

# Anonymous Times

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

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March/April 2012

## Alcoholic Recalls A Sordid Drinking Career

I didn't like my first taste of alcohol. I had heard of people having problems with alcohol. My father usually had a drink after work and a couple during business dinners or evenings out. I never saw him drunk though. However, in 4th grade, after

### NEWS FLASH:

***NOC Central Office is moving April 1.***

***More on Page 3.***

the school talked to us about alcohol abuse, I informed him he might have a problem. I figured I'd never have that problem, as the taste was awful, even beer or wine tasted horrible to me, (although Manishevitz was OK, since they gave us a thimbleful on religious holidays).

My father was one of those successful self-made men, who started from nothing and became very successful. He was a source of strength and guidance for our very traditional family.

At a hotel lobby on a business trip, he told me that everyone feels fear, ***Continued on page 10***

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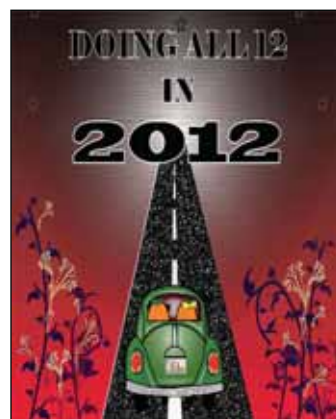
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## 27<sup>th</sup> AA Convention Set for April 6-8

*Doing all 12 in 2012 is theme of event*

Miracles are commonplace at AA conventions.

My name is Cindy W. and I am an alcoholic. I am also the 27th Chairman of the Orange County AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation. My very first convention was at four years sobriety.



I never knew sober alcoholics could have so much fun or that so many could be in one place at one time. This convention is a very big part of my recovery. I have been involved with OCAAC for 16 years. The first convention I attended, Kirk said to me "stay close, There will be a lot of people." I was amazed at how many people were there.

A lady, Barbara, said she had seen me since early sobriety. ***Continued on page 2***

## North Orange County Central Office

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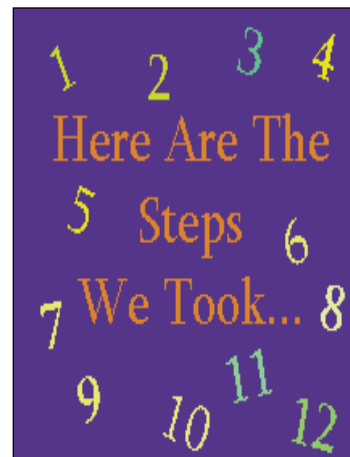
## North Orange County Central Office Year to Date December 2011 vs. December 2010

Revenue	Y-T-D Dec. 2011	Y-T-D Dec. 2010
Total AA Sales	\$36,655.08	\$39,723.58
Total Non-AA Sales	\$31,377.77	\$28,611.36
Total Donations and Fund-Raisers	\$54,064.97	\$59,197.20
Rental Income - Suite C	\$131.13	\$-
Interest	\$96.00	\$240.41
Total Revenue	\$122,324.95	\$127,772.55
Total Cost of Sales & Direct Costs	\$42,814.49	\$49,060.05
Gross Profit	\$79,510.46	\$78,712.50
Operating Expenses		
Salaries	\$38,912.50	\$39,600.00
Advertising	\$-	\$-
Bank Charges	\$229.32	\$131.00
Bad Checks	\$-	\$242.22
Cash short\over	\$224.56	\$(21.22)
Computer Expenses	\$541.06	\$-
Depreciation	\$258.01	\$429.72
Insurance-General Liability	\$2,482.76	\$2,163.51
Insurance - Work Comp	\$4,150.97	\$2,378.56
Insurance - Medical	\$2,830.00	\$3,186.00
Interest Expense	\$-	\$9.86
Legal & Accounting	\$1,900.00	\$2,100.00
Licenses	\$-	\$20.00
Newsletter Cost	\$2,276.78	\$2,172.27
Office Supplies	\$3,359.60	\$4,138.16
Postage	\$30.00	\$171.11
Penalties-Tax Payments/Filings	\$126.67	\$351.85
Rent-Office Space	\$18,600.00	\$18,600.00
Rental of Equipment	\$1,208.42	\$1,796.51
Repairs & Maintenance	\$185.09	\$-
Seminars & Education	\$-	\$1,455.11
Taxes- Payroll	\$3,193.69	\$3,155.21
Taxes- Annual Filings	\$60.00	\$60.00
Telephone	\$4,209.88	\$3,308.23
Utilities	\$2,354.61	\$2,278.15
Total Operating Expense	\$87,133.92	\$87,726.25
Other Income and Expense	\$-	\$-
Net Income/(Loss)	\$(7,623.46)	\$(9,013.75)

### Convention ... From Page 1

She picked me up above her head, high in the air because she was so happy to see me. From that moment on, I was hooked.

There are miracles everywhere. Everyone there is a miracle but there are those that stand out to you. We get to see the newest newcomer and the oldest old timer and the many miracles in between. One of my miracles is a lady I sponsored for a while. I hadn't seen her for about



5 years, and thought she was dead due to this disease. A few of us were sitting at breakfast at the hotel when I saw a lady running toward me and screaming my name. I looked up to see that it was her, clear eyed and sober. Mind you, the last time I saw her she was yellow and could barely walk. At the time that I ran into her she had six months sobriety and was thanking me for planting the seed.

