

# Lifeline

Experience, Strength, and Hope in Orange County

## CONVERSATIONS WITH A DRUNK

*"I WANT TO THANK MYSELF FOR COMING OUT TONIGHT"*

Drunk: Father Leo B.  
Interviewed by: Jack G.

**Jack: Many who come to AA are forced to seek God, but in becoming a priest, you did so willingly. Was there a point when you became open to more expansive ideas or delved deeper into your faith?**

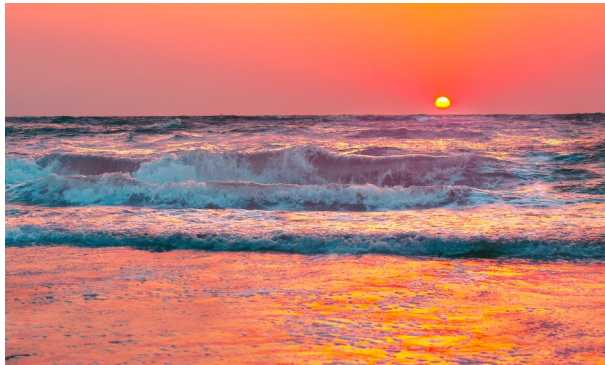
Father Leo: When my drinking became an issue, the Bishop of Chichester - who lived in a castle, mind you, surrounded by a moat that you had to cross to get to him - told me to "quit it." I have often heard in AA that you cannot get sober for anyone or anything but yourself. I have found, however, that you can - at least initially - get sober for your job, your family, or your health; you don't have to stop for yourself. At some point though, you do stop for yourself.

**Jack: As a priest, why not just ask God to cure you, to help you "quit it"?**

Father Leo: I did, for seven years! I lit so many candles in prayer at my church that I melted the plastic Madonnas. But willingness wasn't making me *do* anything. God is not in charge; He could not make me *do* anything. I had to do something myself. I prayed for years to be sober but did not find sobriety until I did it myself. AA teaches us, what are *you* doing to stay sober? What actions are *you* taking? That makes more sense to me than simply asking for sobriety from God.

**Jack: I took a phrase from you that I use often - "I want to thank myself for coming out tonight." Why that phrase?**

**Rarely, even in the early days of AA, did anyone thank themselves for what they did in sobriety. Some people act like you will get drunk if you take some of the credit. But God helps those who help themselves.**



Father Leo: Because if God gets you sober, then why do you need AA? Have you ever thanked yourself for being sober, for doing this work? Did God do everything? Or did you take some of these actions, in getting sober? Rarely, even in the early days of AA, did anyone thank themselves for what they did in sobriety. Some people act like you will get drunk if you take some of the credit. But God helps those who help themselves. In some ways, I think God gets set up, because we ask, "If God got me sober, why not my [mother, father, spouse, etc.]?", when in fact it is our actions that get us sober.

**Jack: What do some of those actions include?**

*Continued on page 14*

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

—CALL BEFORE YOU TAKE A DRINK—

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Sat and Sun: 9AM-1PM  
Website: [www.aanoc.org](http://www.aanoc.org)

Welcome 2024  
**SERVICE BOARD**

Chair, Lindsay K.  
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Vice Chair, Jillian T.  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:MANAGER@OC-AA.ORG)

**Public Information Committee** meets the **4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM** via Zoom (Meeting ID: 85108320 4725, Password: ocaaPI).

**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** via Zoom (call Central Office for more information).

**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](http://www.sochic.club).

**Orange County H & I** meets the **2nd Sunday of the month at 4:00PM** (Institutions) and **6:00PM** (Hopstials) at the Garden Grove Alano Club (9845 Belfast Dr., Garden Grove). Orientation is at **3:15PM** and **5:15PM**. The Committee Meeting is at 6:00, and the meeting opens around 5:40. For more information on Orange County H & I, go to [www.ochandi.org](http://www.ochandi.org) or email [contact@ochandi.org](mailto:contact@ochandi.org).

**The Central Office Committee** meets via Zoom (call Central Office for more information).

**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 (6:30** new rep orientation) 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](http://www.msca09aa.org).

Thank you to our board and committee members.



# Letter from the Editor

My favorite article this month is the interview on page 1 of Father Leo, "Conversations with a Drunk: 'I Want to Thank Myself for Coming Out Tonight.'" Father Leo was interviewed by Jack G., and there are so many gems in this article. I found it very inspiring and hope you enjoy it.

This month, we are focusing on Step and Tradition Seven along with the secondary theme of our fist AA meeting. I hope you will read these stories and find something that speaks to your own sobriety.

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](http://www.oc-aa.org) or use the QR code below and scroll down to subscribe to the *Lifeline*. 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](mailto:oclifineditor@gmail.com).

Jennifer J.  
Lifeline Editor



Orange County Intergroup Association - of Alcohol...  
[www.oc-aa.org](http://www.oc-aa.org)



## 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](mailto: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).



IN MEMORIAM

**MICHAEL R.**

## My First Day in AA

My first day in AA was May 31, 2016. My doctor had told me I absolutely needed to stop drinking or there were going to be some very serious problems with my health. After thinking about it for a while, I decided to go buy two cases of beer and check out an AA facility close to where I live in Mission Viejo.

The weather was absolutely beautiful that day. The Saddleback Valley Fellowship Center was not open yet, but a gentleman showed up, opened the door, let me in, and gave me a tour. His name was Jim. I saw the word *God* on the wall, and that was a disturbing theme for me. Jim is an atheist and told me not to worry about it. Jim showed me a small room he said I had to go to because it was the site of the best meeting in the whole property for men. I did attend and sat next to Don who became my sponsor after one month and is my sponsor eight years later.

