

Lifeline



Experience, Strength, and Hope in Orange County

Spiritual Experience or Spiritual Awakening?

The Second Appendix to the *Big Book* reads, “The term spiritual experience and spiritual awakening are used many times in this book . . .” That paragraph led me to believe that those two terms were synonymous. I was incorrect in my thinking!

As for evidence of my newfound knowledge, let’s look at Step Twelve in the FIRST printing of the first edition of the *Big Book*, the one with the red binder. It reads, “Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps . . .” (*Big Book*, first edition, p. 60). From the second printing of the first edition through the book we use today, *experience* was changed to *awakening*. I’ve found no specific reference as to why it was changed, but I assume that there were objections to the original phrasing—and there really is a difference.

On page 27 of the *Big Book*, Carl Jung tells Rowland Hazard that, “Here and there, once in a while alcoholics have what are called vital spiritual experiences.” He explains that these experiences are the things responsible for an alcoholic’s ability to recover from alcoholism. Note that here he does not say *awakening*.

On page 25 of the *Big Book*, it reads, “The great fact is just this and nothing less: That for us we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God’s universe.” We hear about these all the time in meetings. They say “God shots,”

From the second printing of the first edition through the book we use today, *experience* was changed to *awakening*. I’ve found no specific reference as to why it was changed, but I assume that there were objections to the original phrasing—and there really is a difference.



“epiphany,” “ah-ha moments,” “moment of clarity,” and many others. Consider the fact that Step Ten in the book reads, “For by this time sanity will have returned” (p. 84). And further on it says, “We have not even sworn off. Instead, the **problem has been removed**” (p. 85, *Editor’s note: emphasis added by the writer*).

The term *spiritual awakening* only appears on page 60. This is where all twelve Steps are listed, and Step Twelve begins, “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps. . .” I realized this awakening was far more than just cessation of

drinking. It seems to me that the experiences have been the cause

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The Lifeline is published monthly by the Orange County Intergroup Association

Purpose: The *Lifeline* Committee is a group of AA members charged with the responsibility of producing and distributing the Orange County *Lifeline*. The *Lifeline* is published monthly and is supported solely through contributions from the AA groups and members of Orange County. The *Lifeline* proposes to meet the following needs of the Orange County AA membership: to inform AAs of service opportunities, events, and announcements; to share experience in recovery, unity, and service; and to report the actions, finances, and meetings of the Orange County Intergroup Association and other Central Office committees.

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For information about General Service, please go to the Area 9 website, [Welcome to Area 09 - Mid Southern California Area 09 \(msca09aa.org\)](http://www.msca09aa.org).

Welcome 2023
SERVICE BOARD

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Chair@oc-aa.org

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NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL CENTRAL OFFICE.



Public Information Committee: Meets the **last Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM** in the Central Office Board Room —**IN PERSON ONLY**—

Group Relations Committee: Meets the **3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00PM** via Zoom (ID: 913 4366 3535, Password: ocaa)

Lifeline Committee: Meets the **1st Thursday of the month at 7:00PM** via Zoom (ID: 886 0942 7655, Password: lifeline) *See page 3 for more details.*

Special Events Committee: meets the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM** via Zoom (ID: 959 5011 4705)

South Orange County H & I meets the **3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM** (new members' orientation) and **6:45PM** (business meeting), Laguna Beach Canyon Club (small room), 20456 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. South County H & I's mailing address is 27068 La Paz Rd., #706, Aliso Viejo, 92656. For more information, go to www.sochic.club.

Orange County H & I meets the **2nd Sunday of the month at 4:00PM and 6:00PM** at the Garden Grove Alano Club (9845 Belfast Dr., Garden Grove). Orientation starts at 5:00PM sharp. The Committee Meeting is at 6:00, and the meeting opens around 5:40. *See page 13 for more details.* For more information on Orange County H & I, go to www.ochandi.org.

The Central Office Committee meets the **4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM**, Central Office, 1526 Brookhollow, Suite 75, Santa Ana

The OCAA Technology Committee meets the **1st Monday of the month at 6:00PM** via Zoom (ID: 933 6844 2432, Password: ocaatech)

The Orange County Intergroup Assoc. meets the **2nd Wednesday of the month** at Norma Hertzog Community Center, 1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa —**IN PERSON ONLY**—

For more information on any of the above committees, please contact Orange County Central office at (714) 556-4555.

Thank you to our board and committee members.



Letter from the Editor

We hope you enjoy this month's *Lifeline* with our theme of Step/Tradition Three. Please also note the flyers on page 9 and 10 for AA events. Intergroup is having a fun St. Patrick's Day event this month, and the details can be found on p. 10. The OC AA convention is next month, and now is the time to sign up. Using the QR code on the flyer on p. 9, you can register for the convention.

This is the point in a newcomer's life when they have a decision to make. All the rest of the Steps are contingent upon believing in a Power greater than oneself. We have a number of thoughtful articles this month about what it means to turn your will and life over to a power greater than yourself. I am especially grateful for the atheist or agnostic AAs who contributed this month. There is room for everyone in AA, and we are a spiritual rather than religious organization.

I hope you'll read our cover story where Don M. discusses the difference between a spiritual experience and a spiritual awakening. This well-researched article includes page numbers in the *Big Book* where you can find more information for further reading.

Our longtime printer, Carlos T., will be retiring. He has done an amazing job printing the *Lifeline*, and he has graciously made changes to the printing as our committee has requested. During the Covid times especially, he was always willing to be flexible. We will miss him.

Thank you for reading this month's *Lifeline*. If you have any suggestions to make it better or would like to submit an article, please email me at ocliflineeditor@gmail.com.

Jennifer J.
Lifeline Editor



Share Your Thoughts on Sobriety with the *Lifeline*

If you'd like to submit an article, poem, or cartoon to be considered for publication, please send all submissions to the email address below by the 15th of the month for the following month (e.g., August 15th for the September issue). The best articles are under 600 words and are often much shorter. If you are unsure of what to write, you can think of a great share at your favorite meeting. You can write on a topic like how you chose your sponsor, your concept of a Higher Power, or tell your story. Not a writer? A committee member can interview you and write your story. You will have final approval on anything published. Please email ocliflineeditor@gmail.com for more information.

The *Lifeline* Committee invites you to join us. *Lifeline* Committee members can help read, write, edit, create, design, or simply offer suggestions for the *Lifeline*. The *Lifeline* Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month via Zoom (ID: 886 0942 7655, Password: lifeline).

To the Care of God

I want to seek God after a meeting. Being in a place of desperation can be a good thing. I run to God. He is my confidence and security. He is my victory in the battlefield of my mind. I tell God, "I need you" and he responds, "I am here."

I need to toe the line in my recovery. Do not forsake the foundational disciplines of devotion. Turning my will and life to the care of God, I sit and submit my feelings, thoughts, and desires towards God. I meditate on his word to change my attitude, engage in power through prayer, and connect with him through worship. As I abide in him, I activate my faith and hang on to hope!

Thomas T.



