Disc, 16865 PCH	\$60	\$60
Mo 5:30P-(W)'s Disc, Ensenada & DPH	\$139		Mo 6:30P-(W)'s Perspect., 20456 LCR Rm2	\$123	\$123	Sa 7:00P-Rule 62 Spkrs, 16865 PCH	\$100	\$100	
Tu 9:30A-(W)'s Back to, 24642 San Juan	\$221		Mo 6:30P-(W)'s BB Stdy, Wesley	\$100	\$100	TUSTIN	^	^	
FOUNTAIN VALLEY		^	^	Mo 8:00P-(M)'s Stag, 20456 LCR	\$100	\$100	Dly 6:00A-Foothill Early Risers, 19211	\$200	\$200
We 8:00P-Disc, 10280 Slater	\$70		Tu 12:30P-Serenity-Sea (W)'s, Wesley	\$75	\$75	Dly 6:00A-Attitude Adj, 14662 Nwprt	\$100	\$100	
Su 8:00P-Sun Nite Spkr Mtg, 1115 Orange	\$50	\$50	Tu 12:00P-Promises Disc, 20456 LCR	\$88	\$88	Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 130 W. Main	\$239	\$239	
GARDEN GROVE		^	^	Tu 12:30P-(W)'s Disc, 20456 LCR	\$200	\$200	Dly 12:00P-Brown Baggers, 130 W. Main	\$288	\$288
Tu 7:00P-Top/Key Book Stdy, 9th & Lamp	\$80		Fr 6:00P-Literature Mtg, 21632 Wesley	\$122	\$122	Dly 5:30P-Rush Hour, 130 W. Main.	\$819	\$819	
We 12:00P-(W)'s, 9845 Belfast	\$25	\$25	Fr 7:30P-Surrender to Win, 20456 LCR	\$189	\$189	M-F 12:00P-Alkies Winners, 555 W. Main	\$175	\$175	
Th 10:00A-Over 40 Disc. Grp, 9845 Belf	\$60		Sa 8:00P-Night Spkr Mtg, 20456 LCR	\$900	\$900	Su 9:02A-Sprks, 130 W. Main	\$150	\$150	
Th 7:00P-SS, 12432 9th St.	\$25		LAGUNA HILLS	^	^	Mo 7:30P-(M)'s Disc, 130 W Main	\$50	\$50	
Sa 8:00P-Sat Nite Spkrs, 9845 Belfast	\$20	\$20	Mo 6:00P-(W)'s Disc, 23802 A D Carlota	\$90	\$90	Tu 8:00P-Steps 1-4, 1201 Irvine	\$60	\$60	
HUNTINGTON BEACH		^	^	We 7:00P-Get Happy 12&12 Stdy, A D C	\$15	\$15	We 7:00P-(W)'s Solutions, 19211 Dodge	\$60	\$60
Dly 7:00A-Hggrs/Bill Sees It, 8200 Ellis	\$450	\$950	LAGUNA NIGUEL	^	^	Th 9:00A-(W)'s SS, 14402 Prospect	\$70	\$70	
Dly 8:00A-Hggrs II, H.B Lifegr Tower 11	\$390	\$390	Mo 8:00P-12&12 Stdy, 30121 Niguel Rd	\$180	\$180	Th 6:15P-(W)'s Living Sober, 1201 Irvine Bl	\$120	\$120	
Su 9:00A-On/Beach, Lifegr Tower 11	\$90	\$90	Tu 6:00P-Chicks/Run SS, 2702 El Lazo	\$70	\$70	Sa 8:00P-Visiting Spkrs, 1221 Wass	\$105	\$105	
Su 7:30P-Disc, 20444 Magnolia	\$120	\$120	We 6:00P-Book Stdy, 30121 Niguel Rd.	\$310	\$310	VILLA PARK	^	^	
Mo 12:00P-(W)'s Bill Sees It, 18631 Chap	\$90	\$90	LAGUNA WOODS	^	^	Dly 7:30A-24 Hour Book Grp, 17855 Santia	\$397	\$397	
Mo 7:30P-(M)'s BB & 12&12, 1912 Flor	\$120	\$120	We 7:30A-BB Meeting, 2444 Moulton	\$120	\$120	WESTMINSTER	^	^	
Mo 7:30P-(W)'s Sans, 18631 Chapel Ln.	\$60	\$60	We 1:15P-(W)'s BBStdy, 24351 El Toro	\$70	\$70	WHITTIER	^	^	
Tu 7:30P-Beginners (M)'s, 1912 Florida	\$215	\$215	LA HABRA	^	^	UNLISTED GROUPS	^	^	
Tu 7:30P-(W)'s Disc., 8200 Ellis	\$70		M-F 6:30A-Topic Disc, 100 W. La Habra	\$60	\$60	Dly 12:15P-Lse Outlet, 1545 Nwprt, CM			
Tu 8:00P-Newcms (M)'s Grp, 20444 Magn	\$127		LAKE FOREST	^	^	(UL)	\$385	\$385	
We 7:30A-Attitude Mod, 18582 Beach	\$60		Th 7:30P-Mustard Seed SS, 23262 El Toro	\$50	\$50	Su 5:30P-H.B. Creative Sharing, 18582			
We 2:00P-Seniors & Friends 1718 Orng	\$120	\$120	LA MIRADA	^	^	Bea	\$210	\$210	
