

# Anonymous Times

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## Chapter 7 Working With Others

Number 8 of 12 articles on the Big Book

This chapter being an introduction to the 12<sup>th</sup> step – *“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”* – this article will address *“...we tried to carry this message to alcoholics...”*

Right from the start, the chapter gives us the “why” – *“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.”* If I haven’t entirely forgotten the fundamental revelations of the 1<sup>st</sup> step - that I’m powerless over alcohol and my life is unmanageable – there need be no further discussion of the why.

Oh, and this passage also describes the level of work required – intensive! Intensive – Dictionary.com defines intense, (definition #5 in the list) as “strenuous or earnest, as activity, exertion, diligence, or thought.” So, we’re not looking at a casual level of effort here. We are looking at strenuous, earnest, exerted diligent work with alcoholics. Upon reading this the first time, (with my

**Continued on page 3**

## The Only Requirement for AA Membership ...

*Third tradition means a lot to AA*

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. This is tradition 3. I’ve been around awhile and the addicts identifying as addicts (and participating) in an AA meeting is a redundant topic. What I get from tradition 4 is that each group or meeting should police themselves. Tradition 4 also dictates that groups be mindful of the other groups around them.

The thing about AA’s 12 traditions is that whatever issue we are having, chances are the founders had already experienced it. Alcoholics are not that complicated, and we really haven’t changed much over the last 77 years. A friend of mine asked if I would sit in on one of his panels that he facilitates at a local recovery center. One of the first things that came up was the newcomer catching flack for sharing in an AA meeting as an addict.

I have been sober 19 years, have been around AA & rehabs for close to 30 years; this contentious issue is apparently not going away anytime soon.

To preface I used a lot of outside issues over the years (solid and powdered forms of alcohol). Many years ago, during the time of the Civil War, there was a group called the Washing-

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## North Orange County Central Office Financial Activities 2012

Checking Account	March	April	May
Balance-first day of month	\$6,604.25	\$10,237.41	\$12,500.98
Deposits through end of month	\$15,690.39	\$12,380.92	\$12,504.09
Withdrawals	\$12,057.23	\$10,117.35	\$14,649.25
Ending Balance	\$10,237.41	\$12,500.98	\$10,355.82
Difference: Deposits less Withdrawals *	\$3,633.16	\$2,263.57	\$(2,145.16)
*NOTE: Does not include deposit for last sales days (in transit)			
Prudent Reserve			
Savings Certificate			
Balance on Maturity Date	\$5,575.61	\$5,575.61	\$5,575.61
Rolled over for 179 days on 3/20/12			
Business Savings			
Balance-first day of month	\$15,525.54	\$15,915.90	\$15,900.90
Deposit of sales tax collected	\$390.00	\$800.00	
Deposit of State Fund Worker Comp. refund			\$2,200.00
Deposit of Interest Earned-Quarterly	\$0.36	\$-	\$-
Withdrawals-transfer sales tax deposits to checking	\$-	\$815.00	\$-
Ending Balance	\$15,915.90	\$15,900.90	\$18,100.90
Total Prudent Reserve	\$21,491.51	\$21,476.51	\$23,676.51
Established Goal: 6-months = \$39,000			
Financial Activities at Central Office			
Donations			
Group contributions	\$3,382.47	\$4,135.36	\$3,642.83
Faithful Fivers	\$35.00	\$65.00	\$5.00
Unit "C" Rent	\$52.00	\$-	\$-
Rockin' Soberfest on February 18 2012	\$4,000.00	\$-	\$-
Rummage Sale on April 21, 2012	\$-	\$920.50	\$-
Step Workshop on May 18, 2012	\$-	\$-	\$755.00
Birthdays	\$23.00	\$100.00	\$46.00
Personal Donations	\$165.89	\$12.76	\$91.18
Total Donations	\$7,658.36	\$5,233.62	\$4,540.01
Sales			
AA Sales	\$3,756.03	\$2,231.32	\$2,418.45
Non-AA Sales	\$3,804.95	\$1,839.10	\$2,148.45
Total Sales	\$7,560.98	\$4,070.42	\$4,566.90
Other			
Cash over (short) (fractional)	\$14.80	\$0.47	\$(0.07)

## Tradition 3 ... From Page 1

tonians. And from what I understand, they started out helping people with their drinking problem. They were very successful at it, too. But they later got involved in political issues and eventually spread themselves too thin; as far as I know they no longer exist. Sometime later, the Oxford movement came along (they still exist), and that's where Bill and Bob started. A woman named Henrietta Sieberling introduced them. Their primary focus was not alcoholism, and eventually Bill and Bob started Alcoholics Anonymous. They were faced with all kinds of issues: narcotics, lonely hearts, money, infighting etc.

They were not too far removed from the Washingtonians at that time. They had their own experience with The Oxford Group to draw from so Tradition Three, "shoemaker stick to thy last" and do one thing well rather than many things poorly became the cornerstone of this important tradition.

Tradition Three states in part, "we do not want to keep you out." in our Twelve and Twelve it recounts the story of the man with "outside issues." The old timers of that group debated whether or not to let him in. After he "asked" to join, not demanded, the old timers eventually let him in, and he turned out to be a valuable member of their group. But he never made a big issue about his "outside issue."

So in my opinion it is a matter of conformity. Our steps and traditions ask us to conform to a new way of living. I believe "contrary action" are the key words.

