

Anonymous Times

Published by North Orange County Central Office, 1111 E. Commonwealth, Suite D, Fullerton, CA 92831

Volume 15, Issue 2

March/April 2010

25th Annual Event

NOCAA Convention Set For April 2-4

"Still Alive After 25" is the theme of the 25th Annual Orange County Alcoholics Anonymous Convention with Al-Anon participation April 2-4.



Fundraiser to benefit H&I is Slated for March 20

The 2010 H & I conference planning committee will hold a fundraiser Saturday, March 20th at the First Christian Church, 109 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton CA 92831.

A spaghetti dinner will be served at no charge. Donations will be greatly appreciated. Dinner will be served at 6 pm followed by an H & I themed speaker meeting.

Please contact Paul P. at 714 - 313 - 7883 for more information.

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

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My name is Steve H. and I am the chairperson for this year's main event, and it has been an honor and privilege to be a part of the silver anniversary festivities. Upon getting sober in 1988, the idea of having fun without alcohol was inconceivable. My whole life revolved around drinking. Alcohol was my courage to do life.

Imagine my amazement when I walked into my first Orange County AA convention in 1989 after spending a year in a men's indigent recovery home in Santa Ana and finding a few thousand sober people having fun, lots

Continued on page 2

Tradition Eight Quote

"Alcoholics Anonymous ought to remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words "Freely ye have received, freely give." We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. From 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, page 160.

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NOCCO 2009 Year-End Revenue & Expenses

Revenue	Dec-09	Dec-08
Sales - AA Books and Literature	\$36,123.41	\$40,866.99
Sales - Chips and Non-AA	\$34,415.16	\$32,054.93
Donations- Groups and Individuals	\$49,716.91	\$59,658.71
Fundraisers	\$6,344.66	\$4,519.22
Interest	\$618.29	\$1,270.98
Total Revenue		
Cost of Goods	\$51,448.51	\$48,773.90
Gross Profit	\$75,769.92	\$89,596.93
Operating Expenses		
Salaries	\$39,600.00	\$39,735.00
Advertising	\$401.83	\$384.67
Bank Charges	\$86.00	\$87.00
Cash short\ (over)	-\$11.55	\$0.00
Bad Checks	\$221.12	\$157.54
Computer Expenses	\$134.81	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$618.61	\$992.05
Insurance-General Liability	\$1,445.15	\$850.63
Insurance - Work Comp	\$557.35	\$717.50
Insurance - Medical	\$3,192.00	\$2,449.00
Legal & Accounting	\$1,950.00	\$1,980.00
Newsletter Cost	\$2,627.62	\$3,484.67
Office Supplies	\$5,118.81	\$4,873.93
Postage	\$355.44	\$276.90
Penalties on Tax Payments	\$0.00	\$34.42
Office Rent	\$18,768.00	\$19,100.00
Equipment Rental	\$1,242.80	\$1,599.73
Repairs & Maintenance	\$50.00	\$242.00
Seminars & Education	\$1,563.97	\$1,067.54
Taxes- Payroll	\$3,141.34	\$3,163.74
Taxes- Annual Filings	\$50.00	\$60.00
Telephone	\$3,471.60	\$4,318.12
Utilities	\$2,947.98	\$3,014.95
Total Operating Expense	\$87,532.88	\$88,589.39
Other Income and Expense	\$0.00	\$361.16
Net Income/(Loss)	-\$11,762.96	\$1,368.70

Convention ... From Page 1

of fun! There were Marathon meetings lasting all weekend day and night. Speakers from all over the country not just California, a golf tournament, dances, hospitality areas and informational booths from GSR, Central Office, and H&I.

In recent years the convention has added workshops, a Poker Run called Rods and Rides, which allows both classic cars and

Convention to feature bigger, better Archives Room - page 3

motorcycles. Additionally, we have a movie room that shows alcoholic related movies to enjoy during the convention. We also have a great website to checkout all of the events: www.oaac.org.

Many things have happened to me in my sobriety, good, bad or indifferent. In the end it's all a matter of perspective. I have hit bottoms in my sobriety that have allowed me to grow in surprising ways. Throughout all the changes in my life, my service and commitment to this convention and my sobriety have been consistent.

I have learned to get out of self through service to you the fellow alcoholic. Who knew that what I learned here in Alcoholics Anonymous would one day prepare me to be a loving husband, father, family member and fellow human being. No matter what happens in my life, I have been taught to stay within the fellowship. We never have to be alone again!

Whether you come to volunteer, serve, or to enjoy, have fun and see those people that you may only see once a year or just make a new friend. A big part of the convention experience is staying at the hotel so you don't miss any of the events. Sharing a room with a friend will help save costs, as I am quite aware of the effects of the economy this past year.

Please do not miss the biggest annual AA event in Orange County

Sincerely,

Steve H.
2010 Convention Chairman

Opinions, letters and stories printed by the Anonymous Times are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication constitute an endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous, the North Orange County Central Office, Intergroup or any group within Alcoholics Anonymous. All reprinted articles are printed with permission.

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NOCCO Board Oversight Committee: Leesa H. & Kevin C.
Chief Proofreader: 86 proofreader

'Keeping the Faith' in AA

Don't let outside forces deter you from sobriety

We are all going through difficult economic times right now. People who cook in restaurants, as well as the families that go to the restaurants and families everywhere, it seems, are affected to some degree. We hear news stories about desperate, out of work fathers who kill their entire families because they can't provide for them.

