

Lifeline

Experience, Strength, and Hope in Orange County

The Importance and Responsibility of Keeping Commitments in Alcoholics Anonymous

I had the good fortune of making it back to AA. Many don't—they get institutionalized or die. I had failed to enlarge my spiritual life through service and self-sacrifice.

The man I eventually spoke with on the phone in the middle of what I hope was my last drunk told me to come to his house the next afternoon to have dinner, and we would talk before we went to a meeting. His name was Joe Q., active and well known in AA, having gotten sober in December of 1952.

One thing I remember from my first night sober was Joe telling me that the best way to start to feel I was a part of the fellowship and would help to ensure my sobriety was to take commitments. I followed his suggestion. I volunteered to do the literature at one meeting and made the coffee at another. I was at a meeting that needed a secretary. No one volunteered. I raised my hand and said I had only two months. They gave me the commitment.

I eventually inquired where and by whom my first call for help was answered. It was by an AA member volunteering their time, taking a commitment, to answer calls from the still suffering alcoholic at the Orange County Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous' Central Office. This was in the early 1970s.

When I got sober, Central Office was receiving between 100 to 150 requests per month for Twelfth Step calls. Nowadays, we might get a small handful each month as most seem to be getting their start

I eventually inquired where and by whom my first call for help was answered. It was by an AA member volunteering their time, taking a commitment, to answer calls from the still suffering alcoholic at the Orange County Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous' Central Office.



Orange County Central Office, Santa Ana

in treatment facilities. But alcoholics are still calling for help and information about meetings and our program.

In the course of my sobriety, I have had the privilege of being a "special worker" as described in Tradition Eight. I never sought to be employed by AA; it was a suggestion by another AA member. So, I have experience in the workings of a central office.

One of the main functions of the central office manager is the scheduling of volunteers to answer the office phones for calls coming in for help and information about our program and fellowship. I retired as the manager of the South County Satellite Office at the end of last

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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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oclifelineeditor@gmail.com

ORANGE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

1526 Brookhollow, Suite 75
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: (714) 556-4555

Note: This phone number is answered by an AA 24 hours a day.

—CALL BEFORE YOU TAKE
A DRINK—

E-mail: manager@oc-aa.org
Website: www.oc-aa.org

Office hours: Mon-Fri: 9AM-7PM;
Saturday & Holidays: 9AM-1PM

SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE

30011 Ivy Glenn Drive, Suite 104
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1661 E. Chapman Ave., #1H
Fullerton, CA 92831
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Office hours: Mon-Fri: 9AM-7PM
Sat and Sun: 9AM-1PM
Website: www.aanoc.org

Welcome 2024 SERVICE BOARD

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For more information on service committees, or if you have a situation that requires an immediate answer, please contact Orange County Central Office at (714) 556-4555 or email manager@oc-aa.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT CENTRAL OFFICE

PLEASE CONTACT CENTRAL
OFFICE TO FIND OUT ABOUT
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES.

714-556-4555
MANAGER@OC-AA.ORG

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 **3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM** at Central Office

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 7PM** at Norma Hertzog Community Center, 1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa —**IN PERSON ONLY**—

For information about **General Service** meetings, please go to the Area 09 website, www.msca09aa.org.

Thank you to our board and committee members.

Letter from the Editor

This month, we are highlighting Step and Tradition Two. It's obvious to me now that my thinking prior to sobriety was insane, but I didn't know it then. Coming to AA and working with a sponsor helped me see that I needed to completely change my thinking, and I had a Higher Power who could help me.

February is also the month of love, and we celebrate Valentine's Day and the notion of romantic love. Everyone who's been married a while knows that romantic love fades. True love is friendship and helping others who cannot always help you back. I've been fortunate in AA to benefit from the actions of others who wanted nothing from me.

If you only read one thing in this month's *Lifeline*, I hope you read Vaun I.'s article starting on page 1. He writes about how our Central Office needs help with volunteers. I can think of several times when I needed to call Central Office as a newcomer, and someone always answered. If you're able, committing to a weekly shift at Central Office is a great way to make sure that "the hand of AA" will be there when anyone reaches out for help. Like Bill W. writes in the *Big Book*, "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics" (p. 89).

There are other ways to be of service in AA. I remember when I was new listening to people talking about service. They talked about sponsoring others, and I remember thinking there was no way I could be of service like they could. I got the idea that service led to long-term sobriety, but I wasn't sure what I could do. People kept giving me their phone numbers and telling me to call them if I felt like drinking, and I remember not wanting to bother anyone. Someone told me that by calling another alcoholic, I gave them a chance to be of service to me. By asking for help, I was helping another alcoholic stay sober that day. It was a big turning point in my sobriety. I realized how much all of us AAs need each other to stay sober.

Thank you as always for reading the *Lifeline*. If you would like to sign up to have the *Lifeline* delivered by email every month, you can subscribe at www.oc-aa.org. Printed copies are available at Central Office, the satellite office, and our monthly Intergroup meetings. Location information can be found within the *Lifeline*. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article to the *Lifeline*, please email me at oclifineditor@gmail.com.

Jennifer J.
Lifeline Editor

The Importance and Responsibility of Keeping Commitments in Alcoholics Anonymous

Continued from page 1

November. I was responsible for scheduling phone volunteers to answer phones for Orange County AA after office hours. But the reason I am moved to share these things with you is that right now **OUR MAIN OFFICE IN SANTA ANA IS IN REAL NEED OF RELIABLE VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THOSE CALLS FOR HELP AND INFORMATION DURING OFFICE HOURS.**

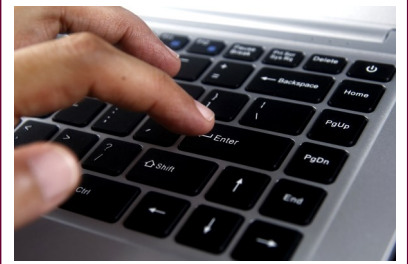
Recently, members have been volunteering and then not showing up. I was taught that when you make a commitment, you show up or make sure someone can fill in for you. When phone time slots at the office are not filled, it puts a big strain on the manager and staff and takes them away from the duties and functions of managing the office. **My hope is that you will make an announcement at every meeting and group you attend and stress Central Office's need for reliable phone volunteers. We are responsible (aren't we?) to be sure that the hand of AA is always there.**

I now have time available and will fill one of the open time slots. It's only a three-hour commitment once a week. It's helpful to the alcoholic who still suffers and is great insurance for my sobriety.