Today, I am still in the AA program and very blessed to have my sponsor and many, many friends in the program with me. I ended up not buying the beer that first day, so attending that meeting May 31 was the start of my long-term sobriety. I did buy the blue *Big Book* on my first day though!

Jim M.

# Our Principles

## **Step Seven: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.**

Our AA recovery journey that began with humility revisits this important principle in [Step Seven](#). However, instead of being humbled by the humiliation of hitting rock bottom, we now choose to once again set aside our pride and turn to God/Higher Power for help in dealing with our character defects. Our ego that was punctured in Step One is further deflated in Step Seven. Through the rest of the Steps and our life we'll continue to maintain this humility so vital to our spiritual growth and the relief of our alcoholism.

## **Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.**

[Tradition Seven](#) acknowledges the role money plays in carrying AA's message to alcoholics while avoiding money-related traps that would harm its [primary purpose](#). [Self-support](#) is one of AA's gifts to the individual alcoholic whose finances are often devastated when they first arrive. Contributions are entirely voluntary, and the newcomer can support the meeting through service until they too are able to donate monetarily. When we give what we can while prudently managing meeting funds, we demonstrate that we've abandoned the financial recklessness that marked our drinking days and gain the blessing of self-sufficiency. Refusing charity and limiting member donations keeps AA in control of its mission, while avoiding the distraction, strife, and temptations that excess money creates.

**Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the AA purse for final effectiveness.**

[Concept VII](#) clarifies the relationship between AA's [General Service Board](#) (trustees) and the [General Service Conference](#) (members). Specifically, it defines the balance of power regarding who controls what. The membership still ultimately guides the Board's running of [AA World Services](#) and the [Grapevine](#). But the trustees remain free to manage AA affairs and act in its best interest without constantly having to consult the conference. This includes being authorized to veto any membership recommendation. However, Concept VII helps AA run smoothly and cultivates such a spirit of harmonious cooperation between its members and trustees that this power has never been used in the almost ninety years since AA was founded.

[Editor's note: You can read the long form of the [Traditions](#) on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) or on pp. 563-556 in the Big Book. You can also learn more about the [General Service Office](#) and how it serves AA on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).]

Ron B.

## How Am I Doing?

### **Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.**

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the *Grapevine* sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

(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](http://www.aa.org))



# Support Your Central Office

@OCAINTERGROUP



Scan. Pay. Go.

You can [contribute](#) online at [www.oc-aa.org](http://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



## July AA Birthdays

Jayzee S.	Costa Mesa	13 years
John S.	Corona del Mar	32 years
Skip K.	Huntington Beach	33 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*

**Orange County Intergroup Meeting**  
**Second Wednesday of each month**  
**7:00PM meeting, 6:30PM new rep orientation**  
**—IN PERSON ONLY—**  
**Info: 714-556-4555, [www.oc-aa.org](http://www.oc-aa.org)**

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

667 TOTAL CALLS	CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY May 2024			
	12 Step	Meeting	General	Cus-
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS (MAIN + SATELLITE)	7	200	181	159
CALL FORWARDING VOLUNTEERS	5	144	130	0

**Monthly Book Drawing Winners—Congratulations!**

Taylor R., Roger G., Tami C., Roberta E., Walt H., and Tim.

## Hospitals and Institutions Corner



When asked to write about my experience with Orange County Hospitals and Institutions (H&I), I immediately thought, how can I possibly convey the joy and divine moments that have occurred during my tenure in H&I? My father Nick M. would always say, "You wanna sum up service in Alcoholics Anonymous in four words . . . it's GET IN THE CAR." There really is something quite special about the AA car ride, especially the drive to an obscure prison filled with convicted felons who may never walk among society again. The closest I've felt to my Maker has been in chapels and gyms amongst these individuals. The beautiful paradox of H&I comes in

thinking about the message of hope you plan on delivering to the inmates; only to have that message of hope, redemption and faith delivered from the gentleman on that yard over and over again.

I am reminded of my friend Tod who I met with my dad at Chino State Prison. He stated in the chapel, "I have a life sentence. I'm never getting out, and I've never been more free." Those powerful words soaked my heart with an endless gratitude and an understanding that God kept me around to fulfill my purpose . . . the purpose of service to Alcoholics Anonymous and specifically those incarcerated. The beauty is that Tod was given a date and now walks a free man. I recall a Bible verse, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). It's been my distinct pleasure to serve God and his beautiful sons and daughters in this capacity. I hope I will always be granted the opportunity to do so.

Tara E.

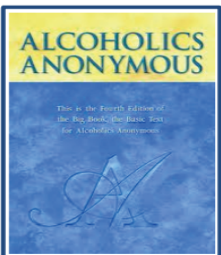
For more information on South County H&I, visit [www.sochic.club](http://www.sochic.club) or email [info@sochic.club](mailto:info@sochic.club). For North County, visit [www.ochandi.org](http://www.ochandi.org) or email [contact@ochandi.org](mailto:contact@ochandi.org).

**Come join us!**

We're a welcoming group of women studying the Big Book via zoom on Wednesday mornings!