VISIT YOUR CENTRAL OFFICE

Get 20% off one book of your choice with this coupon!

(One per person per month, please)



Our Principles

Step Three: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.

If Step One is admitting we need help, and Step Two is asking for help, then Step Three is about accepting help. For many of us, the idea of turning our will and our lives over to a Higher Power is daunting; for some of us, it seems near impossible! But the start of Step Three is quite simple: we made a *decision*. And that decision is really about being willing to accept help. For those of us who first came to believe in the AA group as a higher power, Step Three is about being willing to accept help from the group – whether that be in the form of taking suggestions, or calling our fellow AAs when we are struggling, or listening to how our fellows stayed sober despite a myriad of struggles. Regardless of our own understanding of God or Higher Power, Step Three tells us to accept help when it comes, in whatever form that may be.

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

Notice that Tradition Three does not tell us we must be *alcoholic* to be members of AA – we must only have a desire to *stop drinking*. Many of us come into the rooms with an understanding that we may “have a problem” or a desire to “control” our drinking but without identifying as an alcoholic. Identifying as an alcoholic may come with time for some of us. Tradition Three encourages us to

be open-minded and accepting of all people who come into the rooms so that we may carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept III: To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Concept III builds upon the preceding Concepts’ promotion of the Group Conscience and encouragement of mutual trust in our fellows. A “Right of Decision” means that each element of AA – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – can interpret and apply their own authority to solving most problems or other issues that arise, rather than having to seek advice or guidance from an overarching authority. This requires us to trust our responsible leaders (the trusted servants) to decide how to solve these problems. As the AA Service Manual tells us, “‘trust’ must be our watchword, otherwise we shall wind up leaderless.”

[Editor’s note: You can read the long form of the [Traditions on aa.org](#) or on pp. 563-556 in the Big Book.]

Ali N.

How Am I Doing?

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

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over-impressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if they can’t ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what they do for a living? Where they live? What their domestic arrangements are? Whether they have been to AA before? What their other problems are?

(Reprinted with permission from the AA Grapevine)

(Traditions Checklist available from Central Office)

[SMF-131 Traditions Checklist from the A.A. Grapevine \(aa.org\)](#)

Support Your Central Office

@OCAINTERGROUP



Scan. Pay. Go.

You can contribute online at <https://oc-aa.org> with Paypal or Venmo (QR codes above).

Checks and money orders can be sent to:

ORANGE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE
1526 Brookhollow, Suite 75
Santa Ana, CA 92705



March AA Birthdays

Melissa A.	Tustin	7 years
Mary G.	Huntington Beach	14 years
Sandybeach G.	Huntington Beach	31 years
Jim C.	Fountain Valley	40 years
Linda C.	Costa Mesa	43 years
W. James C.	Costa Mesa	43 years
Barbara B.	Laguna Woods	44 years
Vaun I.	Tustin	52 years

You can celebrate an AA birthday in the *Lifeline* with a donation to Central Office. A donation of any amount is a generous way to celebrate the gift of sobriety and support your Central Office.



Located at the end of the 55 freeway in Costa Mesa next to the Donald Dungan branch of the Costa Mesa Public Library

**Please join us at the
Orange County Intergroup Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00PM
—IN PERSON ONLY—
Info: 714-556-4555, <https://oc-aa.org>**

**Norma Hertzog Community Center
1845 Park Ave.
Costa Mesa**

805 TOTAL CALLS	CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY January 2023			
	12 Step Calls	Meeting Info	General Info	Customers
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS (MAIN + SATELLITE)	8	262	198	222
CALL FORWARDING VOLUNTEERS	5	189	142	0

May I Do God's Will Always



Decision making was definitely not part of my brain's intellect when the gift of sobriety was granted to this alcoholic. Phrases like "God's Will Be Done" were totally foreign to me. Although I'd truly experienced a very powerful part of who I had been taught that God is in my childhood, I did not know who God was, in my own understanding, before I was introduced to AA's Twelve Steps.

Alcohol was the demon that held a noose about my neck. That noose began to loosen as I read the *Big Book*, applied the Steps to my trials, got a sponsor, went to several meetings every day for the first six months of my sobriety, got into service work, and started to sponsor a young woman when I was six months or so sober. I was on fire for God from the moment that He pulled me up and out of the deep, dark hell of alcoholism.

Yet when it came to the Third Step, I realized that I had never really made a decision to turn my will and my life over to God's care. I didn't even have a clue as to how to make decisions. I just let everyone else make all of my decisions because I was living with fears that I wouldn't be making decisions that were approved of by others. I wasn't the least bit aware that I had no confidence in myself then, though today I am aware that I was holding myself hostage by being a people pleaser. I am no longer a floundering, empty vessel. God is doing for me what I could not do for myself before He mysteriously rescued me from the dark abyss of alcoholism's hell. God's grace has allowed me to now flourish with true independence of the spirit of self-will, which I was chained to. God's power flows into my life just when it is needed.

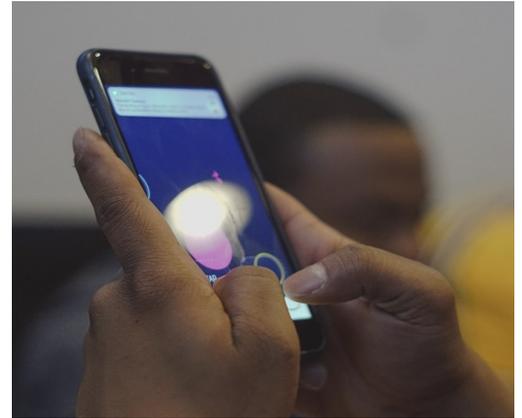
To continue to fit myself to be of maximum service to God and the people about me, I must continue to offer myself to God through the Third Step Prayer. After The Third Step Prayer ends with "May I do Thy will always," the *Big Book* suggests, "We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him" (p. 63). One day after many years of sobriety, I had an epiphany that I had not been ready to utterly abandon myself to God. So, I began to add "and may I utterly abandon myself to Thee," after those last powerful words in the Third Step Prayer, "May I do Thy will always."

All of my decisions are now made through daily turning my will and my life over to God. It is He who makes all of my decisions. Self-sufficiency only served to be ruin for me. I'm no longer fragmented with isolation. I learned to pray for God's will in everything because I am confident that He desires only the best for me.

It took many years of being beaten into painful states of reasonableness for me to become willing to conform to AA's principles and trust God. I am totally convinced that the authenticity of the continuous work and practice of making that one decision in Step Three will continue to allow me to grow along the spiritual lines that I unknowingly craved, when my life was lived by self-propulsion.

Effie R.

Looking for a service commitment you can do with your phone?



The Orange County Central Office call forwarding program insures that our help line phones are answered by volunteers 24/7. During hours when the Central Office is closed, calls are forwarded to a call forwarding volunteer's home or cell phone, where the volunteer answers the calls just as if they were sitting in Central Office. This allows Central Office to save money because we do not have to use an answering service. More importantly, the caller will be talking to a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Two years of sobriety are suggested to volunteer for this service. Please call the Central Office Manager in Santa Ana at (714) 556-4555 or the Satellite Office Manager in Laguna Niguel at (949) 582-2697 to sign up for a brief orientation session.