I came to Alcoholics Anonymous; they didn't come knocking on my door. I spent most of my life doing exactly what I wanted to do when and where I wanted to do it. What it got me was a lot of pain. I've found that when I conform to what society dictates, my life is really pretty good financially, personally and in all other areas.

God love the newcomer, but when a person comes into AA and it's pretty obvious they haven't got all their ducks in a row, and they

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## Working With Others ... From Page 1

sponsor) I can imagine myself thinking, *“What an order, I can’t go through with it.”*

The guiding principle behind this effort is – *“We claim spiritual progress, rather than spiritual perfection.”* In other words, the joy, the spiritual growth is found in the attempt – the effort. Rereading the portion of the step, we can see one small word tucked in there that many of us, (me) missed upon the first reading – “tried.” To quote Theodore Roosevelt, “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.” Lengthy, but apropos.

Immediately after this, we are shown some of the promises of this effort – *“Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives. Anyone who has experienced these promises will never be the same. But again, the promises are only delivered through intensive work with alcoholics.*

Did you know that the original manuscript of the Big Book described the 12<sup>th</sup> step differently? It originally read, “Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs”. The part that has always stood out to me is “we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics. Oftentimes I wish they would have left this part as originally written. This would serve as a reminder that our job doesn’t end at the doorway to the meeting – it doesn’t last for an hour or an hour and a half, as defined by the meeting time frame. Of course that is just my opinion – and you know what that’s worth.”

As with Chapter 6, it is impossible to include all the principles defined in this chapter in a single article, so I won’t try – I will simply encourage you, once again, to attend and participate in a focused Big Book study. I can tell you that the rest of this chapter is dedicated to the “how” of the efforts.

However, there is one other facet of working with other alcoholics that this chapter describes – the idea that we need to be able to change positions with the prospect – to put ourselves in their place. To think about how we would like to be approached. Absolutely invaluable to this effort is the ability to listen.

Next issue, we start to look at the final four chapters. That portion of the book which describes our efforts to “...practice these principles in all our affairs”.

**Nick M. - Gratitude Is An Action Group**

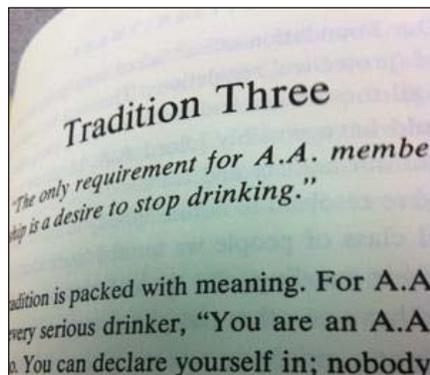
*Text in italics re-printed from the Big Book with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, (AAWS)*

## Tradition 3 ... From page 2

start demanding they get their way, it’s almost like going into somebody’s house for the first time and telling them they should rearrange their furniture.

Honestly, we want the newcomer. My God, we need the newcomer. But it’s a two way street. My first sponsor walked up to me one day and asked, “How old are you?” I replied that I was 30 years old. His response: “Well an idiot has been running your life for 30 years.” He then spun around and walked off.

I should be offended, but a quick sur-



vey of what I had become proved he was right. My suggestion would be for

anyone who wants to participate in an AA meeting should conform to the traditions and just be an alcoholic.

If your principles won’t allow you to do that, it’s cool. It really is. We wish you no ill will. You may just want to go to a different 12 step program. If you are in a rehab and they drop you off at an AA meeting, I wouldn’t know what to tell you. I can tell you this -- every rehab center I was ever in was trying to get me to conform to their rules .

**Paul P. Fullerton**

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### SoCal AA Convention Will Be Sept. 28-30

There is a Solution is the theme of the 61st Annual Southern California AA Convention, to be held Sept. 26-30, 2012 at the Town & Country Hotel, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. Contact pre-registration chair

An abundance of meetings and special events are planned, including a banquet, golf tournament and 5k/10k Fun Run/Walk.

Contact pre-registration chair Kristen B. at (626) 956-6120 or visit [www.aasocal.com](http://www.aasocal.com) for more information.

### Central Office to Hold Open House

To commemorate its 30th Anniversary and move to a new location, North Orange County Central Office will hold an open house Saturday, August 4, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served and books and literature will be available for purchase at a 10 percent discount during the event. A drawing will be held for a free literature bundle.

The new Central Office location is 1661 E. Chapman Ave. #1H (adjacent to Acacia Avenue) in Fullerton. . Call (714) 773-4357 for more information..

### FAC is Open Until Midnight Saturdays

The Fullerton Alano Center at 530 W. Commonwealth Ave. will remain open until midnight Saturdays, offering additional time for those in recovery to enjoy fellowship, a cup of coffee or view some television.

Call the FAC at (714) 992-0988 for more information.

