

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.  
18888 Highway 18, Suite 107  
Apple Valley, CA 92307  
Telephone: 760-242-9292; Email: vvigco\_aa@yahoo.com;  
Web site: www.victorvalleyaa.org



## I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, Reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. to always be there. And for that: I am responsible.

## I Just Don't Pick Up Today

There was a time in recent years that it was not uncommon to hear people in A.A. meetings, with their fist held up as a symbol of triumph, stating that, "I JUST DON'T PICK UP TODAY," and that became their mantra. I wondered if they were reading out of the same two books that I was. When I decided to give the A.A. way of life a try, I, too, thought that it was all about the drinking, and I was under the impression that they were going to help me to stay on the wagon or something like that. I try not to offend people who think that it's all about not drinking, and I don't judge them for it either. I do, however, sincerely wish the best for them, and I pray that they will, eventually, want more than just the absence of alcohol.

I seldom hear people that are married and have families that are satisfied with just being dry. Once I became a father, I was faced with the reality that it was not just about "me" and "just not drinking today," and that's where the rest of the Steps came in. It is important that we put the bottle down and don't pick up in our early days of sobriety as none of the rest of the Steps can be taken short of total abstinence. We must be very vigilant in the beginning, but there comes a time when, if we are fortunate enough to recognize the possibilities that lay before us as the result of embracing the program in its entirety, we settle into the process of resolving all of those failed beliefs that brought us to our knees in the first place. If I were single and had no one else depending on me, I could do it any way I saw fit; but that's just not the case. I have a family that needs more than a sober horse thief (so to speak). They require my full attention.

Is the Big Book wrong when it says the following? "We

do not like to pronounce any individual as alcohol, but you can quickly diagnose yourself. Step over to the nearest barroom and try some controlled drinking. Try to drink and stop abruptly. Try it more than once. It will not take long for you to decide, if you are honest with yourself about it. It may be worth a bad case of the jitters if you get full knowledge of your condition." (Reprinted with permission from A.A.W.S., Alcoholics Anonymous, pages 30 and 31.) The main point is that you get full knowledge of your condition.

Step One in the 12 X 12 is only four pages long (short and to the point). On the third of those four pages, it says the following: "To the doubter we could say, 'Perhaps you're not an alcoholic after all. Why don't you try some more controlled drinking, bearing in mind meanwhile what we have told you about alcoholism?' This attitude brought immediate and practical results. It was then discovered that when one alcoholic planted in the mind of another the true nature of his malady, that person could never be the same again. Following every spree, he would say to himself, 'Maybe those A.A.s were right. . . ' after a few such experiences, often years before the onset of extreme difficulties, he would return to us convinced. He had hit bottom as truly as any of us. John Barleycorn had become our best advocate." (Reprinted with permission from A.A.W.S., Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pages 23 and 24.)

I know that in today's A.A. environment, these two paragraphs are almost never discussed unless you are in a Step study or a Big Book study, and I believe it is because most people are still of the opinion that it's all about "Not Drinking." I don't think that I can stop a per-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

son from drinking if he wants to; and, I don't think I can talk someone into drinking if he doesn't want to. This would be plain arrogance on my part. I do, however, feel somewhat responsible when I hear a of a person who has a relapse after years of hanging out at meetings and, over and over saying, "I JUST DON'T PICK UP TODAY," and then one day he JUST PICKS UP. I can only think of all those years he kept himself away from the real message we learn by taking the Steps and all of the intimate discussions he could have had about the things that really matter. I know that some will be offended by this frame of thought; but, I don't think we can rewrite the Big Book, can we? We can take the Steps, or we can JUST NOT PICK UP TODAY, or we can do BOTH.

I could also refer you to another area of the Big Book that addresses this issue to some degree. Starting at the bottom of page 100 (and continuing through page 103) it stresses that the idea of trying to protect an alcoholic from a drink is doomed to failure and the reasons why this is so. It also says that those methods have always failed.

