

THE PROMISES

Published by Orange County Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous

Santa Ana

September, 1995

Vol. XXXIII No. 9 USPS 312-680



Orange County
Intergroup Association

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

One Member's Perspective

What's Inside

Features

Too Good to be True	1
Problems other than Alcohol	2
Our Legacy of Service	4
There is a Higher Power	7
Wx'rx All Hxrx!	7
Let's Put Alcohol Back in A.A.	11

Departments

AA Birthdays	3
Tradition of the Month	3
Calendar of Events	5
Who-Where-When	6
A Chance to be of Service	7
Contributions	10 & 11
Directory Changes	12

Do you attend a meeting where a part of the format is reading **THE PROMISES** at the end of the meeting?

I do. I often look around the room while they're being read and am met with a look in the eyes of some of my mutual trudgers that indicates to me that they are hearing **THE PROMISES** as something akin to a psychic reading.

In hearing the reading, they appear to believe they deserve these things they are hearing. I can't speak for others in the rooms but I am acutely aware that what I deserve is two days in the electric chair.

I was often reminded by my sponsor that **THE PROMISES** were found in the discussion of Step 9 which meant 8 steps needed to become a part of my life before I would get to the point where I would be "... amazed before I was half way through." A sponsor can certainly dump a big bucket of cold water over the head of an alcoholic of my nature. I am selfish and self centered. I knew that before I read it in The Book. I want something and I want it *now*. **THE PROMISES** sound like a good deal and why don't they happen once the admission in step 1 is made?

I often say, if I had drank on Wednesday and not felt the effect until Saturday,

I probably would not have drank myself in to chronic alcoholism. The instant gratification generation crosses over every chronological generation, for sure.

Perhaps **The Promises** explain for themselves why they happen after we begin the effort of Step 9. A new freedom—getting right with your fellows? A new happiness—the garbage was recognized in steps 4 and 5 but until amends were made it was still there. Aware of garbage on the sidewalk does not bring happiness but taking actions that result in it being removed does.

We will not regret the past—the past is not the past just because the day on the calendar changes. The past becomes the past when all persons involved with it let it go. Once we have successfully made amends, there is no need to shut the door on the past. It won't sneak in to the room and surprise or hurt us.

Comprehending the word serenity happens when we've experienced it through a multitude of life's situations. If we are ducking our past because we haven't made amends with it, we could be prevented from knowing any long term serenity. Can there be peace when there are hard feelings among people?

continued on page 9

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CENTRAL OFFICE

HOURS

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

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

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

PROBLEMS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL

by **BILL W.**

(Co-founder, *Alcoholics Anonymous*)

PERHAPS there is no suffering more horrible than drug addiction, especially that kind which is produced by morphine, heroin and other narcotics. Such drugs twist the mind, and the awful process of withdrawal racks the sufferer's body. Compared with the addict and his woes, we alcoholics are pikers. Barbiturates, carried to extremes, can be almost as bad. In AA we have members who have made great recoveries from both the bottle and the needle. We also have a great many others who were—or still are—victimized by “goof balls” and even by the new tranquilizers.

Consequently, this problem of drug addiction in its several forms lies close to us all. It stirs our deepest interest and sympathy. In the world around us we see legions of men and women who are trying to cure or to escape their problems by this means. Many AAs, especially those who have suffered these particular addictions, are now asking, “What can we do about drugs within our Fellowship, and without?”

Because several projects to help pill and drug takers are already afloat—projects which use AA's Twelve Steps and in which AA members are active—there has arisen a whole series of questions as to how these efforts, already meeting with not a little success, can be rightly related to the AA groups and to AA as a whole.

Specifically, here is a list of questions: (1) Can a *nonalcoholic* pill or drug addict become an AA member? (2) Can such a person be brought, as a visitor, to an open AA meeting for help and inspiration? (3) Can a pill or drug taker, who also has a genuine alcoholic history, become a member of AA? (4) Can AAs who have suffered both alcoholism and addiction form themselves into special-purpose groups to help other AAs who are having drug trouble? (5) Could such

a special purpose group call itself an AA group? (6) Could such a group also include *nonalcoholic* drug users? (7) If so, should these *nonalcoholic* pill or drug users be led to believe that they have become AA members? (8) Is there any objection if AAs who have had the dual problem join outside groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous?

While some of these questions almost answer themselves, others do not. But all of them, I think, can readily be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone if we have a good look at the AA Traditions which apply, and another look at our long experience with the special-purpose groups in which AAs are active today—both within and without our society.

**“Sobriety—freedom
from alcohol—is
the sole purpose of an
AA group.”**

Now there are certain things that AA cannot do for anybody, regardless of what our several desires or sympathies may be.

Our first duty, as a society, is to insure our own survival. Therefore we have to avoid distractions and multi-purpose activity. An AA group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone the problems of the whole world.

Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an AA group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities and they have always failed. It has also been learned that *there is no possible way to make nonalcoholics into AA members*. We have to confine our membership to alcoholics and we have to confine our AA groups to a single purpose. If we don't stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone.