### CHECK IT OUT – DUDE! YOUNG PEOPLE’S A.A. MEETINGS!

#### Sunday

Anaheim	12+12 Young People 8 p.m.	202 W. Broadway (@ Lemon)
Fountain Valley	Youth in Recovery 1 p.m.	16581 Brookhurst St. Fountain Valley, CA
Orange	Young People’s Dis- cussion 7 p.m.	820 W. Town & Country Rd. (Mariposa Women’s Center),

#### Monday

Costa Mesa	New Lease on Life 12:15 p.m.	2144 Thurin St @ Vic- toria St (Grange Hall)
	Women’s Monday FUNDAY 8 p.m.	420 W. 19th St. (1st Methodist Church near Triangle Square),
Irvine	Wild Bunch Men’s Step Study 7:30 p.m.	5001 Newport Coast Dr c/s Bonita Cyn (Mariners Church-Port Kid Zone room)

#### Tuesday

Costa Mesa 12:15 p.m.	New Lease on Life 12:15 p.m.	2144 Thurin St @ Vic- toria St (Grange Hall)
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#### Wednesday

Yorba Linda	Topic Discussion 8 p.m.	18372 Lemon Drive @ imperial Hwy (1st Baptist Church)
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#### Thursday

Costa Mesa	We are Not Saints 3 p.m.	2701 Fairview Rd. (Stu- dent Health Center Rm. 108)
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#### Friday

Anaheim Hills	Discussion 8 p.m.	411 Lakeview Ave. (@91 Freeway Medical Office building in base- ment)
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Huntington Beach	Seacliff 7 p.m.	225 7th St. Garage #1
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Tustin	Turning the Corner 7:30 p.m.	1221 Wass St, 92780
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#### Saturday

Newport Beach	Hoag Hut Speaker	201 Newport Blvd.
Long Beach	Nite Owls 10:30 p.m.	4019 E. 4th St.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

***We are not a glum lot...Show up and maintain an active role in your sobriety....***

### July

Sat, July 14; 9a.m.-4 p.m.; **Grief & Recovery Workshop**; Brethren Hillcrest Homes; 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, CA 91750; (909) 593-4917 for more info.

Sat, July 14; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; **Annual AA picnic**; Hurless Barton Park (between Tom Lasorda Gym and The Communiy Center on Casa Loma in Yorba Linda) Hamburgers and hot dogs to be provided; bring dish; call George E. at (714) 779-6211 for more info.

### August

Fri., Aug. 3-Sun. Aug. 5; Women in the Spirit 16th Annual Women's 12-step Recovery Campout; Camp Williams Resort; 24210 East Fork Road, Azusa, CA 91702; more info: visit [www.vcaac.org](http://www.vcaac.org) or email: [aachair@vcaac.org](mailto:aachair@vcaac.org).

Sun., Aug. 5 **Orange County Intergroup Association 50th Anniversary Celebration & Picnic**; 9AM - 6PM Mason Regional Park, Shelter 6; 18712 University Drive, Irvine, CA; call (714) 556-4555 for more info.

Sat., Aug. 11 – **Serenity in the Pines Picnic** 25925 Cedar St., Idyllwild, CA; 11:30-6 p.m. Speaker, raffle and more. Hotdogs, hamburgers provided, bring side dish. [mslgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:mslgeorge@gmail.com) or [janetkb@gmail.com](mailto:janetkb@gmail.com) for more info.

Fri., Aug. 24-Sun., Aug. 26; **34th Annual Ventura County AA Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation**; Westlake Hyatt Resort; 880 S. Westlake Blvd., Westlake Village, CA 91361; visit [www.vcaac.org](http://www.vcaac.org) or email [aachai@vcaac.org](mailto:aachai@vcaac.org) for more info.

## BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Cathy M.	↔	34 yrs
Craig M	↔	32 yrs
Jean P.	↔	27 yrs
Sandy	↔	23 yrs
Frank	↔	23 yrs



### ***PUBLISH YOUR BIRTHDAY or SOBRIETY STORY TODAY!***

Shall we put another candle on your birthday cake too? To publish your birthday, send us your name, sobriety date and your contribution check (DO NOT SEND CASH) in the mail to: North Orange County Central Office, 1661 E. Chapman Ave., Suite 1H; Fullerton, CA; 92831. Email: [officemanager@](mailto:officemanager@)

## Central Office News

### ***NOC Central Office to Cut Hours***

On behalf of the entire NOCCO Board, Office Manager and all of us at NOCCO, a BIG, BIG, BIG THANK YOU TO everyone who participated in our recent fundraisers. The rummage sale raised \$920.00, the Dinner & Step Workshop raised \$655.00 and our 2nd Annual Founders Day Picnic raised \$300.00.

Stay tuned for information regarding our next fundraiser.

Call NOCCO at (714) 773-4357 for information about volunteering, answering phones, participating in call forwarding, or if you have any questions.

### ***Call for Volunteers!***

Central Office took 864 phone calls in March and April.

458 were from men  
406 were from women

Keep up the great work — YOU make a difference!