If you are able and have the time available, please give Central Office a call as soon as you can to volunteer (714-556-4555), **but only if you can follow through on the commitment.** The time slots are 9AM to noon; noon to 3PM; and 3PM to 6PM, Monday through Friday.

"Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service." This is from Dr. Bob's last talk. May we all continually remind ourselves of this wisdom. Love and service = action.

Vaun I.



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 oclifineditor@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).

Our Principles

Step Two: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Step Two starts with accepting we can't recover without help. Who or what will help us isn't important at this point, only that it's greater than ourselves. We must find something with the power to relieve what we're powerless over: our alcoholism. Willingness is the key that cracks open the door to consider believing in this "Higher Power." Simply attending AA meetings can demonstrate that we're at least willing to consider the idea of accepting a power that's not us, even if it's just the meeting itself. Coming to believe is a process that takes time. But if we keep an open mind, don't drink, and stay connected to AA, our journey towards finding faith in a Higher Power will spark the hope that relief from our alcoholism is indeed possible.

Tradition 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.

Just as our recovery is guided by a Higher Power, every AA meeting relies on a Higher Power for guidance as well. The Group Conscience is the combined voice of every member, realized through voting, that determines how each AA meeting runs its affairs. Our elected leaders only serve, so group policy isn't dictated by just a few members, but by the well-informed conscience of every member. We practice Tradition Two when handling meeting customs, conflicts, and any action that could affect AA. We're sustained by the belief that a loving Higher Power/God will ensure that, whatever the outcome, it will ultimately be in the best interest of the group, its members, and AA.

Concept II: When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our World Services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

In the first of [AA's Concepts](#) we learned that we're all a part of the "ultimate authority" over the [General Service Board \(GSB\)](#) that manages AA world services. But with more than 2 million members in [123,000 groups](#) around the world, how does the membership efficiently communicate its "voice and effective conscience" to the GSB? Concept II has a one-word answer: delegation. Explained in the [GSR \(General Service Representative\) pamphlet](#), here's how it works in a nutshell: each meeting elects a GSR who meets with reps from other districts. They in turn gather in assemblies that elect a delegate to represent their area's groups at the yearly GSC conference where AA decisions are made. Held in New York City last year, the Conference just published its [2023 Final Report](#) that documents the diligent work of these trusted servants who represent us. Through this worldwide group conscience, every member has a say in ensuring that AA remains focused on carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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

Ron B.

How Am I Doing?

Tradition 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.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other responsibilities?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs, praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

(Reprinted with permission from the [AA Grapevine](#))

(Traditions Checklist available from Central Office)

([SMF-131 Traditions Checklist](#) is available from the AA Grapevine on [www.aa.org](#))

Support Your Central Office

@OCAINTERGROUP



Scan. Pay. Go.

You can [contribute](#) online at www.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



February AA Birthdays

David F.	San Juan Capistrano	32 years
Dee S.	Tustin	33 years
Rey "Fingers"	Aliso Viejo	36 years
Karen H.	Murrieta	50 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.

In keeping with AA's Seventh Tradition, we only accept contributions from AA members or groups.



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, www.oc-aa.org

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

661 TOTAL CALLS	CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY November 2023			
	12 Step Calls	Meeting Info	General Info	Customers
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS (MAIN + SATELLITE)	9	228	147	141
CALL FORWARDING VOLUNTEERS	7	164	106	0

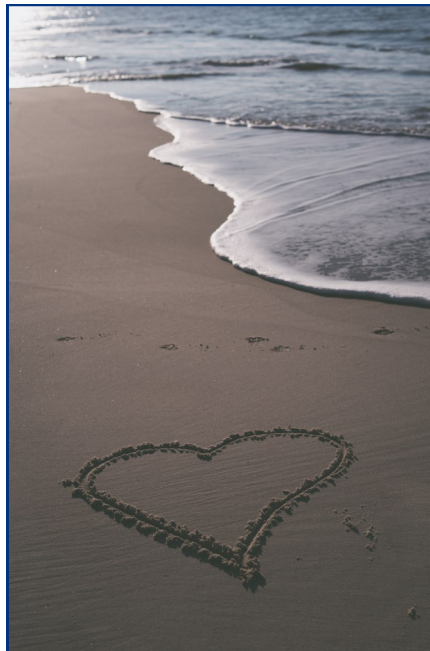
Central Office/Satellite Office Monthly Book Drawing Winners

Joaph G., Jolene, Skylar F., Kathy H., Dan E. and Camille K.

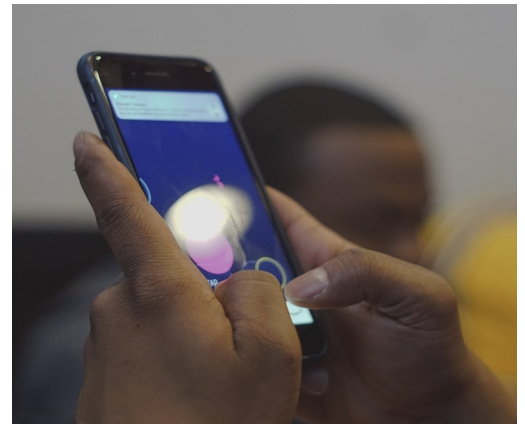
Reaction Response

Hurt people hurt people
 Unintentional mistake from people hurts my feelings
 Reaction has consequences
 Response has none
 Reaction is ill intent
 Response has none
 Reaction hurts me and them
 Response hurts no one
 Response: to observe without adjustment
 Practice over and over and over again
 No final final
 No exit sign here!

Vivian W.



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 Miller: The First Lady of Black AA

Jimmy Miller, known as the First Lady of Black AA, was born on December 18, 1920, in Parkin, Arkansas. She got sober in South Bend, Indiana, in 1948, the year she turned twenty-eight, and lived the rest of her life in that city. She died in 2002 at eighty-one years old with fifty-four years of sobriety. She is the first Black woman recorded to have gotten sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The prominent Black old-timers in the Chicago axis call her "The First Lady of Black AA."