My second miracle is a woman named "Grateful". I took her to her first convention. Her kids met up with us, and now they have the bug. One daughter is the AI-Anon co chair for the OCAAC.

This convention would not be as successful as it is if it weren't for the participation of AI-Anon. They are a big part of this annual event. This is a family disease. Not only is it the participation of AI-Anon vital to our success but also AOCYPAA, All Orange County Young People In Alcoholics Anonymous, The convention also owes a lot of its success to AOCYPAA, as well. We enjoy having the different groups coming together and working as one to bring Orange County an amazing convention.

There is so much fun to be had at the convention. Part of the fun is due to the comradery that develops when everyone comes together. People that haven't seen each other for many years can reunite. We offer marathon meetings around the clock from Noon Friday to 9 AM on Sunday. A golf tournament is held on Friday, which is a great way to get some sun and some fresh air. A great way to burn off all the Starbucks and monsters is

*Continued on page 3*

# Being of Service Helps You More Than the Other Guy

How many times has a sponsor or some "old timer" hit us with "be of service" or "Get out of yourself"? My sponsors have told me that often. And I am glad they never stopped saying it.

Oftentimes I think that I am providing some sort of commodity. The truth is that I am the recipient of the goodwill of others. When I work with others, my situation improves every time.

A few months ago my sponsor at the time was dying and I knew that it was inevitable that I was going to have get a replacement. I was not ready to do that; I loved that old man. He had steered me through some really hard times. I didn't want to bail out on him as he never gave up on me. I am blessed with the opportunity to go "speak" here and there at meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous (or on panels through the Hospitals & Institutions Committee). While I enjoy these sort of commitments, it is not always convenient. Before my sponsor got sick, I had the honor of going out to a meeting in Upland on a Tuesday night. I thought to myself, "This would be after work, there would be much traffic driving there, blah blah, blah." At this meeting I struck up a friendship with the secretary. One day during my sponsor's illness, I was just not having a good time of it, didn't want to talk directly to anybody, but I did feel the need for human contact. I sent out a generic text to several people using my cell phone. My secretary friend responded and asked how I was doing. I responded with the truth. We went back and forth all day. The short version of the story is that everything worked out okay. I kept that sponsor to the end.

In a couple of places in our Big Book, it mentions that home

is often the hardest place to work the AA program. I tend to agree. I have a 21-year-old daughter and so let's just leave it at that.

A couple weeks ago I was asked to represent H&I at the GSR meeting. To be honest, I didn't want to go but I do have a responsibility to the H&I group so I went. Aside from the fact that the GSR folks were simply wonderful people, one of my friends was there representing another service arm. We got to talking, this man is 10 to 15 years older than me and sober about 10 years longer than I am. He has more experience than I do. Somehow family came up and I told him what was going on at my house. Looking back I was playing the "victim". He tactfully let me know that a couple days later. I began cleaning my side of the street immediately after that talk.

Lastly, I get to go to the California Institution for Men in Chino once a month. The fruits of our labor are not always immediately apparent when you go to a place like that. A couple of months ago I got to tag along with a couple of real service-oriented men to pick a guy up at the gate of the prison. I knew this fellow from the meetings inside the prison. It is nice to see a man not in "prison blues." We dropped him off at a recovery center. A couple of the other men kept working with him. I bumped into this guy at a meeting a couple times and it would be good to see him still "on the beam."

In February we held a fund raiser to support the 2012 H&I Conference, and who do you think I saw there? You guessed it: the guy I got to see in the prison. This guy was enthused about his new found direction in life. He actually helped out at the fund raiser. In short order, he was being "of service."

So I am thankful to those old guys that have and continue to ask me to help save my own life.

*Paul P.  
Fullerton*

## Convention ... From Page 1

the walk/run on Saturday morning. There is a poker run on Saturday morning as well, which allows for a nice drive through the O.C. We also have Workshops, a movie room with free popcorn. Also there is an archives room that displays books and other mementos that tell the history of AA and the OCAAC.

Don't forget, there are Friday and Saturday night dances, an Al-Anon luncheon and A.A. banquet with a speaker and entertainment. The entertainment this year for the banquet is Hollywood U2. Not only are there marathon meetings, but there are special speaker meetings as well. Don't miss the closing meeting with the sobriety countdown. So, as you can see, there is no time for boredom at the Convention.

The Costa Mesa Hilton Has treated us like family and looks forward to our visit every year. Since my second convention, I have stayed at the hotel and it is way more fun that way. It makes me feel like I am not missing a thing.

Much more information about the convention, including pre-registration discounts, are available at event web site, <http://registration.ocaac.org/index>.

Perhaps the greatest miracle of all that comes from participating in the convention is sobriety. People who suit up and show up tend to enjoy continuous sobriety. So please join us for a weekend of fun and service April 6th, 7th and 8th. Maybe you can find your next miracle.

In Love and Service

*Cindy W.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Women's Dinner Is Set for April 28

Rocketed into a Four Dimension is the theme of the 15th Annual NOCAA Women's Banquet, to be held Saturday, April 28 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the Santa Elks Lodge, 212 Elk Lane in Santa Ana.