## NOC Central Office BULLETIN BOARD

<b>H&amp;I</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY</b> <b>July 8 and August 12</b>	<b>NOCPIC</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY</b> <b>July 11 and August 8</b>	<b>INTERGROUP</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY</b> <b>July 11 and August 8</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER MEETING</b> <b>Next meeting</b> <b>August 11, 2012</b>
<p><b>Orange County Hospitals and Institutions Committee</b></p> <p>2nd Sunday of each mo. Institutions Committee: 4-5 pm (Orientation at 3:15 pm)</p> <p>Hospitals Committee: 6-7 pm (Orientation at 5:15 pm) Garden Grove Alano Club 9845 Belfast, Garden Grove Call (949) 278-5173</p>	<p><b>North Orange County Public Information Committee</b></p> <p><i>Learn about sharing the message with Non-A.A. people like high school and college students.</i></p> <p>Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at NOCCO 1661 E. Chapman Ave., Suite 1H, Fullerton</p> <p>If you have questions, call Brian K. 714-658-4581</p>	<p><b>North Orange County Intergroup Association Intergroup</b></p> <p>Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton (First Christian Church)</p>	<p><b>CENTRAL OFFICE</b> <i>holds a quarterly volunteer meeting on the 2nd Saturday. every three months. Coffee and donuts provided.</i></p> <p>Learn how to fill shifts at Central Office, be of service and meet fellow volunteers.</p> <p>Call 714-773-4357 for information</p> <p>MEETING 10 A.M.</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL CENTRAL OFFICE AT (714) 773-4357

### Fullerton Alano Center Plans Labor Day Event

An alk-a-thon will be held Labor Day Weekend at the Fullerton Alano Center beginning Friday Sept. 1 at 11:30 a.m. and running through Monday Sept. 3, 2012.

The event will feature marathon meetings and several speaker meetings. The speaker schedule is as follows: Sept. 1 11:30 a.m. Don B., Covina; Sept. 1 8 p.m. Frank C., Santa Monica; Sept. 2 10:30 a.m. Julie S., Huntington Beach; Sept. 2 8 p.m. Jim Mi., Chino Hills; Sept. 3 11:30 a.m. Gloria M., Northridge.

### Send Us Your Story Online!

Anonymous Times  
articles can be submitted to  
[aaletters@gmail.com](mailto:aaletters@gmail.com)



## Faithful Fivers Get High Fives For Support!!!

### What are Faithful Fivers?

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who pledge at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of their local Central Office. This idea is catching on around the country. In the publication of the Tucson Area Intergroup, Just For Today, a story noted that "the plan is used in several other cities and came about when we remembered that many of us had spent more than \$5.00 every week on alcohol during our drinking days."

PAYMENT PLAN: I agree to pledge and here is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to North Orange County Central Office (NOCCO)

Mail checks to 1661 E. Chapman Ave., Suite 1H., Fullerton, CA 92831

# March/April Meeting Donations

City	Day/Time	Meeting	Mar-12	Apr-12	YTD Total
Anaheim	Sunday 10:30 am	24 Hr. Speaker Meeting	30.00	50.00	210.00
Anaheim	Wednesday 6 pm	Men's Stag			60.00
Anaheim	Thursday 7:30 P	We Got A Coffee Pot - Men	70.00		175.00
Anaheim	Friday 6:30 P	Gratitude Is An Action			90.00
Anaheim	Saturday 10 am	Big Book & 12x12 Study		45.00	85.00
Ana Hills	Monday 7 pm	Women's E/S&Hope	144.00		324.00
Ana Hills	Wednesday 7 pm	Women's Big Book Study			78.00
Ana Hills	Wednesday 7:30 P	Wed. Night Book Study		100.00	200.00
Ana Hills	Thursday 7:00 P	Women's Solution	136.50		290.50
Ana Hills	Saturday 8:30 A	It's In The Book	60.00		240.00
Ana Hills	Saturday 6:00 P	Winner Circle (Kaiser)			120.00
Brea	Monday 10 am	Women's Discussion			325.00
Brea	Monday 5:30 pm	12 & 12 Meeting	110.00		306.00
Brea	Tuesday 5:30 pm	Women's 10th Step Hap Hr.	164.00	100.00	516.24
Brea	Tuesday 5:30 pm	Men's Topic Discussion	67.70		213.90
Brea	Wednesday 5:30 pm	As Bill See's It	75.00	90.00	223.83
Brea	Thursday 5:30 pm	Living In The Solution		55.30	152.60
Brea	Friday 5:30 pm	Big Book Study		105.00	266.00
Brea	Friday 7:30 pm	Over 50 & Sober		300.00	300.00
Brea	Friday 8 pm	Men's			155.00
Brea	Saturday 10:30 am	Women's AA Step Study		100.00	200.00
Cypress	Tuesday 6 pm	Happy Hour	90.00	90.00	270.00
Fullerton	Daily 6 am	Attitude Modification	90.00	180.00	450.00
Fullerton	Sunday 10:30 am	Sunday Morning Speaker	33.00		33.00
Fullerton	Sunday 5 pm	Sunday Night Survivor			50.00
Fullerton	Sunday 8 pm	Discussion			113.00
Fullerton	Monday 6 pm	Mon Nite Men's Stag @ FAC	30.00	30.00	90.00
Fullerton	Monday 6:30 pm	Women Living In Solution	76.00		76.00
Fullerton	Monday 8 pm	True Colors			5.34
Fullerton	Tuesday 1:30 pm	H.O.W. Women's Disc.		52.06	52.06
Fullerton	Wednesday 2 pm	Women's Coffee Talk	60.00		60.00
Fullerton	Thursday 6:30 P	Women's Drop The Rock			76.60
Fullerton	Thursday 8:00 P	Kiss Women's Disc.			60.00
Fullerton	Thursday 8:00 P	Men's Participation (Mo's)		200.00	900.00
Fullerton	Friday 8:00 P	Top of The Hill (St. Judes)			10.00
Fullerton	Saturday 9:30 A	As Dr. Paul See's It	34.00		34.00
Fullerton	Saturday 6:00 P	Saturday Night Live	56.33		211.60
Garden Grove	Sunday 6:00 A	Sunday AM BB Study		44.84	44.84
Garden Grove	Sunday 10 am	Speakers		20.00	20.00
Garden Grove	Sunday 12 pm	Discussion/Participation	100.00		200.00
Garden Grove	Friday 6 am	Attitude Adjustment			49.50
La Habra	Sunday 10:30 am	Participation			50.00
La Habra	Sunday 7 pm	Sober Sunday			42.00
La Habra	Wednesday 7 pm	La Habra Men's Stag		200.00	200.00
La Habra	Wednesday 7 pm	Women's Participation			30.00
La Habra	Friday 8 pm	Friday Night Beginner	108.90		208.90
La Mirada	Sunday 8 pm	Men's Big Book Study			57.80
La Mirada	Tuesday 8 pm	Winners Circle		75.00	215.00
Laguna Beach	Sunday 2:00 P	AOCYPAA		354.01	354.01