SHIFTS:

Monday—Friday

- 6AM—9AM
- 6PM—9PM
- 9PM—6AM

Saturday and Holiday:

- 6AM—9AM
- 1PM—4PM
- 4PM—7PM
- 7PM—10PM
- 10PM—6AM

Sundays

- 6AM—10AM
- 10AM—2PM
- 2PM—6PM
- 6PM—10PM
- 10PM—6AM

Archives Corner

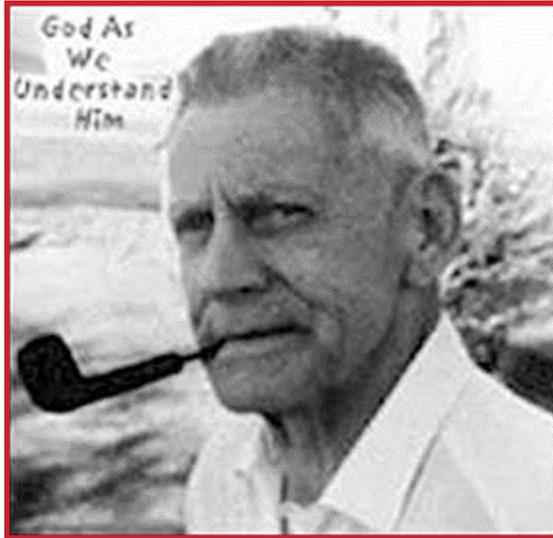
Jimmy B.

James Burwell, known as Jimmy B., was one of the first ten members of AA on the East Coast and was responsible for starting Alcoholics Anonymous in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

His most crucial contribution came from his atheism or, as he later termed it, his "militant agnosticism." Jim opposed the usage of the word "God" in consistent adherence to his agnostic philosophy. A compromise was made that such terms as "Power Greater than Ourselves and Higher Power" would be used to make Alcoholics Anonymous more inclusive. Bill W. writes about the contentious battles over the use of the word God in the Twelve Steps and *Big Book* during the time it was written.

Later, Jim said that his militant ways had softened but that his earlier argument had been a spiritual wonder. This flexibility opened the door for differing points of view for all alco-

holics. One's religious beliefs or lack thereof could bear no relevance on one's membership in the Fellowship of the Spirit. Without Jim's input, AA would probably not have reached the number of people it has worldwide today.



James "Jimmy B." Burwell

Jim is also credited with the adoption of AA's Third Tradition, "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." In the foreword to the first edition, it is stated, "The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking."

His story "The Vicious Cycle" was published in the second, third, and fourth editions of the *Big Book*. Jim died on September 8, 1974. He died sober.

Mary G.
MSCA 09 Archives

"I politely invited God to spend the day with me (like a visiting relative or friend), and instantly began a mental dialogue with God ... I realized that in the process of introducing myself to God, I was getting a good look at who I really was." Houston, Texas, October 1985, From: "Okay, God...", *Spiritual Awakenings*

I was one of those who had a hard time believing that God could help me get sober and restore my sanity. However, I remained open minded, and I believed you believed, and it was quite clear that your lives were much better for it.

When I was finally ready to turn my will and life over to the care of God, I still needed to up the ante. I started doing physical things to keep me right sized and checked in with my Higher Power. I would keep doors open a little longer to let God in too. I would buckle up the passenger seat for God. Whenever I found coins, I would pick them up, thank God for my sobriety and everything I have today.

When in rooms, I would try to pick out an empty chair for my Higher Power. Lastly, I would cup my hands and visualize putting all my life stressors into my cupped hands, then I would gently toss them upward to physically give them to God.

I recognized that my actions were silly, but they worked for me. I still do these things today. So yes, I regularly invite God to spend the day with me, and he brings me limitless comfort. I know I am on a spiritual journey, but I am only along for the ride; the direction and destination is not up to me. It is truly a gift to be able to see life through a prism of spiritual gratitude.

Irish Mike

TURN OVER MY WILL AND MY LIFE? YIKES!

As a newbie in sobriety who did not yet have a sponsor, I sat down on a Saturday afternoon and decided to work the Steps then and there. I thought about what it said in the first Step and decided I could do that—*check*—First Step completed. I read the Second Step, thought for a minute, and said to myself, *Well, I'm not really insane, but okay*—*check*—Second Step completed. Then I read the Third Step. *Turn my will and my life over to God?! Uh-uh, I'm not doing that! I guess I'll only do eleven of the Steps*, I thought.

On to Step Four, as I completed my inventory in a few short minutes. About a half hour later, I was done working the Steps. *That was easy*, I thought. Now, onto remaining sober one day at a time. I think I was about ten days sober at that point.

A little more than a month later, I'm pretty sure I was about 45 days sober, and I had been sharing in meetings that I wasn't about to turn my will and my life over to anyone or anything, including God. At that day's meeting, a man whom I wasn't particularly fond of tapped me on the shoulder after my share and told me he wanted to talk to me after the meeting. Reluctantly, I agreed and met him outside afterward. I figured we'd talk for a few minutes. We talked for about an hour and a half.

Although I can't possibly remember everything that was said, I can say that meeting had a profound and lasting impression on me that I hold near and dear to this day. I dare say it could be the most impactful incident in my recovery.

One of the things he asked me was if drugs and alcohol were powers greater than myself. I responded, "Of course they are; that's why I'm here." He asked me if I had turned my will and my life over to drugs and alcohol. I tried to wiggle out of that question, but I answered honestly that I had turned my will and my life over to drugs and alcohol. He suggested that that was probably indeed why I was there. He then asked me what it cost me to have turned my will and my life over to drugs and alcohol. My answer was that it had cost me pretty much everything.

He asked me to play along with a role-playing exercise. He said he was going to pretend he was a cop and wanted me to pretend I was a fugitive running from the law. He told me he was going to put his fingers in my back as if they were a gun. I agreed. He put his fingers in my back and sternly said, "Hands up!" I half-heartedly put my hands up, but not all the way up. He then, in a sterner voice, shouted, "I SAID HANDS UP!" A bit riled and shaken, I put my hands up high.



Then I read the Third Step. Turn my will and my life over to God?! Uh-uh, I'm not doing that! I guess I'll only do eleven of the Steps, I thought.

With that, he told me that my problem was that I was in the program with my hands only partially up and asked, "If your way works, why the hell are you even here?" He explained that the Twelve-Step program is about fully surrendering, which is not giving up but stopping fighting. I could grasp that concept.

He continued by providing several examples of surrendering to win. In sum, he said that if I was going to be part of the program, I needed to do things "OUR" way, or that I shouldn't waste his time, my time, or anyone's time, that I should go elsewhere.