Women from all 12 step groups are welcome to the event, which will feature dinner, speaker meeting and raffle. Tickets to the event are \$30 and can be purchased by sending a check to P.O. Box 771, Fullerton, CA 92836. Call Tara E. at (714) 931-7755 or Whitney S. at (714) 457-4596 for more information.

### Tri-State Round-Up Will Be May 17-20

The 28th Annual Tri-State Round-Up will be held Thursday May 17 to Sunday, May 20 at the Riverside Resort & Casino in Laughlin, Nevada.

The four-day event will feature 24-hour marathon meetings, AA and Al-Anon archives, an ice cream social, Mardi Gras Costume Dinner and speaker meeting on Friday, a Saturday night banquet and speaker meeting, a Sunday morning breakfast and many other sober activities.. Hotel discounts are available for Tri-State attendees. Additional discount is available for those who register online. Visit [www.tristate-roundup.com](http://www.tristate-roundup.com) for complete details and to register.

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## 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.
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Long Beach	Nite Owls 10:30 p.m.	4019 E. 4th St.
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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

### March

Sat., March 17 **SoCal H&I Conference St. Patrick's Day FUNraiser** with guest speaker John McA (formerly Fr. John); Rancho Senior Center, 3 Ethel Coplen Way, Irvine. Doors open at 5 p.m. Irish dinner at 5:30 p.m. Speaker meeting at 6:30 p.m. Silent Auction & 50/50 raffle. 2 professional chefs cooking. Call Cheri at (714) 552-0597 for tickets and more information.

Sat., March 24 **South Orange County 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off**; St. George's church, 23802 Avenida De La Carlota, Laguna Hills, 92653; 10 a.m.- 1 a.m. (Cook-off, AA speaker meeting, dance, talent show & awards); call Patty O. @ (949) 637-5499 for more information.

### April

Fri., April 13-Sun, April 15 - **31st Annual H&I Conference**, Bahia Resort, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109. Call Diana A. (858) 673-0844, Jose Luis A. (619) 948-0638 (Spanish) or Rodger P. (661) 904-9540 (Al-Anon) for more information. [www.socalhandi.org](http://www.socalhandi.org)

Fri., April 20-Sun., April 22; **Experience, Strength and HOPE a Spiritual Retreat for Men and Women**. Facilitator: John McAndrew. El Carmelo Retreat House, 926 Highland Ave., Redlands, CA 92373. Call retreat coordinator Dave C. at (562) 697-8620 or area captain Fred L. at (213) 361-9669 for more information. [davechris@dslextreme.com](mailto:davechris@dslextreme.com).

Fri., April 27-Sun.-April 29- 24th Indian Wells Valley Round-Up; Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Ridgecrest, CA. Contact: Su T. at [wa\\_red38@yahoo.com](mailto:wa_red38@yahoo.com) for more information.

Sat., April 28 **15th Annual NOCAA Women's Banquet**; Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 212 Elk Lane, Santa Ana. Dinner, speaker meeting, raffle. 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. For tickets or more information, call Tara E. at (714) 931-7755 or Whitney S. at (714) 457-4596.

## BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Paul H. ↔ 16 years

Lloyd F. ↔ 12 years

Dede S. ↔ 7 years

Linda D. ↔ 6 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. Email: [officemanager@aanoc.com](mailto:officemanager@aanoc.com).

## Central Office News

### **NOC Central Office Is Moving!**

Effective April 1, 2012, North Orange County Central Office will be located at 1661 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. The new location is at the northwest corner of Chapman and Acacia Avenue.

Unfortunately, the new office does not have space available for meetings. We would like to thank all those who have held their meetings in the small office next door to our current location. It has been a pleasure to serve as host these past few months.

Call NOC Central Office at (714) 773-4357 for more information.

### **Call for Volunteers!**

Central Office took 773 phone calls in November and December.

409 were from men  
364 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>March 11 and April 8</b>	<b>NOCPIC</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY</b> <b>March 14 and April 11</b>	<b>INTERGROUP</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY</b> <b>March 14 and April 11</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER MEETING</b> <b>Next meeting</b> <b>May 12, 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</p> <p>1111 E. Commonwealth, Ste. D, 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**

### St. Jude Speaker Meeting Relocates

A speaker meeting held Fridays at 8 p.m. at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton has relocated to St Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Ave., Fullerton, 92835. The new location is only a short distance away, at the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue.

The gathering, now known as the Top of the Hill Speaker Meeting, will continue to be held every Friday at 8 p.m.

