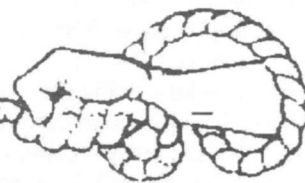


Lifeline



SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

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Orange
County
Intergroup
Association

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ORANGE COUNTY – CENTRAL OFFICE

Central Office Hours – Mon-Fri 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Saturdays 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

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South County Office Hours – Mon-Fri 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

From San Clemente, Dana Point, Laguna Beach and Capistrano

Valley Area – 27635 Forbes Road, Suite D.

Laguna Niguel CA 92677

GET INVOLVED!!! Every city or county has a Central Office, and we have two of the best ones around. The main office is in Santa Ana – just off the 55 Freeway at Dyer; the south county office is in Laguna Niguel. Every single meeting in Orange County should have an Intergroup Representative. If your meeting goes a whole month and you never hear an Intergroup report during the AA announcements part of your meeting, then it is time for you to step up to the plate. Become an Intergroup Rep. and come to our meeting every month. It is held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2025 Alton Parkway (Between Von Karmann and Red Hill) The meetings are brief, they are fun, and it is just another tool to put in your kit of "Sobriety Helpers". Show up at 7:00 P.M.

HOW THE BIG BOOK WAS PUT TOGETHER

By Bill W. – 1954

We have been telling the story of how the book came to be – as told by Bill W., our co-founder. You will see as you read this each month how the planets had to be aligned, the miracles were wafting through the air, and God was busy doing what God does best – making miracles. We last saw Bill and Smitty having just formed a board which included both alcoholics and non-alcoholics. How in the world would that work?

So we had this wonderful new foundation. These friends, unlike Mr. Rockefeller, were sold on the idea that we needed a lot of dough, and so our salesmen around New York started to solicit some money, again, from the very rich. We had a list of them and we had credentials from friends of Mr. John D. Rockefeller. "How could you miss, I ask you, salesmen?" The Foundation had been formed in the spring of 1938 and all summer we solicited the rich. Well, they were either in Florida or they preferred the Red Cross, or some of them thought that drunks were disgusting and we didn't get one damn cent in the whole summer of 1938, praise God!

Well, meantime, we began to hold trustee meetings and they were commiseration sessions on getting no dough. What with the mortgage and with me and Smitty eating away at it, the five grand had gone up with the flue, and we were all stone broke again. Smitty couldn't get his practice back either because he was a surgeon and nobody likes to be carved up by an alcoholic surgeon - even if he was three years sober. So things were tough all around, no fooling. Well, what would we do?

One day, probably in August 1938, I produced at a Foundation meeting, a couple of chapters of a proposed book along with some recommendations of a couple of doctors down at John Hopkins to try to put the bite on the rich. And we still had these two book chapters kicking around. Frank Amos said, "Well now, I know the religious editor down there at Harpers, an old friend of mine, Gene Exman." He said, "Why don't you take these two book chapters, your story and the introduction to the book, down there and show them to Gene and see what he thinks about them."

So I took the chapters down. To my great surprise, Gene who was to become a great friend of ours, looked at the chapters and said, "Why Mr. Wilson, could you write a whole book like this?" "Well, I said, "Sure, sure." There was more talk about it. I guess he went in and showed it to Mr. Canfield, the big boss, and another meeting was had. The upshot was that Harpers intimated that they would pay me