Laguna Niguel	Fri 7:00 A	Back to Basics			24.00
Los Alamitos	Daily 7 am	Surrender Is Freedom	107.70	110.00	792.70
Los Alamitos	Sunday 4 pm	Happy Hour Topic Disc.		70.00	140.00
Los Alamitos	Sunday 6 pm	Big Book Study			60.00
Los Alamitos	Wednesday 8 pm	Sobriety First			50.00
NOCCO		Intergroup			48.00
Orange	Daily 5:30 pm	Rush Hour Discussion			160.00
Orange	Sunday 8:30 am	Attitude Adjustment			75.00
Orange	Sunday 11:00 am	Book Study	70.00		70.00
Orange	Monday 6:30 am	Taking Care Of Business			230.00
Orange	Monday 12:00 P	12&12 / Traditions Study	140.00		140.00
Orange	Tuesday 5:30 pm	Rush Hour Discussion	100.00		100.00
Orange	Tuesday 7 pm	Women's Keep It Simple			46.25
Orange	Wednesday 6:30 am	Early Bird Discussion			94.50
Orange	Wednesday 11:15 am	Chap/Lewis Open Meeting		160.00	260.00
Orange	Wednesday 7 pm	Easy Does It			90.00
Orange	Thursday 7:30 pm	Men's Big Book Study Org			10.00
Orange	Thursday 7:30 pm	All About Me Men's Stag			60.00
Orange	Friday 6:30 am	Smashing Donuts			150.00
Orange	Friday 8 pm	No Puffers Speaker	85.00		145.00
Orange	Saturday 7:00 pm	Not A Glum Lot			15.00
Orange	Saturday 7:30 pm	Hip, Slick & Sick			50.00
Placentia	Sunday 8:30 am	Right Start	50.00	33.53	193.53
Placentia	Monday 6:30 pm	Sober Start	60.00		60.00
Placentia	Monday 8:00 pm	Unmanagables			80.00
Placentia	Thursday 10:30 am	Women's Stepping Stones			150.00
Villa Park	Daily 7:30 am	24 Hour Book Group		84.83	163.83
Villa Park	Friday 12 pm	Women's Big Book Study			58.10
Whittier	Sunday 8 pm	Sunday Night Step Study		15.00	45.00
Whittier	Tuesday 7 pm	No Nonsense 12 x 12			20.00
Whittier	Tuesday 7:30 pm	Men's Big Book Study			80.00
Whittier	Wednesday 7 pm	Women's Winners	30.00		60.00
Whittier	Thursday 8 pm	The Den Book Study			76.50
Whittier	Friday 7 pm	Big Book Study			100.00
Whittier	Saturday 10:30 am	Women's Acceptance		62.50	165.00
Whittier	Saturday 7:30 pm	Whittier Sat Night Speaker		75.00	75.00
Yorba Linda	Daily 6 am	Attitude Modification	852.54	842.79	4,762.34
Yorba Linda	Monday 12 pm	Step / Book Study		84.00	201.60
Yorba Linda	Monday 7 pm	Monday Nite Men's Stag			141.09
Yorba Linda	Tuesday 7:30 pm	Women's Discussion			120.00
Yorba Linda	Tuesday 8 pm	Ohio Street Winners	142.84		422.84
Yorba Linda	Wednesday 12 pm	Noontimers		203.00	543.00
Yorba Linda	Wednesday 7 pm	Women's Big Book Study			60.00
Yorba Linda	Thursday 7:30 pm	YL Thursday Participation		143.50	400.30
Yorba Linda	Friday 12 pm	Daily Reflections	60.00	60.00	120.00
Yorba Linda	Friday 5:30 pm	Happy Hour			77.00
Yorba Linda	Friday 8 pm	Friday Night Ohio St. Winner	148.96		248.96
					0.00
		TOTAL GROUPS:	3,382.47	4,135.36	19,729.26

## Catch Meetings Out of Town

Mechanics may differ, but message is the same: AA works

My sponsor, Joe D., wisely encouraged me to go to different meetings and clubs since I came to the fellowship about seven years ago. I am so grateful and glad that I followed his advice, which in all honesty didn't make much sense back then.