**Women's Dana Point Big Book Zoom A.A. Meeting**

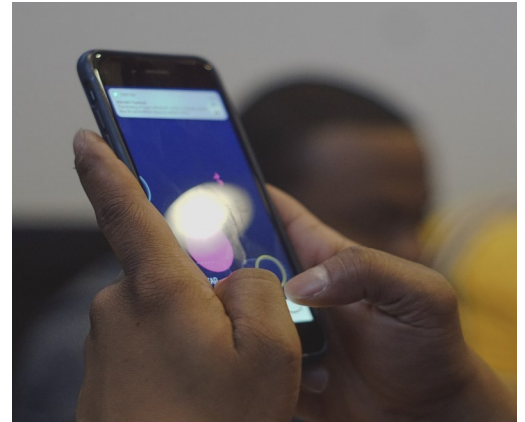
Wednesdays, 7-8 am  
Big Book Study and Chips Meeting



<https://bit.ly/3q9fRw9> Meeting ID: 850 8965 2937 Password: 826504

We meet for breakfast once a month on the last Wed. of the month at a Dana Point restaurant.

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

## Ruth Hock

In 1936, Bill W. partnered with Hank P., “The Unbeliever,” a former oil company executive who was staying sober with Bill’s help. They planned to organize Northern New Jersey gasoline dealers into a cooperative called Honor Dealers in Newark, New Jersey. Ruth Hock was twenty-four years old with a young son when she joined as their secretary for twenty-five dollars a week. She was nicknamed “Dutch” (short for “Duchess”) by Bill.

Ruth, a nonalcoholic, unknowingly became AA’s first secretary, helping the fellowship grow from about forty members. In November 1955, Bill asked Ruth to share her recollections for the history of AA’s first twenty years, published as *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*. Ruth first met Bill at Honor Dealers, where she was struck by Hank’s vibrant personality and Bill’s quiet friendliness. Although Bill seemed more interested in discussing alcoholism as a disease than the service station business, Ruth liked them both and accepted the job.



Ruth Hock, 1945

Honor Dealers soon became secondary to Bill and Hank’s focus on helping alcoholics and publishing a book about the program. By spring 1938, Bill was working on *Alcoholics Anonymous*, or the *Big Book*, as members affectionately call it. Ruth typed as he dictated letters and chapters. Despite financial challenges, the book’s publication, aided by an article in *Liberty* magazine, led to 800 pleas for help, which Ruth personally responded to.

Following a 1941 article in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Ruth answered thousands of letters and earned the title “Flying Ambassador of AA” for her efforts to support new groups. She left AA in early 1942 to get married. At the 1985 International Convention in Montreal, she received the five millionth copy of the *Big Book*. Ruth passed away the following year at age seventy-five, leaving a lasting legacy.

Mary G.  
MSCA 09 Archives

**“In one form or another, many of my character defects appear daily: self-condemnation, anger, running away, being prideful, wanting to get even, or acting out of grandiosity. Attempting half measures to eliminate these defects merely paralyzes my efforts to change. It is only when I ask God for help, with complete abandon, that I become willing—and able—to change.” - *Daily Reflections*, p. 15**

As I was growing up, and being socialized and indoctrinated into the thought that you needed to do whatever it takes to get ahead, my life took a detour I would not wish on anyone. During that futile pursuit, I sold my soul and stepped on whoever challenged me. Needless to say, that approach to life led me down a path of personal destruction. My selfish ways and narrow perspective on life were a one-way ticket to the hell of addiction. My anger controlled me and pushed everyone away. Anger is the wind that blows out the light of reason. If I was honest with myself, which I was incapable of prior to the program, I would have realized that behind my anger, fear was always lurking. Anger is fear in disguise.

Thank God we learn in our fellowship that our character defects and shortcomings are the root of all our discomfort in life. Negative emotions can always be traced back to our character defects. They say a “shortcoming” is like a flat tire; a “character defect” is like driving on it. We need to fix ourselves, or we’ll be driving on our rims. The key is to limit our own discomfort by trying to keep our defects of character from red-lining. It starts with acknowledging we have them, but the “only” true answer is to regularly ask God to remove them.

Anonymous





# OCAA INTERGROUP PRESENTS MINDFUL DAY

**Ultimate Soundbath & Breathworks**

Steve P., Theresa T., Chad P.  
Meditation & Workshops All Day

**SUNDAY, JULY 28 | 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**  
**NORMA HERTZOG COMMUNITY CENTER**  
1845 PARK AVE, COSTA MESA, CA 92627



- 11:00-Doors Open
- 11:30-12:30 Yoga with Soundbath
- 1:00-2:00 Breath Work
- 2:30-3:30 Sound Bath
- 4:00-5:00 Guest Speaker  
(Schedule Subject To Change)

Picnic in the park. Bring your own food & chair. Music & Yoga all day on grass.

Door shuts at the start of each session.  
**Must Bring Your Own Yoga Matt, Blanket Or Towel.**



**Venmo Contribution \$30**  
Note: "Mindful Day" and your name

For more info: Steve P. (626) 437-0670  
yogiboomer1@gmail.com

[oc-aa.org/events](http://oc-aa.org/events)





2024 Fair Dates: Wednesday, July 31st through Sunday, August 4th

Available Shifts:

**Wednesday—Sunday**  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM,  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM,  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM,  
and 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Please use this link <https://tinyurl.com/pcvrd2bb> to sign up for your desired shift starting June 13th. Volunteers are suggested to have at least **one year of continuous sobriety** and please note that all participants will be screened through "Megan's Law" database.

Orientations will be held June 26th and July 24th on Zoom at 5:30 pm. Meeting ID: 851 8320 4725 Password: ocaaPI  
Only one is required in order to pick up admission and parking passes.