Th 10:00A-(W)'s BB Stdy, 18631 Chapel	\$60		LOS ALAMITOS	^	^	Fr 8:00P-Family Afterward (UL) Sunset B	\$100	\$100	
Fr 10:00A-Step Sisters, 20444 Magnolia	\$20	\$20	MISSION VIEJO	^	^	WANDERING GROUPS	^	^	
Fr 7:30P-BB Stdy, 16650 Saybrook Lane	\$30	\$30	We 9:30A-(W)'s, 26051 Marguerite Pky	\$100	\$100	MISC. DONATIONS	^	^	
Fr 8:00P-HB Downtowners, 2000 Main	\$30	\$30	Sa 7:15P-Mission Spkrs, 24932 Veterans	\$120	\$120	Intergroup Meet	\$91	\$91	
Sa 7:30A-(M)'s Stag, 18582 Beach	\$65		NEWPORT BEACH	^	^	AOCYPAA	\$334	\$334	
Sa 9:30A-W BB Stdy, 18582 Beach	\$166	\$166	M-F 12:15P-Shark@Aquatic, 1Whitecliffs	\$600	\$600	4th Step Workshop, Laguna Beach	\$265	\$265	
Sa 7:00P-Sat Nite Live BB, 18631 Chapel	\$30		Mo 9:00A-(W)'s Step Stdy, 414 E. 32nd	\$70	\$70	PERSONAL DONATIONS	^	^	
IRVINE	^	^	Mo 12:30P-Back Bay (M)'s, 1201 Irvine	\$700	\$700	Anonymous # 3992	\$30	\$30	
Dly 6:30A-Sunrise Sobriety, 4400 Barr	\$1,143	\$1,143	Mo 3:30P-A Vision 4 U-414 E. 32nd St.	\$210	\$210	B. H, Dana Point	\$20	\$20	
M-F 12:00P-Irvine Noon Grp, 5101 Alton	\$150	\$150	Mo 6:45P-Beg.&Trad Grp, 1400 Balboa	\$469	\$469	David S, Fountain Valley	\$100	\$100	
Su 10:00A-Donut Mtg., 6670 Alton Pky	\$120	\$120	Mo 8:00P-(W)'s Disc., 301 Nwprt Blvd	\$50	\$50	June L, Irvine	\$25	\$25	
Mo 6:30P-Gypsies (W)'s, Turtlelock CC	\$130	\$130	Tu 3:30P-Disc, 414 E. 32nd St	\$77	\$77	IN LOVING MEMORY	^	^	
Tu 6:00P-Courage To Change, 18182 Culv	\$70	\$70	Tu 7:00P-B St Bonfire-1st Fire Ring/Ocean	\$50	\$50	GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED	^	^	
Tu 7:00P-(M)'s K.I.S. 12X12, 14301 Yale	\$70	\$70	Tu 7:00P-(W)'s B/Stdy, 2414VistaDelOro	\$24	\$24	Receipt # 8953	\$108	\$108	
We 6:30P-B. B. Topic Disc., 5001 Nwprt	\$58	\$58	Th 7:00P-Over 40's, 414 32nd Street	\$70	\$70	TOTALS	\$21,856	\$24,283	
Fr 10:30A-Over 50 Grp, 6670 Alton	\$90	\$90	ORANGE	^	^				
Fr 12:00P-(W)'s Topic Disc, 5101 Alton P	\$100	\$100	Dly 7:00A-Early Birds, 812 Town&Cntry	\$340	\$340				
Fr 5:30P-Topic Disc.Grp, 6670 Alton Pky	\$112	\$112	Su 11:00A-Sun Pumpers, 705 W LaVeta	\$210	\$210				
			Su 6:00P-Chapter 9 OBS, 250 Prospect	\$50	\$50				
			Mo 7:00P-(W)'s Step Stdy, 161 Orange	\$105	\$105				
			RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA	^	^				
			Su 7:00P-Old Time AA 12&12, 30605 Fl	\$125	\$125				
			Tu 7:30P-Old Time BB Stdy, 30322 VCD	\$180	\$180				
			We 7:30P-RSM StepStdy, 30382 VCD	\$150	\$150				
			Fr 7:30P-Roads End Part, 30322 VCD	\$120	\$120				
			SAN CLEMENTE	^	^				
			Mo 7:00P-N.O.I. (M)'s, Camino Capist	\$210	\$210				
			Fr 8:00P-Aragon Spkrs, 202 Ave. Aragon	\$32	\$32				
			SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO	^	^				
			Dly 7:00A-Eye Opener, 27514 C Arroyo	\$934	\$934				
			Su 5:00P-1 Hr Top Disc, 27514 C Arroyo	\$60	\$60				
			Tu 7:00P- Hear Here Part, 27514 C Arroyo	\$190	\$190				
			SANTA ANA	^	^				
			Su 5:00P-Two Or More, 721 Euclid	\$70	\$70				

