

# Lifeline

Experience, Strength, and Hope in Orange County

## The Twelve Gifts of AA

Whether Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Ramadan, Dongzhi, Winter Solstice, or secular celebrations, humans have long gathered during this holiday season. There are alcoholics in all of these groups, and many are in AA. One tradition common to these beliefs is gifts, both giving and receiving. Some of the greatest gifts of AA are the principles we embrace.

### Step One – Honesty

When I’m honest with myself and others, I’m gifted with the ability to see things as they really are, rather than through the distorted prism of my fears and resentments; people trust me, and I don’t have to have a good memory.



### Step Two – Hope

The gift of the knowledge that the answer lies within myself (where with help from my Higher Power/God I have the power to find relief) and not within anyone or anything else (over which I have no power whatsoever) brings me hope that continued sobriety is possible.

### Step Three – Faith

The complete trust in a Higher Power/God of our understanding is a gift available to all alcoholics, no matter their belief or lack of belief. We gain confidence that together we can relieve our obsession to drink.

### Step Four – Courage

We no longer fear alcoholism, but we still respect it. AA challenges us with the task of self-reflection and we gain courage by doing what needs to be done despite our fears.

**One tradition common to these beliefs is gifts, both giving and receiving. Some of the greatest gifts of AA are the principles we embrace.**

### Step Five – Integrity

This is another gift that benefits not only us, but those around us.

Learning to do the right thing for no other reason than that it’s the right thing to do infuses our life with strength of character.

### Step Six – Willingness

This gift comes from being open to learning in any form. Every event, good or bad, can strengthen our sobriety so long as we remain open, teachable, and willing to do the work of the program.

### Step Seven – Humility

Right-sizing my ego infuses everything I

*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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—CALL BEFORE YOU TAKE A DRINK—

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Welcome 2024  
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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).

Like and follow  
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SCAN ME

**Public Information Committee** meets the **4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30PM** via Zoom (Meeting ID: 851 8320 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) or email [info@sochic.club](mailto:info@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

This month, we are focusing on the Twelfth Step and Twelfth Tradition as well as the upcoming holidays. We have suggestions on how to stay sober during this season with the classic *Box 459* flyer on page 8. Ron B. gives the principles that go along with each Step in our cover article "The Twelve Gifts of AA." Ron has also done the Our Principles section on page 4 for this year. It is a yearlong commitment to write about the Step, Tradition, and Concept corresponding with the month, and Ron has done an exemplary job. If you read our online version, Ron always makes sure to provide lots of links for further education.

Every year that I get to spend as the *Lifeline* editor and on the *Lifeline* Committee is a gift. I am in awe of the dedicated members of our committee who give selflessly of their time in service to the AAs of Orange County. We always have room for more people, so you're invited to join the best service committee around. You don't have to be a writer; you just have to have opinions (and we AAs have no shortage of opinions).

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 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 on page 2. 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).

May your holiday season be happy, joyous, and free!

Jennifer J.  
*Lifeline* Editor



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

## Step Twelve—Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

So, based on what I believe about the Eleventh Step, the Twelfth Step is about serving to others what we serve ourselves because we believe in what we are doing for ourselves is also good for others. However, if we are now spiritually awakened as the Step states, it is about sharing ourselves in a spiritual manner, not a selfish, self-serving, egotistical way. This Step embodies all the Steps that come before it.

Keep in mind that it says "...as THE result of these steps," not as A result.

Although both words, A and THE, allude to a single person or thing, the word A refers to an unspecified person or thing. The word THE refers to something specific. This Step is referring specifically to this program, which includes all THE steps that precede it.

I, for one, need to reel myself in quite often. I've been accused of being a know-it-all many times in my life. The Twelfth Step is not a time to be a know-it-all. It's about carrying the message. If possible, maybe we can actually *be* the message, although that might not always be possible.

My extended version of the Twelfth Step: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and others whenever and wherever possible and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Bob L.



## Share Your Thoughts on Sobriety with the *Lifeline*

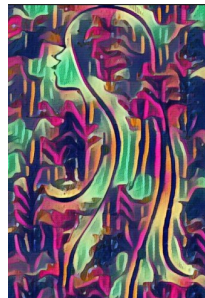
If you'd like to submit an article, poem, or cartoon to be considered for publication, please send all submissions to the email address below by the 15th of the month for the following month, e.g., August 15th for the September issue. The best articles are under 600 words and are often much shorter. 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).

## My Mind

My mind is not my friend  
My mind tells me lies, fabricates unbelievable stories to my alcoholic mind  
If it weren't for the program of AA  
I would not be here today  
Today, I have the tools to help me distinguish between the insanity and the sane  
Meetings, commitment, sponsor and the *Big Book* are the reasons I am sober today  
I am most grateful!

Vivian W.



## 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)

# Our Principles

**Step Twelve: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

Our recovery journey that began humbly now returns to this most important AA principle in [Step Twelve](#). If we were diligent in doing the first eleven [Steps](#), we'll be free from the obsession to drink, and our lives will have improved in many ways. But continued sobriety only comes from once again embracing humility by sharing AA's message of recovery with other still-suffering alcoholics. Not egotistically for personal gain but through humble [anonymous example](#) where we freely give what we were freely given. How? By making AA principles like honesty, action, courage, integrity, willingness, and especially, service, a part of everything we do—or ever will do.

**Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.**

[Tradition Twelve](#) is the last of the AA customs and beliefs that guide the fellowship towards two ultimate goals: the survival of AA and the fulfillment of its [primary purpose](#) of helping alcoholics achieve sobriety. After the first eleven [Traditions](#) define what works and what doesn't work when it comes to unity, group relations, and how AA interacts with the outside world, the aforementioned goals are only attainable on a spiritual foundation of [personal anonymity](#). Tradition Twelve reminds us that principles always come before our individual and collective egos.

**Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle: that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.**

Like a warranty that says a manufacturer stands behind its product, The General Warranties of AA ([The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated](#), p. 24 ) found in [Concept XII](#) are the fellowship's declarations that every part of AA—Steps, Traditions, and Concepts—works when used as directed (or in AA, as “suggested”). These declarations bind all of the [Concepts](#) to our primary purpose while reemphasizing the importance of spirituality and prudence, especially when it comes to AA principles. The Warranties of Concept XII are as close as AA gets to providing a guarantee of the success and survival of the fellowship. It works if we work it—but only when used as directed.

*Editor's note: You can read the long form of the [Traditions](#) on [www.aa.org](#) or on pp. 563-565 in the Big Book. You can also learn more about the [General Service Office](#) and how it serves AA on [www.aa.org](#).]*

Ron B.

## How Am I Doing?

**Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.**

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my own opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a *Grapevine* subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is my real importance among more than a million AAs?

(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](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



## December AA Birthdays

|          |            |          |
|----------|------------|----------|
| Ariel L. | Costa Mesa | 6 years  |
| Dawna M. |            | 36 years |
| Bill F.  | Anaheim    | 44 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 the 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**

| 765<br>TOTAL CALLS                      | CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY<br>October 2024 |                 |                 |                |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|   | 12<br>Step<br>Calls                     | Meeting<br>Info | General<br>Info | Cus-<br>tomers |
| OFFICE VOLUNTEERS<br>(MAIN + SATELLITE) | 13                                      | 162             | 184             | 167            |
| CALL FORWARDING<br>VOLUNTEERS           | 15                                      | 183             | 208             | 0              |

**Monthly Book Drawing Winners—Congratulations!**

**Maryann W., Kurtis T., and Mike M.**

## Hospitals and Institutions Corner



As long as I remember what happened to me on January 26, 2015, I do not have to be afraid – ever – of anything.

I was sick; the flu had turned into pneumonia. I felt terrible. I sent out an email to other members of the Orange County (North) Hospitals and Institutions Committee (H&I) asking if anyone could please cover my jail panel at the Orange County Intake Release Center that night. No one responded. I felt sorry for myself, and I immediately got a resentment. I mean, couldn't anyone help me out here? But I knew I had to go to the panel; I had made a commitment, and I meant to honor it.

I had joined H&I two years prior and found, to my amazement, that my favorite panels are jail panels. I have only been in jail twice – once for a failure to appear for a dog ticket I received and once for a DWI I got in New Mexico. The reason I love jail panels has nothing to do with how much jail time I have served; it has a lot more to do with what I think life would be like if I hadn't gotten sober and found hope. What would life be like if I hadn't become a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, if I hadn't learned about gratitude, if I didn't have an opportunity to go to a meeting every day? I'm not saying that I go to a meeting every day, but when I do, I sure feel better. The more committed I am to the AA program, the happier I am. And I consider myself very lucky indeed to be able to go to a daily meeting. The folks in this module didn't know when they would be able to attend an AA panel. One fellow told me he only had an opportunity to attend two in a year's time.

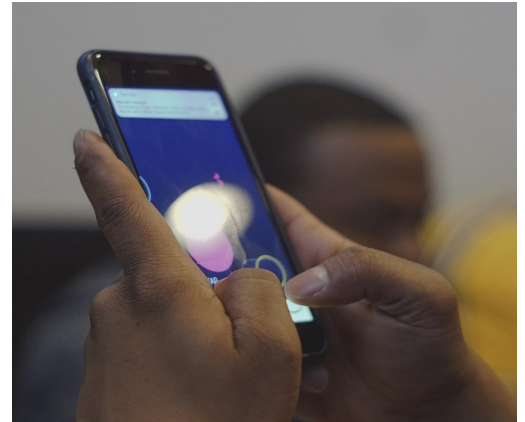
So, back to January 26. I had arrived at the panel on time and had been quickly escorted to the module where the panel was to be held. But for some reason, it took almost an hour for the deputies in the module to announce the panel and for the fellows to come to the classroom.

I started the panel by reading the Opening Prayer. It ends with the words, "Grant us new ways of living and of gratitude. Amen." Before I found a sponsor and started the Steps, I was not an honest person. I was a people pleaser, filled with fear and insecurity. The Steps and my Higher Power helped me see that I had always been willing – very willing – to blame everyone else for what I saw as lacking in my life, for the mistakes I had made. I felt too sorry for myself to have any gratitude for all the wonderful things that had happened, so I find that the Opening Prayer helps me focus on willingness and gratitude.

That night I started my story by talking about what it must have been like to be married to me, to be married to someone who looked like an adult but was really about an eight-year-old child. I remember saying that I was the kind of person who expected my ex-husband to know why I was angry, and if he didn't, I wasn't going to tell him! I would clam up and tell myself that if he really loved me, he should be able to figure out why I was upset. Crazy, huh? There were two attendees for the panel that night and they were cellmates. One of them, Tim, said he had done that exact same thing to his wife on the phone just that day! So, I really had his attention.