Grab a sponsor, sponsee, or sober friend and participate in a new and very unique service experience!

OC Fair 2024: [www.ocfair.com](http://www.ocfair.com)  
Map & Directions: <http://goo.gl/maps/kd2tH>

Questions? Please send them to [publicinformationcommittee@oc-aa.org](mailto:publicinformationcommittee@oc-aa.org) or ask your meeting's Intergroup representative for more information

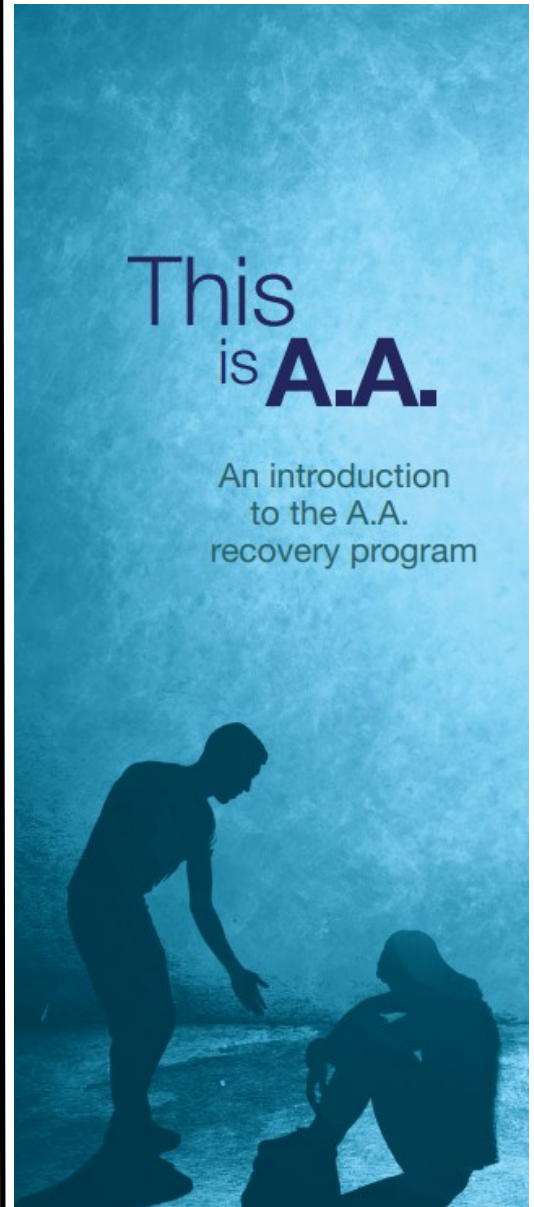
## Meeting Spotlight

# Beginners & Traditions Speaker Meeting

Monday  
6:45PM

Christ Church by the Sea  
1400 W. Balboa Blvd.  
Newport Beach

## July Pamphlet of the Month



# This is A.A.

An introduction to the A.A. recovery program

This pamphlet (P-1) is for anyone wondering if they might have a problem with alcohol and how Alcoholics Anonymous works.

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



# Good Orderly Direction



I met a newcomer recently at an AA meeting who, like me, is an atheist. The topic was Steps Six and Seven and they asked if it was possible to be an AA member without sacrificing one of their deepest convictions. How do secular alcoholics complete Steps that seem to require a belief in God? And, most importantly, can an atheist or agnostic “to thine own self be true” and still recover in AA?

Though promoted as non-religious, repeated references to a supreme divine creator in AA literature and meetings can cause confusion for secular alcoholics. Despite many of us knowing that the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking, we can still feel like outsiders at times.

However, I soon learned that AA’s program works even without a god or even the idea of a “Higher Power,” and AA fully supports this. I can attain sobriety so long as I admit I’m an alcoholic who must go to any length to accept help in letting go of all my defects of character and then continually seek to have them removed.

Religious terms don’t have to be obstacles to getting sober in AA. Many of us treat the word God as an acronym for “good orderly direction.” This makes recovery accessible for those who don’t believe in a deity by placing AA’s program in the role of mentor and guide.

Though AA neither endorses nor opposes any religion, the reality is that religious elements such as prayers that directly address God are common. Nevertheless, we mustn’t forget that AA participation and guidelines are suggestions, not rules, including the concept of God/Higher Power. We can choose to not only ignore this but be actively anti-God and still call ourselves members.

Still, if we’d prefer to recover in the company of other secular alcoholics, this is entirely possible under [Tradition Four](#). There are agnostic AA meetings in [Orange County](#) and [beyond](#). There are also [secular AA groups](#), though none as yet in the current [OC AA meeting directory](#). But remember, any two or three alcoholic kindred spirits, including secular ones, can start their own AA meeting.

And just like any other member who’s reached Step Twelve, alcoholics carry AA’s message. There are [books](#), [pamphlets](#), and up to fifty [articles](#) in the [AA Grapevine](#) including entire issues ([October 2016](#)) with stories revealing how nonreligious members attained the same happiness, joy and freedom of sobriety in AA as religious ones. Atheist and agnostic alcoholic’s contributions to AA’s Steps and Traditions have, as Bill W. put it, “...widened our gateway so that all who suffer may pass through regardless of their belief or *lack of belief*” ([AA Comes of Age](#), 1957) [emphasis from original].

I encouraged my new AA friend to keep coming back through that gateway with the understanding that the Twelve Steps, including the “God” Steps of Six and Seven (as well as Three, Five, and Eleven) can all be done by any alcoholic whether religious, agnostic, or atheist. We simply need to practice humility and stay receptive to guidance that’s more than just our own self-will.