**The Lifeline is
your paper.
Use it to share
your recovery.**



Submit speaker information, events, ideas, suggestions, criticism, jokes and articles and anything else to lifelineeditor@yahoo.com or fax (949) 716-3713. You may also contact the editor at (949) 241-6617.

Taking the First Drink

Before we joined A.A. most of our prolonged drunks were in reality just a "slip"--we thought we'd have just one drink.

The foundation of sobriety in A.A. is simplicity itself --it is simply not taking the first drink. You can call it Step No. 1/2, or 1 1/2, but it is simply NOT taking the first drink, and the ones who succeed in the A.A. program base everything and every good that follows upon this.

If an A.A. embraces just one or all 12 steps, his success still depends on NOT TAKING THE FIRST DRINK. Nobody has yet found lasting benefit from A.A., no matter if he or she be dry one day or ten years, unless before and beneath everything is the continued practice of NOT TAKING THE FIRST DRINK.

In A.A., what is a slip? It is TAKING THE FIRST DRINK.

Who has slips? Mainly, those who may have placed great importance on any one, or all, of the 12 Steps in A.A.--and still persisted in taking the first drink.

Often those who have slips have mental reservations. Often they think of their own case as different from the others, as being unique. Personalities and circumstances may differ among A.A. members, but one thing does not--and that is the inability of anybody in A.A. to succeed with the program if he does not fully realize that the entire program is based on the foundation and premise of not taking the first drink.

The 12 Steps and other A.A. teachings are made effective only by not taking the first drink; the repetition of this phrase should not be tiresome to those of us who always failed because of "just one."