I get to travel for business and pleasure. Joe advised me to attend meetings during my trips. I have been privileged to attend meetings out of state, in Canada and Mexico. By being in those meetings, I have learned different ways to run the meetings, which makes me appreciate even more the richness of our fellowship and the particulars of other clubs.

In the meetings that I have attended in Mexico, it caught my eye that they seldom mention their sobriety day when sharing. I came to realize that they do so to stay in the day and to remind themselves that they only have "today." In the same vein, they close their sharing by saying "happy 24 (hours)." This practice is quite interesting in my opinion. Sharing a sobriety day, of course, has its benefits, but I want to focus on their particulars.

Another situation that caught my eye is that they refer to "sharing" as "healing." We often hear in meetings that

"sharing helps the speaker more than the rest of the audience" but seldom do we use "healing," which has a nice touch to it.

I had the opportunity to attend several meetings in Vancouver, Canada, during a trip. One thing that they did was to ask for folks who were attending a meeting for the first time. At the end of the meeting, those who had been in AA a while would congregate around that person and explain a little more about the fellowship without overwhelming.

Another thing that they did was to ask for "returning friends." This term refers to someone who went out. I particularly like this term for it does convey a friendly, welcoming greeting and reinforces the idea that we are "Bill's friends." Is there anything that I don't like? Of course! I don't like the fact that visitors have to share. I was a visitor in three meetings and I had to share in each of them. I should know better, for I personally like hearing from outsiders when it comes to main speakers, 10-minute speakers and visitors.

San Francisco meetings seem to be plentiful and within a short distance from the area where I stay. The first

time I attended a meeting in San Francisco, the AA web site for the area pointed me to three meetings within easy walking distance, and which started at most in the next 30 minutes. There are no excuses to miss one meeting, I thought.

Thirty minutes was enough time to get directions and walk. For some reason, most meetings that I have attended there have been speaker meetings. Boy, they have them often, too. Their format also caught my eye: meetings were one-hour long, speakers shared for about 20 minutes and then chose a topic for discussion. Last time I was in San Francisco, the three speakers chose these topics: "What to do when your life is f\*\*\*ed up?" (This is verbatim!); "forgiveness"; and "step 4." Interestingly enough, everyone stuck to the topic and kept their sharing short, as the secretary requested. After one sharing, at least a dozen of hands went up. They do like to participate!

We always hear "go to meetings" in the fellowship. What I didn't understand early in sobriety makes a lot of sense now. I am traveling to Richmond, VA in August. I am looking forward to the trip, the meetings and the particular ways in which they are operated. And participating in my own recovery!

**Armando M.  
Fullerton**

## Home Groups: Why Is Your's the Best?

The Anonymous Times would like to invite readers to share their experience finding a home group. Let us know why your home group is the best.

Having a home group is vital to a newcomer's sobriety. It's where members can let down their hair, ask questions about Alcoholics Anonymous, find a sponsor and be held accountable.

Members of particular groups often participate in activities outside of the meetings. They might spend weekends camping, attend spiritual workshops together, have cook-outs at the beach, visit museums. The list is endless.

The idea is to forge new friendships in sobriety, broaden one's outlook, and perhaps most important of all, keep the newcomer coming back.

Keep your article to 700 words or less and submit it to [aaletters@gmail.com](mailto:aaletters@gmail.com) or through the North Orange County Central Office Web Site at [www.aanoc.com](http://www.aanoc.com).

We reserve the right to edit articles for style and clarity.

## SPEAKER MEETINGS: July/August 2012

Anonymous Times would like to publish your list of speakers for July/August 2012.

Deadline for publication is August 15, 2012. Email: [aaletters@gmail.com](mailto:aaletters@gmail.com).

Friday St. Paul's Church (*Formerly St. Jude Speaker*)

8 p.m. 111 W Las Palmas Ave  
Fullerton Ca 92835

July 6 Nick M., Santa Ana  
July 13 Richie E., Long Beach  
July 20- Deb, Orange  
July 27 James D., La Habra

August 3 Jim C., Orange  
August 10 Robbie J., LBC

August 17 Sara J., Long Beach  
August 24 Jamie T., Long Beach  
August 31 Mason L., Fullerton

Friday Downtown Speakers (1 Hour)  
8 p.m. 109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92632 (1st Christian Church)

*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Friday night.*

Friday La Habra Speaker  
8 p.m. 631 North Euclid St., La Habra, CA 90631

*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Friday night.*

Friday No Puffers Speaker  
8 p.m. 395 S. Tustin St., Orange

*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Friday night.*

Saturday Visiting Speakers  
8 p.m. 1221 Wass St., Tustin (St. Paul's Church)  
*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Saturday night.*

Saturday Oddfellows Speaker  
8 p.m. 109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92632  
*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Saturday night.*

Saturday Liverpool Speaker  
8 p.m. 4861 Liverpool @ Yorba Linda Blvd  
*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Saturday night.*

Sunday Fullerton Alano Center  
**10:30 a.m.** 530 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

July 1 Steve M., Fullerton  
July 8 Debbie P., Lakewood  
July 15 Terry L., Villa Park  
July 22 Jitu D., Sherman Oaks  
July 29 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

August 5 Quincy J., Encino  
August 12 Franny S., Gardena  
August 19 Flo L., Castaic  
August 26 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Sunday Fireside Speaker Meeting  
8 p.m. 641 S. Western Ave. Anaheim CA 92804  
*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Sunday.*

Sunday Western Medical Center  
10:30 a.m. 1025 South Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92805  
*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Sunday morning.*

Wednesday Fullerton Alano Center  
8 p.m. 530 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton  
*Hear a great speaker share about sobriety every Wednesday night.*

Thursday Pioneer Speaker  
8 p.m. 202 W. Broadway, Anaheim  
July 5 Jeff s., Anaheim  
July 12 Lisa s., Fullerton  
July 19 Paul g, Anaheim  
July 26 Alan, Nevada  
August 2 Michael, south county  
August 9 Roxi,  
August 16 Anne b, Fullerton  
August 23 Ken c, hacienda heights  
August 30 Larry e, course



To include meetings, we need your  
speaker lists by August 15, 2011.