Every one of us has the potential of finding relief from our alcoholism in AA while still remaining true to ourself, so long as we keep coming back. Secular or religious, the benefits and virtues of sobriety are available to all who have a desire to stop drinking, no matter how we choose to define the Good Orderly Direction of our understanding.

Ron B.



## Ole Chunk of Coal Looking to Be a Diamond Someday



It started on a cold damp day in April of ‘86 when I got the nerve to go to my first AA meeting. I looked long and hard to find a meeting within driving distance of my home but not one too close where I could be recognized by fellow tavern team-mates. After all, I had a reputation to preserve, and entering a church on an off night would require a bit of explaining. So, I chose Enfield, a good shot from my hometown with a sullied reputation. There I would be safe from identification and still able to keep my promise to my eldest daughter’s recovery counselor. He said, “You should go an AA meeting to find out more about your daughter’s addiction.”

Very clever man he was, I later found out. I was walking queasily down the darkened hallway to a beginners’ meeting when I spied a dimly lit entrance ahead and steered my anxious soul toward the beacon. Suddenly, a little leprechaun appeared holding out his hand with an oversized grin and said, “I’m Sandy. Welcome to AA. If you have any questions, I’m here to help you any way I can!”

With a sigh of relief, I sat in a small circle of chairs and quietly waited for the meeting to begin. Another dozen Enfield denizens arrived. Abruptly, a big fella entered with a John Wayne gait and softly said, “I’m Jim, and I will be your alcoholic leader tonight.” His comportment commanded my attention, and his gentle voice, calm confidence and grace worked like a magnet to my ears. This was not what I expected. I came to find out how to manage my drinking from experts who were alcoholics, not drunks who were insistent that abstinence was the beginning, that God of my understanding would be my new employer, and I would be the sculptor of a new way of living currently captured by alcohol within the block of pristine marble.

My takeaway from this meeting came three-fold and sold me on the idea that AA was the path to making this old chunk of coal; depressed, fearful, and filled with despair, into a sparkling diamond filled with refurbished dignity, an ability to love and be loved, and most importantly, restoration of respect from family and friends.

These are the three things Big Jim sold me on at that first meeting:

- A) Everyone has a golden center of goodness. No one is totally evil. The program will show you how to reach that goodness and make it grow while shrinking the behavior, instincts and decision making inherent with abusing alcohol. It will make you the best man you’re capable of being with serenity, peace and understanding becoming lifelong companions.
- B) A livid question hurled to Big Jim from an angry woman seated in the circle, “If God is so powerful, how do you explain all the horrible acts of war, killing, crimes and unrest occurring every minute of every day, everywhere through the world?” Gently but convincingly, he answered, “That’s self will run riot, not God’s will.”
- C) And lastly, the statement which sunk deeply into my conscience and made me take a profound look into my being, “Alcoholism is a disease of denial. It’s the only disease that says you don’t have one.” This was the closer.

Right then and there I made a personal commitment to continue to explore this program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Without interruption, I have stayed sober from day one for over 14,000 days more growing up and losing some illusions in order to acquire others; looking into my heart to awaken spiritually, not the outside material world to a larger-than-life fantasy land; living a life of kindness which the deaf can hear and the blind can see; and in the end realizing we are all just humans drunk on the idea that only love can heal our brokenness.

I’ve looked at life from both sides now, and I chose to dance up the spiritual stairway of AA to a life beyond my comprehension with others dancing to the same melody!

John G.



## That First Meeting



People get introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous in many ways. Some are through the court system, some through rehab facilities, others through well-meaning friends or co-workers, and others because Alcoholics Anonymous is the last stop on that road to oblivion. Some hear what they need while others do not at those first meetings they attend.

Having drunk alcoholically from the first beer, I pretty much drank daily from age sixteen on. I just rolled along fat, dumb, and happy without worrying about any consequences. This did not change when I joined the Marine Corps at age nineteen. While occasionally getting into scrapes, there was never any serious trouble as long as I could do my assigned duties. It was not until 1977 when things began to fall apart. Through guilt and remorse things got out of control. Around summer of 1980, I was assigned to a Marine helicopter base on Okinawa for three years.

I decided to somehow control my drinking. Upon arrival in Okinawa, I contracted viral meningitis. It did a job on me, and I was unable to drink for several months due to the medicine I was given for the headaches. I began to experience a mental and physical decline. The thoughts of drinking and drunk dreams were constant. The psychological and physical issues became much more pronounced (withdrawals). I started having seizures/episodes and became delusional.

This earned me a trip to the shrink in late November, who referred me to alcohol rehab. Angry, I planned another drunk for Christmas Eve. It never happened because as I took the first sip of beer the words, *This will never work again* popped into my head. The beer went down the kitchen drain. I fell into a deep black depression and began to think of suicide. The first week of January 1981 I was interviewed by the rehab folks, and they told me I would be a waste of their resources. I should stop drinking or I was going to die. That did not scare me, but I did not drink. Given the *Big Book*, nothing clicked until I read about the jaywalker in Chapter Three. This I could identify with.