Next, he reminded me that I had admitted to him that by turning my will and my life over to drugs and alcohol, it had cost me just about everything. He asked me what it would cost me to turn my will and my life over to God as I understand Him. All I could say was, "Nothing." He then reminded me that all I had to do was to make a

decision and that the Third Step didn't require me to do anything—just make a decision.

I decided to take his suggestion and to make a decision to turn my will and my life over to God as I understood Him. As I did that, a miracle happened! It was like something inside me opened up, and the obsession to intoxicate myself left me, just like that. I can't explain it anymore clearly. Logically, it makes no sense, but I swear it happened. I now see it as God doing for me what I couldn't do for myself.

Up to that moment, prior to getting sober and for the forty-five or so days I was sober, the obsession was like a noose around my neck followed by the compulsion to drink and use drugs. Even though I was sober, I was like a time bomb ready to explode at any moment. As I stood there, at that moment, I was free from the obsession that had held me prisoner for more than twenty years! Although since that day I have had moments of temptation to drink and/or use drugs, the obsession has never returned. That day was in June 1993.

Prior to that day, I had asked someone to be my sponsor. I immediately called him when I got home to tell him about what I just shared here. He told me it was time to get into action and that we should begin working on my Fourth Step, which we did then and there.

To conclude, no action is required in the first three Steps. They are all about admission, becoming willing and open minded. I am convinced that without the conversation and the ultimate taking of the Third Step, I may never have been truly ready to do a Fourth Step. I'm not sure I would still be sober today. I might have found a way to allow myself to slip back into my old way of thinking. I am eternally grateful for the conversation with that man and that miraculous day.

Bob L .

38th Annual OCAA Convention with Al-Anon Participation

April 7th, 8th and 9th 2023



Hilton Orange County
Costa Mesa, CA
714-540-7000
Hotel Code: **FUNN**



Room Rates: \$139 until March 7th, 2023.
Register EARLY! - Parking: \$12.00

**All Registrations are online this year
at OCAAC.org.**

You can also register at the convention starting
April 7th 2023.



Meeting Spotlight

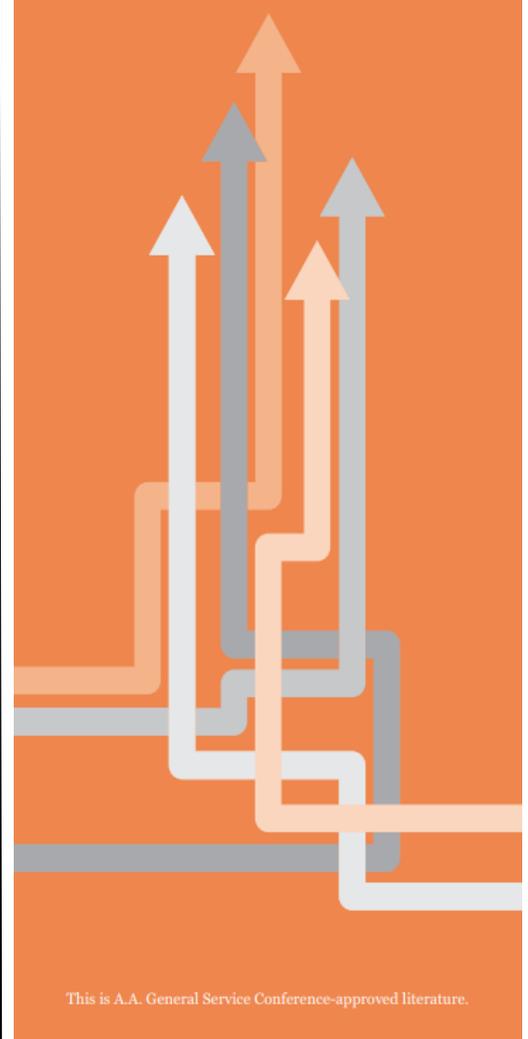
Sobriety First



**Daily Open Meeting
6AM-7AM
Orange County Church
555 W. Main St.
Tustin**

March Pamphlet of the Month

Many Paths to Spirituality



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

A General Service Conference approved pamphlet, Many Paths to Spirituality (P-84), show how there are many beliefs (and non-belief) among AA members. This pamphlet reflects that AA is a spiritual organization, not a religious one.

[P-84 Many Paths To Spirituality \(aa.org\)](http://aa.org)



OCAA INTERGROUP PRESENTS



SPRING INTO SERVICE

5 PM PIZZA – 6 PM SPEAKERS
7 PM RAFFLE – DANCE – FUN
FELLOWSHIP

FRIDAY MARCH 17 TH
5 PM - 9 PM

Norma Hertzog Community Center
1845 Park Ave, Costa Mesa 92627

Call for more info
Cheyenne (949) 579-0865

Jigging Sober Down Bourbon Street



The day started innocently enough while visiting my brother in Biloxi, Mississippi. The plan was simple: a quick plane trip to New Orleans, a one-night stayover, and a quick departure by rental car along the scenic shoreline of the Sugar Sand Gulf of Mexico. Two sober alcoholics in the early part of their relationship (now in its fourteenth year) on a new adventure whistling away with love in the air. Checking into a hotel with eager anticipation midafternoon, I noticed that the day was March 17th, the holiest of days for alcoholics. “Wow!” I gasped rather loudly to my lassie who had never set foot in the French Quarter, “Honey, it’s St Patrick’s Day, and we are on Bacchus Boulevard for the most revered day, second only to Mardi Gras.”

We collected our thoughts and bravely clutched hands, marching to the gathering sound of an army of drunken faux Irish men and women clamoring down Bourbon Street in celebration to a saint who had no resemblance to the man they were honoring. We assembled in the safest zone on Bourbon Street, equidistant from the tavern, bars, and juke joints, disgorging rummies and swillers onto the cluttered pavers of Bourbon Street.

We were two sober people holding hands, smiling at the tomfoolery that filled the air, and beaming with that romantic love that goes with a romance in its infancy. We walked lightly with invincible grace that comes when one is in early romance. We were quite smitten with each other and felt safe and protected by the feeling of love that mingled around us!

Then, an unexplainable thing began to happen. One after another, couples in celebration, friends, brothers, and buddies with drinks in their hands wanted to take pictures with us! We were a drinkless couple who needed no high-octane intoxicant to express our wordless love for each other. The feeling that emerged amongst this frolicking group was one of instant belonging to a special moment on the journey of life. There was an immediate feeling of togetherness, if only for a twinkling of time in the here and now.

The evening was wonderful and unforgettable as witnessed by writing this experience some twelve years later. The next morning, we went to the Café du Monde, a signature landmark in the French Quarter, where we had beignets (French pastry) with loads of powdered sugar and chicory coffee. Looking up from my white frosted lap and face sprinkled with powdered snow, I took notice of a shrunken young man holding his head while bent over his cup of coffee. He was dejectedly wearing a black T-shirt in large white font stating his misery: *The liver must be destroyed. It is evil.*

Hopefully, one day he too will recognize a way of life my Sunshine and her Pumpkin have found in the Great Design of Living outlined in the big blue book of Alcoholics Anonymous!

John G.