*Continued on page 14*

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



The Orange County Central Office call forwarding program ensures 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

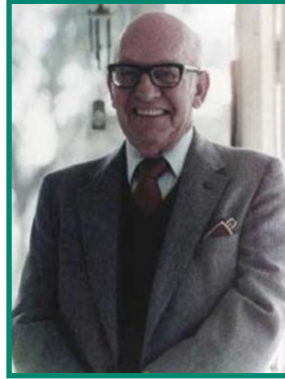
# Archives Corner

## Clarence Snyder

Clarence Snyder is the author of "Home Brewmeister" in the *Big Book* first, second, and third editions. He fought a brutal battle against alcohol and emerged victorious, not just for himself but for countless others. His story began in the early 1930s in Cleveland, Ohio, where he had descended into the depths of alcoholism. By his own admission, he was a "hopeless drunk," unable to find his way out of a cycle of binge drinking, regret, and despair. It wasn't until he encountered Alcoholics Anonymous that his life began to change.

Clarence's road to recovery was long and arduous. He worked through the Twelve Steps of AA, each one a challenge, but each one also a lifeline. He found the strength to admit his powerlessness over alcohol, to believe in a higher power, and to make amends for the wreckage he'd caused. But it was Step Twelve that would become the cornerstone of his newfound purpose. Step Twelve states: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

For Clarence, this Step wasn't just an obligation; it was a calling. He realized that the real power of recovery wasn't in just getting sober, it was in giving back. He knew that if he could help others find what he had found, it would not only reinforce his own sobriety but also create a ripple effect of healing that could touch entire communities.



Clarence Snyder

Clarence began working with other alcoholics, patiently guiding them through the Steps. He didn't preach at them; instead, he listened, offering empathy and understanding because he knew exactly what they were going through. He became a sponsor to dozens of men, helping them regain their lives one day at a time. He also took the message of AA into the wider world, sharing his story with anyone who would listen, in church basements, community centers, and even jails.

What made Clarence's implementation of Step Twelve unique was his deep commitment to living the principles of AA, not just in meetings but in every part of his life. He carried the message of hope into his job, his friendships, and his family relationships. His personal transformation inspired others to believe that recovery was possible, and as they recovered, they too would pass on the message.

Through his tireless efforts, Clarence Snyder became a living testament to the power of Step Twelve. His legacy is a reminder that recovery is not just about personal healing—it's about the healing we can bring to others when we share our experience, strength, and hope.

Mary G.  
MSCA 09 Archives

**"To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom." –Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Someone shared at a meeting recently that, "If they could wave a magic wand, and give the gift of sobriety, they wouldn't, because they would not want to rob anyone of the amazing journey through recovery." If I heard that when I was new, I would have thought, "That was selfish!" Now, having lived many years of recovery, I completely understand this sentiment.

Our ego seeks the destination; our soul seeks the journey. Evolving in this fellowship, with all its ups and downs, has been the best amusement ride ever. It has been exhilarating, scary and thrilling. It takes a lot of courage and perseverance to grow up and be who you really are and were always meant to be. There are times I've had that pit in my gut projecting the next crisis or twist, but mostly, I can't stop smiling from the amazement of growing emotionally and spiritually into the person I am today. I literally see life differently, where hopes and dreams are now all real possibilities.

Don't go through life, grow through life. The journey through recovery has been more rewarding than anything I could have ever imagined. Today, nothing is more fulfilling than being rocketed into the Fourth Dimension and knowing that the journey has become the destination.

Anonymous



## Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



**1** Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



**2** Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



**3** Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



**4** Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



**5** Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



**6** If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



**7** Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



**8** Worship in your own way.



**9** Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



**10** Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



**11** Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



**12** "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.



*nocypaa and aocypaa present*

# ROAR AT THE DOOR



**A New Year's Celebration**

**12.31.2024**

*Bring your best  
jungle chic!  
(and dress warm)*

**126 E 16th St  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627**

**Meeting - 8:00pm**

**Dance - 9:30pm**

*Suggested Contribution: \$15*

## Meeting Spotlight

IT'S A

# NEW MORNING

A.A. Meeting-Online

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**6:30 AM PST | 7:30 AM PST**

Zoom Meeting I.D.  
861-0509-6903  
Irvine, Ca. Orange County Base

## December Pamphlet of the Month

The  
Co-Founders  
of Alcoholics  
Anonymous



This [pamphlet](#) (P-53) gives brief biographical sketches of Bill W. and Dr. Bob along with their last major talks.

[Pamphlets are available for purchase at Central Office for \$.60 each and on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).]



## The Real Bullseye



Michelangelo once said, “The greater danger for most of us is not setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark.” For years I misunderstood what exactly I was trying to achieve in AA other than not drinking. Then I discovered [Step Twelve](#).

To illustrate this, I’ve adapted an old Zen story about an archery student who was hitting the target but kept missing the bullseye, and his instructor who teaches him his true goal.

An alcoholic was meeting with his sponsor and was restless, irritable, and discontent. He threw down his [Big Book](#) in frustration.

His sponsor asked, “What’s wrong?”

“I’ve done what you’ve told me. I go to meetings, say the prayers, read AA stuff, do my daily [Tenth](#) and [Eleventh](#) Steps, and it’s not working.”

The sponsor said calmly, “Well, what’s your goal?”

“To not drink, of course!”

“Really? Nothing else?”

The sponsee thought for a moment, “So, what am I missing?”

The sponsor went on to explain that “not drinking” wasn’t, in fact, our goal or “bullseye” in AA.

“It’s just a target, an outcome,” he said. “Our goal is to put ourselves in a state of mind and spirit where we never have to drink again. In AA we do this through [service](#), by carrying the message in Step Twelve, and practicing AA principles in everything we do.”