While I'm at it, I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff of *The Coordinator* for adding this, sometimes misunderstood, theme for our monthly offerings. I hope that it is accepted in the spirit that it was intended, and I hope that it stimulates more discussion of this issue at a personnel level. One voice in the (so called) wilderness sometimes goes unnoticed, but a newsletter article can't be unwritten.

Thank you.

Rick R.

*Via, The San Diego A.A. Coordinator, Feb. 2014*

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Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting  
15 March 14

The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Vanessa C. read the Twelve Tradition. In attendance were Helen M., Doug H., Sam B., Joey R., Ted B., Chad F., Betty B., Craig B., Vanessa C., Joy S., and Bill P. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chad F. gave the report. As of February 28, 2014, there was a balance of \$8,699.97 in savings, \$7,108.49 in the C.D., and \$6,649.74 in checking. Income for the month of Feb. was \$3,032.89, with total expenses being \$2,263.54. [February] literature sales

were \$1,463.93 with purchases being \$0.00. The net Feb. income was \$2,233.28. In Feb. 15 people contributed \$1,080.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

**Webmaster's Report:** There was no report.

**Ways and Means Report:** Joey R. gave the report. The High Desert A.A. Convention was successful. On April 14 there will be a Founders' Day Picnic Meeting to form a committee for the picnic. The [report was accepted].

**Office Manager's Report:** Craig B. reported that there were 98 visitors to Central Office in February. There were 170 information calls and on 12-Step call. There were 95 call forwarding call and one 12-Step call. The totals were 265 information calls and two 12-Step calls. The Wednesday morning shift at [the office] may be filled. There is still a need for a Public Information Chairman and Intergroup Reps. Please announce these needs at your meetings. Interested people should call Craig at [the office at 760-242-9292]. It is not too late to register for the Ride to Recovery (April 4—5, 2014). Central Office received \$1,006.00 from the High Desert A.A. Convention. The Tumbleweed Group has received a letter from the city of Victorville that they are in Code Violation with the city. Since each group is autonomous, it is up to the Tumbleweed to resolve this issue [with Victorville]. The Office Manager's Report was accepted.

**Newsletter Report:** Betty B. gave the report. March is the last month that the newsletter will be printed except for subscriptions and some hard copies for [the office]. Subscriptions are \$10.00/year. Checks for the subscriptions should be made out to **Victor Valley Intergroup** and not to Central Office. For those who want the newsletter E-mailed to them, they should E-mail [their address to Central Office]. There is still a need for articles for the newsletter. Please announce this at your meetings. The Newsletter Report was accepted.

**Old Business:** There was no old business that already had been discussed in previous reports.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**The next Intergroup Meeting will be April 19, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.**

Betty B. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Ted B., Secretary

# A.A.isms from 2013

*(Editor's note: The following has been submitted by one of our local, published A.A. members, Ed L. from Wrightwood. There were too many to use in one edition, so I will be using them throughout the coming months. Enjoy!)*

"Intolerance is characteristic of an engorged ego, and is directly proportional to the size of that ego." – Ed L. to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 17 June 2013

"Judas Iscariot may have been the most influential of the twelve apostles, for without him there would have been neither resurrection nor salvation." –Ed L. to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 17 June 2013

"None of us chooses to be born, and only a few of us choose to be reborn, so enjoy this new life, this new path you have willfully chosen and God fully endorses." – Ed L. to Jeff In Phelan, CA on 20 June 2013 to celebrate his first birthday.