### 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 1111 E. Commonwealth, Suite D., Fullerton, CA 92831

# 2011 Year End Meeting Donations

City	Day	Meeting	Total
		130230	20.00
		639043	77.48
		648647	141.80
		655749	72.00
Anaheim	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Western Medical	415.00
Anaheim	Sunday 8 p.m.	Fireside Speaker	430.00
Anaheim	Monday 5:30 p.m.	Primary Purpose	350.00
Anaheim	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	Women's 6th & 7th St Std	25.00
Anaheim	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	12 & 12 - Oasis House	70.00
Anaheim	Wednesday 6 p.m.	Victor House - Fireside	110.00
Anaheim	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Mens Ball Rd. Discussion	110.36
Anaheim	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	Men's we got a coffeepot	210.00
Anaheim	Friday 6:30 p.m.	Gratitude is an Action	560.00
Anaheim	Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Big Book Study	60.00
Anaheim	Saturday 8:00 p.m.	Free Spirit of Recover Spk	20.00
Anaheim Hills	Monday 7:00 p.m.	Exp/Str/Hope - Wom - Kais	497.00
Anaheim Hills	Monday 7:00 p.m.	Men's - Kaiser	347.24
Anaheim Hills	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Women's Big Book & Step	162.00
Anaheim Hills	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	12/12 Step Study (Kaiser)	140.00
Anaheim Hills	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Lakeview Women's Big Bk	299.05
Anaheim Hills	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Big Book Study	97.05
Anaheim Hills	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Women's Solution	142.80
Anaheim Hills	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Men's Stag, Kaiser	180.00
Anaheim Hills	Friday 8 p.m.	Young People's Disc.	210.00
Anaheim Hills	Saturday 8:30 a.m.	It's In The Book	340.00
Anaheim Hills	Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Winner's Circle	240.00
Brea	10 AM	Joe and Charlie workshop	100.00
Brea	Monday 10 a.m.	Women's Discussion	916.78
Brea	Monday 5:30 p.m.	Happy Hour Step Study	770.00
Brea	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	Mens Stag	321.10
Brea	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	Women's 10th Step	620.85
Brea	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Step Study	50.00
Brea	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	As Bill Sees It	708.56
Brea	Thursday 10:30 a.m.	Step Sisters	277.75
Brea	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	Living in the Solution	584.98
Brea	Friday 5:30 p.m.	Big Book Study	186.00
Brea	Friday 8 p.m.	Men's	127.00
Brea	Saturday 10:30 a.m.	Women's Step Study	387.50
Buena Park	Monday 6 p.m.	Now There Is Hope	41.28
Cypress	Monday 8 p.m.	Topic Discussion	120.00
Cypress	Tuesday 6 p.m.	Happy Hour BB Study	360.00
Cypress	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Big Book Study	180.00
Cypress	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	Book Study	90.50
Cypress	Friday 8 p.m.	Lunatic	120.00
Cypress	Friday 7 p.m.	Girls Night Out	108.50
Cypress	Saturday 7:30 p.m.	Cypress Topic	10.00
Fullerton	6 a.m. - All	Attitude Adjustment - FAC	810.00

City	Day	Meeting	Total
Fullerton	Sun 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Speaker	168.50
Fullerton	Sun 5 p.m.	Participation, Wilshire	100.00
Fullerton	Sun 8 p.m.	Wilshire Group	194.20
Fullerton	Sun 8 p.m.	Harley Men's Stag	25.00
Fullerton	Monday 6:00 p.m.	Monday Night Men's Stag @FAC	150.00
Fullerton	Monday 6:00 p.m.	Big Book Study	100.00
Fullerton	Monday 6:00 p.m.	Cats on the roof	122.64
Fullerton	Monday 6.30 p.m.	Mens Lemon at Wilshire	40.00
Fullerton	Monday 8.00 p.m.	Women Living in the Solution	60.00
Fullerton	Tuesday 1:30 p.m.	H.O.W. Women's	70.00
Fullerton	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Men's AA Stag - Mo's Music	300.00
Fullerton	Wednesday 2:00 p.m.	Women's Coffee Talk - FAC	249.00
Fullerton	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	Sober Horse Thieves	166.00
Fullerton	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Speaker Mtg. - FAC	200.00
Fullerton	Thursday 6 p.m.	24 Hours A Day	62.00
Fullerton	Thursday 6 p.m.	Men's Stag - FAC	50.00
Fullerton	Thursday 8 p.m.	Women's KISS	60.00
Fullerton	Thursday 8 p.m.	We Got a Coffee Pot	35.00
Fullerton	Thursday 8 p.m.	Men's Participation - Mo's	740.00
Fullerton	Friday 6 p.m.	Singles 4 Sobriety	70.00
Fullerton	Friday 8 p.m.	St. Jude Speaker	187.00
Fullerton	Saturday 11:30 a.m.	Morning Misfits	20.00
Fullerton	Saturday 6 p.m.	Saturday Night Live	128.00
Fullerton	Saturday 8 p.m.	Odd Fellows	320.00
Garden Grove	Thursday 6 p.m.	Returning Home Vets	20.00
Garden Grove		Garden Grove	50.00
Garden Grove	Sunday 10 a.m.	Speaker Meeting	60.00
Garden Grove	Sunday 6 p.m.	Ch 2-7 Big Book Study	20.00
Garden Grove	Monday 12 p.m.	Serenity Hall	98.00
Garden Grove	Monday 8 p.m.	Serenity Girls	12.00
Garden Grove	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Not Taking A Trip	100.00
Laguna Nig	Sunday 7 a.m.	Back to Basics - Men's	148.00
La Habra			25.00
La Habra	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Participation Meeting	200.00
La Habra	Sunday 7 p.m.	Sober Sunday	110.00
La Habra	M-F 6:30 a.m.	Topic Discussion	60.00
La Habra	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Fireside Greenwood M.	100.00
La Habra	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Discussion	35.30
La Habra	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Men's Stag	180.00
La Habra	Friday 9 p.m.	Beginners Basic Group	550.00
La Mirada	Sunday 8 p.m.	Men's Big Book Study	351.76
La Mirada	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Winners Circle	80.00
Los Alamitos	ALL - 7 a.m.	Surrender is Freedom	1650.00
Los Alamitos	Sunday 4 p.m.	Topic Discuss - Twin Town	215.50
Los Alamitos	Sunday 6 p.m.	Big Book Study	180.00
Orange	M-F 5:30 p.m.	Tustin Rush Hour	300.00