Tradition Three – Simple and Free

In the AA meetings at my rehab, other substances were spoken of freely. We were also taken to outside meetings. One was a closed meeting intended specifically for alcoholic men. I didn’t know this at the time but was told by our counselor that I’d need to identify as alcoholic.



Setting aside my annoyance—I didn’t believe I was an alcoholic—I went along. Desperation had made me more curious than resentful. But one guy at the meeting identified not as an alcoholic, but as an addict. You could feel the tension rise in the room as we newcomers wondered what would happen next; however, this situation wasn’t new to AA.

From the first “man with the double stigma,” who had issues with something besides alcohol and wanted to join AA, there’ve been questions about membership (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 143). In the early days, many rules were created with the intention of protecting AA at a time when members thought that associating with people who had other problems (such as drug addiction) might harm the fellowship and their reputations. AA came to realize they were succumbing to fear, and if there were too many rules, they couldn’t help anyone get sober. One simple condition for membership was arrived at: a desire to stop drinking. That man in question said he had this desire, as have many like him, and AA has survived to help countless alcoholics find sobriety.

Tradition Three is full of wisdom based on simplicity and freedom. First, simplicity: each of us is an AA member if we say so. The reasons behind our desire to stop drinking are our own business. We never have to prove that we’re a member nor, for that matter, conform in any way. AA’s Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are suggestions, not rules. You can disregard them all and still call yourself an AA member.

Though I’d dabbled in alcohol, by the time I hit rock bottom, I was into another substance entirely. I argued, wanting to be accurate about what I was addicted to. AA took my rebelliousness and simply said, “Fine, if you decide you’re a member, you’re a member. Welcome.” I couldn’t argue with that—though I still tried. Eventually, I concluded that sobriety was sobriety, whether from alcohol or any other substance, and that AA had the answer.

As for freedom, the long form of Tradition Three says any of us can claim to be an AA group if there’s more than one of us and we don’t have any other affiliation. This simply means that attaining sobriety through AA is the first reason we gather but we’re free to choose whom we recover with. Hence, we have AA meetings that are closed, open, women’s, teen, LGBTQ, and more, each with their own individual customs. We’re free to choose what meetings to attend or avoid. Or we can start a meeting of our own.