I bring this up because I want to share my thoughts about Faith. Right after the story about a daddy shooting his family, we hear an account of another person who won \$10 million in the lottery.

We are so powerless over so many things, such as the economy and crime. If I lose my faith, if I don't have a higher power, if I stop believing that there is a reason for things to happen as they do, I will probably go crazy and want to shut off my craziness and start to drink.

As alcoholics, we are taught many life releasing techniques. They work on people who are not alcoholics as well.

Have you asked yourself how a daddy could shoot his children and then his wife and himself? It sounds so bizarre, but yet it happens. Just like our disease and the things that we do under the influence. Once we are sober, we look back and say, "Wow, how blessed I am to have lived through the horror that is alcoholism."

In one of our books, "Experience, Strength and Hope," there is a story called "Five Time Loser." In this tale, a man asks what kind of death could be worse than an alcoholic's suicide."

Every time we go out, we kill ourselves spiritually and emotionally and then wait for the physical death. That doesn't usually come quick.

The bottle that we wait for to kill us isn't there. We don't know where or when the bottle will take us out. But on the same note, how different are we with our faith that we should think that a bottle will make it better?

It takes the time that it takes to believe that the bottle we are about to drink will not do anything but make it worse. Self induced slow suicide. There is where Faith comes in.

No one of us can be free from emotional pain but we can grab our faith as tight as we can and hang on. I know that today I wouldn't do what I used to do but I have a faith that is incredible and I have a support group that is even more real and surrounding.

Today, I know I can't think my way into believing but I know I can live my way into believing.

Every time something occurs that is spiritually demanding, I know today that it is part of the hand of God that I am holding on to. And today I listen with my eyes instead of my ears.

What I hear gets messed up but what I see is not a mistake. If you are new hang on to your Faith because Faith turns into Hope and Hope turns into strength.

**Roxy S.
Fullerton**

AA History

Convention to have Bigger, Better Archives Room

AA history will truly come alive at the 25th Annual Orange County Alcoholics Anonymous Convention April 2-4, with an Archives Room twice as big as in years past. An outstanding assortment of memorabilia and records representing the history of AA from its inception – one of the largest personal collections anywhere -- will be on display.

The knowledgeable staff of two representing nearly 60 years in AA will guide you through the various groups that were precursors to the founding of AA. Learn about the Washingtonians, the Emmanuel Movement, the Oxford Group, and various Temperance Movements that represent the search for the program that we now have. Here too you will see photographs, books, recordings, and many exciting tales of events or matters worth remembering.

Learn about Creating a Sober World, the volunteer members of Alcoholics Anonymous who took our program to the former Soviet Union starting in 1986 and talk to people who were part of that inspired program.

See the new section on Spanish Alcoholicos Anonimos as well as books and pictures from around the world. Here is an opportunity to see a complete set (all 16 printings) of the first edition of our beloved Big Book and four books signed by Bill Wilson, one of the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and much more.

This collection presents an opportunity for you to become acquainted with or expand your knowledge of our exciting history. This will be an opportunity for you to share your experience, and we welcome your input regarding shared history. We will be located next door to the Movie Room.

See you there!

**Jerry L.
Brea**

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Annual Laughlin Round-Up will be held May 13-16

Make plans now to enjoy some "Fellowship on the River" at the 26th Annual Tri-State Round-Up May 13-16 in Laughlin, NV.

The four day event, to be held at the Riverside Resort & Casino, will feature meetings, a golf and bowling tournament, marathon meetings, a poker run and dance.

There will be a hotel discount for attendees at the event. Additionally, there is a registration discount if made before April 15. Go to www.tristate-roundup.com for more information.

Women's Banquet is May 8

The 13th Annual NOCAA Women's banquet, to be held May 8 at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 212 Elk Lane, Santa Ana.

"Sunlight of the Spirit" is the theme of the event, which will feature dinner, a speaker meeting and raffle. Tickets are \$30 and registration must be made by April 20. Make checks payable to NOCAA Women's Banquet and mail to P.O. Box 771, Fullerton, CA 92836. Call chairwoman Tracy W. at (714) 334-5425 or co-chair Ailene D. at (714) 393-2297 for more details.

Annual H&I Conference to be April 30 - May 2

"Planting the Seed" is the theme of the 29th Annual Hospitals & Institutions Conference, which will be held April 30-May 2 at the Marriott Hotel in Long Beach.

The event will feature meetings, a mentorship and corrections panel, a Young People in AA panel, an AA banquet and speaker meeting, an Al-Anon play and dance, among other events. Featured speakers include Judge Rogelio F., and Judge James Mc.

Cost for registration is \$15, which includes the dance, and an additional \$45 for the Saturday night banquet. The price for a room at the hotel is \$119. For more information, go to www.socalhandi.org.

CHECK IT OUT – DUDE! YOUNG PEOPLE'S AA MEETINGS!