Going to meetings, reading the *Big Book*, and especially doing the Steps, etc., are important actions in our AA program that are essential to continued sobriety. But sometimes, in trying to hit only these targets, we can confuse them with our real goal and lose sight of the principles behind them.

Don’t get me wrong; diligently doing the first eleven Steps to the best of our ability helps us find relief from our obsession to drink as it has for countless alcoholics before us. But we’re not done. Though we’ve had our spiritual awakening(s), our alcoholism isn’t cured. It will always remain “cunning, baffling, and powerful”—and relentless. Even with the maintenance Steps of Ten and Eleven, experience has shown us that working with another alcoholic is the best defense against relapse.

However, helping another alcoholic by doing Twelfth Step work isn’t just one more task to be ticked off my daily AA to-do list. It’s a way a life where we serve but ask no reward, where we love without charging any fee, and one of the best ways to practice AA principles like honesty, humility, and service in everything we do. Service generally means [sponsorship](#), but we can also serve by taking a commitment, volunteering for Intergroup or GSR rep, or simply sharing in a meeting how we got sober in AA.

I’m grateful for the AA daily tasks that help me recover. But like the archery student and the sponsee above, if I aim low and try and hit only these targets, I can lose sight of the principles behind them and our ultimate goal. Our targets are what we do, our goal is what we become and what we learn, regardless of whether or not we hit the target. Remember: progress, not perfection. Step Twelve teaches us that, when our daily tasks include carrying AA’s message, we won’t just be hitting targets but achieving real and lasting spiritual growth while finding joy in all the blessings of the [Ninth Step Promises](#) (*BB*, pp. 84-85) and “[A Vision For You](#)” (*BB*, p. 164).

In other words, we’ll be hitting the real bullseye.

Ron B.

## Hunting For Gold Nuggets



Meeting makers find golden nuggets to fill their tucker-bag with spiritual gems. You never know which meeting begets a mine-sweeping moment. My first golden find happened when Big Jim, the leader of my first meeting, said, “Alcoholism is a disease of

denial. It’s the only disease that says you don’t have one!” He followed with, “Every alcoholic, no matter what brought you here, has a *golden center of good* within them, and the AA program will give an earthly blueprint to growing the goodness lying behind the discovery of the ‘silver threads and golden needle’ curtain guarding your motherlode treasure within.”

The spiritual map to the torso of hope is discovered in a blue *Big Book* and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, a wonderful group of altruistic people whose sole reward is the smile of gratification they earn for helping others. This is priceless currency for someone filling their heart and soul during the many pickles and plights encountered in their own life’s journey.

The true answer to the equation of a happy life has been broadly known by every religious conviction, spiritual movement, humanitarian organization, and numerous outreach groups. It is the true application of “the Golden Rule of doing for your neighbor as you would do for yourself.” An extension of such a spiritual axiom is found in AA, where we learn to be responsible when any alcoholic who reaches out for help finds that the hand of AA will always be there.

A gilded nugget uncovered in a recent meeting was understanding the connection between the starting date of AA in June of 1935 and the publishing date of the *Big Book* in 1939 some four years later. This led to an explosion of AA membership followed by newer members from the area of Akron, Ohio, traveling to experience meetings in New York. An important question asked by out-of-towners was, “How did the earliest AAs stay sober without a *Big Book*?” The gold-plated answer was simple and spoke to the essence of the program, “We had each other!”

*Beautiful—just beautiful*, I thought. When I heard these words, a soft tear of gratitude rolled down my cheek. I love AA. Keep coming back. You do not want to miss this treasure-finding experience. At these meetings, you will unearth and bring to light a sparkling bullion of new ideas to live a life beyond your dreams. It is here where you will win the lotto ticket to an extraordinary good life traveling with fellow lovestruck and conscientious companions.

John G.



## The Gift of Extra Time



This day began like most days for this alcoholic, with the exception that it was my bellybutton birthday. Wow, seventy-five! I was awake at 6:30AM, fed the animals, and put out the solar lights. I said thank you to my Higher Power/God for another day. I was dealing with fairly intense physical pain as I moved about until my body adjusted and the pain leveled out. This is my simple daily routine that I am grateful to my

Higher Power/God for. Later in the morning, my four-year-old and twenty-one-month-old grandchildren were delivered for another day of babysitting. As I spent the day attempting to heard, and time playing with the boys, I kept thinking how grateful I was for this time with them. That evening, my children and the three grandkids came over for supper to celebrate my birthday. All said and done, it was a wonderful day, another gift of sobriety.

On my birthday in 1980, as my active alcoholic run was nearing its end, I could never imagine the day described above. Dealing with the aftereffects of viral meningitis, extreme withdrawals, and mental distress, I felt helpless and without any hope at all that life would get better. I wanted to check out, not for the first time, but the thought was far more obsessive. It was completely dark in that space between my ears. I was numbly doing my Marine Corps duties, being a husband, and being a father. This was to go one for another few months.

My Higher Power/God made me put the bottle down on December 24, 1980, but the darkness and hopelessness stayed until I attended that first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in early January 1981. I walked away from that meeting with a small kernel of hope. That began the process of change. I remember waking up one morning feeling completely strange. I walked down to the quarters of a fellow member of Alcoholics Anonymous and talked to him about it. The upshot was I was glad to be alive. I did not wish to die anymore—a completely new experience. I continued to struggle with self-will and depression for quite a while, but I no longer wanted to die. Listening to those who came before me and working the Steps of our program gave me tools to deal with my character defects and gave me a Higher Power/God. I have never needed to pick up another drink again, one day at a time. As time in sobriety grew, my gratitude for all the gifts I have received grew. Trust in my Higher Power/God and our program of Alcoholics Anonymous has allowed me to live a somewhat useful life.