"If you don't believe in God, believe in Good." – Susie to the Yucca Valley Alano Club in Yucca Valley, CA on 20 June 2013

"You *can* choose to turn you life over to a door knob, but be aware that it will likely turn on you." – Colin to Yucca Valley Alano Club in Yucca Valley, CA on 20 June 2013

"Serenity is the absence of conflicting and/or enticing emotions." – Ed L., to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 20 June 2013

"Everybody likes a little ass. Nobody likes a smart ass." – Alisa to Sunday morning group in Wrightwood, CA on 23 June 2013

"You may be having Cadillac problems, but I'm still having beat-up Buick problems." – Jack to Sunday morning group in Wrightwood, CA on 23 June 2013

"I spent so many years kicking my own ass it feel good every now and then to pat myself on the back." – Michelle to Sunday morning group in Wrightwood, CA on 23 June 2013

"Today, the credit I give is gratitude-based rather than ego-based." – Todd N. to Sunday morning group in Wrightwood, CA on 30 June 2013

"Take that first drink, and you'll trudge the road of crappy destiny." – Joseph M. to the Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 1 July 2013

"I have a tendency to *worsterize* things." – Todd N. to the Wednesday Night Men's Stag in Wrightwood, CA on 8 July 2013

"If you're sitting here and you don't think you're the smartest person in the room, you might be in the wrong place." – Donny to It's a Better Deal Men's Stag in Yucca Valley, CA on 8 July 2013

"As spoken by chronic relapser, Slip Wilson: 'The Devil made me do it.'" – Ed. L. to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua

Tree, CA on 8 July 2013

"If you did it once, you're still capable of doing it again." – Larry to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 8 July 2013

"I worked hard and partied harder." – "Recovered" Kyle to It's a Better Deal Men's Stag in Yucca Valley, CA on 15 July 2013

"Freedom is, freedom from the old Ed and freedom for the new Ed." – Jung Ed to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 15 July 2013

"It only just this moment occurred to [me] (at eight years sober) that I got arrested in every place I lived for more than several years: Bent Mountain, Virginia, Columbus, Ohio, and Victorville, California." – Ed L. to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 15 July 2013

"At my particular bottom, the only possible turning point for me was up." – Ed L. to the Sunset Group in Joshua Tree, CA on 16 July 2013

"I'm happy to be in this place and no longer out of place." – Sarah to the Sunset Group in Joshua Tree, CA on 16 July 2013

"Today I am touchable, and God touches me through the hands of fellow human beings." – Ed L. to Sunday morning group in Wrightwood, CA on 21 July 2013

"When we stop playing Dorothy, we discover we are the ones who are often brainless, lack compassion, and need courage." – Ed L. to Sunset Group in Joshua Tree, CA on 25 July 2013

"On days like today where nothing is wrong but I don't feel right, I'm thankful I can remember what it used to be like when everything was wrong and nothing felt right." – Ed L. in notebook at Sunday morning group in Wrightwood, CA on 28 July 2013

"I was playing spiritual peek-a-boo: Just because I turned my back on God and could no longer see Him, doesn't mean that He disappeared; when I removed my hands from in front of my eyes, lo and behold, He was still there!" – Ed L. in notebook in Joshua Tree, CA on 31 July 2013

"If you're one of those fill-in-the-blank alcoholics (e.g., real, pure, recovered, recovering, etc.) or an and-a (e.g. and-a-addict) alcoholic, then you're not going to like what we have to say about anonymity being the spiritual foundation of our program." – Ed L. in notebook in Joshua Tree, CA on 31 July 2013

"I occasionally experienced ecstasy but pain and misery were constant companions." – Ed L. in notebook in Joshua Tree, CA on 31 July 2013

"Nothing's wrong but I can't get right." – Ed L. in notebook in Joshua Tree, CA on 31 July 2013

"We are most receptive to God when we are right with ourselves." – Ed L. in notebook in Joshua Tree, CA on 31 July 2013

## Upcoming Events

### Third Saturday of the Month

Intergroup Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office. Call 760-242-9292 for more information.