The new member who, feeling his case is unique and different, comes to meetings "to see what you people have to offer," is doing it the hard way. Why is such an attitude an immediate tip-off? Because it indicates a "show-me" attitude. It overlooks the fact that in most cases A.A. has a great deal more to offer the candidate than the candidate has to offer A.A., but more importantly it shows that the candidate doesn't realize this, hence his path will be more thorny than that of the fellow or gal who steps up and says, "I don't care *what* you have to offer--if it keeps *you* sober, I want it!" If he says instead, "If it will keep *ME* sober I want it," you can detect a lack of humility. He is saying in effect, "Maybe it can keep all of you, and thousands of other alcoholics sober, but boy it's good if it can keep *ME* sober, etc." "Me, I, me, I, me, I"--not the best sign of humility.

One of the things that may confuse the budding or full-blown egotist in A.A. is the statement that the program is a selfish program. There is a difference in meaning here. A.A. is a program that concerns self, true enough, but the keynote of its operation is certainly not selfishness, lest 12th Step work should never be done--and most of us who have attained sobriety should not be here. Instead we would be nursing "self" in some saloon, or more probably in a booby-hatch--with a plush-lined tongue and a brain composed of last year's jello.

The spiritual side of A.A., which admittedly is what makes it



tick for the most successful followers of the program, helps most those who are humble and desperate for help. And what is the help we need? We need help in walking a new road in life--but before we start let us fully realize that the foundation of sobriety in A.A. is simply: NOT TAKING THE FIRST DRINK. You can't slip until you forget that!

PB, Bronxville, NY The *Grapevine* Aug, 1947

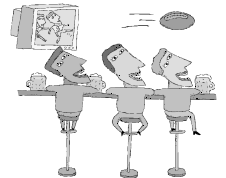
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The Five Stages of Drunkenness

Stage One: SMART

This is when you suddenly become an expert on every subject in the known Universe. You know you know everything and want to pass on your knowledge to anyone who will listen. At this stage you are always RIGHT.

And of course the person you are talking to is very WRONG. This makes for an interesting argument when both parties are SMART.



Stage Two: GOOD LOOKING

This is when you realize that you are the BEST LOOKING person in the entire bar and that people fancy you. You can go up to a perfect stranger knowing they fancy you and really want to talk to you. Bear in mind that you are still SMART, so you can talk to this person about any subject under the sun.

Stage Three: RICH

This is when you suddenly become the richest person in the world. You can buy drinks for the entire bar because you have an armored truck full of money parked behind the bar. You can also make bets at this stage, because of course, you are still SMART, so naturally you win all your bets. It doesn't matter how much you bet 'cause you are RICH. You will also buy drinks for everyone that you fancy, because you are now the BEST LOOKING person in the world.

Stage Four: BULLET PROOF

You are now ready to pick fights with anyone and everyone especially those with whom you have been betting or arguing. This is because nothing can hurt you. At this point you can also go up to the partners of the people who you fancy and challenge to a battle of wits or money. You have no fear of losing this battle because you are SMART, you are RICH and heck, you're BETTER LOOKING than they are anyway!

Stage Five: INVISIBLE

This is the Final Stage of Drunkenness. At this point you can do anything because NO ONE CAN SEE YOU. You dance on a table to impress the people who you fancy because the rest of the people in the room cannot see you. You are also invisible to the person who wants to fight you. You can walk through the street singing at the top of your lungs because no one can see or hear you and because you're still SMART you know all the words.