## 2011 Year-End Meeting Donations (continued)

City	Day	Meeting	Total
Orange	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Attitude Adj. - Friends Club	355.00
Orange	Monday 6:30 a.m.	Taking Care of Business	352.00
Orange	Tuesday 6:30 a.m.	Doughnut Meeting	87.50
Orange	Tuesday 12 p.m.	Discussion	50.00
Orange	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Discussion	40.00
Orange	Wednesday 6:30 a.m.	Early Bird Discussion	60.00
Orange	Wednesday 11 a.m.	Open 12 Step - Kaiser	105.00
Orange	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Easy Does It	695.00
Orange	Thursday 6:30 a.m.	Early Bird Discussion	70.00
Orange	Thursday 11 a.m.	Women's 12x12 Stp Stn	701.00
Orange	Thursday 12 p.m.	Discussion	70.00
Orange	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	Rush Hour	100.00
Orange	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Mens Big Book Study	630.00
Orange	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	Mens All About Me	100.00
Orange	Friday 6:30 a.m.	Smashing Donuts	243.14
Orange	Friday 8 p.m.	Rush Hour, Friend Club	270.00
Orange	Friday 5:30 p.m.	No Puffer's Speaker	300.00
Orange	Saturday 7 p.m.	Not a Glum Lot	164.00
Orange	Saturday 10 p.m.	Candlelite	50.00
Placentia	Sun 8:30 a.m.	Right Start	462.90
Placentia	Sun 7:30 p.m.	Placentia Sunday Night	125.00
Placentia	Monday 6:30 p.m.	Beginners' Sober Start	160.00
Placentia	Monday 8 p.m.	Unmanageables	160.00
Villa Park	ALL 6 a.m.	Attitude Modification	15.00
Villa Park	ALL 7:30 a.m.	24 Hr. Book Group	138.20
Villa Park	Friday 12p.m.	Women's Big Book Study	5.00
Whittier	Sun 8 p.m.	Sunday Night	25.00
Whittier	Monday 7 p.m.	Attitude Adjustment	15.00
Whittier	Monday 7 a.m.	As Bill Sees It	50.00
Whittier	Tuesday 7 p.m.	No Nonsense 12 x 12	60.00
Whittier	Wednesday	Shepard of the Hills Particip	70.00
Whittier	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Women's Winners	60.00
Whittier	Thursday 6 p.m.	The Den Book Study	139.00
Whittier	Thursday 8 p.m.	Happy Hour Big Book	50.00
Whittier	Friday 7 a.m.	Attitude Adjustment	18.00
Whittier	Friday 7 p.m.	Big Book Study	25.00
Whittier	Saturday 8 a.m.	12 x 12 Study	10.00
Whittier	Saturday 10:30 a.m.	Women's Acceptance	232.50
Whittier	Saturday 7:30 p.m.	Saturday Speaker	70.00
Yorba Linda	ALL 6 a.m.	Attitude Modification	9524.53
Yorba Linda	Monday 12 p.m.	Step Study	259.60
Yorba Linda	Monday 8 p.m.	Yorba Linda Liverpool	50.00
Yorba Linda	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Nazarene Womens Tuesday	140.00
Yorba Linda	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Ohio Street Winners	350.00
Yorba Linda	Wednesday 12 p.m.	Noontimers	1180.84
Yorba Linda	Thursday 8 p.m.	We Got a Coffee Pot	164.29
Yorba Linda	Thursday 8 p.m.	YL Participation	720.00

City	Day	Meeting	Total
Yorba Linda	Friday 12 p.m.	Daily Reflections	170.00
Yorba Linda	Friday 5:30 p.m.	Happy Hour Big Book	92.00
Yorba Linda	Friday 8 p.m.	Ohio Winners	425.00
Yorba Linda	Saturday 8 p.m.	YL Liverpool Speaker	106.00

**Your support is vital! Contribute  
to your meetings. Support North  
Orange County Central Office!**

**Support Your Meetings!**  
If your meeting is not listed here, see your meeting secretary about making a donation to North Orange County Central Office.

### Suggested Donations

- ✓ **70% N.O.C. CENTRAL OFFICE:**  
1111 Commonwealth, Suites C&D, Fullerton, CA 92831
- ✓ **20% GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE:**  
Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- ✓ **10% MID-SO. CAL AREA #9:**  
P.O. Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619
- ✓ **OPTIONAL 5% Local District Office or Hospitals & Institutions**

See page 67 of the Orange County Meeting Directory for more information. Please include the following important information when submitting your group donation: Full Meeting Name, Day, Time and City. Please include your name and return address so we can mail you a receipt.



# SPEAKER MEETINGS: MARCH/APRIL 2012

Anonymous Times would like to publish your list of speakers for May/June 2012.  
Deadline for publication is April 15, 2012. Email: [aaletters@gmail.com](mailto:aaletters@gmail.com).