I have been gifted with forty-four years of extra time. God willing, one day at a time, I will celebrate forty-four years of sobriety on December 24, 2024. My children and their children do not fear me and actually talk with me. This gift of extra time resulted from my Higher Power's/God's intervention and the gift of sobriety and our program of Alcoholics Anonymous that gives me directions on and tools to remain sober one day at a time. I hope your journey in sobriety brings you many gifts. Hold on to that initial gift of sobriety and the rest will follow.

Trust God, clean house, and help others.

Bill F.

## The Gift of Love



To freely give, with no thought of recognition nor expectation, sums up to me up what Step Twelve is all about. The results for me have been (still are) the gift of love for my Higher Power, Jesus, for self-love, rather than love of self, and for love of the people about me, rather than resenting them, and/or resenting myself. Love is, to me, without a doubt, the results of the eleven Steps preceding Step Twelve.

The Steps are a guide to accept that once an alcoholic, we will always be an alcoholic. It is a one-day-at-a-time process to achieve sobriety from the dis-ease of alcohol. The process guides us to gain courage to accept that we are real alcoholics—and that we have a daily reprieve from picking up a drink of alcohol. It allows us to admit that we are powerless over alcohol (Step One). We learn, as we continue to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety, that we are powerless over people, places, and things as well. We see that our lives are unmanageable because we were unconsciously trying to control the outcome of all circumstances and situations we were dealing with, in our relationships with people, places, and things.

When we've conceded to our innermost self that we are a real alcoholic, we begin to believe God can, and will, restore our mind to sanity (Step Two) when the enemy of our soul comes in like a flood to bring chaos, confusion, and the like. We have a solution for the spiritual warfare that we are engaged in through the Twelve Steps. As we learn to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him (Step Three) in every situation and circumstance we're confronted with, we are on our way to clearly seeing our part (Step Four) in these floods that come against us. As we do so, we continue to move forward. Out of the hundreds of forms of fear that we are driven by, we turn to faith that we can do all things through our Higher Power for He strengthens us to make amends for harm or injury that we have done to others (Step Five).

We begin to change, as we so clearly see, and accept the truth that we have learned and proceed through the next six Steps preceding Step Twelve. And spiritual awakenings become a natural, unending flow of the God of our understanding. We become more grateful every day that we're being mentally freed to walk in the light of our truth and not just parrot the truth of others. Having learned through these Steps that we are in a daily process of improving our conscious contact with the God of our understanding and that He has all power, we are simultaneously ceasing to carry the mess, and instead, move forward to try to carry the message. These are awakenings that catapult us into overcoming the spiritual malady (dis-ease) of alcoholism, which had held us captive in our mental/physical capacities. And we are in the midst of miracles which are relieving us from the bondage of self.

Our lives are clearly becoming set free from the unmanageability of trying to run the show. The Steps are working in us. And now, it is clear to us that this is the last Promise in our *Big Book*: "We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves" (page 84). And this is humility birthing in us, which allows us to "practice these principles in all our affairs" (*BB*, page 60).

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.

## 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.

12/07 Pauly, Santa Ana  
 12/14 Missy G., Tustin  
 12/21 David N., Santa Ana  
 12/28 TBA

## 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.

12/01 Devon K., South County  
 12/08 Andrea C., Fountain Valley  
 12/15 Yareli L., Orange  
 12/22 Maya B., Irvine  
 12/29 Don K.

## 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.



### WE COULD USE SOME HELP!!!

THE FRIDAY NIGHT A.A. MEETING IS IN NEED OF SOME ATTENDANCE SUPPORT.

THE FRIDAY NIGHT DOWNTOWNERS MEETING IS ONE OF THE OLDEST MEETINGS IN ORANGE COUNTY AND THE OLDEST IN HUNTINGTON BEACH.

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC AND THAT WE HAD TO MOVE TWICE AND MANY HAVE FOUND OTHER MEETINGS OR MOVED AWAY.

OUR MEETING STARTS AT 8 P.M. AND IS PARTIAL BIG BOOK READING AND THE BALANCE IS PODIUM SHARING.

WE HAVE OLD TIME SOBRIETY AND MANY OLD TIMERS WITH 20, 30, AND 40 YEARS OF SOBRIETY, PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!