Twelve Differences Between Your Sponsor And Your Therapist

1. Your sponsor isn't all that interested in the 'reasons' you used.
2. Your therapist thinks your root problem is your lack of self-esteem, negative self-image, and your poor self-concept. Your sponsor thinks your problem is a 3-letter word with no hyphens: YOU.
3. Your therapist wants you to pamper your 'inner child'. Your sponsor thinks it ought to be spanked.
4. Your sponsor thinks your inventory should be about you, not your parents.
5. Speaking of your parents, your sponsor tells you not to confront them, but to make amends to them.
6. The only time your sponsor uses the word 'closure' is before the word 'mouth'.
7. Your sponsor thinks 'boundaries' are things you need to take down, not build up.
8. Your therapist wants you to love yourself first; your sponsor wants you to love others first.
9. Your therapist prescribes caretaking and medication. Your sponsor prescribes prayer-making and meditation.
10. Your sponsor thinks 'anger management skills' are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.
11. Now that you haven't had a drink in 6 months, your therapist thinks you should make a list of your goals and objectives for the next 5 years, starting with finishing up that college degree. Your sponsor thinks you should start today by cleaning the coffee pots, helping him or her carry a heavy box of literature to the jail, and making your bed.
12. Your sponsor won't lose his or her license to practice if he or she talks about G-d.

In A.A. we have found that the actual good results of prayer are beyond question. They are matters of knowledge and experience. All those who have persisted have found strength not ordinarily their own. They have found wisdom beyond their usual capability. And they have increasingly found a peace of mind which can stand firm in the face of difficult circumstances.

Bill W.

God,

I offer myself to Thee—To build with me and do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life.

May I do Thy Will Always...



Unity, Service, Recovery



Sidebar from AA Grapevine Volume 16 Issue 8
January 1960

ALL of the pleasures and joys that we experience while our lives unfold as we live the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, are being handed to us by those who were here before us. All of the knowledge that we may find in this program we will take for our own, and feel that it is our right to do so. It truly is our right if, at the same time, we assume the responsibility of giving freely what has been given to us.

How could our fellowship stay alive if each of us helped ourselves to the well, but did not take care to see that the well was replenished and that the water continued to flow?

Pity the man who will take and use the knowledge gathered by others and does not contribute his own. He will miss one of the wealthiest feelings of life, the glow that comes from bringing light into a corner that has been dark for a long time. That which he holds so tight to himself, without food from giving, will eventually wither and die.

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ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP SERVICE BOARD



Chair, Frank M. ● Vice Chair, John P.
Treasurer, Ken S. ● Secretary, Beth E.
Central Office, Dave M.

Who? What? When? Where?

Public Relations Committee, Nick N.

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, Debbie 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.

You're service is appreciated!

**MEETING CHANGES SINCE
JANUARY 7, 2008**

SUNDAY

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

8:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

MONDAY

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

HUNTINGTON BEACH

6:30 PM BOTH BOOKS STUDY 16871 Bolsa Chica Rd. (St. Peters by the Sea) Changed to Open

NEWPORT BEACH

3:30 PM LIVING SOBER 414 E. 32nd St. Name change

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

7:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

12:00 PM WOMENS DISCUSSION 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

YORBA LINDA

8:00 PM DISCUSSION 4861 Liverpool @ Yorba Linda Blvd. (Messiah Lutheran Church) Change to open

TUESDAY

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

HUNTINGTON BEACH

7:30 PM BEGINNERS MEN'S GROUP 1912 Florida St. C/S Adams & Beach (Downstairs) Non-smoking facility

NEWPORT BEACH

7:00 PM ON THE BEACH Balboa Pier @ Palm (fire ring) Change time

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

7:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

10:00 AM (C) WOMENS DISCUSSION 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

12:15 PM (C) MEN'S BROWN BAG 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Changed to closed

5:00 PM (C) WOMENS STEP STUDY 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

WEDNESDAY

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

HUNTINGTON BEACH

2:00 PM SENIORS & FRIENDS 1706 Orange Ave @ 17th (Michael E. Rodgers Seniors Center) New address

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

7:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Name change

12:00 PM OPEN DISCUSSION 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New meeting

THURSDAY

ANAHEIM

7:30 PM (C) MEN'S DOG ON THE ROOF 4421 E La Palma Ave New address

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

LAGUNA HILLS

7:00 PM (G) AS BILL SEES IT 23802 Avenida de la Carlota (St Geroge's Episcopal Church) New meeting