Sunday		
Fullerton	6 p.m.	530 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Orange	7 p.m.	261 N. Glassell@Chapman (The Ugly Mug)
Monday		
Irvine	7:30 p.m.	Wild Bunch Men's Step Study 5001 Newport Coast Dr. Mariners Church (Port Kid Zone room)
Tuesday		
Anaheim Hills	7:30 p.m.	Step Study/Kaiser Lakeview-Bsmt.
Dana Point	7:30 p.m.	Campfire Beach Meeting (Winter) 34451 Ensenada Pl. @ D.P. Harbor Dr. - Boat House (Youth Center) (November thru March)
Wednesday		
Irvine	7:30 p.m.	Wild Bunch Beginner Q&A 18842 Teller Ave. @ Campus (New Song Church)
Garden Grove	8 p.m.	Young People's Meeting 7212 Chapman Ave. @ Knott Ave. (Serenity Hall) 797-G4
Yorba Linda	8 p.m.	Topic Discussion 5320 Richfield Rd.
Newport Beach	8:30 p.m.	Topic Discussion, 414 E. 32nd St.
Thursday		
Costa Mesa	8 p.m.	Moorehead Podium Call-up 2476 Newport Blvd. @ Fair (Oddfellows Hall)
Laguna Beach	8 p.m.	Romper Room Beginners 20456 Laguna Canyon Rd.
Friday		
Anaheim Hills	8 p.m.	Discussion-411 Lakeview Ave. @ 91 Fwy. (Medical Building, Basement, Rm # B-4)
Huntington Beach	7 p.m.	Seacliff, 225 7th St., Garage #1 @ Olive
Irvine	7:30 p.m.	Boys in Sobriety 4400 Barranca & Culver

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Since the last issue,
Central Office took 1381 calls:

622 from men and
759 from women.



Keep up the great work — YOU make a difference!

Meeting Donations ... From Page 10

Orange	Sun Attit.Adj	830am OrangOlive	0.00	120.00
Orange	Joe and Charlie	Big Book Workshop	0.00	36.00
Orange	Fri. Nite Wand	couples Group	0.00	190.00
Orange	Tu. 6:30am	Doughnut Meeting	0.00	220.00
Orange	Friday noon	Freindship Club	0.00	400.00
Orange	Thursday Noon	Freindship Club	0.00	70.00
Orange	We 6:30 AM	Friendship Club	0.00	293.00
Orange	Thu630am	Friendship Club	0.00	100.00
Orange	Tuesday 7-8pm	Keep It Simple	0.00	37.87
Orange	Shanda	No Meeting name	0.00	127.00
Orange	Anonymous	No Name Donation	0.00	160.00
Orange	Fr 8:00 PM	No Puffer's Speaker	70.00	240.00
Orange	Sa 7:00 PM	Not a Glum Lot	0.00	60.00
Orange	Mon. 530 pm	Rush Hour, Friendship Club	0.00	350.00
Orange	We 5:30 PM	Rush Hour, Friendship Club	0.00	70.00
Orange	Fr 6:30 AM	Smashing Donuts	0.00	105.00
Orange	Central Office	SOBERFEST	0.00	700.00
Orange	Mo 7:30 PM	Speaker	0.00	50.00
Orange	Mon.630am	Taking Care of Business	0.00	200.00
Orange	Tu 7:00 PM	Walnut TustinCl.Disc.	118.00	298.00
Orange	Th 7:30 PM	All About Me Men's Stag	90.00	342.00
Orange	Wed.7pm	Easy Does It	0.00	70.00
Placentia	Mo 6:30 PM	Beginners' Sober Start	0.00	124.00
Placentia	Tu 8:00 PM	Bradford Discussion	0.00	60.00
Placentia	Su AM	Right Start	70.00	497.20
Placentia	Su 7:30 PM	Sunday Nite Bradford	0.00	794.10
Placentia	Mo 8:00 PM	Unmanageables	20.00	90.00
Seal Beach	Friday noon	Drum Busters	0.00	93.35
Sunset Beach	Friday Noon	Two or more	0.00	50.00
unknown	682742	No Name Donation	0.00	147.06
Villa Park	24hr.Group	Attitude Modification	0.00	726.96
Villa Park	ALL 6:00 AM	Attitude Modification	0.00	105.49
Whittier	Saturday speaker	7:30 Saturday Speaker	50.00	50.00
Whittier	Wednesday	Attitude Adj. 7:00am	20.00	40.00
Whittier	Mo 7:00 AM	Attitude Adjustment	10.00	60.00
Whittier	Monday 7:00pm	Attitude Adjustment	20.00	45.00
Whittier	Friday7:00am	Attitude Adjustment	0.00	25.00
Whittier	Tu 7:00 AM	Attitude Adjustment	0.00	25.00
Whittier	Fri.7-8pm	Big Book Study	0.00	25.00
Whittier	In Memory	Steve Templton	0.00	25.00
Whittier	Thursday 8pm	The Den	0.00	75.00
Whittier	Mo 7:00 PM	Womens Calamity	0.00	100.00
Whittier	Sat. 10:30 am	Women's Acceptance	0.00	175.00
Whittier	Monday 630pm	Womens Discussion	0.00	100.00
Whittier	Wed. 7pm	Women's Winner Meeting	0.00	15.00
Yorba Linda	Thurs.8pm	119601	0.00	105.00
Yorba Linda	ALL 6:00 AM	Attitude Modification	1,666.82	6,952.02
Yorba Linda	Thurs 8:00pm	Discussion-Presb. Church	70.00	340.20
Yorba Linda	Fr 5:30 PM	Happy Hour Big Book	33.50	225.50
Yorba Linda	Mo 12:00 PM	Nooners	0.00	281.70
Yorba Linda	We 12:00 PM	Noontimers	96.00	415.43
Yorba Linda	Tu PM	Rose Dr. Babbist Womens	0.00	150.00
Yorba Linda	Th 7:30 PM	Serenity Seekers	0.00	100.00
Yorba Linda	YP Wed. 8:00pm	Topic Discussion	0.00	94.43
Yorba Linda	Mo 8:00 PM	Yorba Linda Lutheran Ch.	220.00	430.00

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Gisela S. 19 years
 Audrey A. 17 years
 Pat B. 11 years
 Mary W. 11 years
 D-D S. 5 years



***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, 1111 E. Commonwealth, Ste. D, Fullerton, CA 92831. Or email: officemanager@aanoc.com.