May 15—18, 20014

Tri-State Roundup, Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino, Laughlin, NV. For information email [tristateroundup@hotmail.com](mailto:tristateroundup@hotmail.com) or visit [www.tristate-roundup.com](http://www.tristate-roundup.com)

Monthly through September

Movie Night at the Archives! 711 Arlington Ave., Suite B, Riverside, CA. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the movies start at 7:30 p.m. The schedule is:

May 17 – Life of the Party (1982)

June 21 – 28 Days (2000)

July 19 – Days of Wine and Roses (1962)

Aug. 16 – Flight (2012)

Sept. 20 – The Lost Weekend (1945)

Stay after and tour the archives.

**Coming this June will be our 19th Annual Founder's Day Picnic and Speaker Meeting. There will be more information in the coming months. Also, the Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Joey R., is brain storming for upcoming events. If you have any suggestions or would like to help out the committee, call the office at 760-242-9292. any and all help will be appreciated.**

October 2—5, 2014

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Seniors in Sobriety International Conference, Scottsdale, AZ. For information visit

[www.seniorsinsobriety.org](http://www.seniorsinsobriety.org) or contact one of the following:

Vicki Jo B. Chair, [vbigelow@vercodeck.com](mailto:vbigelow@vercodeck.com) 623-322-1775,

Mickey W. Co-chair [mickey.white@gm.com](mailto:mickey.white@gm.com) 602-763-1450,

Nikki K. Registration [prcnana@cableone.net](mailto:prcnana@cableone.net) 928-710-7202.

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## Where to Send Your Contributions

60 % to:

Victor Valley Intergroup

18888 Hwy 18 Suite 107

Apple Valley CA 92307

5-10 % to:

Mid-Southern California  
Area

P.O. Box 51446

Irvine, CA 92619

20-30 % to:

General Services Office

P.O. Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10017

5-10 % to:

District 19

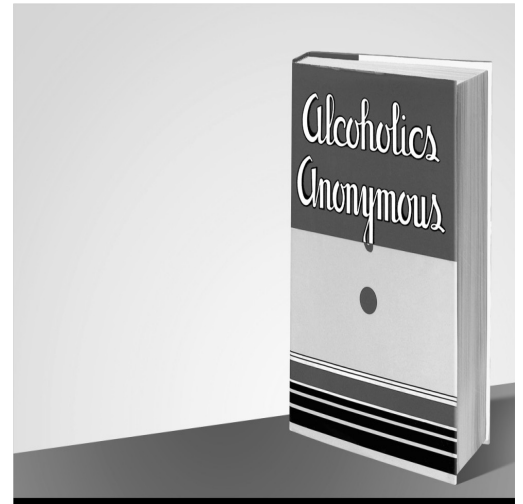
P.O. Box 3096

Victorville, CA 92395

## Central Office News

# They Have Arrived!

## April 7, 2014



A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This new edition will be a faithful replica of the original, with the famous “circus cover” dust jacket and bulky paper (which is why it was initially called the Big Book).

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition.

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## And Finally . . .

### A New Wine for Seniors

(I kid you not!)

Clare Valley vintners in South Australia, which produce primarily Pinot Blanc, Pinot Black, and Pinot Grigio wines, have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic. It is expected to reduce the number of trips older people have to make to the bathroom and falling in the night. The new wine will be marketed as:

## Pinot More.

Submitted by,  
Sue Ellen J., Tucson, AZ

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Savings	\$150.00	\$450.26	\$8,849.97
C.D.	1.36	4.38	7,109.85
Cash in Union Checking			7,892.39
<b>INCOME</b>			
Group Donations	1,271.60	4,375.91	
Birthdays	0.00	55.00	
Memorials	0.00	46.00	
Faithful Fivers	60.00	120.00	
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I.	416.00	2,101.00	
Buck of the Month	0.00	6.00	
Newsletter	10.00	50.00	
Chips and Medallions	654.15	1,917.86	
Intergroup 7th Tradition	27.00	75.00	
Ride to Recovery	997.00	1,209.00	
2014 Service Committees	0.00	48.00	
Other	10.00	117.66	
2014 Convention	1,160.00	1,160.00	
Coffe Kitty/Vending	<u>31.00</u>	<u>64.11</u>	
<b>INCOME FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>4,636.75</b>	<b>11,345.54</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Rent	360.00	1,080.00	
C.A.M. Charges	134.90	384.06	
Utilities	84.52	279.64	
Manager Salary	945.62	2,836.86	
Charter Business	73.41	220.01	
Printing	175.00	375.32	
Chips and Medallions	555.67	1,189.02	
Security/Maint./Office Exp./Seed	277.34	1,393.79	
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	0.00	74.52	
Sales Tax	0.00	318.00	
Federal Payroll Tax	0.00	1,011.47	
U.S. Postmaster	22.36	88.66	
Professional Service	0.00	60.00	
I.R.S. Unemployment Tax	0.00	105.00	
Liability Insurance	<u>585.00</u>	<u>585.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,213.82</b>	<b>10,001.35</b>	
<b>INCOME BEFORE LITERATURE</b>	<b>1,422.93</b>	<b>1,344.19</b>	
<b>LITERATURE</b>			
Sales	1,849.12	4,874.11	
Purchases	<u>2,014.80</u>	<u>4,230.20</u>	
<b>Total Literature</b>	<b>-165.68</b>	<b>643.91</b>	
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>1,257.25</b>	<b>1,988.10</b>	
<b>APPLE VALLEY</b>			
Anonymous Group	121.00	521.84	
Children of Chaos	81.75	206.41	
How It Works	64.00	187.11	
Saturday Night Speaker	0.00	200.00	
Front and Center	85.68	336.83	
Thursday Men's Stag	50.00	92.00	
Tuesday Big Book	10.00	24.05	
Cedar Street Big Book	0.00	100.00	
Friday Lunch Bunch	0.00	45.00	
Friday Women's Book Study	0.00	60.00	
Keep It Simple	52.00	114.50	
Fruits and Nuts	0.00	25.00	
Original Big Book	35.00	95.00	
T.G.I.G.	0.00	150.00	
Sunday Campfire Group	45.57	45.57	

	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<b>BARSTOW</b>		
Wed. at Veterans' Home	50.00	100.00
Los Coyotes Men's Group	100.00	200.00
Friday Nite Live	0.00	387.00
Monday Men's Happy Hour	50.00	50.00
Barstow Desert Group	40.00	40.00
<b>BIG BEAR</b>		
11th Step Meeting	25.00	25.00
<b>FT. IRWIN</b>		
New Horizons II	25.00	25.00
<b>HESPERIA</b>		
Back to Basics	0.00	264.00
Hesperia Umbrella Group	0.00	490.00
<b>LUCERNE VALLEY</b>		
The Place	0.00	30.00
<b>PHELAN</b>		
Thursday Big Book	0.00	45.00
Phelan Sober Group	50.00	50.00
<b>SILVER LAKES/HELENDALE</b>		
No Valid Complaints	0.00	70.00
Thursday Big Book	65.00	65.00
<b>VICTORVILLE</b>		
Victorville Steppers	0.00	10.00
<b>WRIGHTWOOD</b>		
9 a.m. Open Participation	120.00	120.00
Men's Stag	201.60	201.60
<b>P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I.</b>		
Anonymous X 12	416.00	2,101.00
<b>FAITHFUL FIVERS</b>		
Spence O.	40.00	
Jim L.	10.00	
Joey R.	10.00	
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>		
Wayne S.	10.00	

<u>CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	109	332
Information calls	175	482
12 Step Calls	1	4
<b>CALL FORWARDING</b>		
Information calls	114	333
12 Step Calls	1	5
<u>Total calls</u>		
Information calls	289	815
12 Step Calls	2	9

**Thank you to all the meetings, groups,  
and individuals who have so generously  
donated to your Central Office!  
Your support is something we do not  
take for granted!**