## No Kidding, More Will Be Revealed

More will be revealed, promises the Big Book. No kidding! As time goes on, AA has certainly been something I could never have imagined initially. What kept me out for so many years turned out to be the greatest blessing, as it turned out. It's a spiritual program, and more continues to be revealed. The beauty is its simplicity, although perhaps that's what made it so hard for me to understand.

One fellow alcoholic says we're here by divine appointment, and I've been so greatly humbled, and have so much gratitude for that. As the cliché goes, a simple program for complicated people. I see now that part of the reason why I used to complicate it so much was my ego. It was my ego that wanted to run the show, and was in full denial, despite objective evidence. A cup needs to be empty before it can be filled again. Hitting bottom was the emptiness that I needed so that I could begin to grasp the program.

My objectives then were modest: to not drink and to die sober. My cup 'runneth' over. It used to be, "I want," "I want," "I want." Now it's acceptance, acceptance, acceptance. In a state of acceptance, I can receive the blessings that God has bestowed upon me. Perhaps not always, but

more often than before. There's often peace and serenity, happiness, joy, freedom and appreciation of the people God puts in my life. There's also an appreciation of making our family whole again.

My wife hasn't found it necessary to call the cops for a while now. My



children haven't had to be ashamed of their father for some time. Haven't had to test for anyone or go to court for any offense. It is really true that only a man who's been in the darkest, deepest valleys, truly appreciates what it's like to stand at the highest peaks and to smell the air of freedom. That booze, which I thought gave me so many things, was in reality my prison, keeping me a slave through hundreds of forms of fears.

It took time and effort, which I didn't like, but it's not my show, as I find out every day. The obsession to drink was lifted early, yet I wake up and thank God for keeping me sober. It shows me that I am not God; it keeps me humble and reminds me who I am. I am not an alcoholic who fights alcohol, but a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous, who begins his spiritual journey each day, beginning with a simple prayer of thanks to a power greater than myself for keeping me sober.

Everything happens for a reason, and at their appointed time, not at a time of my choosing. All the self-maligning at the countless relapses I had over the years are now a great source of comfort. When that thought enters my mind that this time it'll be different, I'm secure in that awareness of having "been there, done that" so many times that that thought causes no danger. It brings a knowing smile to my face. More HAS been revealed; we are here by divine appointment.

Wow, I never thought I'd be the one proclaiming that.

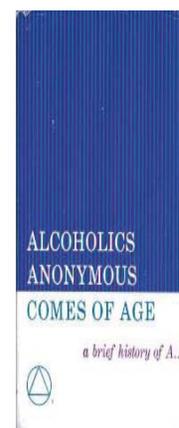
**Joe D.  
Fullerton**

## Bill W. On Singleness of Purpose

"There are those predict that A.A. may well become a new spearhead for a spiritual awakening throughout the world. When our friends say these things, they are both generous and sincere. But we of A.A. must reflect that such a tribute and such a prophecy could well prove to be a heady drink for most of us – that is, if we really came to believe this to be the real purpose of A.A., and if we commenced to behave accordingly.

Our Society, therefore, will prudently cleave to its single purpose: the carrying of the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in one area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody."

Bill W. – A.A. COMES OF AGE, pg. 232



# What Success in Sobriety Means...

This morning I received an email from a dear, longtime friend and member of our Fellowship. It was brief and to the point: "I'm having a lot of fun with this. Please join in...Please complete the phrase below. Use no more than two sentences. Success in sobriety means. . . ."

I replied, explaining that I had to look up the word "success," and that the description that worked for me was "the accomplishment of an aim or purpose."

I then wrote, after "careful consideration," my "no more than 2 sentences:" "Success in sobriety means (to me) that I have, in spite of my doubts and fears, accomplished the aim or purpose (of and through our beloved program) of establishing a relationship with my Creator, the likes of which I never ever thought could happen or could have imagined. The fact that I trust my God, do my best to keep my house clean, and am willing to help others (to slightly paraphrase Dr. Bob's "prescription for sobriety") is truly more God's success than mine – but my full cooperation and commitment to sobriety – staying sober no matter what – has been essential!"

I found you can get quite a bit into two sentences! There was a sense of fulfillment and joy as I read what I'd written,

because it is the truth for me today.

The truth that was the beginning of setting me free from the bondage of self was my surrender to the fact I could not stop or stay stopped drinking alone, by myself—and that I needed help from a Power greater than myself.

