



Lifeline



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ORANGE COUNTY, CAL. - NOVEMBER 1965

NO. 8.

The Twelve Traditions



OUR KEYS TO SURVIVAL and GROWTH

IN AA, EACH ONE OF US HAS TWO PRIME OBJECTIVES. We want to survive and we want to grow. While we cannot demand happiness, we know this to be the only way that it may be achieved. In any case, growth in the image and likeness of the Creator is our primary purpose and the main reason for our existence.

For AA as a whole our objectives are exactly the same. AA must survive and then it must grow in maturity and finally it must carry its message of hope and joy to those who still don't yet know.

That is what AA's Twelve Traditions are about. They are first concerned with our survival as a fellowship and then with our ability to grow in maturity and in numbers. Based on vast experience, they suggest to us how this can best be done.

With every passing year, I find myself more and more confident that AA will always survive and grow, no matter what perils and temptations the future may hold.

This I believe . . . because in following the Twelve Steps, each of us will find the right way, and in following the Twelve Traditions, all of us will find the right destiny.

From The Grapevine - November 1956

Bill

ORANGE COUNTY A.A. CALENDAR

ALL GROUP A.A. MEETING



8:30 P.M.
Hosting
Newport #1
Thursday
ALL PROCEEDS ABOVE EXPENSES GO TO YOUR ORANGE CO. CENTRAL OFFICE!

DECEMBER 5TH
EBELL CLUB
625 FRENCH ST.,
SANTA ANA

GUEST SPEAKER
AL M.
(LOS ANGELES)
(Former N.Y. Delegate)

ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP MASTER CALENDAR

DEC. 5 -	All Group Meeting	JAN. 2 -	All Group Meeting
DEC. 31 -	New Year's Eve Party	FEB. 6 -	All Group Meeting
		FEB. 27 -	Fourth Anniversary Central Office

NEXT G.S.O. MEETING - JAN. 16TH!

GROUP NEWS

COSTA MESA SUNDAY NITE

The following members will celebrate their AA Birthdays Sun., Nov. 28th:

Muriel H. 11	Pat O. 14
Bernie P. 18	Keith M. 5
Gwen S. 1	Russ P. 13
Joan E. 11	Marvin P. 2
Zelma O. 14	Dick L.

CONGRATULATIONS!

NEW UNDER FORTY GROUP

Starting November 26th, an Under Forty Men's Stag (C) meeting will be held at the Alana Club, 202 W. Broadway, Anaheim, and every Friday night thereafter. The meeting will be Speaker-Discussion, and will begin at 8:00 P.M.

NEWPORT #1 THURSDAY GROUP

The following members will celebrate AA Birthdays on Thursday, Nov. 25th:

Keith M. 5	Russell P. 13
Joan E. 11	Zelma O. 14
Muriel H. 11	Pat O. 14
Bernie P. 18	

CONGRATULATIONS!

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A FRINGE BENEFIT FOR AA GALS! A FEED 'ON THE HOUSE'

The LAORCO Closed Women's Group invites all AA gals to be its guests at a pot-luck type dinner to be served at 6:30 PM on Monday, Dec. 6th at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 15215 E. Janine Drive, Whittier.

The regular meeting will follow the dinner. Call Mary N. at 693-8402, Area Code 213, and let her know you'll be there.

NEW TUSTIN GROUP

The Tustin Women's Closed AA Group invites all AA women to attend their new Group which will be meeting on Monday nights at St. Cecelia's Parish Hall, 130 W. Main, Tustin.

ANAHEIM HACIENDA GROUP

The Hacienda Group which meets Thursday nights at the Congregational Church, 515 N. State College Blvd., Anaheim, announce the following speakers for the month of December:

Dec. 2	Elsa C.	Dec. 23	Eula Jean S.
Dec. 9	Quinn R.	Dec. 30	Marshall B.
Dec. 16	Bill S.		

CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

Xmas gifts will be exchanged at the regular monthly meeting of the AA-Alanon Luncheon at the Villa Marina Restaurant, Wed. Dec. 1st. Don't let this one slip by! \$1 limit on the gift.

ORANGE COUNTY A.A. CALENDAR (CONTINUED)



Hear Ye!

ORANGE CO. INTER-GROUP



NEW YEAR'S EVE

NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR!!!

CELEBRATION



LIVE ORCHESTRA
ENTERTAINMENT
BUFFET
DANCING

I.B.E.W.-UNION HALL Local 441
3222 BOLSA AVE.,
SANTA ANA, CAL.

9P.M. to 1A.M.
GAMES
PRIZES

DONATION - 2.50 PER PERSON

(Tickets available at your Central Office or contact Bettye A.)

J'OUU Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

OUR BLOOD BANK IS DEPLETED! REMEMBER, The Life you save may be your own! Following is a schedule of Bloodmobile stops where you may present yourself as a donor. BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR BLOOD CREDITED TO ORANGE CO. AA BLOOD BANK!