On January 11, 1981, seventeen days dry, that was my mental state as I approached this old building in the base housing area. It took me a long time to open that door as I argued with myself that I was not an alcoholic. I finally went through the door and a man stood up, took my hand, and told me, "You never have to drink again if you do not want to." There were five men at that meeting that night. They joked, shared parts of their stories, and laughed about that stuff. What I mostly remember was just wanting to crawl into the head (bathroom for non-Navy or Marines) and vomit. I could relate to what was said but could not laugh about it. You could not hide in this meeting, and it came my turn to share. I found to my surprise I introduced myself as an alcoholic. As the meeting ended, these men told me to keep coming back and to not drink between meetings. They had two meetings a week. As I walked home that night, I carried a small kernel of hope. For the first time in years, I realized I had a choice about taking a drink, and I had been given firm directions to keep from drinking: keep coming back and do not drink between meetings. These directions were to become my anchor through the mental and emotional storms of early sobriety and the physical pain that came later in sobriety. Just following these simple directions has allowed me to walk through all the above and grow in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Forty-three and a half years later, I remain sober by the grace of my Higher Power/God, content in my own skin.

I recently talked with my friend who greeted me at that first meeting, the first man I met in Alcoholics Anonymous. We both remain sober and active in the program. If you have not heard what you need in your first meeting, keep coming back and do not drink between meetings. The message of hope will come. Trust your God, clean house, and help others.

Bill F.

## Step Seven Is Building Character in Me



After many years of sobriety, it is very clear to me that humility was unknowingly birthed in my spirit when God's grace allowed me to admit that I was powerless over alcohol. Although I did not recognize that this was humility at that time, crying out to God, "Help me; I can't stop," must have been a means of hope that somehow this fatal disease, this obsession, could be removed.

I did not know that I was propelled by pride. I was totally ignorant of this truth that would later be revealed to me. And this truth, for me, was that I unknowingly could not, nor would not, let go of my old ideas and begin to press into the God of my understanding's thoughts and ways through AA's Twelve Steps.

I was ignorant of the truth that I could not do everything through my own resourcefulness and that I could learn to put my trust in the God of my understanding. I had longed for peace of mind since I was a tiny tot. I was in an unending state of chaos and frustration in my mind. I was always physically sick and emotionally disturbed, never feeling loved nor wanted by my family, the people around me, nor by a God I did not know. I would learn, through working the Steps, that I was (am) full of hundreds of forms of self-centered fear and that there was (is) a solution in AA's Twelve Steps. It is a tried-and-true solution that could remove, or at least lessen, the fears.

Growing up in a family where one sister and one brother were incarcerated in the State Mental Hospital kept me in paralyzing fear that I would be the next one to be incarcerated. So, I lived in a fantasy that I had been adopted, and some day my real parents would come to rescue me from this chaotic, abusive family that I was trapped in. The reality that my fears were (are) self-centered, has been an amazing opportunity to make changes in my attitude. And I can clearly see, and accept, that humility is my guide. It continues to be the catalyst that moves me more and more out of myself, as it connects me more and more with the child of God that I am, with others, as well as with the God of my understanding.

Step Seven is building character in me that I never knew existed. I always escaped pain and problems through the bottle and prescribed medications. Now, I am able to face the shortcomings with ego-deflation through the small measures of release that is mine each time that I do another Seventh Step. Humility has a healing effect to my mental and physical capacities, as God's grace allows me to be cognizant of my shortcomings and begin with Step One to have them removed, or at least, lessened to some degree.

My shortcomings of anxiety and depression were at the top of a long list. And my solution for them was the bottle and prescribed meds. Now, when anxiety and/or depression make attempts to snare me into their bottomless pit, I immediately turn to Step Seven and enjoy the priceless gift of serenity. Step Seven does not come easy for me (nor for any of us, I think). It is a long period of reconstruction, one day at a time, and we must take the lead. No one can do it for us. By God's grace, our hearts are softened when our shortcomings overtake us. And His gracious Spirit is sufficient to keep us from strutting the humility that continues to increase as we continue to practice the Seventh Step. In the process, we find a changed attitude about ourselves, about other people, and mostly, about and toward God. With this new, changed attitude, it is no longer fearful to move on to Step Eight and make a list.

This changed attitude has also removed all fear of confessing the Seventh Step Prayer every day, and meaning it, when we say: "My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding (*Big Book*, pg. 76)."

Effie R.





# 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.

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**  
 34699 Golden Lantern (Wind and Sea Restaurant)  
 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  
**HYBRID**  
**Turtle Rock Speaker Meeting**  
 1 Sunnyhill  
 Meeting ID: 269 016 646, Password: wildbunch  
 Contact: Joseph C.

07/06 Cody  
 07/13 Rikki M.  
 07/20 Reggie M.  
 07/27 TBD

## Laguna Beach

8:00PM, Saturday  
**HYBRID**  
**Living Sober Speaker Meeting**  
 428 Park Ave. (St. Mary's Episcopal Church)  
 (in the back building, Guild Hall)  
 Meeting ID: 129 629 389 (no password)  
 Contact: Neil K.

8:00PM, Saturday  
**HYBRID**  
**CC Sat Nite**  
 20456 Laguna Cyn. Rd. (The Canyon Club)  
 Meeting ID: 269 016 646, Password: canyon  
 Contact: Tim A.

## 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. &  
 Jesse C.

## 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**  
 395 S. Tustin St. (Community of Christ Church)  
 Meeting ID: 620 819 804, Password: aa  
 Contact: Matt D.

07/05 Devon K., Laguna Niguel  
 07/12 Sydney  
 07/19 Danny M.  
 07/26 Morae

## Orange

7:00PM, Sunday  
**IN-PERSON**  
**Sunday Night Speaker Meeting of Orange**  
 250 S. Prospect St. (Revive Covenant Church)  
 Contact: Manny A.  
 Speaker host: Eddie P.