The truths revealed in the Fourth Step and subsequent inventories were difficult to accept. More is revealed and disclosed along sobriety's path, yet getting to "the bottom of it all," the disclosure and understanding eventually came as to who we really are (God's kids), and what I am meant to be and do, that is, the role that the Higher Power has assigned me. This awareness did not come "overnight."

There have been times of great suffering and confusion "on the road to Happy Destiny," but somewhere in early sobriety, when I began to wake up to how ill I had been and still was, I sincerely asked for protection and care with complete abandon. And the Higher Power has been 100% faithful to this day, whether or not I could see, sense, or feel it's presence at the time.

It's true in my experience, that our program is simple, but not easy; so says our Book. "There is a solution. Almost

none of us liked the self-searching, the leveling of our pride, the confession of shortcomings which the process requires for its successful consummation." (Ah! There is "success" to be had when I get into action!).

At this time of my life, to keep it simple, living sober one day at a time, is the goal. I have also found it true in my experience what Dr. Bob shared with us in his last talk:

"There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work.

Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service." We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

"Let us also remember to guard that erring member, the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

*Vaughn I., Tustin*

*Reprinted with permission from the February 2012 Lifeline*

## How 'Big Book' Term Came About

Question: How did the AA Big Book get the name of the Big Book. On pages 242-243 of the Lois W. Story, When Love Is Not Enough; A Biography of the Co-Founder of Al-Anon by William G. Borchert, it mentions that a person named Hank recommended a heavy thick paper for its perceived worth. I had read somewhere that Ebby T. had the idea of using the thicker paper. Lois is mentioned to have referred to this bulky book as The Big Book. What is the true origin?

Answer: The first printing of the first edition on The Big Book is almost exactly 2 inches thick. It was indeed printed on un-

usually heavy paper. The Hank referred to in The Lois W. story would be Henry (Hank) P.

Hank and Bill W. were among the small group to oversee the printing of the book. Since they wanted to sell the book for \$3.50 each they wanted the book to be big so people would feel they were getting their money's worth. Adjusted for inflation that would be the same as charging \$48.50 in 2007. In some countries they continue to charge \$48 for the book.

Hank and Bill asked the printer to use the thickest paper that had and the book also used very large margins. They wanted it to be a "big book" so it would seem only natural that they referred to it as "The Big Book." There is an article on the subject at: <http://www.barefootworld.net/aabigbook1939.html>

## Some Musings

There's nothing so bad that a drink won't make it worse.

You may have a drinking problem if...

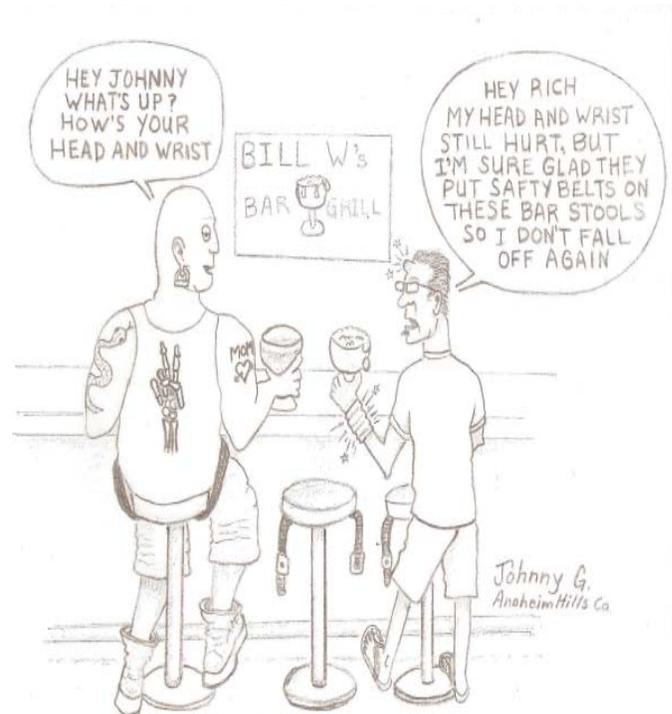
You wake up screaming 'TORO TORO TORO!' in the middle of the night.

You lose arguments with inanimate objects.

You have to hold onto the lawn to keep from falling off the earth.

The back of your head keeps getting hit by the toilet seat.

## Funnies



## Captured Quips from California Jack

*The wit and wisdom of Bill and Bob's friends.*

Alcoholics Anonymous, pg 48; "Outward appearances are not inward reality at all."

You wouldn't believe what I overhear when I talk to myself.

When I drank I never had hangovers. I guess I saved them all up for one big one called Detox.

I was like a washing machine that only had 2 cycles-Spin and Agitate.

If I'm not careful today I'm going to create tomorrow's wreckage of the past.

I'm an obsession waiting to happen.

This program has taught me that my crystal ball is somewhat like my butt - Cracked.

Be where your feet are.

The only thing worse than bad luck for an alcoholic is good luck.

We're all here because we're not all there.

Sometimes I forget that I forget.

I'm in a constant dogfight with this head that I have to carry around with me.

Reality is an illusion brought on by a lack of alcohol.

Oh, and just for fun: You might have a drinking problem if (forgive me):

The whole bar says 'Hi' when you come in...You fall off the floor...

Don't recognize your wife unless seen through bottom of glass.

Do you have a quote that you think should be added to the list? Send it to California Jack at [Golden.Buckeye@yahoo.com](mailto:Golden.Buckeye@yahoo.com).