December 15	Wednesday	Santa Ana Community Clubhouse
Call KI 2-1137 for Appointments		1104 W. 8th St., Santa Ana 2:00 to 6:00PM
December 19	Sunday	Carpenter's Union, Local #2203
Call 525-3543 for Appointments		608 W. Vermont, Anaheim 10:00AM to 2:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE: For your convenience definite appointments are requested. Donors may also go to LONG BEACH BLOOD CENTER- 319 W. Broadway.

HOURS: Mon. & Tues. 3:30 to 7:30 PM
Wed. & Thurs. 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Telephone HEmlock 7-2921

LIFELINE

Beginning January 1st, the Subscriptions to Lifeline will be \$1.00 per year. Due to the inconvenience of mailing coins this increase has been suggested as a solution to the problem. It is sincerely hoped that you will all cooperate and mail in the enclosed new Subscription Form with your remittance so there will be no interruption in serving you. Lifeline Staff.

....From The Grapevine



"Don't feel bad, Harry. I'm sure Bill W. would have come to your first anniversary if he'd known about it."

Our experience has taught

us'-

One Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

Two For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority . . . a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants . . . they do not govern.

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

Four Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

Five Each group has but one primary purpose . . . to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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

Seven Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Eight Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Nine AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Ten Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Eleven Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

Twelve Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

....From The Grapevine 1956 5

THE TRADITIONS, as written by our co-founder Bill, define for me clearly and precisely how to get well and stay well. They tell me who God is, what He does, and where He functions. They show me what spirituality is and how I may seek and find it. They clarify what anonymity means.

Perhaps the most important of all, they point out the path toward humility. It is helpful that this path is not described bluntly; rather it is whispered to me in each Tradition.

Tradition One tells me that "Our common welfare should come first... "Not second or fourth or tenth, but first. Why? Because "personal recovery depends upon AA unity. "So, I learn that after the Twelve Steps have been digested, my group, my AA, comes first; not myself, you understand, but my AA group or groups. My own recovery— my most prized possession, since it means life itself— depends upon my groups unity.

I am told how to stay well in Tradition One, and to my surprise, it dawns on me that I have received the first gentle whisper which nudges me along the path of humility.

Tradition Two tells me who God is, where He is, and what He does. It says, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority... a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience." God expresses Himself in a specific location— my conscience. This is good news to me. I have wondered for over forty years where and who God was and what He did. Now I understand what was meant, long ago, by the command, "Be still and know that I am God."

I read on in the last half of Tradition Two and I find the second gentle whisper toward humility: " Our leaders (You & I) are but trusted servants; they do not govern." I love the clarity and force of that simple word "but". As a leader I am but a trusted servant; I need not govern. Thank God! I have been a dubiously trusted leader who felt that he must govern for too long; now I may be relieved of all of that. As God may express Himself in my conscience, I am His and your trusted servant who governs only me!

Tradition Three tells me that "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." To have a desire to stop anything is new to me. So I receive the third gentle whisper toward humility. As I hear and feel these gentle whispers I settle more and more each day to life size, and, as a Los Angeles member has said, "Life comes to be for free and for fun."

Tradition Four brings me clearly and simply into my own right. It says, "Each Group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." You and I are autonomous. Individually and collectively, we may do as we wish, we are unrestricted... except when we step on someone else's toes or when we step on a group's toes. Thus the fourth gentle whisper toward humility says to me, "Brother, the common welfare comes first for the truly spiritually selfish reason that your own recovery depends upon its continued existence."

Tradition Five defines in clear terms my only reason for existence. There is no other for me: "Each group has but one primary purpose... to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. There is my answer. I need purpose— and I have it! I must carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. So I say to myself, "Thank God for alcohol and for the unrecovered drunk!" And I hear a fifth gentle whisper toward humility deep within me which says, " At long last you have come to realize that service to others is all that you have to offer in this life!"

Tradition Six clarifies the spiritual side of this program. It says, "An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim." I'm glad to know this, because now I can be on guard. I have a primary spiritual aim which money, property and prestige can bust wide open and devour. I hear a sixth gentle whisper toward humility which says, " Your primary spiritual aim is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers!" In the role of a trusted servant, I must follow the instruct-

ions of a loving authority who lives in the depths of my soul. It says, "In all reverence carry to the sick alcoholic the message that I have given you."

Tradition Seven tells me how to obtain peace of mind. It shows me how to regain my self respect. At long last I understand the inner peace that comes from being responsible for myself, and to myself. Tradition Seven says, "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." What a relief that is! No longer do I need to wait for contributions. I am now free to give contributions.

Tradition Eight gives to me, a professional man, the very keynote of humility: "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers." I know the professional life; I am in it up to my very ears; I love it. But I know one other thing too: in my life of service there is absolutely no room for professionalism. In AA I am an ordinary human being with no more skills than anyone else.

Tradition Nine astonishes me by stating, "AA as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." You see, in the past, I have been so well organized (or so I thought) that I almost died from it! I was frightened at first to find that I needed to be in a group that wasn't organized. But in AA I am free to be myself as I find myself at the minute, and here I find another whisper toward humility: I can be a trusted servant who is directly responsible to you, my fellow AAs.