H.B. DOWNTOWNERS, UPSTAIRS  
 8121 ELLIS AVENUE  
 HUNTINGTON BEACH

COME AND JOIN US, WE'RE A HAPPY GROUP

| Continued from page 12           |             | Mon 6:30P-EDIBBS, Easy D        | \$360      |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| <b>TRABUCO CANYON</b>            | ^ ^         | Sun 7pm-Fishbowl Discussion     | \$25       |
| Mo 10:30A-Womens Steps & R       | \$158 \$158 | Thr 7:00P-Fishbowl              | \$5        |
| Thu 7:00P-Silverado Canyon Bo    | \$32 \$32   | Fri 7:05 AM Back To Basics (B   | 1,230      |
| <b>TUSTIN</b>                    | ^ ^         | Jumpstart M-F 6:30A Sat/Sun 7   | \$600      |
| Dly 6:00A-Foothill Early Risers, | \$37        | Mon 6:00P-Women's Emotional     | \$50       |
| Dly 6:00A-Attitude Mod, 1221 W   | \$239 5,013 | Mon So Coast Mens Stag          | \$448      |
| MWF 12:00P-Spiritual Experien    | \$600       | Sat. 9AM Morning Fellowship     | \$80       |
| M-F 5:30P-Tustin Rush Hour, 5    | \$200       | Sat. 9:15 A-12x12 Irvine        | \$76       |
| Su 7:00P-Sober/Crazy Spkrs, 1    | \$113 \$845 | Sat. Morning Women's Fellow     | \$97 \$98  |
| Mo 9:00A-Women's Unity Grp T     | \$50 \$100  | Sat. 12:00P Tustin AWC (Alkie   | \$300      |
| Mo 6:00P-Conscious Contact (     | \$99        | Sat 7PM-Fishbowl Laguna Hills   | 1,010      |
| Mo 7:00P-(M)'s BYOB, 1201 Irv    | \$72 \$72   | Sunday Night As Bill Sees It La | \$25 \$50  |
| Tu 7:00P-Tustin BB Stdy, 225     | \$150 \$540 | We 5pm (W)'s Closed BB          |            |
| We 7:00P-(W)'s Solutions, 1921   | \$231       | <b>MISC. DONATIONS</b>          | ^ ^        |
| Th 9:00A-(W)'s SS, 14402 Pr      | \$120       | Birthday Donations              | 1,132      |
| Th 7:00P-12 Steps & 12 Trads,    | \$270       | IG Coffee Basket                | \$50       |
| Fr 6:00A-Men's Morning Coffee    | \$124       | 7th Tradition Zoom Mtgs         | \$43       |
| Fr 6:30P-It's in the Book, 225 W | 1,970       | Piggy Bank                      | \$20 \$88  |
| Sa 7:30A-Tustin Acceptance, 22   | \$254 1,153 | Tu 7pm Laguna Beach DW @        | \$175      |
| <b>VILLA PARK</b>                | ^ ^         | Mindful Day Sound Bath Donat    | 2,603      |
| Dly 7:30A-Sunrise Serenity, 17   | 179 \$829   | 2024 Spanish Convention AA      | 500 \$500  |
| Su 9:02A-Sprkr/Part, 17885 San   | \$780       | Saddleback Valley Fellowship    | \$185      |
| <b>WESTMINSTER</b>               | ^ ^         | Southern CA AA Convention       | 5,193      |
| Mo 6:00 PM-12x12 Beg., 15750     | \$90        | <b>PERSONAL DONATIONS</b>       | ^ ^        |
| Fr 6:30P-Sisters of Truth, 140   | \$50        | Anonymous                       | 601 4,179  |
| <b>WHITTIER</b>                  | ^ ^         | Alexander A, San Clemente       | \$2        |
| <b>YORBA LINDA</b>               | ^ ^         | Anna C.                         | \$14       |
| <b>UNLISTED GROUPS</b>           | ^ ^         | Anthony G.                      | \$10       |
| Anonymous Meeting                | \$271       | Aria M.                         | \$2        |
| Brea Mens Group 562316           | \$106       | Bill D. CMAC 10am BB Study      | \$3        |
| Charle St. Step House, CM        | \$194       | Bj L. Irvine                    | \$150      |
| Fri Double Winners, St. Johns    | 200 \$500   | Brian S.                        | \$9        |
| Fri. D.W., Costa Mesa            | \$150       | Byron R., Mission Viejo         | \$50       |
| Fri TGIF Women's Topic Disc.     | \$151       | Carolyn M.                      | \$50       |
| Into Action BB, CM               | \$150       | Curtis H.                       | \$20       |
| Mon 5pm Women's DW Solutio       | 225 \$225   | David B., Fullerton             | \$20 \$80  |
| Mon Night Guild Hall Meeting     | \$97        | Dawn L., via Venmo 9102024      | \$100      |
| Mon 6 pm Thurs Monday Night      | \$60        | David & Angela K. Laguna Nig    | \$768      |
| Mon 6:30 pm Women's Living S     | \$163       | Derek G. Laguna Niguel          | \$125      |
| Mon 8:00P-Monday Night BB St     | \$201       | Effie R. Costa Mesa             | \$50 \$250 |
| Tu Night Women's Double Winn     | \$157 \$157 | Elizabeth H., Brea              | \$50 \$275 |
| NHMS Meeting                     | \$300       | Evan McC. Ladera Ranch rece     | \$240      |
| OC Intergroup Annual BBQ Tew     | \$156       | Faith B.                        | \$5        |
| Slogan Sisters, Wed. H.B.        | \$125 \$125 | Gaston E.                       | \$104      |
| Sat. 7:30A - Men's Meeting at S  | \$312       | George H., Rancho Mission Vi    | \$2        |
| Th 11:00A-(W)'s Closed BB, SJ    | \$84        | Gerri K.                        | \$5        |
| Thursday's Wed 7am Attitude A    | \$100       | Hilda F.                        | \$3        |
| Thu 7:00P-7th Heaven, Tower 7    | \$15        | Issella G.                      | \$160      |
| Noon Women's Meeting Mission     | \$185       | Jane B., Legacy #780752         | \$70       |
| <b>WANDERING GROUPS</b>          | ^ ^         | James & Carol W., NB            | \$280      |
| Fri P83 Wandering Group          | \$100       | Jenna K.                        | \$25       |
| We 6:30P- Rolling Men's Stag     | \$400       | Jennifer J., Costa Mesa         | \$5 \$70   |
| <b>ZOOM MEETINGS</b>             | ^ ^         | Josh M.,                        | \$10       |
| As Bill Sees It Newcomer         | \$425       | Julie W.                        | \$75       |
| Attitude Adj. 7am Cnyn Club (00  | \$415 5,929 | Kate L., Santa Ana              | \$500      |
| Back Bay (M)'s Zoom              | \$795       | Kathleen R. zoom                | \$15       |
| Whale Watchers Men's Stage M     | \$195 \$627 | Kim S.                          | \$5        |
| Women's 5pm Zoom BB SJC          | \$244       | Krista S.                       | \$4        |
| Dly Alkie's Winner Circle        | \$210       | Laura J., HB                    | \$10       |
| Dly 6A-Not Taking A Trip (SJC)   | \$587       | Lynn B                          | \$75       |
| Dly 7:05A-Attitude Adjustment    | \$248 \$878 | Marilyn C., San Clemente        | \$25 \$106 |
| Dly Noon Time Recovery (Cos      | \$125       | Matthew D. T.                   | \$30       |
| Dly Early Birds                  | 1,581       | Marcia F., group 342592 ??      | \$50       |
| M-F 7:00A-Zoom Daily Reflectin   | 1,300       | Michael L.                      | \$330      |
| M-F 10:00A-Zoom Big Book Me      | \$140 \$140 | Martina R.(Sunset 11/2023-09    | \$351      |
| Tues/Thurs 7:05 A-The 705 Virt   | \$923       | Pej P.                          | \$54       |
| Tu 5:30P Womens @ The Gra        | \$150 \$356 | Rob S. Orange                   | \$15       |
| Tues Nite Women's BB Study       | \$297       | Robert R.                       | \$15 \$75  |
| We 7A-Zoom Women's Book St       | \$501       | Robyn C.                        | \$2        |
| Wed. 5PM- East Meets West        | \$30 \$70   | Robert S., RSM                  | \$120      |
| We 6:30P-Wed Night Wander        | \$61        | Rodger & Annette F., Irvine     | \$225      |

