

AN INTERGROUP PUBLICATION

2712 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE,
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA, 92705
TELEPHONE (714) 556-4555

Lifeline

"Happiness is an
inside job."

VOL. XVI. NO. 10.

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 1979

17th ANNIVERSARY

of our ORANGE COUNTY

AA CENTRAL OFFICE



Open House

SUNDAY - **FEB. 25th**

2712 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ROUND ROBIN

Meeting 3 P.M.



A.A. MEMBERS OF ALL AREAS OF
ORANGE COUNTY WILL PARTICIPATE

REFRESHMENTS - COFFEE - FELLOWSHIP

NEEDED - HOMEMADE COOKIES

SPONSORED BY THE ORANGE COUNTY
INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF A.A.

No Work So Important As Helping Others

It has long been my belief that when one comes to this program, a good and wise providence ordains that his attention shall be directed from time to time, to that portion of the program to which he should be paying particular heed at a given time. If you find yourself thinking a great deal about—for example—the first step—well and good. Give credit to the Lord and be prepared for the fact that next week He may be nudging you on another score.

Thus, I want to discuss a matter of great importance to me, and to some of you. It appears that there is a question as to whether there is some failure in present AA which was conspicuous by its absence in years gone by; whether or not there was, for whatever reason, a better brand of AA available at that time.

TOO MUCH COMPLACENCY

I am neither an old member nor a new member, nor do I pretend to any information on statistics and my own circle of acquaintances in AA is largely composed of folks who have been sober for a considerable time. But a great deal of conversation I hear lately would have it that there is an aura of complacency about most folks who have been sober through the program for a number of years, and that, because of that complacency there are now more slips per capita than there were in years gone by. This may or may not be true.

It was my great privilege when I first came to the program to meet nearly all of the people then active in AA in Chicago who had been members of the original group. When two of these people celebrated their fifth anniversaries all of the old guard turned out. Nearly all of these fine people are still active in the program still sober and still a source of edification and inspiration to all of us. They have, almost uniformly been steadfast through the years.

DESPERATION THEIR EARMARK

If the members of this original group had a common quality setting them apart

from others, it was the desperation with which they needed the program when they came to it; and the relative ease and uniformity with which they appear to have managed to surrender their wills and their lives to God. You will find among that old guard very little disposition to accept any bows for the grand job they have done for their attitude is one of gratitude to God and to AA. The rest of us would do well to think often of the thing said here "that we must not kid ourselves and give credit where the credit belongs. That we haven't done any job—the Lord has done it for us." We do our parts, certainly. Let us consider of what this part consists.

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of AA in Chicago, John T. spoke touchingly and masterfully to AA. He reminded his listeners that through the ages intoxication and the consequent suffering had been a problem unalleviated by church, medicine or government, until the advent of AA. He said that God in goodness had given us a sacred ability, ours alone, to ease the sufferings of a stricken lot who had found relief nowhere. He urged upon us the grave responsibility entailed in that miraculous ability.

EACH HAS A SHARE

I am concerned with complacency; the question of whether or not, being sober for a time, I am doing my share. I believe that the fact of each of us having a share to do is so apparent as to require no advocates. Granted that we are not equally articulate; that some of us have more material wealth than others; that time and circumstances govern our efforts to a degree; it is nevertheless, apparent that there is work for all of us. Those among us not doing our share are guilty of complacency.

We need to contemplate some of the remarks most commonly heard in any discussion of 12th step work and of the material aid which is an inescapable part of that work. The story is that we give information but not one thin dime. The Lord didn't put it that way and I can't believe that God considers us so set apart that we are absolved of the ordinary requirements of charity. Nor is our message so loud and clear that it prevails over the pangs of hunger or the worry of where to sleep tonight.

There are plenty of folks to tell you that there is no use in going to the alcoholic—he had to come to us. I am a guy

who would have died in the bughouse before he ever went to AA. I'll never cease to be grateful that my sponsors were a couple of buttinskys who didn't know any better than to find me and tell me that I needed AA.

HE COULDN'T WAIT

And I'll never forget the occasion when a woman from Park Ridge called and said that she believed the time had come when we could do something with her drunken husband. The roads were icy and we three wise men decided that George would keep until the weekend—the roads would be safer. Saturday's Trib announced that George hadn't waited, he had hanged himself from a basement rafter.

However this is getting to be a sermon and my only purpose is to reach a few who are not doing their bit. Nobody can make that decision for you...nobody but you. Like everything else in human nature, none of us is consistent. We run in streaks. First we do too much—then for a time we do nothing. We give until it hurts our families then we turn cheaper than tin. Part of this comes from listening to the self-appointed experts and ignoring the God-given voice within us. None of us needs advice on what to do or how to give beyond the dictates of our own conscience. The truth is always there for the seeking. We need to cultivate self-reliance, including the moral courage to do what is right for us—regardless of the opinion of others.