Jimmy realized that she had a serious drinking problem in her twenties. She was a binge drinker, hardworking, self-controlling, and a successful person who stayed totally abstinent for weeks and months between the insane drinking bouts. She said, "I was a periodic drinker. When I went out, I stuck to 7-Up and Coke. I drank at home; I was a loner. If I had a week vacation from a job, I stayed drunk the whole week. I mean drunk! Go into the DTs, go to the alcoholic doctor, get a shot, and I'm all right. That was my pattern."

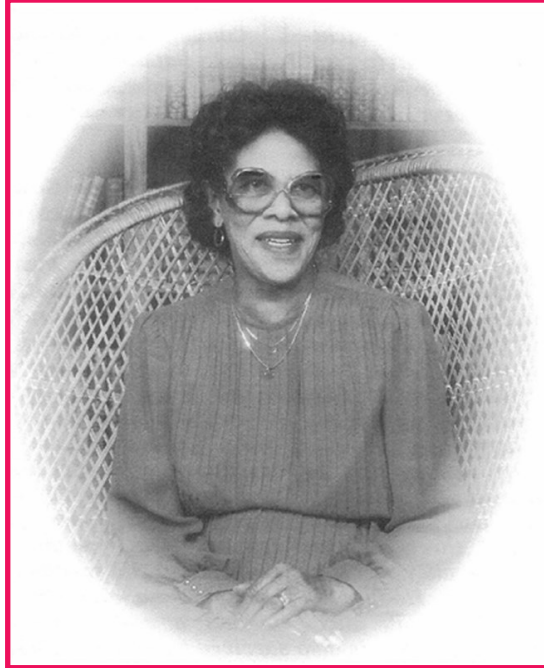
Jimmy's last drunk produced a toxic effect reaction that left her almost too ill to function for a week. She decided to drink a fifth of vodka while working at the cleaners; it was 115 degrees inside. She worked for a solid week without any food. At night, she would make it home and get into bed. She said, "It almost killed me." This finally frightened her into asking for help.

In the 1940s, there was still a lot of racial separation, even in AA. Jimmy wrote to New York AA headquarters for all of the literature. She realized

that she was an alcoholic and that a Higher Power could save her. She discovered that the people in AA had found a way out. Ecstatically, she called South Bend AA, and she was told simply that AA was for White people. It was 1948.

At the same time, a young Black man named Bill Hoover also called the South Bend AA group for help. The group began to realize that if this was a spiritual program, they could not turn people away. Were they willing to show the love and tolerance the program teaches? When Bill called, there was a man named Ray Moore there. When Jimmy called three days later, Ray said he would sponsor them both.

In the beginning, Bill and Jimmy could not attend open or closed meetings, so Ray brought members with him to meet with them. For a while, they went house to house. Meetings were still usually held in homes, and they were treated incredibly demeaning in the beginning. When permitted in the house at all, they were sent to the kitchen and could only hear what voices traveled to that part of the house.



Jimmy Miller

After about seven months, they were permitted to attend open meetings to listen only. Ray and some of the others never stopped fighting for them. Ray would remind members of our Third Tradition. Finally, people started coming around. Jimmy's story is one of real courage and persistence.

Mary G.
MSCA 09 Archives

"I spent most of my life worrying about myself, thinking that I was unwanted, that I was unloved. I've learned since being in AA that the more I worry about me loving you, and the less I worry about you loving me, the happier I'll be . . . I have learned that the more I give, the more I will have; the more I learn to give, the more I learn to live." —Experience, Strength and Hope, p. 218

In early sobriety, my first sponsor gave me Chuck C.'s book, *New Pair of Glasses*. I was enthralled by this simple book that was transcribed from a series of AA pitches at a men's retreat.

One of the things that absolutely stood out in my mind was Chuck C.'s description of walking into a room and not caring what others thought of him; what was important was what he thought of them, and that he loved them. The moment I read that and gave it some reflection, that became a primary goal in recovery and life.

For far too long, I was a prisoner to "people pleasing" rather than finding my own truths that eventually led to being accepting of myself. I'm so gratified that I took that journey towards an incredible freedom I had never experienced. I'm still a work in progress, but there are many days that I go to a meeting and get overwhelmed by the love I feel for those in the fellowship. When that occurs, I am completely free of caring about what you think of me. The more I commit to helping others, the more I gain this sense of love and freedom. I no longer try to love to be loved. Love should never be conditional; being able to love another is the true gift. I can't help but think, "I almost missed this!"

Anonymous

A New, Daily Spiritual Awakening

In my forty-three years of sobriety, it has become very clear to me that Step Two continues to be a perpetual, one-day-at-a-time process of God's plan and purpose for the unction of His anointing to soothe and comfort us as we continue to learn to live without alcohol. In the very midst of insanity, it always astounds me how the Twelve Steps of AA have become an intuitive part of my being. Step One is the conduit for guiding me to Step Two. In every fear that I may be facing where I cannot identify the feeling, once I admit that I am powerless over it, I'm transported to Step Two.

The longer I'm granted the gift of sobriety, the more God is granting me a life of simplicity. And the simpler it becomes, the more I experience yokes of the bondage of self-centered fear(s) being broken. This process is creating more and more room for the sweet anointing of the God of my understanding to infill space where self-centered fear(s) had lived in me. What a lasting freedom to have the Spirit of the Living God of my understanding to be living, moving, and having its being IN me to heal me and flow out into the hearts and lives of others. His grace continues to be sufficient to allow me to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

I have been blessed to receive an augury of healing. This daily journey does not allow us to rest on our laurels. It requires that we continue to utilize the Steps as we travel out of self-centered fear(s). It requires that we give away what has been given to us in order to keep it. The layers of freedom from the bondage of self-centered fear(s) that we are in the process of overcoming are in no way matched by any other ways or means that I have ever sought. The thoughts and ways of a Power greater than ourselves is in and through every Step of AA's design for living life on life's terms. Its design is incomprehensible! We are not, in any way, required to comprehend these thoughts and ways; we just simply acknowledge in all our affairs that we are powerless over not only alcohol but over everything.

We first "came" through the doors of AA via many various ways and



means. Then, as we hear the experience, strength, and hope of others, we "came to" sense the truth that would begin to set us free from the bondage of hundreds of forms of self-centered fear that we had been driven by. And regardless of our resistance, we eventually "came to believe" that "a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." What a miracle it is that we have been freely given a way out of the living hell of alcoholism.