Friday 8 p.m.	St. Pauls Church ( <i>Formerly St. Jude Speaker</i> ) 111 W Las Palmas Ave Fullerton Ca 92835	Saturday 8 p.m.	Liverpool Speaker 4861 Liverpool @ Yorba Linda Blvd
March 2	Shelley R., Seal Beach	March 3	Jamie F., Fullerton
March 9	Samantha, Long Beach	March 10	TBD
March 16	Doug S., Long Beach	March 17	Bud S., Placentia
March 23	TBA	March 24	Mickey C., Downey
March 30	Josh B., Brea	March 31	Nick M., Anaheim
April 6	TBA	April 7	Plumber Jim
April 13	Joe D., Fullerton	April 14	TBD
April 20	Rob H., Yorba Linda	April 21	Deborah H., Villa Park
April 27	Tom H., Laguna Beach	April 28	TBD
Friday 8 p.m.	Downtown Speakers (1 Hour) 109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92632 (1st Christian Church)	Sunday <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Fullerton Alano Center 530 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton
March 9	Steve M., Fullerton	March 4	Jackie B., Covina
March 16	Michael O, Newport	March 11	Derek S., Laguna Beach
March 23	Paula P, Brea	March 18	Jeanne A., Encino
March 30	Larry, Moreno Valley	March 25	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
April 6	David B	April 1	Ron S., Huntington Beach
April 13	Big Dan	April 8	Jack G., Huntington Beach
April 20	Liz K., Anaheim	April 15	Emily C., Lakewood
April 27	Fernando H, Fullerton	April 22	Roman C., San Dimas
Friday 8 p.m.	La Habra Speaker 631 North Euclid St., La Habra, CA 90631	April 29	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
March 2	Angie , Seal Beach	Sunday	Fireside Speaker Meeting
March 9	Bob L., Glendale	8 p.m.	641 S. Western Ave. Anaheim CA 92804
March 16	Armando M., Fullerton		<i>Hear a great speaker every Sunday share about sobriety.</i>
March 23	Aydin, Long Beach	Sunday	Western Medical Center
March 30	Frank M., Lake Forest	10:30 a.m.	1025 South Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92805
April 6	Al R., Lawndale	March 4	Carlos I., GG
April 13	Jimmy M., Alta Dena	March 11	Crash (Jeff) M., HB
April 20	Duane I., Placentia	March 11	Greg B., Fullerton
April 27	Bill W., Yorba Linda	March 25	Danny F., Corona
Friday 8 p.m.	No Puffers Speaker 395 S. Tustin St., Orange	April 1	Daniel R., Anaheim
March 2	Rosanne St Q., Costa Mesa	April 8	TBD
March 9	Mary O., Laguna Niguel	April 15	Sammy C., Fullerton
March 16	Heather V., Rockmoore	April 22	Theresa G., Yorba Linda
March 23	Wright N., Tustin	April 29	Darrel H.
March 30	Vaun I., Tustin	Wednesday	Fullerton Alano Center
April 6	No Meeting, Good Friday	8 p.m.	530 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton
April 13	Terry P., Los Alamitos	March 7	Megan
April 20	Shannon S., Garden Grove	March 14	Roger
April 27	Marty R., Anaheim	March 21	Grant
Saturday 8 p.m.	Visiting Speakers 1221 Wass St., Tustin (St. Paul's Church)	March 28	Fred L.
March 3	Billy S., Tustin	April 4	John
March 10	Rich W., Fullerton	April 4	Greg S.
March 17	Leslie B., Fullerton	April 18	Tracy.
March 24	Matt W., Riverside	April 25	Dave S.
March 31	Wendy A., Santa Ana	Thursday	Pioneer Speaker
April 7	Vaun I., Tustin	8 p.m.	202 W. Broadway, Anaheim
April 14	Joe C., San Juan Capistrano	March 1	Paula, Woodglen Recovery Center
April 21	Judy J., San Juan Capistrano	March 8	Lily, Brea
April 28	Kirk W., Westminster	March 15	Dave D., Garden Grove
Saturday 8 p.m.	Oddfellows Speaker 109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92632	March 22	Nick M., Santa Ana
March 3	<b>NO MEETING</b>	March 29	Charlene, Anaheim
March 10	Steve B.	April 5	John M., Fullerton
March 17	Paula S.	April 12	Leah G, Hollywood
March 24	Walt E.	April 19	Joe B., Brea
March 31	Meredith D	April 26	Doug S., Orange
April 7	Chris H.		
April 14	Kate P.		
April 21	Dale R.		
April 28	Dave T.		



## Attending Meetings While Out of Town

My name is Ryan and I'm a member of Alcoholics Anonymous who lives in Orange, California. Since I've been sober, I've been privileged to attend numerous meetings outside of my local area. More often than not, I try to attend meetings while out of town. I look forward to hearing new stories; meeting new people and seeing recovery take place in places that are new to me.

The first year I got sober I remember being out of town to take my continuous 90 days of sobriety chip. I ended up traveling with family to Las Vegas, Nevada. The chip I took in Las Vegas was especially special because it was not the standard green sobriety chip that I received when I returned back home. At this particular Alano club for people that were taking chips under 1 year, which in my case was me; they actually gave us poker chips. Although it probably saved the club money to hand out poker chips instead of the standard chips we purchase at our local central office, there was a reason behind the significance of what the poker chip represented in terms of recovery.