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

7:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New name

12:15 PM (C) MEN'S BROWN BAG 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) Changed to closed

7:00 PM BIG BOOK WORKSHOP 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New name

FRIDAY

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

8:00 PM (C) AVENGERS BIG BOOK STUDY 2114 Thurin St @ Victoria St (Grange Hall) New meeting

HUNTINGTON BEACH

6:00 PM (C) MEN IN THE SOLUTION, MEN'S 7111 Talbert Ave c/s Goldenwest St (Huntington Library - Balboa Rm) New location

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

7:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New name

12:00 PM OPEN DISCUSSION 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New meeting

SATURDAY

COSTA MESA

12:15 PM NEW LEASE ON LIFE 1545 Newport Blvd. c/s 15th & Newport Blvd. (Lease Outlet) New meeting

IRVINE

9:15 AM STEP STUDY 5101 Alton Parkway, @ Jeffrey (St John Neumann) Address change

LAGUNA WOODS

SATURDAY NIGHT SURPRISE SPEAKER MEETING, March 8th @ 7:30pm 2008, At the Do it Sober Location: 24442 Moulton Pkwy.

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

7:15 PM MISSION SPEAKERS 26111 Antonio Pkwy @ Oso Pkwy (Santa Margarita Water District, Board Room) Address & City change

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

6:30 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo

Rd. (Community Center) New name

8:00 AM EYE OPENER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New name

12:00 PM WOMEN'S JAY WALKERS 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New

4:30 PM LIVING SOBER 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New name

8:00 PM JAY WALKER II 27514 Calle Arroyo off Rancho Viejo Rd. (Community Center) New name

**MEETING DELETIONS
SINCE JANUARY 7, 2008**

TUESDAY

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

7:00 PM 12 AND 12 NEVER HAD IT SO 32261 Camino Capistrano (SJC Plaza, Backside of Center)

THURSDAY


LAGUNA BEACH

7:00 PM (C) WOMEN'S STEP STUDY 31872 Pacific Coast Hwy (Hospital in Cafeteria) (NOVEMBER - MARCH)

7:30 PM (C) WOMEN'S STEP STUDY 31872 Pacific Coast Hwy (Hospital in Cafeteria) (MARCH - NOVEMBER)


LAKE FOREST

7:00 PM (G) HERE & NOW 24601 Raymond Way #9 @ El Toro Rd



Reasons to allow drinking at work

1. It's an incentive to show up.
2. It reduces stress.
3. It leads to more honest communications.
4. It reduces complaints about low pay.
5. It cuts down on time off because you can work with a hangover.
6. Employees tell management what they think, not what management wants to hear.
7. It helps save on heating costs in the winter.
8. It encourages carpooling.
9. Increases job satisfaction because if you have a bad job you don't care.
10. It eliminates vacations because people would rather come to work.
11. It makes fellow employees look better.
12. It makes the cafeteria food taste better.
13. Bosses are more likely to hand out raises when they are wasted.
14. Salary negotiations are a lot more profitable.
15. If something does something stupid on the job, it will be quickly forgotten.



If you scatter thorns, don't go barefoot.

Going to worship doesn't make you a holy person any more than going to a garage makes you a car.

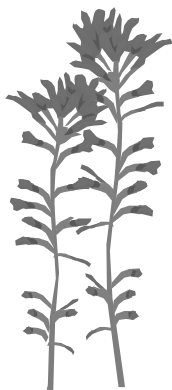
The greatest undeveloped territory in the world lies under your hat.

One member's story

James Sawyer 6/6/84 - 9/9/07 R.I.P.

James Sawyer passed away as a result of an overdose. Apparently his plan was to go out one more time, and turn himself in, as he was tired of his legal battles. He wrote this e-mail to his sponsor back in January, 2007:

"Today I know that I am responsible for one thing and one thing only. I am responsible to do the things necessary so that I can be a channel, so that God's Power, God's Love, and God's Way of Life can come through me and touch you. Period. End of statement. Nothing more. That's all I have to do. If I do that, the Power does the rest. The Power shows me where I'm gonna live, who's gonna be in my life, how much I'm gonna make, where I'm gonna go, what I'm gonna do.