We get to be a part of the ones who have learned more about alcoholism. And we get to be restored to sanity in each and every form of insanity that we find ourselves in. We get to be set more and more free from the mental obsession and physical allergy of not only alcohol but of everything that besets us. We are restored to sanity by many unsuspected inner resources that come to the fore in many miraculous ways. We're no longer ashamed of the hundreds of forms of self-centered fear that we were once driven by because we now have a solution for every fear that we face. We realize that the solution is only applicable for us when we face the fear(s).

The Second Step is a great practice to engage in every day. We learn to be a part of this great fellowship that we had unknowingly craved for many years. Step Two is a daily reality check for me to continue to admit that some of my thoughts and actions have been insane. And that it is going to require a power greater than myself to restore these thoughts to sanity so that I may be granted the power to cease acting on the thoughts. In my experience, that power comes by acknowledging that the thought was, or is, insane.

Step Two is a new, daily spiritual awakening to see just how insane I've been, and can still be, in moments when I am feeling restless, irritable, or discontent. I like to take the first three letters of those verbs and see the acronym of them as *RID*. It is a reminder that, just as with alcohol, I must admit that I need to "rid" what fear(s) undergird my state of being restless, irritable, and/or discontented. It is, in this way, that I have come to understand the ABC's following the Twelve Steps on page 60 in our *Big Book*.

Effie R.

Step Two is a new, daily spiritual awakening to see just how insane I've been, and can still be, in moments when I am feeling restless, irritable, or discontent.

STORY SOLICITATION

“DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DIFFERENT?” PAMPHLET UPDATE



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: APRIL 30, 2024

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION.
EMAIL PAMPHLETSTORIES@AA.ORG OR
THIS [FORM](#) TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY.

Meeting Spotlight

4:00pm Sunday

Open Meditation Meeting

All Are Welcome

Meditation open format. All are welcome.

Please join us at 4:00pm Sundays
for rotating guided and silent meditation
time and open sharing.

—in the sanctuary building with gold dome—

St. George Episcopal Church

23802 Avenida De La Carlota, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

February Pamphlet of the Month

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE

A.A.
for the Black
and African-
American
Alcoholic

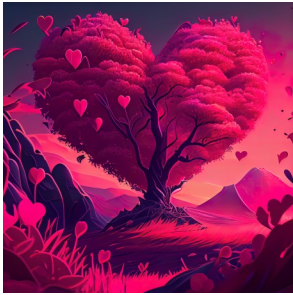
This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

This General Service Conference-approved pamphlet (P-51) shares the story of nine Black alcoholics and how they found a new life in AA.

[[Pamphlet](#) available on
www.aa.org]



PILGRIMAGE



Not long after my sobriety date of August 28, 2000, one of my newfound friends took me to a Wednesday night men's stag. The meeting was not listed in the meeting directory because it changed location from week to week, usually meeting in the home of one of the members.

By the second or third week, I began to feel comfortable and at home. We would get together for coffee and dinner at about five in the evening at Sugar Shack located on Main Street in Huntington Beach. It was a relaxed atmosphere where a newcomer like me could ask questions about the fellowship and about living sober.

As I continued to attend meetings, I created friendships with the other men and was invited to attend baseball games, football games and other sober get togethers. We also went on panels together, helped members move, visited mutual friends in hospitals and celebrated achievements of children and family members. Not only did I stay sober, I was able to build a life like none I had ever imagined.

As happens to any group, some of our members have passed away. Rick C. left us in January of 2021, leaving behind a host of friends and a loving family. In April of 2022, Lionel S., suffered a heart attack from which he did not recover. He was celebrated as an outstanding example of service and greatly missed by a devoted family as well as many sponsees.

A year or two before, a friend and one of our more active members, Kevin W., had wanted to be closer to his family and bought a home in a small town in Missouri. Last year, he wanted to put together a memorial for Rick and Lionel and invited a couple of members, Carl P. and Mark S. to help. The two traveled to Festus, Missouri, and planted trees in memory of Rick and Lionel and included a plaque for each.

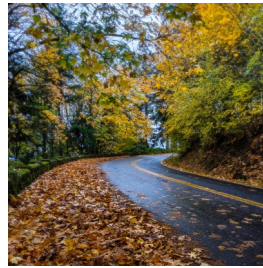
In October of last year, four of us made a pilgrimage to Festus to visit the memorials. The group included the original travelers, Carl and Mark, along with Rick Z. and me. While in the area, we were able to strengthen long-term friendships, meet new friends and see how they do it in St. Louis.

"We commenced to make many fast friends and a fellowship has grown up among us of which it is a wonderful thing to feel a part."

[Big Book, p.16]

Tom P.

The Silk Road Of Recovery



With our "Big Book GPS" (God's Positioning Signal) as a guide, I was trudging the spiritual highway in wondering reflection during a recent AA tour of AA's Mecca of recovery in Akron, Ohio. Akron is the birthplace of AA, where Bill W. and Dr. Bob conceived the program of recovery which came to be called Alcoholics Anonymous. Ak-

ron holds an annual celebration called Founders Day which attracts alcoholics numbering in the thousands from all over the world. Many have made the pilgrimage from the Mayflower Hotel to Akron AA Intergroup Central Office. Expectations are nourished by numerous displays showing a treasure house of memorabilia assembled by volunteers dedicated to the preservation of the roots of AA and the impact from its seedling, the Oxford Group.

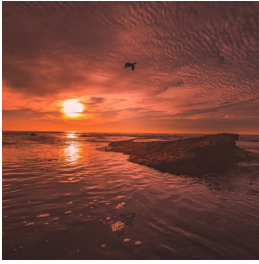
The trail led to Dr. Bob's century-old house at 855 Ardmore Ave, bought in 1916 and occupied for thirty years by Bob, his wife, Anne, and their children, Smitty and Sue. Purchased in 1984 and later dedicated as a museum, it was restored from a bikers' boarding house to a fully furnished AA shrine with artifacts personal from Dr. Bob's family as well as the '30s era. Feelings rhapsodized slowly as original chairs, clothing, pictures, crib, and infant dressing gown, mingled with irreplaceable books and writings, were viewed as though the Smith family would return shortly. The soul quieted and a reverence for the moment filled the rooms. With heads bowed, hands clasped in prayer, and with welling tears of gratefulness, we departed for a reverent thank you at the gravestone of Dr. Bob and Anne.