Continued on page 15

Group Contributions to Central Office, January

	JAN	YTD					
ALISO VIEJO	^	^		LAS FLORES	^	^	
ANAHEIM	^	^		LOS ALAMITOS	^	^	
ANAHEIM HILLS	^	^		MISSION VIEJO	^	^	
BREA	^	^		MWF 12:00P-Aurora Park, 23202 Via Gu	\$200	\$200	
BUENA PARK	^	^		We 9:30A-(W)'s Topic, 26051 Marguerite	\$433	\$433	
CAPISTRANO BEACH	^	^		Th 12:00P-(W)'s BB Study, 26051 Marg.	\$422	\$422	
CORONA DEL MAR	^	^		NEWPORT BEACH	^	^	
Tu 7:00P-CDM (M)'s Stag, 611 Heliotr	\$300	\$300		M-F 5:30P-Fish Out'a Water, 414 E. 32	\$600	\$600	
We 7:30P-Living Sober, 611 Heliotrope	\$176	\$176		Mo 7:00P-Over 40 Disc., 1099 Bayside	\$100	\$100	
COSTA MESA	^	^		We 6:00P-(M)'s Raw, 1400 W. Balboa	\$217	\$217	
Mo 7:00P-(M)'s CDM Soup, 2850 Fairvi	\$500	\$500		We 7:30P-Men's Stag, 798 Dover	\$25	\$25	
Th 5:30P-(W)'s Its/Book Study, 2040	\$144	\$144		Sa 8:00A-Easy Risers, 2046 Mar Vista	\$612	\$612	
Th 7:00P-(M)'s Airport, 3190 Airport Loop	\$140	\$140		ORANGE	^	^	
CYPRESS	^	^		Tu 8:00P-Hart Park, 701 S. Glassell	\$50	\$50	
DANA POINT	^	^		We 12:00P-Crawl/No One, 2191 Orange	\$60	\$60	
Su 9:30A-Sprkr/Bday, 34699 Gld Lntrn	\$215	\$215		We 7:00P-Alkies Only, 1111 Town&Co	\$20	\$20	
Mo 5:30P-(W)'s Disc, Ensenada & DPH	\$60	\$60		Th 7:00P-(M)'s BB, 2400 N. Canal	\$40	\$40	
Tu 9:30A-(W)'s B2B Steps, 33501 Sto	\$52	\$52		Th 7:30P-777 (M) Beginner, 395 S. Tus	\$140	\$140	
Tu 5:30P-So Coast Men's Stag, 24642	\$244	\$244		PLACENTIA	^	^	
We 6:00P-(W)'s SOS, 25975 Domingo	\$69	\$69		RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA	^	^	
Th 7:00A-Th Morn Men's Topic, 33501	\$400	\$400		Su 7:00P-Old Time AA 12&12, 30322	\$180	\$180	
Sa 7:00A-(M)'s 10th Step, 33501 Stonehill	\$378	\$378		Mo 7:00P-(W) Stay/Sober, 30382 VCD	\$280	\$280	
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	^	^		Mo 7:30P-Charter(M)'s, 30605 Ave de la	\$68	\$68	
Mo 6:30P-(M)'s No Bull, 16581 Brook	\$100	\$100		M-F 6:30A-Att & Grat, 30605 Ave D/L FI	\$123	\$123	
FULLERTON	^	^		SAN CLEMENTE	^	^	
GARDEN GROVE	^	^		We 6:00P-Pines Park, 3491 Cam Cap	\$243	\$243	
HUNTINGTON BEACH	^	^		Fr 7:00P-(W)'s BB & SS, 202 Ave Ara	\$61	\$61	
Dly 6:00A-Early Birds Disc., 8121 Ellis	\$220	\$220		SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO	^	^	
Dly 8:00A-Hggrs/Bill Sees It, 8200 Ellis	\$100	\$100		Tu 6:00P-(M)'s Stag/Munchies, 32202 D	\$346	\$346	
Dly 8:00A-Hggrs II, H.B Lifegr Tower 11	\$200	\$200		Sa 6:30A-Eye Opener, 32202 Del Obis	1,000	1,000	
M-F 7:00A-Huggers, 8200 Ellis	\$248	\$248		SANTA ANA	^	^	
Mo 6:00P-HB (M) BB, 8121 Ellis	\$73	\$73		SEAL BEACH	^	^	
Tu 6:00A-(W)'s BB Study, 19092 Beach	\$35	\$35		SILVERADO CANYON	^	^	
We 6:30P-(W) 12x12 SS, 9812 Hamilton	\$100	\$100		SUNSET BEACH	^	^	
Th 7:00P-11th Step Disc., 1912 Florida	\$40	\$40		We 8:30P-Candlelight Disc, 16865 PCH	\$48	\$48	
Fr 6:00P-BB Stdy, 16400 Springdale	\$133	\$133		Fr 7:00A-As Bill Sees It, 16865 PCH	\$97	\$97	
Fr 8:00P-HB Downtowners, 2721 Delaw	\$60	\$60		Fr 12:00P-Drunk Busters, 16865 PCH	\$50	\$50	
Sa 6:00A-Sunrise Sobriety, 8121 Ellis	\$96	\$96		TRABUCO CANYON	^	^	
Sa 7:30A-Camel (M)'s Disc 9812 Hamil	\$66	\$66		TUSTIN	^	^	
Sa 10:00A-(W)'s BBStdy, 2721 Delaware	\$90	\$90		Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 1221 Wass	\$383	\$383	
IRVINE	^	^		Mo 6:30P-(W)'s AA & 12x12, 19211 Do	\$70	\$70	
Dly 7:00A-Solu Grp Mar, 5001 Newport	4,810	4,810		Fr 5:30P-Humble Beginnings, 14402 Pr	\$40	\$40	
MW 12:00P-Alton Noon, 5001 Newport	\$210	\$210		Fr 6:30P-It's in the Book, 225 W. Main	\$106	\$106	
Mo 5:00P-(W)'s Blue Book, 5001 Newpo	\$250	\$250		VILLA PARK	^	^	
Mo 6:30P-Easy Does It BB, 4949 Alton	\$222	\$222		Su 7:30A-24 Hr Book, 17885 Santiago	\$88	\$88	
Mo 7:30P-(W)'s Disc., 15 Orange Tree	\$80	\$80		WESTMINSTER	^	^	
We 6:30P-BB & 12x12, 18422 Culver	\$122	\$122		WHITTIER	^	^	
Fr 6:30A-It's a New Morning, 4915 Alton	\$75	\$75		YORBA LINDA	^	^	
LAGUNA BEACH	^	^		UNLISTED GROUPS	^	^	
Dly 7:00A-C Club 7AMs Att Adj, 20456	\$672	\$672		Anonymous Meeting	\$492	\$492	
Mo 6:15P-(W)'s Perspective, 20456 LCR	\$117	\$117		Mon 5pm Women's, priv residence	\$150	\$150	
Mo 6:30P-(W)'s BB Stdy, Wesley	\$150	\$150		Slogan Sisters, Wed. H.B.	\$50	\$50	
Mo 8:00P-(M)'s Stag, 20456 LCR	\$117	\$117		Tu 6:30pm (M)'s Outpost	\$100	\$100	
We 7:00A-Whale Watchers (M)'s, PCH	\$907	\$907		Wed 7pm BYO Coffee BB	\$80	\$80	
Fr 8:00P-Here & Now, 21632 Wesley	\$280	\$280		WANDERING GROUPS	^	^	
LAGUNA HILLS	^	^		ZOOM MEETINGS	^	^	
Su 7:00P-Legacies Grp, 23802 ADC	\$75	\$75		As Bill Sees It Newcomer	\$241	\$241	
Mo 6:30P-(W) SS/Living Sober, 23802	\$361	\$361		Attitude Adj. 7am Cnyn Club	\$100	\$100	
Sa 9:00 AM-(W)'s SS, 23802 ADC	\$89	\$89		Back Bay (M)'s Zoom	\$63	\$63	
LAGUNA NIGUEL	^	^		Ball Park Pizza 567 014 554	\$98	\$98	
Fr 7:00A-Back to Basics Men's, 30120	\$360	\$360		Early Birds, Tustin Ave.	\$122	\$122	
LAGUNA WOODS	^	^		East Meets West	\$50	\$50	
Dly 7:30A-Do It Sober, 24442 Moulton	\$394	\$394		Fishbowl Discussion	\$1	\$1	
LA HABRA	^	^		Fri 7am As Bill Sees It	\$60	\$60	
M-F 6:15A- Topic Disc, 631 N. Euclid	\$200	\$200		Mon. Living Sober 7:30PM	\$273	\$273	
LAKE FOREST	^	^		Mon. So Coast Mens Stag	\$100	\$100	
Sa 9:15A-Step Study, 23401 El Toro	\$20	\$20		South Asian Men's Stag	\$80	\$80	
LA MIRADA	^	^		Thurs at Thursdays	\$60	\$60	
				MISC. DONATIONS	^	^	
				Saddleback Valley Fellowship	\$800	\$800	
				Southern CA AA Convention	1,000	1,000	
				PERSONAL DONATIONS	^	^	
				Anonymous	\$136	\$136	
				Carol C., SJC	\$25	\$25	
				Curtis H.	\$5	\$5	
				David B., Fullerton	\$10	\$10	
				Jennifer J., Costa Mesa	\$10	\$10	
				Julie B., CM	\$20	\$20	
				June L., Irvine	\$75	\$75	
				Kate L., Santa Ana	\$120	\$120	
				Kelley D., Costa Mesa	\$5	\$5	
				Marilyn C., San Clemente	\$25	\$25	
				Robert R.	\$15	\$15	
				Robert & Dianne S., HB		\$0	
				Ronald B.		\$25	\$25
				Rosie G., Costa Mesa		\$25	\$25
				Tom P., HB		\$20	\$20
				Veronica R., Orange		\$5	\$5
				Victoria M., Laguna Bch		\$500	\$500
				IN LOVING MEMORY	^	^	
				In Memory of Kathleen Sparks G.	1,000	1,000	
				GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED	^	^	
				Receipt #0358 CK #0055		\$146	\$146
				Receipt #0370 CK #9314		\$200	\$200
				Receipt #0490 CK #2037		\$257	\$257
				TOTALS		\$26,393	\$26,393

It Only Works If We Work It

This is my second time around in AA. I was sober for about five years in my twenties, and I went to AA nearly every day. I had a sponsor, commitments, sponsees, worked the Steps, and stayed sober. Until I didn't.

I slowly moved away from AA and the fellowship and, as a result, began drinking again. And my drinking worsened every year until finally, one day, I reached a breaking point. The day before I got sober, with a drink in my hand, I hit rock bottom. I was emotionally, spiritually, and physically beaten. And the very first thought in my mind – after acknowledging to my innermost self that *I am an alcoholic* – was, *I need to go back to AA*. And so I did.

The very next day, I attended a meeting (via Zoom because I was too ashamed to show my face in the rooms). And then another. And then another. And another, each day, multiple times a day, until I crawled enough out of rock bottom to finally get to an in-person meeting.

What I took for granted – and what we may all take for granted – is the fact that *AA was there when I needed it*, even years after leaving the program. The meetings still took place, sober folks still worked the Steps, still had sponsors, still met for fellowship, all while I was drinking and spiraling downward. What would have happened to most of us had AA not been there when we needed it? Would most of us be alive, let alone thriving? Would those of us who had survived our drinking be functioning members of society? How many of us could have afforded – either financially or risking our reputations – to be admitted to a rehab or an outpatient program? Where would we be without AA?