Intergroup Elects 2010 Board

Election of this year's NOCCO Board of Directors was held at the January Intergroup meeting. Here is a list of the 2010 Board members.

Tom T.	Chair
Michelle M.	Vice chair
Pete K.	Treasurer
Cathy M.	Secretary
Leesa H.	Anonymous Times Oversight Committee
Kevin C.	Anonymous Times Oversight Committee
Paul P.	Board member
Billy P.	Alternate board member
Roxy S.	Office manager

Being Grateful in Sobriety

How could one be grateful to be alcoholic?

I used to mock my fellows who would say that they are “grateful” alcoholics. How can you be grateful to be alcoholic? I was not grateful for being an alcoholic. The truth is I was not grateful for anything. I took everything for granted; I was owed! You don’t understand: if your life was as rough as mine, you’d drink to!

The reality of the situation is that I had it very easy. My life was not difficult. Sure I had a few bad breaks that were out of my control: my dad passed away when I was five, we didn’t have a lot of money or stuff, so what? My mom was a single parent long before it was cool, raising three kids, and she did the best she could with what she had and did a damn good job of it. Was I grateful? Not very. It took until I became a single parent myself to appreciate what she had done.

I look at where I am today and I can honestly say I am grateful. I am grateful that I found Alcoholics Anonymous; most alcoholics do not. Or they find us and can’t, for whatever reason, achieve any lasting sobriety, and are unable to receive the promises in their lives.

I am a grateful Alcoholic in that my disease has been identified, and with some diligence and taking the suggestions and

I look at where I am today and I can honestly say I am grateful. I am grateful that I found Alcoholics Anonymous; most alcoholics do not.

acting on the suggestions of my sponsor and a few men who were here when I got here, I have a comfortable sobriety. What do I mean, a “comfortable sobriety”? I have some inner peace, arrived at by working a few simple steps to the best of my ability, and sharing the message with other alcoholics.

I have a comfortable sobriety in that the obsession to drink has been removed. Now that the obsession to drink has been removed, I can work on my other character defects, both grosser and lesser, that keep me from having a relationship with my higher power. For when I work on these shortcomings, and I remove or reduce them, I find myself closer to my higher power, and he becomes manifest in my daily existence.

I am grateful that I have found a way of life in Alcoholics Anonymous that allows me to re-enter the world of men and to function as a contributing member of society, rather than be a drain on my fellows’ money, time patience and emotions.

I am grateful that I have been spared the “yets” that await so many of us; the consequences that will befall me should I chose to take a drink, because I know the slate is not wiped clean, only the chalk has been put down. Should I start to drink again, I know I will be back were I left off, not back to where I started. Once I become a pickle, I can’t go back to a cucumber! Darn!

I am a grateful Alcoholic in so many ways, for the life, friends and future I have found as gifts of the program. I wish all of you the happiness and serenity that I have found, and I hope all of you become grateful alcoholics.

**Stephen M.
Fullerton**

Get a Legal Fresh Start

You don’t have to be a celebrity to get a clean slate

I work a volunteer shift in the Central Office, and my colleague announced with a triumphant note the other day that she was “No longer a felon!” Her felony DUI had been expunged from her record. She had paid her debt to society, was well on her way as a recovering alcoholic in AA, and things were working well in her life. But she said she needed to get serious about getting employed again, and this would be a great help to her in finding a job. She would no longer have to say on job applications that she had been convicted of a felony.

Wow! This is exactly the same situation I am in, and I’ve

dreaded explaining to people in job interviews that I’ve been convicted of a misdemeanor “Wet Reckless”. Though obviously over the legal limit, my blood alcohol level had not been considered real high, and there was no accident or injury. But the shame and embarrassment of having this on my record has been an obstacle in my moving on with my life and getting gainfully employed these past three years of informal probation.

I had read on one of the entertainment gossip web sites that Mel Gibson had had his well-chronicled DUI expunged, and I wondered what exactly that meant and how he had done it. Perhaps that was only something that the well-heeled, with their high-priced attorneys, could aspire to, I thought. And what was the point in his case, if it had already been splashed across global media?

What does it mean to have one’s record expunged?

Continued on page 9

SPEAKER MEETINGS: March/April 2010

Anonymous Times would like to publish your list of speakers for May/June 2010. Deadline for publication is April 15, 2010. Email: aaletters@gmail.com.

Friday
8 p.m. St. Jude Speaker
St. Jude Hospital, Erickson Building
101 E. Valencia Mesa, Fullerton, CA

March 5 Carol M., Orange
March 12 Jack M.
March 19 Kevin Y.
March 26 Tina A.
April 2 TBD
April 9 Mickey C., Downey
April 16 TBD
April 23 Chuck D., Laguna Miguel
April 30 TBD

Friday
8:00 p.m. Dreams Come True
109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92832

March 5 - TBD
March 12 Rod A.
March 19 Gary
March 26 Robert L.