A meeting shortly followed with a small group of fellow members who became attached to our twosome at Dr. Bob's house. We were all riding a pink cloud of gratefulness and everlasting hope into the day's journey. A topic at the meeting was introduced, "What follows after this pink cloud experience?" Through the hush that followed, a soft voice was heard, "More will follow as we hopscotch through life practicing the principles in all our affairs. When the journey hits a rough patch of road and you feel restlessness, irritable and discontent, begin the search for a silver lining."

A silver lining postures under our feet hidden beneath the trampled fig leaf of denial. It's the awareness that a newly needed First Step ("powerlessness over people, places and things") is necessary to replace the discomfort and unmanageability of life. This leads to the investigation of our God's consciousness to discover, uncover and recover a harmony of acceptance with the reality of life. The silver lining is

Continued on page 13

HOPE RISING



Since getting sober I've gladly given up the desire of ever becoming a "self-made man." I've come to believe it's a cultural myth that deludes us into thinking that our lives can successfully fly entirely on self-will alone. History is filled with so-called self-made individuals who insisted they could defeat their alcoholism alone, only to spiral towards jails, institutions, and death. I was one of the lucky ones who made it to AA in-

stead.

AA members believe the principle of hope is gained by accepting help, and from coming to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore our sanity. No one succeeds alone. Period. Every successful life is built upon countless acts of support and encouragement we've received from family, friends, teachers, even strangers we've never met. We're also aided by those who challenge us. Through them we learn tolerance, forgiveness, and resilience.

Yet the illusion of success through self-will persists, often driven by ego-tism. In my mind, accepting help was for losers. Despite failing repeatedly, I had the crazy idea that trying to get sober on my own was the only answer. Thank goodness AA showed me a better way.

When I finally made it to AA, a seed of hope was planted in me when informed by a member that I didn't have to suffer alone anymore. This newfound anticipation of relief germinated when seeing others like me who'd somehow found sobriety. They said my hope would continue to grow if I was willing to consider believing in a Higher Power.

First, I had to set aside the idea I'd relied on for years, that will power was the answer to my problems. Placing my faith in a power of my own understanding could begin to restore my sanity, but only if I was willing to be open to its guidance. Willingness was the key, but I wouldn't be dispensing with my will completely. Even it has a place.

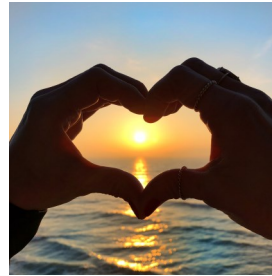
To take another Step towards recovery I only had to choose a power, any power, that wasn't me. Belief would come later, after which I could then use my own will all I wanted, but only towards seeking and doing my Higher Power's will (*Alcoholics Anonymous* p. 85). The sooner I chose this power, the sooner I could devote all my willpower towards following its will, and the sooner I'd be relieved of my insanity.

In the beginning I used self-will disguised as intelligence to play devil's advocate and argue when given suggestions. But the many AA members who helped me as I did Step Two taught me patience. I learned that, if I just kept coming back, stayed willing, set aside my questions and listened more, answers would come when I was ready. Recovery is as much seeking as it is finding.

In Step Two I began the process that would change me from a self-made alcoholic into a Higher Power-guided alcoholic. I first saw evidence of this

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The Gift of a Decision



Miracle: 1: an extraordinary event taken as a sign of the supernatural power of God. 2: an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment.

The words "this will never work again" echoed in my head as the bottle was poured down the kitchen drain. They were not my words, nevertheless I was left dry, in mourning, and hopeless.

"Take this," the nurse said, shoving a *Big Book* into my hands. I had just been informed it would be a waste of time to admit me into the rehab program. A man greeting me at my first AA meeting said, "You never have to drink again if you do not want to." These were weird coincidences, seemingly unrelated in my scrambled thinking. Yet, I suddenly I understood that a choice was available to me, to pick up a drink or not pick up drink.

Up until that very moment there had never been a choice from my first drink on my own to the last drink. Always having drunk for effect, there was no choice about drinking, only when. Now, there was a choice. Sitting in that first meeting I could/would not relate to what was shared. But I felt better sitting there. These men were laughing and joking about stuff I kept hidden. They told me to keep coming back, and not to drink between meetings. I walked away from that meeting feeling a bit better physically, so I kept coming back.

Over time, the understanding that I would need to work the Twelve Steps of our program became evident, even to someone as slow as me. For awhile, I was like a crazy person to those around me. The saving grace was making the decision each day not to drink that day. In order to do this, I was required to talk to other recovering alcoholics each day and start reading parts of the *Big Book*. Eventually, the things I needed to do to stay sober and sane grew. Surrendering daily to my Higher Power/God, prayer, and trying to help others were added to the list. Always, I had to make that first decision of the day, drink or do not drink? This miracle enabled me to be free, even when my subconscious was screaming at me to pick up again. This went on for quite a while.

After some time in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I came to understand those weird coincidences were my Higher Power's/God's way to getting me to Alcoholics Anonymous. I would not have found my way left to my own devices. While I have experienced more than a few miracles in sobriety, the real miracle is Alcoholics Anonymous: Ebby T. talking to Bill W. in Bill's kitchen about finding a Higher Power/God of his own understanding and Bill W. refining the ideas of the Oxford Group and carrying the message to Dr. Bob, thus starting Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I sit in meetings today and see the people in the room, keeping sober one day at a time, I see miracles all around me. We have been blessed with the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Today, I have stayed sober, one day at a time, for forty-three years. My Higher Power/God, our program, and the fellowship get the credit. My contribution is still making the decision daily to not drink toady. Once that decision is made, my course for the day is laid out for me. Trust God, clean house, and help others. Everything I have in my life today is a result of making that daily decision and then doing the

Continued on page 14

Group Contributions to Central Office, December

Table with columns for location (e.g., ALISO VIEJO, ANAHEIM, BREA, BUENA PARK, CAPISTRANO BEACH, CORONA DEL MAR, COSTA MESA, CYPRESS, DANA POINT, FAUNTAIN VALLEY, FULLERTON, GARDEN GROVE, HUNTINGTON BEACH, IRVINE, LAGUNA BEACH, LAGUNA NIGUEL, LAGUNA WOODS, LA HABRA, LAKE FOREST, LA MIRADA, LAS FLORES, LOS ALAMITOS, MISSION VIEJO, NEWPORT BEACH, ORANGE, PLACENTIA, RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, SAN CLEMENTE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, SANTA ANA), date (DEC), year (YTD), and amount. Includes various group names and their contributions.