This program was not created for me – it was created for *people* like me. The phrase (which, in its simplicity, can sound trite) “it works if you work it” applies not only to our own sobriety, in working the Steps with a sponsor, but to AA as a whole. This program does not work if we do not participate. AA as an organization is older than some democracies, older than some *countries*! There are people who have been sober in AA longer than I have been alive! How wonderful that some of us have come into the rooms and returned *decades later* to a still thriving organization!

AA is not just my program, or yours, it is *ours*, and I feel a strong sense of duty to participate in a way that ensures the longevity of a program that saved my life. I encourage you to participate as well – pick up a commitment, greet people at the door, join intergroup or a service committee, volunteer at conventions or for H&I, or take service calls. AA only works if we work it. So go out and work it while we trudge the road of happy destiny.

Ali N.





Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3-5

PRAASA

(Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)

Los Angeles Airport Marriot
5855 W. Century Blvd.

Los Angeles

(Area 05 Southern California)

www.praasa.org

March 17

Spring Into Service

Norma Hertzog Community Center

1845 Park Ave.

Costa Mesa

(flyer, p. 10)

April 7-9

38th Annual OCAA Convention

Hilton Orange County

3050 Bristol St.

Costa Mesa

[OCAAC Home Page](http://www.OCAAC.org) (www.OCAAC.org)

Register now: Room rates \$139 until March 7

(flyer, p. 9)

April 20-23

34th Inland Empire AA Convention

Soboba Casino Resort Event Center

San Jacinto

www.ieaac.org

May 20

Area 09 Delegate Shareback Dinner Event

Norma Hertzog Community Center

1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa

Sit-down dinner limited to 120 people to hear from Mitchell B., Area 9 delegate

For details, email Jay at

district18dcmc@gmail.com

Speaker Meetings

Costa Mesa

6:00PM, Saturday

HYBRID

Saturday Night Refugees (12X12 Speaker Meeting)

2144 Thurin St. @ Victoria St. (Grange Hall)

Meeting ID: 703 741 362, Password: GRANGE

Contact: Joel B.

Costa Mesa

7:00PM, Sunday

IN-PERSON

Costa Mesa Speaker Group

2040 Placentia Ave. (Costa Mesa Alano Club)

Contact: Christy B.

Dana Point

9:30 AM *First Sunday only each month*

IN-PERSON

Dana Point Harbor Monthly

Speaker Birthday Group

Wind and Sea Restaurant, 34699 Golden Lantern

Contact: Brent W. or

Contact: John H.

Huntington Beach

5:45PM, Tuesday

HYBRID

Sun and Sea AA Hybrid Meeting

8121 Ellis Ave (HB church, upstairs meeting room)

Meeting ID: 882 0896 9623, Password: Sunandsea

Contact: Cindy S.

Irvine

7:00PM, Saturday

IN-PERSON

Turtle Rock Speaker Meeting

1 Sunnyhill

Contact: Joseph C.

Laguna Beach

8:00PM, Saturday

HYBRID

Living Sober Speaker Meeting

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

428 Park Ave.

(in the back building, Guild Hall)

Meeting ID: 129 629 389 (no password)

Contact: Neil K.

Laguna Hills

7:30PM, Sunday

HYBRID

Legacies Group Speaker Meeting

23721 Moulton Pkwy. (Florence Sylvester Senior Cn.)

Meeting ID: 446 899 371, Password: Legacies

Contact: Thelegaciesgroup@gmail.com

Laguna Niguel

7:00PM, Sunday

HYBRID

Laguna Niguel Speaker Meeting

(Opens at 7:00, meeting starts at 7:30)

24360 Yosemite Road (@La Paz Rd.)

Meeting ID: 451 797 737, Password: NewYMCA

Contact: Bill W. &

Jesse C.

03/05 Chris R., Los Angeles

03/12 Cindy C., Los Angeles

03/19 Kris C., Aliso Viejo

03/26 Joe S., San Diego

Lake Forest

7:30PM, Friday

IN-PERSON

Saddleback Valley Fellowship Friday Night

Speaker Meeting

23401 El Toro Rd. (@ Muirlands Blvd.), Ste. 101

Contact: Vijay

Orange

8:00PM, Saturday

HYBRID

Saturday Night Visiting Speakers

St. Matthews Church, 1111 W. Town & Country Rd.

Meeting ID: 620 819 804, Password: aa

Contact: Matt D.

03/04 TBD

03/11 Melissa A., Tustin

03/18 TBD

03/25 David L., Tustin

Rancho Santa Margarita

7:30PM, last Friday of the month

ZOOM

Roads End Participation

Meeting ID: 816 5341 6484, Password: billseesit

Tustin

7:00PM, Sunday

IN-PERSON

Sober & Crazy Speaker Meeting

12881 Newport Ave. (Grace Harbor church)

Contact: Megan H.

A Power Beyond Belief



I've come to appreciate the inclusiveness and adaptability of AA's program of recovery—but not initially. Judeo-Christian references in meetings and literature didn't jibe with my secular and self-will driven outlook on the world and almost kept me from joining AA. But it wasn't being an atheist that hindered my recovery, it was my attitude.

Like many of us in the program, I grew up in a Christian religion that's among those criticized as being punitive. I

left, questioning religious tenets that were once about faith, mystery, and self-actualization, but are now about certainty and "it's my way, so shut up." The suffering caused by this intolerance led to my resentments not just against religion, but the idea of God as well.

By the time I got to rehab, I knew what I didn't believe in. However, I couldn't say what I did believe in, as the illusion of self-sufficiency had been obliterated by my alcoholism. A member invited me to AA and told me I'd have to find God in order to recover. I immediately argued that this would be impossible as I was an atheist. Undeterred, he simply asked, "Do you think you might be able to consider the possibility of a power greater than yourself?"

AA encourages us to choose our own interpretation of this "higher power." It can be whatever we want it to be, removing a barrier that secular alcoholics often say impedes their recovery. I eventually set aside my arguments and embraced this concept, helping me when faced with meetings or literature filled with the dreaded "G-word."

Despite its Christian leanings, AA's many writings on atheism and agnosticism reveal a fellowship bending over backwards to accommodate every alcoholic, regardless of their beliefs. I highly recommend checking them out. Through their teachings and the example and welcoming attitude of members, I've found fellowship and support throughout my AA journey.

I've also gotten over hearing or saying (or writing) "God." I must be careful not to use my beliefs, whether secular or religious, to justify resentments. I avoid these traps if I respect the traditions and beliefs of others. Choosing to participate in group rituals like the Serenity Prayer is more important to my sobriety than it is to rebel. I join in if I know the prayer or stand quietly if I don't. My reprieve from alcoholism is also contingent on not putting my atheism ahead of my recovery.

Any barriers to my sobriety are of my own making and as such, the remedy lies not in changing AA but changing myself. Not from atheist to religious, but from intolerant to tolerant; from impatient to patient; from judgmental to accepting. Honestly trying to practice these attributes taught to me by AA has helped me stay sober one day at a time for over 10 years, and I can do them whether or not I believe in a deity.