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

March 5 Frankie, Huntington Beach
March 12: Mickey Bush, Santa Monica
March 19 Debra P., Lakewood
March 26 Jeff L., Anaheim
April 2 TBA
April 9 Joe M., Huntington Beach
April 16 John A., Laguna Beach
April 23 Sean M., Mira Loma
April 30 Barbra F., Long Beach

Saturday
8:00 p.m. Oddfellows Speaker
109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92632
(First Christian Church)

March 6 Fernando H., Fullerton
March 13 Joe L., Los Alamitos
March 24 H&I Fundraiser Meeting
March 27 Robin R., Los Angeles
April 3 Jerry B., Buena Park
April 10 Mickey C., Downey
April 17 Mara V., Brea
April 24 Jim S., Cypress

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

March 7 Pat Y., Pasadena
March 14 Tyler H., Cypress
March 21 Bill C., Hermosa Beach
March 28 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
April 4 Randall I., Fullerton
April 11 Peter G., Manhattan Beach
April 18 Frank C., Santa Monica
April 25 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Sunday
10:30 a.m. Western Medical (24 Hr. Speaker)
1025 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim

March 7 Lisa S
March 14 Jul'e K.
March 21 Tim S.
March 28 Danny B.
April 4 Bill D. "Happy Bill"
April 11 Jim D.
April 18 Matt
April 25 Doug and Angela

Sunday
8:00 p.m. Fireside Speaker Meeting
8150 Knott Ave., Buena Park
(Ehlers Community Center)

Come hear a great speaker from Alcoholics Anonymous share their experience, strength and hope every Sunday evening.

Sunday
7 p.m. Sober & Crazy Speakers
18341 Lasssen Dr., Santa Ana, 92705

March 7 Tony B. Huntington Beach
March 14 John M. Irvine
March 21 Jamie M. Irvine
March 28 Tim S.
April 4 Cate C. Fullerton
April 11 Steve S. GG
April 18 Esther B. Santa Ana
April 25 Jeffery P. Harbor City

Wednesday
8 p.m. Fullerton Alano Center
530 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

Come hear a great speaker from Alcoholics Anonymous share their experience, strength and hope every Wednesday evening.



To include meetings, we need your
speaker lists by April 15, 2010.

NOC Central Office BULLETIN BOARD

H&I 2ND SUNDAY March 14 & April 11	NOCPIC 2ND WEDNESDAY March 10 & April 14	INTERGROUP 2ND WEDNESDAY March 10 & April 14	VOLUNTEER MEETING April 10 at 10 a.m.
<p>Orange County Hospitals and Institutions Committee</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>North Orange County Public Information Committee</p> <p><i>Learn about sharing the message with Non-AA 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 1111 E. Commonwealth, Ste. D, Fullerton If you have questions, call Brian K. at 714-658-4581</p>	<p>North Orange County Intergroup Association</p> <p><i>Be an intergroup representative for your meeting.</i></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>CENTRAL OFFICE holds a quarterly volunteer meeting on the 2nd Sat. every three months. <i>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

History of AA to be Discussed

The MSCA Archives Committee will host the annual Open House on March 21. This year's theme is "The Prequel to AA." The doors will open at 9 am with the program, featuring guest Jay S., starting at 10 a.m.

Sober since May 2, 1979, Jay S. has studied the history of the events that lead to the founding of AA. Jay will lead us on the journey from the Washingtonians to the Oxford Group and how the Oxford Group carried the message to Ebby T. Next, Jay will show us what happened to the people who carried the message to Ebby and what happened to the Oxford Group.

The MSCA Archives is located at 7111-B Arlington, Riverside CA 92503 in the Riverside Airpark (between the Riverside Airport and Van Buren Blvd.). For more information call (951) 785-0845.

***Don't take your
meetings for granted!
Drop a buck or two
when the 7th
Tradition basket is
passed. Your support
is critical!***

Anonymous Times Needs You!

Do you have a burning desire to share your story? Want to help somebody else stay sober?

Tell us how you did it. Send us your articles. Please keep your stories to 700 words or less.

Subject matter of articles must be confined to alcoholism. Keep in mind that we are not able to print poetry or profanity. If you include material from another source such as the Grapevine or the Big Book, please specify

which page number and the source. Submit your article to Central Office or email to: aaletters@gmail.com.

Articles may be edited for space and clarity. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your story with the rest of the North Orange County AA community.



Basics of Service Work

Helping a fellow alcoholic may be the simplest way to 'be of service' in AA

Service. Sometimes I wonder whether I use the term too loosely. I get bound up in checking motives or questioning my sincerity. The formula that helps me get past that is to ask myself whether I was doing anything when drinking that someone else might benefit from, regardless of motives? The answer is usually no.

So from the beginning, unwittingly, every newcomer to Alcoholics Anonymous is of service the moment they identify. They let the older members know that nothing has changed as far as the drinking game in concerned. As time goes on the ones that stay will usually get phone numbers of other members.

Often, a newer man will call on an older member looking for a solution to a problem, not knowing that the older member was having a difficult day too. When he speaks to the new man about his problems, it puts the older member's situation in a different light.

Further down the road, we get the opportunity to make coffee, get donuts, or

maybe be the treasurer for one of our regular meetings -- the list of available meeting commitments can be as long as we want it to be. I remember as the

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secretary of my home group meeting being amazed at the trust a group of men that knew everything about me placed in me when they gave me the keys to the building that was home to our meeting. Service gave me the beginnings of self worth. Nobody was giving me the keys to anything up to that point.