|                              |      |       |                                    |                    |
|------------------------------|------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ronald B.                    | \$25 | \$175 | In Memory of Sandy P. #15144       | \$25               |
| Robert R.                    |      | \$15  | <b>GROUP INFORMATION REQUESTED</b> | ^ ^                |
| Sherman S.                   |      | \$20  | GSO #000342592                     | \$48               |
| Stephen M.                   |      | \$20  | Receipt #1693 Need more info       | \$175              |
| Transcend Healing & Breathwo |      | \$5   | Receipt #1032 Need more info       | \$60               |
| Troy R                       |      | \$1   | Receipt #1543 Need more info       | \$301              |
| Tom P., HB                   |      | \$5   | Receipt#1578 Thursday's Fello      | \$30               |
| William F., Anaheim          |      |       | <b>TOTALS</b>                      | \$18,441 \$181,840 |

## The Twelve Gifts of AA

Continued from page 1

do in AA, from the moment I wake and ask my Higher Power to guide me through my day, to the gratitude I express at night before I sleep.

### Step Eight – Brotherly Love

When I acknowledge the harms I've caused others, I accept the consequences of my actions and receive the opportunity to make amends.

### Step Nine – Responsibility

The gift of accountability goes hand in hand with repairing our relationships and chases away self-pity.

### Step Ten – Perseverance

As we unpack the daily gift of reviewing our day, we realize that AA has set us up for success with tasks that help us maintain our spiritual condition by doing what's necessary no matter what, good or bad, is happening in our life.

### Step Eleven – Spiritual Awareness

Here we receive the gifts of seeking: our Higher Power's will through improving our conscious contact and the mindfulness of meditation.

### Step Twelve – Service

This is the gift of gift-giving. By freely giving away what I was given by carrying AA's message, I'm blessed with purpose for the rest of my life. AA's program transforms me from an alcoholic to an alcoholic in recovery who stands by every principle and who reaps the rewards of a happy, free, and sober life.

These seasons of celebration and gifts can also come with stress and lead us to feeling down or even depressed. Alcohol is also often present at holiday events. AA is there for us. Please see page 8 for tips on staying sober during this time of year.

Here's wishing you all the gifts of a blessed and sober holiday.

Ron B.

## Hospitals and Institutions Corner

Continued from page 6

Everything about that night just got better and better. I told more of my story, I read the Bedevilmets (*Big Book*, p. 52). Tim started out by telling me that he didn't think he had a serious problem with alcohol, and by the end of the panel, he asked if he could please take a *Big Book* with him to read. He told me he was so moved by what we talked about that night that the hair on his arms was standing straight up. He said nothing would ever be the same for him.

He said it was only a whim that had made him tell his cellmate when they announced the panel an hour later than usual, "Let's go to that panel tonight." He was curious; he had not known anything about AA. He said he was grateful for all the mistakes I had made, so that I could be there that night and tell him about my mistakes and change his life! As he was leaving, he thanked me – again – and said he hoped someday we would meet again in a meeting.

Wow – what better proof could I ever need that I am in exactly the right place and doing exactly what I should be doing? I am so grateful that no one took that panel for me. I am so grateful that what I wanted to happen, did not happen. What I experienced that night proves to me beyond any doubt that when I put my life under the direction of my Higher Power and do the next indicated thing with as much honesty as I can muster, wondrous things happen. God is real. God is as real as that panel. God directs my life perfectly when I let Him. I have nothing to fear, ever. And for that, I am grateful.

Pat S.