Wow, what a deal for someone like us. It says that the WHOLE function of the Big Book is that I'm going to take a series of actions to allow a Power which is inside me, to begin to manifest and become real in my life, and this Power will do for me that which I have never been able to do for myself. THAT'S what this Program is. It is NOT a program of getting yourself sober and keeping yourself sober. But I didn't know this until I began to make it a way of life. If anyone in this room is sober tonight and ever drinks again, you will drink because of your self-will. The Big Book says, "Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness. We must or it kills us!" So that's what we're up against. If you're a real alcoholic or drug addict, that's what you're up against. You're not up against alcohol or drugs. You're up against your selfishness. Now here's the great trap. The very thing that will take you back to alcohol and drugs you create and there isn't anything you can do about it. Ain't that great? I create the very thing within me that makes me diseased, that will convince my mind, in spite of grave consequences, to go take a drink when I know I shouldn't take a drink. Although I have a desire not to take a drink, I'll do it anyhow and there's nothing I can do about that on my power. And then we wonder why they look at us and say, "I can't help you, you have to go find God." Because it's the truth, they can't help us. We are beyond human aid. The Twelve Steps are the only vehicle I've ever known that keeps my ego right-sized.

I met James about 4 years ago when he came to California for treatment at the recovery center I worked at. He was the sweetest kid ever. Did everything right, went to meetings, got a sponsor, worked the 12 steps, got super connected to the fellowship around him. He even worked with me when he finished treatment and went on to help many people with their sobriety.

I moved away to Seattle and we kept in touch a little online. I found out he had gone out about year ago. I found this out by hearing he was in the hospital, brain dead after he had overdosed. I went to see him, and it was one of the most devastating things I had ever seen.

I have had many friends die since I have been sober, in fact he was the 9th.

But he was not dead yet. And he was awake, looking at me as I sobbed, and all I could do was pray. He was convulsing and his whole body was tense. It was awful.

His leg flipped up and almost kicked me as I stood at the side of his bed praying for God to fill him. I touched his foot as I was about to leave and could just feel he was done here. It was his time and anything would be better than the state he was in.

That weekend they took him off life support. He lasted about 3 hours and passed away.

James was only 23 years old.

And he was a beautiful example of God's love and the devastating effects of this powerful illness we have. I hope we never forget where we come from.

All we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition.

Kristin G., San Clemente

RECOVERY WORD SEARCH

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

Reprinted, with thanks, from the Ventura County Tradition

There are also 12 'AA's. Can you find them all?

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

Find the following words in the puzzle above: These are all names to remember from the early days of AA.

- Silkworth Fosdick Strong
Seiberling Tiebout Tunks
Shoemaker Oxford Hock
Rockefeller Washingtonians Wing
Alexander Towns Jung-
Sheppard Dowling Ignatia

From the March, 1982, *Lifeline*

STUDENTS GIVE LESSON
IN LEARNING



by Harlie C, Huntington Beach

The minute I walked into the classroom and looked out at twenty-five upturned faces belonging to an Eighth Grade Personal Communications Class, I knew I wasn't what most of them had expected. I was shaven, clean, wearing a white shirt, with a tie and coat. For four weeks the class had been studying alcohol abuse and here in front of them was a real live alcoholic. Where was the straggly beard, blood shot eyes, torn and dirty clothes and brown paper bag?

I began. "My name is Harlie and I'm an Alcoholic. Let me see a show of hands. How many of you expected me to look like this"? Not a hand.

"How many of you expect to go on to High School". Hands shot up all over the room.

"How many plan College"? Half as many hands.

"How many know what you want to be as an adult"? Ten or twelve hands.

"How many of you plan to be an Alcoholic"? The hands hit the desktop with a thud all over the room.