At some point it is suggested that we work with other alcoholics one on one. This is kind of like setting up building blocks. We go through the steps with a man (or woman) and, in my opinion, this is the beginning. What are we to do after that? Well what I have done? If the guy is receptive, I will show the men

who haven't done a particular commitment how to fulfill that commitment. For example, if I was the treasurer, I would continue to go to that meeting after my commitment was up to show the new treasurer where to drop the money, how to pay the rent and so on, until he got the hang of it.

Today, my service "resume" is longer than

some members and shorter than that of others. For the first time, I am not trying to do things just to please my sponsor or keep the "old timer" of my group off my back. I have found that by being willing to be "of service," I am actually the one who benefits, I feel better about myself, the reactions from others is much better, and I get to keep things in a better perspective. And sometimes somebody else actually is a little better off .

If I am to be of service to God, there may be no better way than to try to help my fellow man.

Paul P., Fullerton

Legal Fresh Start ... From page 6

According to the California Courts Self-Help Center, it means the dismissal of your case. If you were convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony and were not sentenced to state prison, you can petition for a dismissal. This means you were given county jail time, probation, a fine, or a combination of those three. If you are petitioning for a dismissal, the court may withdraw your guilty or no contest plea, or guilty verdict if you went to trial, and enter a not guilty plea.

Then the court will set aside and dismiss the conviction. Your record will be changed to show a dismissal rather than a conviction. Check the information for yourself at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp>.

If my record is expunged, will I ever have to acknowledge the case again? Lawyers.com states, with limited

exception, that you may thereafter truthfully state that you were never arrested, charged, or accused of a crime. In the eyes of the law, the entire incident never occurred. Still, you should be aware that the federal government need not honor the ruling to expunge, nor does a ruling to expunge a record necessarily relieve a person from having to disclose it on an application for public office or on some professional license applications.

How does one apply have a record expunged, and how much does it cost? If the conviction occurred in Orange County, the necessary Form L-1280 Packet can be downloaded on the Orange County Superior Court website: <http://www.occourts.org/forms>. The process costs \$120.

Kevin C., La Habra

Editor's note: This article is meant to offer only general guidance and should not be used in lieu of advice of legal counsel.)