# Mark Your Calendar

## » UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 14

**NOCYPAA: Iced Out Edition Meeting**  
 13071 Springdale St.  
 Westminster, CA  
 Meeting: 7PM, Ice skating: 8PM  
[Flyer](#)

### December 24

**Marathon meetings**  
 5PM-11PM  
 Saddleback Valley Fellowship Center  
 23401 El Toro Rd.  
 Ste. 101, 200, 202  
 Lake Forest, CA  
 Email [events@saddlebackfellowship.com](mailto:events@saddlebackfellowship.com)  
 for more information

### December 25

**Marathon meetings and potluck**  
 6AM-11PM  
 Saddleback Valley Fellowship Center  
 23401 El Toro Rd.  
 Ste. 101, 200, 202  
 Lake Forest, CA  
 Email [events@saddlebackfellowship.com](mailto:events@saddlebackfellowship.com)  
 for more information

### December 31

**NOCYPAA and AOCYPAA Present Roar at the Door: A New Year's Celebration**  
 126 E. 16th St.  
 Costa Mesa, CA  
 Meeting: 8PM, Dance: 9:30PM  
 Flyer, p.9

### December 31

**Marathon meetings**  
 5PM-11PM  
 Saddleback Valley Fellowship Center  
 23401 El Toro Rd.  
 Ste. 101, 200, 202  
 Lake Forest, CA  
 Email [events@saddlebackfellowship.com](mailto:events@saddlebackfellowship.com)  
 for more information

### January 1, 2025

**Marathon meetings**  
 6AM-11PM  
 Saddleback Valley Fellowship Center  
 23401 El Toro Rd.  
 Ste. 101, 200, 202  
 Lake Forest, CA  
 Email [events@saddlebackfellowship.com](mailto:events@saddlebackfellowship.com)  
 for more information

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
 ORANGE COUNTY INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION  
 STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSE  
 PERIOD ENDING 10/31/2024 UNAUDITED

|                                      | Oct 24           | Jan - Oct 24      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>       |                  |                   |
| Income                               |                  |                   |
| Literature Resale                    | 1,047.75         | 22,109.10         |
| Bank Adjustments                     | 0.00             | -49.60            |
| Birthday Donations                   | 0.00             | 1,137.65          |
| Group Donations                      | 16,073.09        | 173,456.85        |
| Individual/Fellowship                | 525.00           | 8,609.93          |
| Interest Earned                      | 4.64             | 45.65             |
| Literature Sales                     | 9,525.04         | 99,657.20         |
| Shipping and Delivery Income         | 0.00             | -48.75            |
| <b>Total Income</b>                  | <b>27,175.52</b> | <b>304,918.03</b> |
| Cost of Goods Sold                   |                  |                   |
| Cost of Literature Sold              |                  |                   |
| Cost of Goods Sold                   | 8,775.41         | 101,420.61        |
| Cost of Literature Sold - Other      | 0.00             | 65.60             |
| <b>Total Cost of Literature Sold</b> | <b>8,775.41</b>  | <b>101,486.21</b> |
| Shipping / Misc. Adjustments         | 0.00             | -1,658.56         |
| <b>Total COGS</b>                    | <b>8,775.41</b>  | <b>99,827.65</b>  |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                  | <b>18,400.11</b> | <b>205,090.38</b> |
| Expense                              |                  |                   |
| Accounting                           | 3,045.00         | 16,320.00         |
| Auto Expense (all Mgrs.)             | 113.45           | 1,002.91          |
| Bank Charges                         | 0.00             | -32.00            |
| Convention & Svs Event Expense       | 0.00             | 855.54            |
| Copier Expense                       | 153.43           | 995.38            |
| Credit Card Expense                  | 313.17           | 2,726.90          |
| Freight and Shipping Costs           | 0.00             | 7.50              |
| Insurances                           | 444.60           | 3,625.80          |
| Intergroup Expense                   | 221.71           | 3,860.27          |
| Internet Expense                     | 227.30           | 1,821.98          |
| Lease Expense                        | 708.25           | 3,264.70          |
| "LIFELINE" Expense                   | 1,835.00         | 16,661.00         |
| Maintenance & Repairs                | 160.00           | 2,006.00          |
| Offices' Supplies & Expenses         | 365.53           | 4,399.55          |
| Payroll Tax Expense                  | 839.23           | 8,482.62          |
| Postage                              | 158.50           | 467.74            |
| Public Info Expense                  | 0.00             | 661.81            |
| Reconciliation Discrepancies         | 0.00             | -0.01             |
| Reimb. Health                        | 800.00           | 6,800.00          |
| Rent Main/Satellite Offices          | 4,055.38         | 37,946.60         |
| Salaries                             | 10,915.34        | 104,214.08        |
| Sales Tax on Lease                   | 0.00             | 0.00              |
| Special Events Expense               | 0.00             | 3,783.05          |
| Taxes & Licenses                     | 100.00           | 369.31            |
| Telephone Expense                    | 384.99           | 3,854.25          |
| Utilities                            | 10.95            | 607.16            |
| Voided Transaction                   | 0.00             | -36.00            |
| Volunteers Coffee & Water            | 76.25            | 475.75            |
| Website Expense                      | 358.99           | 6,014.71          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                 | <b>25,287.07</b> | <b>231,156.60</b> |
| <b>Net Ordinary Income</b>           | <b>-6,886.96</b> | <b>-26,066.22</b> |
| Other Income/Expense                 |                  |                   |
| 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>-6,886.96</b> | <b>-25,348.40</b> |



# December Word Search

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

AWAKENING  
RESULT  
WILLINGNESS  
FOUNDATION

PROSPECT  
MALADY  
ANONYMITY  
PERSONALITIES

SACRIFICE  
MESSAGE  
PRINCIPLES  
AFFAIRS

## 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](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 JANUARY 15th**

*Congratulations to October's winner, Sally W.!*