I remember the man who handed out chips explained that in early days of sobriety, we come in and we are irritable and discontented. The longer

we stick around, we then begin to feel better. (As you read this, try to picture what a poker chip feels like.) He said that the outer edge of the poker chip is rough and that relates to being new, hence irritable and discontented. He further said that we want to strive toward the center of the chip because the center of the poker chip is smooth and not as rough as the outer part. I thought that was a great analogy for those early days in my recovery. To this day, I still have that red poker chip. I've been sober for over 6 years now, attend meetings regularly and so far that was the only time I've been witness to where poker chips were handed out. Then again, I haven't been back to Las Vegas since I took my 90 days, either.

I've also been to meetings in New York City; Portland, Oregon; and Scottsdale, Arizona.

The most intimate and special meeting that I attended on the road wasn't actually on the road. Right at about 9 months of my sobriety, I booked a cruise to Jamaica and the Grand Caiman Islands. Before booking the trip, I made absolute certain with the cruise line that AA meetings were offered on a daily basis. Each and every day of that week long cruise we received this itinerary of what was being offered. It

was like a daily agenda of things you could choose to do while aboard the ship. Printed on there was a meeting titled "Friends of Bill W." There was this small room that we used to have our meetings. As you looked out the window of the cabin, you could see the ocean. It was absolutely gorgeous. There we were out in the middle of the ocean, having a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous with people from all over the United States. We shared our stories of what brought us to AA and how we managed to stay sober while on a cruise ship that was loaded with alcohol. I will never forget those meetings we had.

So if you're out there and you're on the road or simply out of town, go find a meeting to attend. If you don't, you're really selling yourself short. Of course I can't tell you I remember all the meetings that I attend where I'm from, but I've definitely remembered the ones I've attended when I've been outside of the Orange County area. As our book reads, "We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you – until then."

*Ryan  
Orange County*

### Alcoholism ... From Page 1

but that the challenge is to move through it. What I got from this is that alcohol was a great thing, as he had never exhibited any fear or lack of confidence, only strength.

Yet, in that era, it was grass and psychedelics that were the focus of young people. I first inhaled around 19 years of age, and thought myself conservative, as most of my friends had already been "getting high," sometimes for years. It was an era in which no one over 30 was to be trusted. We were exploring the final frontier, that frontier of consciousness. "Turn on, tune

in, drop out" was our mantra. We read Carlos Castañeda and his peyote smoking brujo, Don Juan, John Lilly, and his experiments with LSD, and listened to music that extolled the virtues of expanding consciousness. Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds and Mellow Yellow were among the tunes on our Hit Parade. "Easy Rider" and "The Trip" were our among the flicks we watched on the silver screen.

Over time, as I graduated from college and started working, I drifted

*Continued on page 11*

## Alcoholism ... From Page 1

from my friends, and I thought the drug experimentation was a rite of passage that I had outgrown. Alcohol, of course, was everywhere. Even my sainted mother drank an occasional cup of wine, and since I had that original dislike of it, I never worried about having problems with it.

Being single, it really wasn't much of a problem. I spent money until it was gone, then went without until next paycheck. Eventually, I felt myself floundering and having relationship problems. And somehow I ended up in an AA meeting. Not knowing what to expect, I brought a notebook and two pencils, in case one broke. I was confident that whatever was offered there, I was going to get an "A" in half the time. (The two pencils were for Murphy's law, I was prepared to get on with it, no excuses!!) I had to make up for lost time spent in bars, watching strippers and throwing my money away!

I'll never forget the incredible, horrendous shock, when I heard what AA was about! I had assumed it was going to teach me how to drink responsibly -- never to mix drinks, what supplements to take, eat vegetables, never drink before a certain hour etc. The horrendous shock was twofold. One, they expected one to never ever drink again! Two, they mentioned the word God and even prayed.

The idea of never drinking had never occurred to me, as I didn't have a problem; I was just a tad self-indulgent, I reasoned. But the idea of God was even worse. Considering myself educated, modern, and well read, the talk of God was just an idea from a bygone era and beneath such a smart, well- educated, modern guy like myself. Humility was not my problem!

There was something I responded to positively; but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. That this AA was all or nothing was a real shock. I wasn't ready for all, that was for sure. I have regrets, not from my drinking and using, but from not listening with an open mind and heart at that time. My ego was still in control. After the meeting, I talked to a guy, and he handed me the 20 question test. Some questions, I wasn't sure how to answer, so I answered in the positive. For example, it asked about blackouts, but I didn't know what they were. Sometimes, I didn't remember things, so I marked yes. I could always go back and change it.

My score was too high to change enough questionable answers in an honest manner and still come out OK. "I still don't think I'm an alcoholic," I told him. I'd never being divorced, and had only two romantic relationships and though I never had been fired, since I worked for my Dad, had never been in trouble with the law, outside of a few tickets. (In those days, cops were more lenient regarding in DUI's.) So while I may have been stopped a time or two, they never cited me. "Maybe you're not," he said. "Why don't you go out and try it some more?" Something inside knew the game was over. No longer did I walk in ignorance,

but rebellion and my ego refused to let go. Over the following decades, I went in and out many times, sometimes voluntarily. But more often by orders from the courts, probation department, or parole officers. But I never say I relapsed, because in truth, I always had a foot outside.