"Well, I didn't either", I said, and, after this opening, I spent forty-five of the most rewarding minutes I've experienced since becoming a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Teacher had had the foresight to ask each student to write out their questions for the visiting "alcoholic" in advance, anticipating their reluctance when we were face to face.

I looked at the questions and it was my turn for surprise. You wouldn't expect a thirteen year old to ask, "How do you feel today in comparison to the years when you were drinking?" Or, "How can I tell for sure that a member of my family is an alcoholic?" And, "How can I help a person that I love?" Deep? You bet! And I knew my work was cut out for me.

I took a deep breath and said a short prayer. "Help me answer these kids in as straightforward, simple and complete way as I possibly can". They weren't there to hear a drunk-a-log or to view a real live alcoholic as a freak of nature. They were asking for answers to problems that had already touched their lives regarding alcohol. I thought of my own children at that age and wondered how often they had wanted to turn to someone when they couldn't talk to me and didn't know how to help.

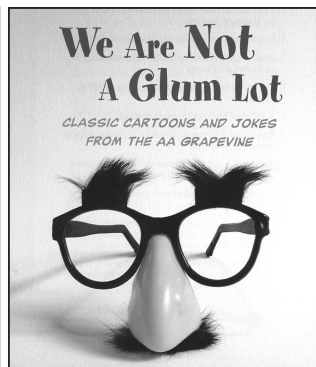
I don't remember everything that was said in those forty-five minutes but I left with the impression that I'd never experienced a more rapt, interested, and inquiring group of any age. It wasn't just me speaking, it was our program in Alcoholics Anonymous. Anyone of us could have done it that day, in that classroom.

A week later I received letters from each and every student, thanking me for sharing with them and with a comment on what had impressed them the most. Again, the depth of those letters reflected vividly the depth of their thinking concerning alcohol and its use.

Two facts became apparent to me from this experience. First, it was driven home to me that as an alcoholic, I am not a member of some estranged, isolated segment of society, segregated because of my disease. I'm more a part of the normal community where alcohol has a growing affect and concern.

Second was the realization that of all the persons in that classroom that day... students, teacher and Principal... I was the prime beneficiary. Guess who walked away the richer for the experience?

If you would like a similar "rich experience" of speaking at non-AA meetings, you can contact Nick N., Chair of the Public Information Committee, through the Central Office: 714-556-4555 or ocaa7664@sbcglobal.net



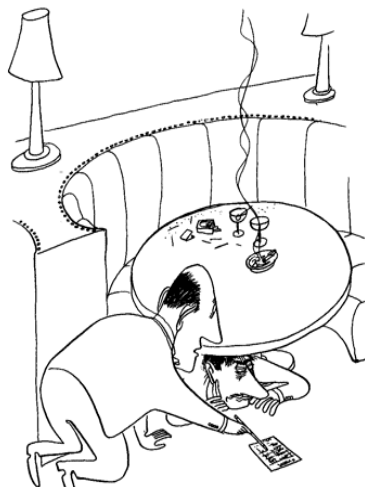
TWO TRAMPS WERE lighting a fire at the base of the Washington Monument to warm their stew. A passing drunk stopped, scratched his head, and muttered: "They'll never get it off the ground!"



NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYEES: Nobody minds a man having a morning eye-opener and it's okay to have a bracer about 10 A.M. and a couple of drinks before lunch. A few beers on a hot afternoon keep a man healthy, or at least happy. And, of course everyone drinks at a cocktail hour. A man can't be criticized for having wine with his dinner, a liqueur afterwards and a highball or two during the evening. But this business of sip, sip, sip, all day long has got to stop!

March 1961

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"But see, Sir, ten martini's at sixty cents each is..."

THE LIFELINE

1526 BROOKHOLLOW DR., SUITE 75, SANTA ANA, CA 92705

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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., Cecil W., Tarcy H. (Editor)

Mail submissions to the above address or send email to lifelineeditor@yahoo.com