To illustrate, let's review some typical experiences. Years ago, we hoped to give AA membership to our families and to certain nonalcoholic friends who had been greatly helpful. They had their problems, too, and we wanted them in our fold. Regretfully, we found that this was impossible. They couldn't make straight AA talks; nor, save a few exceptions, could they identify with new AA members. Hence, they couldn't do continuous Twelfth Step work. Close to us as these good folks were, we had to deny them membership. We could only welcome them at our open meetings.

Therefore I see no way of making nonalcoholic addicts into AA members. Experience says loudly that we can admit no exceptions, even though drug users and alcoholics happen to be first cousins of a sort. If we persist in trying this, I'm afraid it will be hard on the drug user himself, as well as on AA. We must accept the fact that no nonalcoholic, whatever his affliction, can be converted into an alcoholic AA member.

Suppose, though, that we are approached by a drug addict who nevertheless has had a genuine alcoholic history. There was a time when such a person would have been rejected. Many early AAs had the almost comical notion that they were pure alcoholics—guzzlers only, no other serious problems at all. When alcoholic ex-cons and drug users first turned up there was much pious indignation. “What will people think?” chanted the pure alcoholics. Happily, this foolishness has long since evaporated.

One of the best AAs I know is a man who had been seven years on the needle before he joined up with us. But prior to that, he had been a terrific alcoholic and his history proved it. Therefore he could qualify for AA and this he certainly did. Since then, he has helped many AAs and some non-AAs with their pill and drug troubles. Of course, that is strictly *his*

(continued on page 8)

AA BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Donations...

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

Ken D.	Costa Mesa	2 years
Jeff D.	Laguna Hills	2 years
Allen M.	Laguna Beach	3 years
Karen L.	not shown	4 years
Cynthia S.	Laguna Hills	4 years
Jack L.	Costa Mesa	7 years
Maureen K.	Laguna Niguel	12 years
Mona de M.	not shown	14 years
Charles W.	Orange	14 years
Sally Van D.	Newport Beach	16 years
June L.	Irvine	19 years
Judy L.	Anaheim	19 years



Happy
Birthday!

CENTRAL OFFICE'S ACTIVITY JULY 1995

TOTAL CALLS: 4,379	12StepCalls	MeetingInfo	General Info	Customers
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS (MAIN + SATELLITE)	166	1,956	1,592	402
CALL FORWARDING VOLUNTEERS	69	294	302	

BIRTHDAY GRATITUDE FOR:

Name: _____

Sobriety Date: _____

Years: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

From: _____

*Thank you for sharing
my gratitude.*

Mail to: O.C. Central Office
2712 S. Grand Ave.
Santa Ana, CA 92705

THE LIFELINE 2712 S. GRAND AVE. SANTA ANA, CA 92705

Published monthly by the
Orange County Intergroup
Association of
Alcoholics Anonymous.
Subscriptions are \$12 annually.
Second class postage paid at
Santa Ana, 92799.
Postmaster,
send address changes to
2712 S. Grand Ave.,
Santa Ana, CA 92705

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

Tradition of the Month

TRADITION NINE

"Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The Trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority for their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

Ask Yourself...

1. Do I still try to boss things in A.A.?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of A.A. because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the A.A. program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any A.A. job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any A.A. job?
6. Why doesn't every A.A. group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an A.A. job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

—Reprinted from the AA Grapevine Traditions Checklist

OUR LEGACY OF SERVICE: ONE IMPORTANT LEG OF A.A.'S SYMBOLIC TRIANGLE

submitted by Regina K.

Your home group has rented a meeting place, where you come together to share your experience, strength and hope with the newcomer; thus, carrying our Fifth Tradition by personal example.

But what happens to that primary purpose of your group after the meeting is adjourned? For practical reasons, one group cannot maintain a 24-hour hotline for the still-suffering alcoholic, and neither can one group alone—just to name one example—gather all the information necessary to produce a local meeting directory.

To guarantee the fulfillment of—

"I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that: I am responsible."

—the keynote at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto, Canada, the A.A. groups in Orange County have delegated that responsibility to our Central Offices.

Today, we would like to extend our heart-felt **THANK YOU** to all our dedicated volunteer members in Alcoholics Anonymous who make these services possible, so that the rest of us can sleep peacefully:

DAVE	CHRIS K.	CHRIS W.	PAUL H.	JEFF
DEBBIE + JOE T.	DONNA T.	DORIS C.	JANE E. + KAT	JEANETTE P.
FRANK	MARYANN	RON R.	RON S.	SKIP
JANE	RUSS	MATTHEW	KIM	HENRY
JANET B.	RODDY C.	JOHN D.	SHIRLEY C.	MARK B.
JANET	AMBER	PATTY	CASEY	JERRY
JOANNE P.	JOSEPH Z.	JOSIE V.	MARK A.	MICHAEL K.
KAREN	GLENN	SHARON	STEVE	DEBBIE
KIRK	JOCELYN	SALLY	MIKE	CATHERINE
MARITA	WENDY	LARRY	JAN	KEN
MIKE + CATE C.	BOB D.	BOB + TONY T.	DALE S.	DARREL + JUDY C.
MIKE	TOM	REBECCA	KEN McA.	ROBERT
NICK	JOHNNY	PHIL	MIKE	DALE
NICOL S.	ROSEANNE R.	SHELLEY B.	STEVE H.	STEVE M.
PEGGY S.	PAT G.	MAUREEN K.	DOTTY B.	KEVIN L.
ROCKY	MICHAEL	TIM	TIM	SCOTT
THERESE A.	LEO	JOE	JOEY	ED
TOBY	JACK H.	CARMEN	CESAR	BILLY
RICHARD				

THANK YOU!

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AA

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

September 8th-10th, 1995

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

September 15-17th, 1995

Lake Havasu 8th Annual Roundup
 "Miracle on the River"
 London Bridge Resort, Lke Hav City AZ
 For info write to: Lake Havasu City
 Intergroup Round-Up Committee
 P.O. Box 1692,
 Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-1692

September 24th, 1995

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

Sept. 29th-Oct. 1st, 1995

44th Southern California Convention
 "Make Life a Masterpiece" (see below)
 Holiday Inn and Convention Center
 Bakersfield, California
 call: Joe W. (714) 847-3581, Kathy O.
 (909) 674-3022, Stu W. (619) 582-3943

11th Annual O.C. Convention Planning Meetings

11th OCAAC, March 22-24th, 1996
 Red Lion Hotel, Costa Mesa, CA
 Open planning meetings 7:30 PM at the
 Roque Center, 9842 13th St. Garden Grv
 Sept. 29, 1995 Dec. 20, 1995
 Oct. 18, 1995 Jan. 17, 1996
 Nov. 15, 1995 Feb. 21, 1996
 Walk-thru at the Red Lion March 1996
 IF YOU CAN talk, stand, sit, smile, saw,
 paint, hammer, drive, file, type, write,
 count, breathe or just tell jokes...
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

October 6,-8th, 1995

21st Annual Woman to Woman
 San Diego Princess Resort, Mission Bay
 Call: Bert B. (714) 962-8156, Barbara B.
 (714) 421-6984, Judie A. (310) 439-1440

November 23-26, 1995

29th Annual Las Vegas Roundup
 Riviera Hotel, 2901 Las Vegas Blvd. So.
 Las Vegas, NV 89109 (800) 634-6753
 For Info: The Round-up Committee
 P.O. Box 43177, Las Vegas NV 89116

March 18-29, 1997

50th Anniversary Convention of AA in
 Brazil
 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 For info: CENSAA/COC - Av. Rio
 Branco, 57-s/201, Rio de Janiero - Brazil
 Zip Code 20001-004

REGISTRATION FORM

Please make check payable to: 44th S.C.C.
 Mail this form with your check to: 44th S.C.C., P.O. Box 1407
 Lake Elsinore, California 92531

Special Advance Registration Price: \$10, if postmarked before September 8, 1995. Thereafter, \$12.

If not mailed before September 8, please plan to register at the convention. Confirmations will not be mailed.

NAME _____
Last Person picking up tickets First
(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: Days () _____ Eves () _____

AA AL-ANON ALATEEN GUEST

NAME TAG TO READ: _____

CITY OR GROUP: _____

NAME _____
Last Person picking up tickets First
(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: Days () _____ Eves () _____

AA AL-ANON ALATEEN GUEST

NAME TAG TO READ: _____

CITY OR GROUP: _____

Note: Attendees who do not attend AA, Al-Anon or Alateen, must register as GUEST. Parents are responsible for their children under 18 years.

TICKETS DESIRED

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND TICKETED EVENTS

Please note: All ticket orders will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. For best seating, purchase luncheon and banquet tickets early.

If you wish to sit together, please return your registration and ticket requests together.

Tickets will not be mailed. All tickets may be picked up at the Ticket Booth on arrival.

QTY.	EVENT	TOTALS
_____	ADVANCE Registration (before Sept. 8)	\$10 _____
_____	REGULAR Registration (after Sept. 8)	\$12 _____
_____	Friday Nite Dance	\$5 _____
_____	* Saturday Al-Anon Luncheon	\$18 _____
_____	* Saturday AA Banquet, Meeting, Show/Dance	\$32 _____
_____	Saturday Alateen Banquet/Elections	\$12 _____
_____	Alateen Dance	\$5 _____
_____	Alateen Banquet & Dance	\$15 _____
_____	Golf Tournament **	\$40 _____
_____	5K/10K Mile Fun Run/Walk **	\$10 _____

* If vegetarian plate is requested.
 ** Please complete entry form below.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Friday night Buffet and Sunday Breakfast Buffet
 available at Holiday Inn Hotel & Red Lion Hotel