Meeting Donations 2009 Total

LOCATION	DAY & TIME	WHO	Nov-Dec	2009 Total
anaheim	Saturday 730am	202 W Broadway club	0.00	70.00
Anaheim	Mo 7:30 PM	12 & 12 Oasis	100.00	181.65
Anaheim	Oasis Monday	Big Book Study Group	60.00	60.00
Anaheim	Thurs. Night	Bills Babes	35.00	85.00
Anaheim	Sun.730	Complete Abandonment	80.00	80.00
Anaheim	6:30pm Fri.	Grattitude is action	0.00	330.88
Anaheim	Tues.12&12	Kaiser	0.00	50.00
Anaheim	Mo 5:30 PM	Primary Purpose	0.00	420.00
Anaheim	Tues.6:30pm	Step 6 7	0.00	375.00
Anaheim	Tu 8:00 PM	Survivors	0.00	180.00
Anaheim	Womens 6&7	Tuesday 630pm	70.00	70.00
Anaheim	Sunday	Western Medical Am	88.00	369.00
Anaheim Hills	Wed.730pm	Big Book Study	0.00	82.12
Anaheim Hills	Mon. Night	Experience, Strength, Hope	50.00	338.00
Anaheim Hills	Sa 8:30 AM	It's In The Book	0.00	270.00
Anaheim Hills	Monday 7:00pm	Kaiser Women's Myg.	122.50	194.50
Anaheim Hills	Thuir 7:00pm	Men's Stag, Kaiser	75.00	615.00
Anaheim Hills	Sa 6:00 PM	Winner's Circle	0.00	240.00
Anaheim Hills	Tu 7:30 PM	Women's Big Book & Step	95.42	170.42
Anaheim Hills	Th 7:00 PM	Women's Solution	73.50	123.50
Anaheim Hills	Fri. Kaiser	Y.P. Discussion	0.00	60.00
Brea	We 5:30 PM	As Bill Sees It	75.00	327.42
Brea	Mon. Nite	Big Book Workshop	0.00	400.00
Brea	Wednesday 630pm	Daily Reflections	0.00	95.25
Brea	Mens Stagg	Friday Night	70.00	170.00
Brea	Fr 5:30 PM	Happy Hour BB Study	100.00	235.00
Brea	Mo 5:30 PM	Happy Hour Step study	50.00	358.00
Brea	Th 5:30 PM	Living in the Solution	110.00	480.00
Brea	Tues 530pm	Mens Stagg	140.00	280.00
Brea	Friday 8:00pm	Mens Stagg	50.00	50.00
Brea	Thurs.10:30am	step Sisters	0.00	112.00
Brea	Tues. 8:00pm	Step Study	0.00	176.40
Brea	Tu 5:30 PM	Women's 10th Step	151.20	746.39
Brea	Mo 10:00 AM	Women's Discussion	100.00	395.00
Brea	Mo 5:30 PM	Women's Happy Hour	70.00	197.00
Brea	Sa 10:30 AM	Women's Step Study	0.00	170.00
Buena Park	Fr 8:00 PM	Friday Nite Discussion	0.00	62.00
Buena Park	Mo 7:30 PM	Just for Today	0.00	20.00
Corona Del Mar	Noonatics		0.00	298.00
Cypress	Tues.730pm	Big Book Study	0.00	305.00
Cypress	Tu 5:30 PM	Happy Hour BB Study	0.00	20.00
Cypress	Fri. 8pm	Lunatic	0.00	300.00
Cypress	6pm	Spiritual Growth	0.00	228.00
Cypress	5-6pm	Sun. Happy Hour	54.00	174.00
Cypress	Monday 8pm	Topic Discussion	20.00	190.00
Cypress	Big Book Study	Tuesday 8:00pm	0.00	60.00
Cypress	Monday Night	We Agnostics	0.00	100.00
Fullertn	Wed 6:30pm	Q&A	87.00	87.00
Fullerton	Tu Night	NewcomersMtgPlace	0.00	30.00
Fullerton	Fullerton Closed wmens Hot Topic Disc.	2pm Hot Topic Womens	0.00	140.00
Fullerton	Tuesday	5.02 Discussion	0.00	30.00
Fullerton	Wed Newcomers	6:00pm Big Mlkeys houe	0.00	100.00
Fullerton	Anonymous	Anonymous	100.00	100.00
Fullerton	daily6:00AM	Att. Adjit.FAC	157.50	352.50
Fullerton	Fri. 8pm	Candlelight, FullertonAlano	0.00	60.00
Fullerton	Th 8:00 PM	Candlelight, Meeting Place	0.00	260.00
Fullerton	11:30 Tuesday am	FAC 12&12	0.00	70.00
Fullerton	7pm Tues.	FAC Participation	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fullerton	Wednesday 6pm	FAC Show up Grow up	0.00	45.52
Fullerton	We 8:00 PM	Fac Speaker Mtg.8pm	0.00	80.00
Fullerton	Sa 9:30 AM	Feelings-Fullerton Alano	0.00	20.00
Fullerton	Group X3067	Gardner	0.00	55.00
Fullerton	Mo 6:00 PM	Kats on the roof	54.00	142.00
Fullerton	Sunday Speaker Mtg.	Meeting Place	0.00	85.00
Fullerton	Monday 6pm 12x12	Meeting Place	0.00	22.00
Fullerton	Tues 6:00pm	mens big book study	100.00	100.00
Fullerton	Thurs 8:00pm	Men's Stag	1,153.99	1,638.99
Fullerton	Mo 6:00 PM	Men's Stagg	0.00	70.00
Fullerton	Wed. Night	Not in the book FAC	0.00	51.00
Fullerton	Sa 8:00 PM	Odd Fellows	0.00	240.00
Fullerton	Su PM	Participation, Wilshire	0.00	52.00
Fullerton	Fr 11:30 AM	Podium Participation	0.00	60.00
Fullerton	Sa 6:00 PM	Sat Night Live	100.00	200.00
Fullerton	Fri. 6pm	Singles 4 Sobriety	0.00	44.00
Fullerton	08:00 PM	Sunday Harley Men's Stagg	42.00	77.00
Fullerton	682742	unknown	111.67	111.67
Fullerton	Mo 6:30 PM	Women Living in the Solution	0.00	345.90
Fullerton	FAC WED 200pm	Women's Coffee Talk	70.00	286.00
Fullerton	Th 8:00 PM	Women's KISS	0.00	40.00
Fullerton0	Thursday 600pm	Womens FAC	0.00	97.25
Garden Grove	Sat.F Troop	10:30am Garden Grove	0.00	100.00
Garden Grove	Fri 630pm	Chapter nine	0.00	50.00
Garden Grove	Not taking a trip	Garden Grove	0.00	60.00
Garden Grove	Mo 8:00 PM	Serenity Girls	19.65	89.65
Garden Grove	2thru7	Step Study Sun.6pm	0.00	50.00
La Habra	Friday 7:00am	adtt.adjstmnt	0.00	100.00
La Habra	Fri. 8pm	Beginners Basic	100.00	591.00
La Habra	Th 8:00 PM	Church Participation	0.00	36.00
La Habra	Tuesday 8pm	Discussion	30.40	65.40
La Habra	Wed.730pm	Men's Stag	120.00	220.00
La Habra	Tu 8:00 PM	Participation	70.00	140.00
La Habra	Su AM	Participation	0.00	25.00
La Habra	Sun.10:30am	Participation Meeting	0.00	50.00
La Habra	Sun.7pm	Sober Sunday	150.00	360.00
La Habra	M-F 6:30 AM	Topic Discussion	80.00	80.00
La Habra	Womens 8pm	winners circle	0.00	120.00
La Habra	Sat 10:30 AM	Women's	0.00	71.13
La Habra	We 7:30 PM	Women's Participation	0.00	70.00
La Mirada	Mens	Big Book Study	0.00	60.00
La Mirada	Tues.8pm	Winners Circle	0.00	35.00
La Palma	Friday	Big Book Group	0.00	50.00
La Palma	Wed.8pm	Sold on Sobriety	0.00	33.41
Los Alamitos	Sun. 6pm	Big Book Study	0.00	90.00
Los Alamitos	ALL	Surrender is Freedom	329.00	1,457.40
Los Alamitos	Cover to Cover	Thurs nite 7pm	0.00	60.00
Los Alamitos	Sunday	Big Book Study 6-730pm	0.00	60.00
Monrovia	Basic	Beginners Basic Group	100.00	200.00
Orange	Orangeolive Tues	Noon Happy Hour Friendship	50.00	50.00

Continued on page 5

Farewell, 'Mary the Hat'

AA member recalls impact sober steward had on him

On January 6, 2010 the Lord decided to call home a very special lady. Her name was Mary B. Crowe, aka Mary the Hat. There are people in AA who stand out and are very special; Mary was one of these people. I first met Mary in 1985. I was at the Stanton Detox, as it was called at the time. That place no longer exists; it is now part of the Rocque Center.