My higher power is still a mystery to me, but I have faith in a recovery program where I can believe or not believe whatever I want and still find sobriety. However, I don't identify as an atheist alcoholic any more than I'd identify as a Christian alcoholic. Countless agnostics and atheists in AA are quietly walking the road of Happy Destiny alongside our religious brethren. Whether secular or religious we invite you to join us. We're all simply recovering alcoholics who've learned that being open to a power greater than ourselves will lead us to freedom from alcoholism and a happy sober life.

A life beyond belief.

Anonymous

SEEKING HEALING

Within me a large hole,
Dark as night,
Eating bit by bit my soul,
Always alone,
Even in a crowd,
Hiding in a bottle from that feeling in my bones.
Hearing the call four times,
Wanting that preacher's touch to relieve the pain,
Unwilling to change I walked away each time,
Just a bit emptier as the darkness in me ground did gain,
A child's fear of punishment filled my head,
Guilt over hedonistic behavior drove this fear,
Each morning coming to added to this dread.
Drink nor sex no longer could these feelings clear.
In the end painting by number religious pictures,
While all the while swilling beer,
Alone in my insanity,
Somehow thinking the miracle was near.
Finally beat to my knees as the pain became too much,
Desperate for relief suicide became a growing thought,
Then one day feeling something's touch,
The plug went in the jug and in complete darkness I was caught.
Meeting my God in an unlooked-for place,
In a room of recovering drunks holding out hope,
No miraculous touch simply hard work and changes to face,
Over time with my inner demons I did grope,
Now as a gift of sobriety I no longer seek,
Feeling and seeing God's healing all around me,
In nature, loved ones and the people I meet,
From that awful void of darkness and loneliness set free.

Bill F.

Spiritual Experience or Spiritual Awakening?

Continued from page 1

of my release from alcoholism.

Referring again to page 25, "The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous."

I can only conclude that this spiritual awakening described in Step Twelve is different. God brings vitality, purpose, meaningfulness, joy, and a new way of living to my life and the lives of others who adopt the Principles of the Twelve Steps into their lives.

Don M.

Tradition Three – Simple and Free

Continued from page 11

When someone identified as an addict at the closed meeting, an old-timer said, "This isn't an open AA meeting. Do you have a desire to stop drinking?" The guy thought for a second, said, "Yes," and stayed.

According to Tradition Three, AA should include all who suffer from alcohol—no matter what. Allowing access to AA's program of recovery by keeping membership simple and free has saved the lives of many, including mine.

But what would've happened if the guy who identified as an addict refused to admit to a desire to stop drinking? What happens then?

Tradition Four.

Stay tuned.

Ron B.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSE PERIOD ENDING 01/31/2023 UNAUDITED

	Jan 23	Jan 22	\$ Change	Jan 23
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Bank Adjustments	0.00	0.00	.00	0.00
Birthday Donations	106.00	41.00	65.00	106.00
Group Donations	24,882.64	25,664.50	-781.86	24,882.64
In Memoriam	0.00	0.00	0.00	155.00
Individual/Fellowship	2,000.89	923.00	1,077.89	2,000.89
Interest Earned	4.51	4.51	0.00	4.51
Literature Sales	12,354.08	10,892.85	1,461.23	12,354.08
Sales Discount	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Events Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	<u>39,348.12</u>	<u>37,611.66</u>	<u>1,736.46</u>	<u>39,348.12</u>
Cost of Goods Sold				
Cost of Literature Sold				
Cost of Goods Sold	10,143.70	8,951.35	1,192.35	10,143.70
Total Cost of Literature Sold	<u>10,143.70</u>	<u>8,951.35</u>	<u>1,192.35</u>	<u>10,143.70</u>
Inventory Adjustments	300.36	-0.01	300.36	300.36
Shipping / Misc. Adjustments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total COGS	<u>10,444.06</u>	<u>8,951.34</u>	<u>1,492.72</u>	<u>10,444.06</u>
Gross Profit	<u>29,904.06</u>	<u>28,660.32</u>	<u>243.74</u>	<u>29,904.06</u>
Expense				
Accounting	1,465.00	1,394.22	70.78	1,465.00
Auto Expense (all Mgrs.)	27.25	30.40	-3.15	27.25
Convention & Svs Event Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Copier Expense	93.12	80.56	12.56	93.12
Credit Card Expense	253.20	231.54	21.56	253.20
Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Freight and Shipping Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurances	339.20	316.90	22.30	339.20
Interest Expense	134.34	133.61	0.73	134.34
Intergroup Expense	1,882.43	1,111.48	770.95	1,882.43
Internet Expense	134.34	133.61	0.73	134.34
Lease Expense	260.00	160.00	100.00	260.00
"LIFELINE" Expense	2,302.87	3,190.00	-887.13	2,302.87
Maintenance & Repairs	260.00	160.00	100.00	260.00
Offices' Supplies & Expenses	196.94	172.82	23.82	196.94
Payroll Tax Expense	809.69	791.86	17.83	809.69
Postage	63.00	61.82	1.18	63.00
Public Info Expense	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reimb. Health	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Rent Main/Satellite Offices	3,901.71	3,822.71	79.00	3,901.71
Salaries	10,061.96	8,977.72	1,084.24	10,061.96
Sales Tax on Lease	24.05	24.05	0.00	24.05
Special Events Expense	49.93	0.00	49.93	49.93
Taxes & Licenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Telephone Expense	367.58	367.29	0.29	367.58
Utilities	71.65	61.38	10.27	71.65
Volunteers Coffee & Water	18.00	45.00	-27.00	18.00
Website Expense	355.99	395.99	-40.00	355.99
Total Expense	<u>23,937.61</u>	<u>22,249.45</u>	<u>1,688.16</u>	<u>23,937.61</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>4,966.45</u>	<u>6,410.87</u>	<u>-1,444.42</u>	<u>4,966.45</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchase Discounts	0.00	872.93	-872.93	-872.93
Total Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>872.93</u>	<u>-872.93</u>	<u>-872.93</u>
Other Expense				
Balancing Adjustments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>872.93</u>	<u>-872.93</u>	<u>-872.93</u>
Net Income	<u>4,966.45</u>	<u>7,283.80</u>	<u>-2,317.35</u>	<u>4,966.45</u>

March Word Search

Name _____

Email address _____
or phone number _____

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

CONVINCED
OLDTIMERS
RESENTMENT
CONVICTIONS

REQUIREMENT
ACTOR
EGOCENTRIC
DESIRE

DECISION
MEMBERSHIP
MEDITATION
BONDAGE

WIN A FREE BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE!

Complete the word search (these words from the *Big Book* or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonal), and make sure to include your name and phone number or email address. Take a picture of a word search you completed on paper, or take a screen shot of a word search you accessed electronically and used the markup or highlighter feature on your phone or computer, and email it to: lifelinecommittee@oc-aa.org, or mail the completed puzzle to Central Office at 1526 Brookhollow Dr. Suite 75, Santa Ana, CA, 92705. If your answers are correct, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a free book of your choice from Central Office.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 15th

Congratulations to January's winner, Natalie G.!