Continued on page 14

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., 949-228-8799

7:00PM, Sunday

IN-PERSON

Costa Mesa Speaker Group

2040 Placentia Ave. (Costa Mesa Alano Club)
Contact: Christy B., 949-742-0957

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., 206-390-6363 or
Contact: John H., 949-697-1643

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., 714-401-0913

Irvine

7:00PM, Saturday

HYBRID

Turtle Rock Speaker Meeting

1 Sunnyhill
Meeting ID: 269 016 646, Password: wildbunch
Contact: Joseph C., 949-683-9185

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., 949-228-4265

8:00PM, Saturday

HYBRID

CC Sat Nite

The Canyon Club
20456 Laguna Cyn. Rd.
Meeting ID: 269 016 646, Password: canyon
Contact: Tim A., 949-677-0100

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

24360 Yosemite Road (@La Paz Rd.)
Meeting ID: 451 797 737, Password: NewYMCA
Contact: Bill W., 949-929-3564 &
Jesse C., 949-395-8960

Lake Forest

7:30PM, Friday

IN-PERSON

Saddleback Valley Fellowship Friday Night Speaker Meeting

23401 El Toro Rd. (@ Muirlands Blvd.), Ste. 101
Contact: Vijay, 949-632-1368

Orange

8:00PM, Saturday

HYBRID

Saturday Night Visiting Speakers

Community of Christ Church, 395 S. Tustin St.
Meeting ID: 620 819 804, Password: aa
Contact: Matt D., 949-903-0548

02/03 Jeryl T., Costa Mesa

02/10 Madison F.

02/17 Roseanne P., Costa Mesa

02/24 Dave G., Orange

Orange

7:00PM, Sunday

IN-PERSON

Sunday Night Speaker Meeting of Orange

Revive Covenant Church, 250 S. Prospect St.
Contact: Manny A., 714-234-8506
Speaker host: Eddie P. 623-606-0015

02/04 Bobby B., Orange

02/11 Duke F., Orange

02/18 Derek B., Laguna Niguel

02/25 David F., Orange

Rancho Santa Margarita

7:30PM, last Friday of the month

IN-PERSON

Roads End Participation

Via Con Dios at Santa Margarita Pkwy.
Speaker last Friday of the month

San Clemente

7:30PM, Friday

IN-PERSON

Friday Night Open Speaker Meeting

St. Clement's By the Sea Church, 202 Aragon
Contact: Tom P., 949-547-3104

Tustin

7:00PM, Sunday

IN-PERSON

Sober & Crazy Speaker Meeting

12881 Newport Ave. (Grace Harbor church)
Contact: Megan H., 949-423-8420

Villa Park

9:02AM, Sunday

IN-PERSON

9:02 Speaker/Participation Meeting

17855 Santiago Blvd.
Contact: Kevin M., 714-254-5247

The Silk Road of Recovery

Continued from page 10

discovered when our attitude of gratitude returns—truly the only way to live.

Embrace your transient discomforts with the knowledge you have stepped on a sharpened pebble on the road of recovery to discover a new layer of spiritual growth. The painful reminder from our Higher Power messages a need to learn a new behavior or unlearn an instinct or old behavior from the past. It is then we are issued a new prescription for rose colored glasses until the next nudge from the Heavenly Judge comes with a new lesson for life.

The next pink cloud is always ready to return when we work, work, work for it. Every ring of recovery to your spiritual tree of life enhances the passageway to the Fourth Dimension. It is a painfully slow transformation at times, but is surely worth it! Have a good life, my fellow traveler, on the silk road of recovery with your *Big Book* GPS, and an "ad infinitum" renewable prescription for rose colored glasses!

John G.