The first Sunday I was at Stanton Detox an AA speaker was to come in and talk to us. I was told this lady was known as Mary the Hat because she always wore a hat. When I first saw her I thought I finally get to meet a lady that survived the Titanic. I swear the hat she wore could have been used as a life raft. Little did I know she would become a very dear friend and in my book a great ambassador for Alcoholics Anonymous.

As time went on, I, along with Plumber Jim and a few others, got to drive Mary to her speaking engagements. A

Thank God that we have cassette tapes and CD's of Mary speaking. She will always be in my mind and for those of us that loved her she will always be in our hearts.

lot of times I got to be her ten minute speaker. A few years back Mary asked me to join her Wandering Group meeting. The Wandering Group met each month at a different home and had a pot luck and meeting. Mary was responsible for starting several meetings in Orange County which are still going strong to this day.

Mary and I are both January babies. Mary's birthday was the 28th and mine is on the 7th. We celebrated a lot of birthdays together.

I visited Mary at her home many times and always enjoyed every moment I

was with her. Mary's greatest talent was how she cared, she didn't care if you had come from jail or Yale or how much you had or didn't have. Mary didn't care about your past, only where you are now and where you may be headed. She loved to talk about being born on a mountain top in Tennessee and her family. Every time I spoke to Mary in person or on the phone she just made my day.

Mary loved H&I and doing whatever she could for Alcoholics Anonymous. She answered phones in Central Office, volunteered for Call Forwarding and did Panels. Her AA goes on and on. Thank you Mary for being such a great ambassador for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Mary now resides with the ones that have gone on, Irish Anne, Merrill, Wilbur, Chuck H and the list goes on.

Thank God that we have cassette tapes and CD's of Mary speaking. She will always be in my mind and for those of us that loved her she will always be in our hearts.

Dave S.

Why it's Called the Big Book

A printer in Cornwall, NY, named Edward Blackwell, had been highly recommended to Bill Wilson. Blackwell was the President of Cornwall Press. So Bill and Hank Parkhurst (author of the personal story "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book) went to Cornwall to see Blackwell. There they were told that the book would probably be only about four hundred pages when printed. That seemed a bit skimpy. They wanted to sell the book for \$3.50 per copy. That was a very large sum in those days, probably the equivalent of about \$50 today, and people might not think they were getting their money's worth.

They picked the cheapest, thickest paper the printer had, and requested that each page be printed with unusually large margins surrounding the text. This made for an unusually large book. Thus, the book came to be nicknamed the "Big Book."

Blackwell had an excess of red material for the bindings, so he

offered them a special deal. Eager to save costs, Bill and Hank agreed.

A New York AA member named Ray Campbell, a recognized artist, was asked to design the dust jacket. His story, "An Artist's Concept," appears in the Big Book's first edition. He submitted various designs for consideration including one which was blue and in an Art Deco style. The one which was chosen was red, and yellow, with a little black, and a little white. The words Alcoholics Anonymous were printed across the top in large white script. It became known as the "Circus" jacket because of its loud circus colors. The unused blue jacket is today in the Archives at the Stepping Stones Foundation.

The first printing was the only one on which a red binding and the red "Circus" dust jacket was used.

All the other printings of the first edition, except for the fourth printing, were in various shades of blue. The fourth printing, due to another overstock of binding material and thus, lower cost, was bound in blue as well as in green.

Reprinted from <http://www.barefootsworld.net/aabigbook1939>.

25th Annual OCAA Convention

April 2, 3, & 4, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM

Convention will be held at the **Hilton Hotel**

3050 Bristol Street • Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/540-7000

Reserve your room early. Room Rates start @ \$129.00 • Be sure to use the Hotel Code "AAN"

SINGLE REGISTRATION OR CONTACT PERSON FOR A GROUP OF REGISTRATIONS

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Complete Address _____ Contact Phone _____

Name on Badge _____ City or Home Group _____ AA Al-Anon

REGISTRATION FOR GROUPS

Name on Badge _____ City or Home Group _____ AA Al-Anon

Name on Badge _____ City or Home Group _____ AA Al-Anon

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	Amount	Quantity	Total
Early Registration (Up to March 15, 2010)	\$17	_____	_____
Registration after March 15, 2010 and On-Site	\$20	_____	_____
Friday & Saturday Night Dance	\$7	_____	_____
Golf Tournament (Includes Registration)	\$95	_____	_____
Golf Tournament (day of event registration)	\$105	_____	_____
Al-Anon Luncheon	\$44	_____	_____
Al-Anon Luncheon (Table of 10)	\$440	_____	_____
AA Banquet/Speaker/Entertainment/Dance	\$60	_____	_____
AA Banquet (Table of 12)	\$720	_____	_____
Run/Walk (Mile Square Park)	\$10	_____	_____
Poker Run "Rods & Rides"	\$10	_____	_____
GRAND TOTAL			_____

Make checks payable to: O.C.A.A.C. • P.O. Box 987 • Anaheim, CA 92815

You MUST Be Registered To Attend Any Ticketed Events

NOTE: T-shirts are not included in any of the prices listed above. They will be available at the convention, purchased separately.

**Credit Cards may register online until March 26, 2010
at www.ocaac.org**