But years later, I sensed the end of my life. Now, I always knew that life was finite, but this time, I had a real palpable sense of it. And it wasn't so much that I was afraid of dying, but of what I would leave behind. My kids would say, "Yeah, my dad was an alcoholic, and he died of alcoholism." And that was pretty much it. Then I, perhaps for the very first time, made a commitment to stop for good. And to my great shock, I now found that I couldn't, no matter what I tried. All the information that I'd heard for decades in AA had finally come true. It WAS progressive. I couldn't quit by myself. Only then did I, one more time, step into the rooms of AA committed to live a black and white life in this Technicolor world.

That which repelled me now attracted me. The fact that it was a "we" program (for I accepted I was now powerless) and one in which prayers are a lifeline. The word God (or at that time, Higher Power) did not repel me, for I was nothing without a Higher Power. So there was something for me here after all. My ego had been squashed, my pride gone, and desperation had come. I was finally teachable.

The journey has been quite fulfilling, despite life on life's terms challenges. Now I truly know what gratitude is. My life has become "real" and full of color and joy and surprises. I've reconnected with my family, and it feels like for the first time, we really have a family, in the sense of love, responsibility and commitment. I've made good friends that I don't have to lie to or impress. Rather than finding sobriety joyless, it feels like, for the first time, that I've found life itself. Driven by a thousand forms of fear that pierced the fabric of my soul, I had been missing out on the most precious thing that God gave me, which is life itself, an abundant life.

Drinking isn't much of an issue any more. I have no desire most of the time, and I have that sense of sanity that tells me, "I know it's not for me anymore." Not that I take it for granted, I wake up every morning and pray for sobriety and to be grateful for being sober, as that's the foundation for finding God and my life. I have no regrets, except perhaps one: for not getting sober sooner.

I still have that palpable sense of the ending of life, but instead of desperation, it gives every moment a sense of preciousness. And when the time comes, I know I'll still be extremely grateful to have surrendered and to have a real life. My regret over not getting sober earlier is quickly replaced with gratitude for today, as it's always about today and always will be.

*Joe D., Fullerton*

# A Purpose Revealed

## *Alcoholic finds himself right where God wanted*

My home group makes a monthly trip up to skid row to carry a message of hope, and anyone who spends any time on the frontlines of alcoholism knows how beneficial to their own sobriety it can be to see those still suffering. Being newly sober, it's something I rather enjoy and the upcoming trip was to be no exception... or so I thought. Getting off of work in time turned out great. Making it home in time worked out great. Then the carpool plans started to fall apart. My confirmed ride had to work late. Then someone else already left the area. Then yet another person was already en route to downtown L.A. Disappointment set in as I realized my plans were really expectations quickly falling through my hands.

"Well that's fine," I thought. "Guess I better accept it."

But something told me that God wanted me somewhere on this night and sitting home was not the place He wanted me to be. After flipping through a directory, a speaker meeting a few miles away seemed like a safe bet. As I walked out the door,

my mother, not an alcoholic nor a fan of AA for that matter, inquired as to where I was headed. As I told her, the words "Do you want to go?" inadvertently blurted out of my mouth. To my surprise, she said yes. Now, she has never been to a meeting before, never drank or done any other substances and to be honest, does not like Alcoholics Anonymous or understand in the least why spending my time with other alcoholics is crucial to my sobriety.

On the way there my expectations were running rampant. The meeting better be great...the speaker better be great...blah blah blah. The words, "Thy Will Be Done" brought me some reassurance, but the fact my mom was willing to show an interest in what was keeping her youngest son sober was good enough for me. Things could not have gone better. Walking up to the room, the sound of laughter and the sight of happy, friendly faces truly put my mind at ease. The humor and friendliness of our fellowship made an instant impression, and soon my mom was laughing and in an upbeat mood also.

Well as it turned out, the scheduled speaker could not make it, so the meeting turned into a round robin format in which whoever shares picks the next one to share. To my complete surprise, a man I had never met picked me to share. As I nervously walked to the podium, it hit me...this was what God had in store for me. And it could only have happened as God would have wanted. For a drunken/dope fiend who spent most of his life completely dedicated to self-destruction and breaking my loved ones hearts, to stand in front of a room full of people to bear witness that not only was I sober, but also doing my best to grow as a person and get closer to my Higher Power made me feel good.

Chills ran through my bones as the significance of where I was hit me. I am always where I am supposed to be. Anyplace, anytime, anywhere is where God put me to carry a vision of His will into the lives around me. And having a family member there who had seen me literally at death's door for years made it all the more poignant. With a tear in my mother's eye and a nervous crackle in my voice, I stepped to the microphone and said "My name is Aaron and I'm an alcoholic."

*Aaron H.*

## Captured Quips from California Jack

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

From the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, pg 355; "What could be more reasonable than that some people, including myself, were allergic to alcohol?"

"There's nothing wrong with alcohol. There is something wrong with we me and alcohol."

"You know, I never made any mistakes before I got sober."

"The truth is that I didn't drink because I got angry. I got angry so I could drink."

"I hated waking up in places that I didn't recognize with people I don't know but who all knew me."

"This disease is alcoholism not alcoholwasm."

"On the way home from work I liked to stop at a bar for 30 or 40 quick ones."

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).