Tradition Ten pleases me very much. I read it daily with a joyful smile: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy." Just think as an AA I need never be drawn into public controversy. I don't have to worry about being right. Never again! I don't have to fight anymore. I've had enough of controversy.

God love our co-founder, Bill, for taking it easy on my befuddled brain. He held off giving me Tradition Eleven until I could

hear and digest Tradition Ten. I read "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." Never again do I have to promote a single thing... I am free to be myself. I am free to believe what I believe. I am free to say what I believe in my own way. And I hear a whisper (number eleven) deep within that says, "The way to humility is to realize that you need to maintain personal anonymity! It doesn't say that I have to, or that I should or that I must; it says I need - to maintain anonymity, as I need the very food and water and air that keeps me alive.

And so Tradition Twelve comes into view. "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities." I've been wondering about this anonymity business. Now I know. Anonymity means that I am only Earle. I am just a guy like you. You and I are equal. There are no class distinctions. I am not a professional man; I am just Earle. The weather way up there on the peak of "prestige and gain" was bitter cold... down here in the world of anonymity, it is warm and balmy. I can shake hands with you and look you straight in the eye and say, "Hi, my name is Earle. I am just one guy. No more. No less. I am one of the grains of sand that goes to make up our great beach of AA. Without you as a grain of sand, there would be no AA beach. Without the beach of AA, there would be no you and no me. So I hear the last and best whisper of all. It says "ever reminding us to place principles above personalities." I smile a deep inward smile. Day after day I come to know that our common welfare comes first, that my God is a living authority located inside of me, that I am His ungoverned, trusted servant who is dedicated to the spiritual activity of carrying the message in complete anonymity to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I smile because in my organization I am unorganized. I smile because I need not be a professional who has opinions that he

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7.)

must cram down your throat. I smile because I can at last be myself, and if I don't attract anyone at least I won't promote anyone.

But mainly I smile because you- all of you in AA- have given me the opportunity to fight for your principles rather than my personality.

.....Earle M., San Francisco, Cal.
From The Grapevine- November 1956

HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY!

On the nite of November 11, 1918, in New York City, I was literally carried on the shoulders of a crowd from 59th St. to 42nd St. along Fifth Avenue, simply because I wore a uniform. I was 14 years old, and the sailor suit was the official costume of the U.S. Jr. Naval Reserve!

.....Jim M.

G.S.O.

JOE K. ELECTED OUR DELEGATE

The October General Assembly of our Southern California Coastal Area of General Service (Affectionately known as Panel 2) featured the election of officers for the next two years. They are elected from among the District Committeemen by all the General Service Representatives present. A Committeeman has no vote unless he also happens to be a G.S.R. (This may be the case if his home group has no other member eligible and willing to serve as G.S.R.)

The election procedure is rather unusual. Instead of having nominations, each of the twelve Committeemen is given the opportunity to accept or decline candidacy. A written poll is then taken, and the number of ballots is checked to be sure that it corresponds to the number of G.S.R.'s present. If no candidate has a majority, balloting continues; in the event of a dead lock, there is a provision for selecting the Delegate by lot. At this election 2 very good candidates polled most of the votes- Joe K., treasurer of the Desert AA Round-up and a candidate in prior elections; and Ted B., who had served our Area well as Alternate Delegate and Treasurer for the past 2 years. Joe had a plurality, and Ted withdrew in his favor, thus eliminating the need of further balloting. Warren S. at District 12(Laguna Beach), was elected Alternate Delegate and Treasurer. Mary Jane S., who has done a good job for us as secretary these past two years, was persuaded to run again on the grounds that she was going to get stuck with the job of working out the details of our redistricting plans anyway, and she was promptly elected.

Tom A., our retiring Delegate, presented a report on his two year term, and was given a unanimous vote of thanks. He continues in office until January, when the new officers will take over. An outline of the redistricting tentatively worked out by the committeemen (after heroic efforts on the part of John L. of Victorville and Warren S.) was presented. The only major change proposed is that the former District 5, which has been totally inactive, would be absorbed into District 2 (the region involved is outside of Orange County, in the western part of our Area). In Orange County, District 7, which presently encompasses an unusually large number of groups in Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and neighboring territories, would henceforth be limited to the western half, and a new District 5 would be created from groups in and around Santa Ana. Other changes in District boundaries would be relatively minor, to eliminate confusion and overlap and take into account the shifts in groups throughout the Area. The work of remapping the Districts was very useful, because it brought to light the presence in our records of a number of groups which no longer exist, as well as causing us to discover quite a few "new" groups.

It was voted to continue to hold our General Assemblies at the Alana Club in Anaheim, and to hold them on the Sunday prior to the 20th of the months in which they are scheduled. In other words- to keep it simple- THE NEXT G.S.R. GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE ON JANUARY 16. If you represent a group as G.S.R., PLEASE DO SO!

.....Ellery S.