07/07 Chris H., Irvine  
 07/14 Lisa R., Garden Grove  
 07/21 Chris C., Costa Mesa  
 07/28 Ryan H., Garden Grove

## 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

6:00PM, Monday  
**IN-PERSON**  
**Men's Stag Speaker and Discussion Meeting**  
 929 Calle Negocio (San Clemente Friendship Center)  
 Contact: Tom P.

7:30PM, Friday  
**IN-PERSON**  
**Friday Night Open Speaker Meeting**  
 202 Aragon (St. Clement's By the Sea Church)  
 Contact: Tom P.

## Tustin

7:00PM, Sunday  
**IN-PERSON**  
**Sober & Crazy Speaker Meeting**  
 12881 Newport Ave. (Grace Harbor church)  
 Contact: Megan H.

## Villa Park

9:02AM, Sunday  
**IN-PERSON**  
**9:02 Speaker/Participation Meeting**  
 17855 Santiago Blvd.  
 Contact: Annette H. or  
 E.C.



*Woman To Woman*  
**SAN DIEGO**

*September 20-22*

*The Dana on Mission Bay, 1710  
 W. Mission Bay Dr., San Diego*

[www.womantowomansandiego.com](http://www.womantowomansandiego.com)

Continued from page 12

PERSONAL DONATIONS		
	^	^
Anonymous	\$136	\$1,317
Alexander A, San Clemente		\$2
Anna C.	\$14	\$14
Aria M.	\$2	\$2
Bill D. CMAC 10am BB Study Zoom		\$3
BJ L. Irvine		\$75
Brian S.	\$3	\$6
Carolyn M.		\$50
Curtis H.		\$20
David B., Fullerton	\$10	\$30
David & Angela K. Laguna Niguel	\$239	\$239
Derek G. Laguna Niguel		\$125
Effie R. Costa Mesa	\$50	\$50
Elizabeth H., Brea		\$125
Faith B.	\$5	\$5
Gaston E.		\$104
George H., Rancho Mission Viejo		\$2
Issella G.		\$160
James & Carol W., NB		\$280
Jenna K.		\$25
Jennifer J., Costa Mesa	\$10	\$25
Julie W.		\$75
Kate L., Santa Ana		\$500
Kim S.		\$5
Laura J., HB		\$10
Lynn B		\$75
Marilyn C., San Clemente		\$31
Matthew D. T.	\$3	\$25
Michael L.		\$330
Pej P.		\$54
Rob S. Orange		\$15
Robert R.		\$30
Robyn C.		\$2
Robert S., RSM		\$105
Rodger & Annette F., Irvine	\$35	\$120
Ronald B.	\$25	\$50
Sherman S.		\$20
Stephen M.		\$10
Troy R		\$1
Tom P., HB		\$5
IN LOVING MEMORY		
	^	^
In Memory of Sandy P. #15144		\$25
GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED		
	^	^
GSO #000342592		\$48
Receipt #1032 Need more info		\$60
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$13,320</b>	<b>\$85,600</b>

# CONVERSATIONS WITH A DRUNK

*"I WANT TO THANK MYSELF FOR COMING OUT TONIGHT"*

Continued from page 1

Father Leo: Sigmund Freud said the first ten to twelve years of life determine the rest of life unless you deal with it. Alcohol is not the disease, so when you get sober, you have to deal with the dis-ease inside you. Many also need to heal from their religious upbringing. When someone says, "I don't believe in God," they mean "I don't believe in the God I was raised with." Many people were raised with the belief, if you are not Christian, you do not go to Heaven. The God I was raised with was in many ways a very scary God, a God of fear. In those days, the church was still teaching that unbaptized children went to purgatory, and women and members of the LGBTQ community were not ordained. Although the church has evolved in its teachings, many people still need to deal with the hurt caused by the early teachings and beliefs in order to move forward.

**Jack: Years ago, when I came to a new spiritual understanding that ripped away the foundation of my sobriety, you said to me, "What a beautiful place to be, where you are not sure of anything and wide open and looking." Why is that important in sobriety?**

Father Leo: We learn so much from other people. CS Lewis, a theologian, said, "I don't pray to change God, I pray to change myself." I don't pray for God to change me; I pray so I hear what I need to do. That is the key to so many of our issues, and we make it more complicated than it really is. When you work with newcomers, don't try to teach them because they may know more than you. You may learn something from them. Spirituality has roots in different religions. To put a person down because they were born in a particular country with a particular religious background, you haven't thought that through.

**Jack: How did you approach the Third Step when you already believe in God?**

Father Leo: I made a decision to *turn* my life over to God, not *hand* over my life. I turned in a different direction, and it had nothing to do with God and everything to do with you. However you interpret the rest of Step Three, that's up to you. You have to think about what kind of God you are believing in today, not necessarily the God you grew up with. Christianity is heavily influenced by St. Augustine, who taught that a human being on his own can do nothing good without God's grace. But there was a British monk, Pelagius, who taught that God's grace is within you, and you have to release God's grace. But Pelagius was condemned as a heretic, so the church is riddled with St. Augustine's perspective. And so now we believe that it is God's grace coming down that makes you do anything, so you can never take credit for anything you do. How can you take credit for the good things you've done? How can you have self-esteem or confidence for your good choices? Some people hand their power over to a sponsor because their self-esteem is so low, like a religious codependency. But God is not a co-dependent. He wants you to live your life. God does not carry you; He walks beside you. The *Big Book* says our members found an unexpected *inner* resource, not an outer resource. Let the power out, don't take it in.