Continued from page 12

Th 6:00P-On the Way Home, 2000 W. Al	\$43	Sober @ Sunset, Capo Bch	\$40	Dawna Mc.	\$35	Receipt #0795 CK #1463 Primary Pu	\$350
SEAL BEACH		Sat. 7:30A - Men's Meeting at St. Mark's	\$400	David S., FV	\$200	Receipt #0850 CK #1131 W. Topic Disc.	\$126
Mo 7:30P-Speakers, 500 Marina	\$468 \$2,088	Sat. 12:00P- Picnic In The Park	\$75	Dawn M. Laguna Hills	\$29	Receipt #0859 CK #1348 Group Donat	\$100
We 7:00P BYO Coffee BB	\$265	Sun. 9:02A-Sunday Morning Speaker/Pa	\$180 \$180	Dawn M. Coto De Caza	\$191	Receipt #0878	\$14
We 7:00P-Sanctuary & Serenity, 148 10	\$75	Sun. 6pm Cypress Mixed Group, 5100	\$53 \$53	Derek G. Laguna Niguel	\$90 \$90	Receipt #0884 8121 Ellis Ave HB Wed	\$364
We 7:30P (W) Step Study, 138 8th St	\$156	Sun. 5pm Two or More, SA	\$81	Elizabeth H., Brea	\$25 \$332	Receipt #1327 CK# 4665	\$80
Th 6:00P-(W)'s Power Hour, 148 10th S	\$68	Sun. 7PM 798 Dover, NB	\$175	Ezra M.	\$100	Receipt #0926 CK #22-029108521	\$30
SILVERADO CANYON		Th 11:00A-(W)'s Closed BB, SJC	\$111	Faith B.	\$5	TOTALS	\$15,822 \$216,871
SUNSET BEACH		Th 7:15pm Joe Quinn Big Book Canyon	\$107	Gaston E.	\$204		
Su 9:00A-Sober On/Sand, End of 16th	\$90	Tu 6:30pm (M)'s Outpost	\$100	Geoffrey H.	\$140		
Su 9:15A-Breakfast Mtg, 16865 PCH	\$119	Tu 5:30P-(W), 2144 Thurin St.	\$260	George H., Rancho Mission Viejo	\$200		
Su 11:00A-Inner Peace Group, 16865	\$210	Women's Meeting	\$341	Gerri K.	\$5 \$10		
Su 5:00P-Beat A Dead Horse, 16865	\$95	We Are Not Saints, Irvine	\$20	Issella G.	\$25 \$250		
Su 5:00P-Sundowners, 16865 PCH	\$1,122	Wed (W) 7:00AM Back to Basics Step S	\$118	James & Carol W., NB	\$500		
Mo 4:30P-(W)'s Hour of Power, 16865	\$421	Wed Men's Stag, HB Church	\$201	Jenna K.	\$73		
Tu 7:00A-Tues at Thursdays, 16865	\$327	Wed. 7PM- BYOCBS United Methodist	\$136	Jennifer J., Costa Mesa	\$15 \$155		
Tu-12:00-Tues Noon, 16865 PCH	\$150 \$291	WANDERING GROUPS		Jim B.	\$3		
We 7:00A-Attitude Adj, 16865 PCH	\$50 \$250	We 7:00P- Wandering Staggers	\$200	Jim C., Fountain Valley	\$25 \$255		
We 6:30P-Newcomer's (Sunset Beach F	\$60 \$60	We 7:30P- Rolling Men's Stag BB Study	\$200	Joan McC.	\$50		
We 8:30P-Candlelight Disc, 16865 PCH	\$130	ZOOM MEETINGS		Joey P., Orange	\$5		
Th 7:00A-Thur at Thursdays, 16865 P	\$166	As Bill Sees It Newcomer	\$700	John S. Corona Del Mar	\$31		
Th 5:30P-(W)'s Disc, 16865 PCH	\$206	Attitude Adj. 7am Cnyn Club	\$637 \$3,788	John H. Huntington Beach	\$250 \$250		
Fr 7:00A-As Bill Sees It, 16865 PCH	\$170 \$362	Back Bay (M)'s Zoom	\$72 \$1,083	Julie B., CM	\$40		
Fr 12:00P-Drunk Busters, 16865 PCH	\$850	Dly Alkie's Winner Circle	\$163 \$500	Julie W.	\$5		
Sa 11:00A-Noon at 11, 16865 PCH	\$60 \$240	Dly 7:00A-Attitude Adjustment, Laguna	\$514	June L., Irvine	\$150		
Sa 5:00P-Sunset Beach Discussion, 16	\$90	Dly 7:05A-Attitude Adjustment	\$1,050	Kate L., Santa Ana	\$120		
TRABUCO CANYON		Dly 4pm (W)'s Happy Hour	\$217	Kim S.	\$20		
TUSTIN		Dly Early Birds	\$397	Kelley D., Costa Mesa	\$30		
Dly 6:00A-Foothill Early Risers, 19211	\$68	M-F 6:30A-It's A New Meeting	\$926	Koorosh Y., San Juan Cap	\$100		
Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 1221 Wass	\$3,974	M-F 10:00A-Zoom Big Book Meeting	\$250 \$250	Larry E. Santa Ana	\$10		
Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 1152 Foothill B	\$75 \$966	Wed. 5PM- East Meets West	\$90	Laura J., HB	\$108		
MWF 12:00P-Spiritual Experience, 1440	\$740	EDIBBS, Easy Does It BB Study	\$227	Leslie D.	\$183		
M-F 5:30P-Tustin Rush Hour, 555 N. M	\$218	Fishbowl Discussion	\$1	Marilyn C., San Clemente	\$25 \$250		
Su 7:00P-Sober/Crazy Spkrs, 12881 Ne	\$95 \$1,289	Fri 7am As Bill Sees It	\$60	Matthew D. T.	\$4		
Mo 6:30P-(W)'s AA & 12x12, 19211 Do	\$102	Fr 10:30AM Brick by Brick	\$40	Matt H.,	\$50		
Mo 7:00P-(M)'s BYOB, 1201 Irvine	\$89	Fr 11:30A-(W)'s Grapevine	\$65	Mary S.P.J. Huntington Beach	\$50		
Tu 7:00P-Tustin BB Stdy, 225 W. Main	\$200 \$978	Laguna Beach Zoom	\$133 \$994	Michael L.	\$2		
We 7:00P-(W)'s Solutions, 19211 Dodge	\$409	Mon. Living Sober 7:30PM	\$273	Michael B. Newport Beach	1,556		
Th 9:00A-(W)'s SS, 14402 Prospect	\$170	Mon. So Coast Mens Stag	\$200	Nancy W.	\$50		
Th 7:00P-12 Steps & 12 Trads, 225 W.	\$465	Not Taking a Trip	\$270	Nick V.	\$10		
Fr 5:30P-Humble Beginnings, 14402 Pr	\$125	Sat. 8AM Seal Beach	\$15	Pat M.	\$300		
Fr 6:30P-It's in the Book, 225 W. Main	\$268 \$933	Sat. 9AM Morning Fellowship	\$89	Pat S., Stanton	\$364		
We 7:30A-Tustin Acceptance, 225 W. M	\$150 \$2,142	Sat. Morning Women's	\$164	Penny P.	\$3 \$3		
Sa 8:00P-Visiting Spkrs, 395 S Tustin St	\$125	South Asian Men's Stag	\$80	Paul S. Jr. Orange	\$50		
VILLA PARK		Sun. Happy Hour 4PM	\$90	Pej P.	\$5		
Su Dly 7:30A-24 Hr Book, 17885 Santi	\$357	Sunset Meeting	\$264	Raynee B.	\$20		
Su 9:02A-Spkr/Part, 17885 Santiago	\$420	Thurs at Thursdays	\$120	Rob S. Orange	\$186		
WESTMINSTER		Thurs (W) Closed BB	\$59	Robert R.	\$15 \$165		
Mo 6:00 PM-12x12 Beg., 15750 Magnol	\$50	We 7:00A-(W) DP BB Mtg	\$149	Robert S., RSM	\$195		
Fr 6:30P-Sisters of Truth, 14061 Chestn	\$50	Wed. 5pm (W)'s Closed BB	\$150	Rodger & Annette F., Irvine	\$35 \$105		
WHITTIER		MISC. DONATIONS		Ronald B.	\$25 \$300		
YORBA LINDA		Birthday Donations	\$150 \$416	Rosie G., Costa Mesa	\$50		
UNLISTED GROUPS		Laguna Niguel Donation Can	\$39	Sherman S.	\$50		
Anonymous Meeting	\$100 \$2,099	Fingers/Rey 36 years	\$36 \$36	Tom P., HB	\$160		
705 Virtual AA Mtg Tues/Thurs	\$870	IG Coffee Basket	\$42	Veronica R., Orange	\$55		
23 Convencion Hispana Del Condado de	\$500	Desert Roundup-Indian Wells-Convntio	\$2,000	Victoria M., Laguna Bch	\$500		
Charle St. Step House, CM	\$295	Saddleback Valley Fellowship	\$880	William B.	\$50		
Dana Point Harbor Womens Group	\$89	Southern CA AA Convention	\$10,267	William F., Anaheim	\$50		
Dana Point Pajama Ladies Mon Night	\$1,000	PERSONAL DONATIONS		IN LOVING MEMORY			
Fri Double Winners, St. Johns	\$120 \$475	Anonymous	\$26 \$3,708	In Memory of Kathleen Sparks G.	\$1,000		
Fri. D.W., Costa Mesa	\$100	Alexander A, San Clemente	\$3,000	In Memory of Dean F.	\$100		
Fri TGIF Women's Topic Disc.	\$161	Anna C.	\$13	In Memory of Leona P.	\$50		
Here and Now, NB	\$300	Annette C.	\$10	GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED			
Into Action BB, CM	\$257	Anthony G.	\$10	Receipt #1398 CK #MO (The Grange)	\$65 \$65		
Mon 6:30 pm Solid Solutions Womens,	\$300	Bill D. CMAC 10am BB Study Zoom	\$31 \$31	Receipt #0358 CK #0055	\$146		
Mon 5pm Women's, priv residence	\$150	Brian S.	\$3 \$12	Receipt #0370 CK #9314	\$200		
Mon 6:30 pm Women's Living Sober,	\$215	Carol C., SJC	\$25	Receipt #0490 CK #2037	\$257		
Monastery Mtg	\$276 \$276	Carolyn M.	\$100	Receipt #0548 CK #1009	\$177		
NHMS Meeting	\$150	Colleen Mc.	\$100	Receipt #0652 CK #3048	\$186		
Slogan Sisters, Wed. H.B.	\$100 \$150	Corbett W. Laguna Niguel	\$122	Receipt #0691 CK #1127	\$110		
		Curtis H.	\$30	Receipt #0765 CK #524	\$200		
		David B., Fullerton	\$10 \$120				