There are times when I'm told I'm a sucker—and times when I'm sure that it is true. But every time such thoughts come to me they are stilled by a little voice that reminds me of the words of the Lord to His Apostles, "that the greatest among you will be the servant of all."

No matter what may be your forte—artist, lawyer, doctor, musician, you will never do any other work half so important as the work you do for other alcoholics. Never will you be so close to God—so close to true creation.

...Walter K., From Here's How, Chicago



Leroy has never been in a mood that didn't call for a drink.

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ORANGE COUNTY A.A. CENTRAL OFFICE



STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES - DECEMBER 31, 1978

INCOME:	DECEMBER	YEAR TO DATE
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 5,179.96	42,738.05
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	425.50	1,279.25
LITERATURE SALES	4,213.33	50,878.17
TRANSMITTAL TO NYGSO	-0-	132.00
LIFELINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	460.00	5,417.35
SPECIAL EVENTS	-0-	1,217.99
INTEREST INCOME	125.35	164.50
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	51.40	1,493.13
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,455.54	103,320.44
DISBURSEMENTS:		
ACCOUNTING	\$ 100.00	1,955.00
BANK CHARGES	-0-	32.83
INSURANCE	59.00	923.63
GROUP INFORMATION	169.50	1,026.91
MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS & SUPPLIES	124.34	1,228.78
OFFICE SUPPLIES & SERVICES	183.13	2,096.44
POSTAGE	29.79	286.19
PRINTING	116.14	727.56
PUBLIC INFORMATION	11.80	176.86
RENT	415.00	4,980.00
SALARIES & WAGES	2,102.38	21,783.99
PAYROLL TAXES	306.38	940.05
TAXES & LICENSES	-0-	196.45
TELEPHONE, OFFICE	413.42	3,419.29
TELEPHONE, T.A.B.	232.30	1,464.71
UTILITIES	56.09	975.56
TRANSMITTAL FOR NYGSO	-0-	132.00
LIFELINE EXPENSE	(672.80)	5,835.34
COST OF LITERATURE	5,175.14	45,146.39
FRANCHISE TAX BOARD	(28.34)	200.00
SPECIAL EVENTS EXPENSE	-0-	878.18
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	28.34	60.07
WRITE-OFF UNSALEABLE LITERATURE	-0-	667.27
WRITE-OFF PREPAID EXPENSES (1976-77)	-0-	241.80
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 8,821.61	95,375.30
GAIN OR (LOSS)	1,633.93	7,945.14

	ASSETS	LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE
CASH ON HAND	\$ 50.00	
CASH IN CHECKING ACCOUNT	13,625.75	
CASH IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,533.17	
PRUDENT RESERVE ACCOUNT	4,876.33	
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	1,037.79	
INVENTORY	8,868.52	
PREPAID RENT	307.20	
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	4,550.00	
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	409.00	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		610.85
PAYROLL TAXES PAYABLE		500.77
FUND. BALANCE		34,146.14
	\$ 35,257.76	35,257.76

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE 25TH OF MONTH WILL BE SHOWN ON NEXT MONTH'S REPORT. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO CENTRAL OFFICE & BE SURE TO SHOW NAME OF GROUP MAKING CONTRIBUTION.

Excerpt from Tradition #7 (Long Form)
 "Then too, we view with much concern those AA Groups which continue beyond prudent reserves to accumulate funds."

Lifeline

We need contributions, cartoons, articles of your own experiences. For example, "What AA means to me," problems of getting rid of empties, hiding the jug, etc.

Also if you have any suggestions about Lifeline, send them in. We are trying to give you the best in Orange County news.

Please help us to keep the subscriptions up, by mentioning it in your group. We do need your help.

Lifeline presents the experiences of AAs and others interested in alcoholism. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement, either by AA or the Lifeline.

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE WILL BE FEBRUARY 10TH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thanks for your cooperation in getting the news in on time. It helps.....Ed.

From The Grapevine.....



"I've been working on Harry to join the group. He makes the best coffee in town."

Lifeline

Subscription Blank

PLEASE ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION TO LIFELINE FOR A PERIOD OF _____ YEARS AT \$4.00 PER YEAR. REMITTANCE ENCLOSED _____

NAME _____

STREET _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

MAIL TO LIFELINE, 2712 S. GRAND AVE., SANTA ANA, CA. 92705