**Jack: What is your advice for a newcomer?**

Father Leo: I wish I had the opportunity to be in a meeting like this as a newcomer. This is rare. If you are new, just be new. The excitement of what is going to happen, the journey is the beginning, don't tie yourself to one idea, go to different meetings, meet different people, or you can get bored listening to the same people. If you can listen to different people, meet people from different backgrounds, you will have a richer experience. And it's OK to have your own views and ideas, share with enthusiasm and vigor, but there are times to listen. The *Big Book* says, God gave you brains to use. Jack likes that quote. It's good to be challenged, to think, and not be frozen in our thinking. There are no easy answers, and anyone who gives you an easy answer, watch out.

**Jack: You seem comfortable with yourself, relaxed - care to tell us why?**

Father Leo: In relationships, you may have to detach - you care for them, but you can no longer control or make expectations. Detachment becomes a spiritual endeavor. At this point, we can bring detachment into understanding God. God cares for us, but he is detached. He doesn't make things happen; He gave us free will. God does not get people sober; He does not save people. If you look around the world, you ask, where is God in all of this? He is detached - we have to figure it out. God wants the world to be a better place, but we are the ones to make it so.

[Editor's note: This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.]

Ali N.

**Sometimes you have to provide direction and not yell at people; it has amazing results. Try it.**

**—Jacob A.**







# Mark Your Calendar

## » UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 7**

**FORO 2024**

MSCA Area 09/District 20  
Norma Hertzog Community Center  
1845 Park Ave  
Costa Mesa, CA  
8AM-2PM

**July 12**

**Pacific Regional Forum 2024**

Westgate Resort & Casino  
3000 Paradise Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV  
Email regionalforums@aa.org or call  
212-870-3120 for more information

**August 2-4**

**50th Annual MAAD Dog Daze District Convention**

Double Tree Hotel and Golf Resort by Hilton  
67967 Vista Chino  
Cathedral City, CA  
[www.maaddogdaze.org](http://www.maaddogdaze.org)

**August 16-18**

**Mountain AA Conference 2024**

Big Bear Performing Arts Center  
707 Big Bear Blvd.  
Big Bear Lake, CA  
[www.mountainaaconference.com](http://www.mountainaaconference.com)

**September 13-15**

**NAATW 10th Anniversary Technology Workshop 2024**

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel  
191 Westport Plaza  
St. Louis, MO  
[www.naatw.org](http://www.naatw.org)

**September 20-22**

**Woman to Woman San Diego**

The Dana on Mission Bay  
1710 W. Mission Bay Dr.  
San Diego, CA  
[www.womantowomansandiego.com](http://www.womantowomansandiego.com)

Check the [www.oc-aa.org](http://www.oc-aa.org) events section for updated Intergroup committee meetings

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSE  
PERIOD ENDING 05/31/2024 UNAUDITED

	May 24	Jan - May 24
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
Income		
Literature Resale	459.78	11,014.18
Bank Adjustments	0.00	-19.80
Birthday Donations	221.00	1,013.65
Group Donations	11,533.59	81,872.89
Individual/Fellowship	454.87	4,256.24
Interest Earned	4.64	22.75
Literature Sales	7,671.41	51,573.00
Shipping and Delivery Income	-7.50	-22.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,337.79</b>	<b>149,710.41</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>		
Cost of Literature Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	6,750.38	51,832.85
Cost of Literature Sold - Other	65.60	65.60
<b>Total Cost of Literature Sold</b>	<b>6,815.98</b>	<b>51,898.45</b>
Shipping / Misc. Adjustments	-236.39	-803.79
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>6,579.59</b>	<b>51,094.66</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>13,758.20</b>	<b>98,615.75</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Accounting	1,465.00	5,375.00
Auto Expense (all Mgrs.)	136.73	456.41
Bank Charges	0.00	-32.00
Convention & Svs Event Expense	0.00	855.54
Copier Expense	0.00	554.15
Credit Card Expense	162.72	1,151.56
Freight and Shipping Costs	0.00	7.50
Insurances	444.60	1,329.77
Intergroup Expense	39.00	2,590.48
Internet Expense	177.06	886.05
Lease Expense	284.05	1,420.25
"LIFELINE" Expense	1,625.00	8,125.00
Maintenance & Repairs	160.00	880.00
Offices' Supplies & Expenses	49.67	2,147.02
Payroll Tax Expense	827.19	5,111.42
Postage	0.00	153.68
Public Info Expense	100.00	580.08
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00
Reimb. Health	800.00	2,800.00
Rent Main/Satellite Offices	5,264.00	21,725.08
Salaries	10,830.99	51,893.18
Sales Tax on Lease	0.00	0.00
Special Events Expense	0.00	1,057.46
Taxes & Licenses	0.00	120.00
Telephone Expense	385.25	1,927.88
Utilities	33.69	229.46
Volunteers Coffee & Water	26.50	175.50
Website Expense	358.99	1,801.94
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>23,170.44</b>	<b>113,322.41</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-9,412.24</b>	<b>-14,706.66</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
Other Income		
Purchase Discounts	0.00	717.82
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>717.82</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>717.82</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-9,412.24</b>	<b>-13,988.84</b>

# July Word Search

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
or phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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

CREATOR  
CHARACTER  
GENEROSITY  
INDEPENDENCE

HUMILITY  
SHORTCOMINGS  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
GROUP

STRENGTH  
DEFECTS  
USEFULNESS  
MONEY

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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](mailto: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 AUGUST 15th**

*Congratulations to May's winner, Jane B.!*