HOPE RISING

Continued from page 11

Higher Power in my fellow AA members who, by their example and support, sparked a new hope in me. In coming to believe, we begin the work of recovery that clears away self-will like a healing wind to reveal the way ahead. In its place we feel our hope rising ever further as more and more we come to believe in a loving Higher Power that will lift us above the clouds of despair and guide us to a happy sober life in the sunlight of the spirit.

Ron B.

The Gift of a Decision

Continued from page 11

footwork to achieve that choice. There has been grief, struggle, and happiness in my journey in sobriety. More importantly, I am comfortable in my own skin most days. It has been and continues to be a wonderful ride, all based on one simple decision each day, not to drink this day. I have been the recipient of both definitions of "miracle" on this journey. I wish for you to have this experience and wonderful ride also.

Bill F.





Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1-3

PRAASA 2024

San Francisco Marriott Marquis
780 Mission St.
www.praasa.org
707-595-0174

March 29-31

39th Annual OCAA Convention
with Al-Anon Participation
Hilton Orange County
3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa
www.oaac.org

April 5-7

Woman to Woman—Lake Arrowhead
UCLA Conference Center
850 Willow Creek Rd.
www.W2WArrowhead.com

April 19-21

Easy Does It Weekend
Camp Sealy in Crestline, CA
www.easydoesitweekend.com

May 17-19, 2024

Woodstock West

Journey through the Twelve Steps of AA
Four Points by Sheraton, LAX
9750 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles
310-645-4600
www.woodstockwest.biz

Check the www.oc-aa.org events section for updated intergroup committee meetings

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSE PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2023 UNAUDITED

	Dec 23	Jan - Dec 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Square Sales	-14,494.47	0.00
Birthday Donations	0.00	1,398.00
Group Donations	14,610.70	206,992.53
Individual/Fellowship	551.44	8,002.39
Interest Earned	4,040.25	4,089.78
Literature Sales	21,779.71	129,738.07
Merchandise Sales	0.00	614.16
Shipping and Delivery Income	0.00	-0.25
Total Income	26,487.63	350,834.68
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Literature Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	23,836.35	104,470.71
Cost of Literature Sold - Other	0.00	0.00
Total Cost of Literature Sold	23,836.35	104,470.71
Inventory Adjustments	0.00	2,771.81
Shipping / Misc. Adjustments	0.00	-1.86
Total COGS	23,836.35	107,240.66
Gross Profit	2,651.28	243,594.02
Expense		
Accounting	0.00	16,942.50
Auto Expense (all Mgrs.)	75.65	795.96
Copier Expense	0.00	950.12
Credit Card Expense	321.29	2,831.61
Freight and Shipping Costs	0.00	199.34
Insurances	405.80	3,953.53
Intergroup Expense	315.03	4,229.11
Internet Expense	202.39	2,183.35
Lease Expense	284.05	3,125.65
"LIFELINE" Expense	1,625.00	21,133.61
Maintenance & Repairs	80.00	2,091.16
Offices' Supplies & Expenses	404.20	8,438.07
Outside Service	0.00	18,846.16
Payroll Tax Expense	617.25	10,379.82
Postage	-2.46	533.06
Public Info Expense	-75.00	5,075.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	-87.42
Reimb. Health	500.00	6,250.00
Rent Main/Satellite Offices	6,710.00	49,810.26
Returned Checks	0.00	420.00
Salaries	9,576.36	122,231.45
EE Retention Credit (From IRS ERTC)	4,035.60	-71,348.98
Sales Tax on Lease	0.00	72.15
Special Events Expense	0.00	6,737.72
Taxes & Licenses	0.00	19.00
Telephone Expense	385.42	4,639.40
Utilities	81.99	959.26
Volunteers Coffee & Water	72.00	537.48
Website Expense	576.95	6,703.00
Total Expense	26,191.52	228,651.37
Net Ordinary Income	-23,540.24	14,942.65
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Purchase Discounts	180.40	2,267.45
Total Other Income	180.40	2,267.45
Other Expense		
Balancing Adjustments	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	180.40	2,267.45
Net Income	-23,359.84	17,210.10



February Word Search

Name _____

Email address _____
or phone number _____

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

CONSCIENCE
CREATION
FAITH
LEADERS

POWER
SERVANTS
RECORD
UNMANAGEABLE

AUTHORITY
SANITY
COCKTAILS
ULTIMATE

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 MARCH 15th

Congratulations to November's winner, James K.!