

Anonymous Times

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Bill's Story

Second of 12 articles on Big Book highlights AA's beloved co-founder

Bill's Story, Chapter One in the Big Book, is another example of my extreme closed-mindedness upon entering Alcoholics Anonymous. Wasn't this just another example of the huge ego of one of the founding members of Alcoholics Anonymous? Why wasn't Bob's story given the same visibility? That tells you more about me than any of our founding members.

The truth is, when I sat down to read Bill's Story with another member of AA who was experienced in studying the book, it really didn't matter one bit that Bill's Story was the first chapter – what mattered is the experience Bill shares in his story. Another life lesson bearing out Henry Ford's maxim as quoted on page 124 of the Big Book, "*Experience is the thing of supreme value in life.*" When Bill's experience is examined as the life of a chronic alcoholic, many key ideas and principles emerge.



First, on the very first page, Bill discovers liquor when he "... was part of life at last." Later, on the same page, "*I was very lonely and again turned to alcohol.*" To many of us, this has become too familiar – turning to alcohol to change the way we feel. If I feel bad, alcohol allows me to feel better. If I feel good, alcohol

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Founder's Day Picnic will be Held June 12

A Founder's Day Picnic will be held Sunday, June 12 at Brea Dam Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event, a fundraiser to benefit North Orange County Central Office, will feature a barbecue, AA Archives, raffle and games. A speaker meeting will be held beginning at 1 p.m. Donations will be appreciated, and all proceeds will go to Central Office.

For more information, contact Jim S. at (714) 329-3524, or Paul P. at (714) 313-7883. The park is located at 1700 N. Harbor Blvd., in Fullerton.

North Orange County Central Office

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Tradition 12

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to put principles before personalities."

- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page 180.*

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NOCCO Revenue and Expenses 2011 vs 2010 Y-T-D

Year to Date Revenue Thru	Mar-2011	Mar-2010
Sales - AA Books and Literature	\$9,776.48	\$12,628.71
Sales - Chips and Non-AA	\$7,143.30	\$8,174.51
Donations- Groups and Individuals	\$12,559.56	\$18,062.44
Fundraisers	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.29	\$2.10
Total Revenue	\$30,479.63	\$38,867.76
Cost of Goods	\$10,566.40	\$14,703.86
Gross Profit	\$19,913.23	\$24,163.90
Operating Expenses		
Salaries	\$9,900.00	\$9,900.00
Bank Charges	\$14.00	\$34.00
Bad Checks	\$0.00	\$201.60
Cash short/(over)	(\$0.90)	(\$14.36)
Computer Expense	\$56.97	\$0.00
Depreciation	\$64.50	\$107.43
Insurance-General Liability	\$2,232.76	\$2,827.51
Insurance - Work Comp	\$755.75	\$0.00
Insurance - Medical	\$798.00	\$792.00
Legal & Accounting	\$775.00	\$850.00
Newsletter Cost	\$761.26	\$390.00
Office Supplies	\$427.30	\$1,088.86
Postage	\$0.00	\$88.31
Penalties on Tax Payments	\$4.55	\$121.29
Office Rent	\$4,650.00	\$4,650.00
Equipment Rental	\$574.96	\$391.56
Seminars and Education	\$0.00	\$60.00
Taxes- Payroll	\$869.32	\$883.19
Taxes- Annual Filings	\$60.00	\$60.00
Telephone	\$1,343.92	\$1,186.15
Utilities	\$583.14	\$443.90
Total Operating Expense	\$23,870.53	\$24,061.44
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$3,957.30)	\$102.46

Bill's Story ... From Page 1

allows me to feel even better. Until it just doesn't allow me to feel at all, any more.

Next, when Bill's drinking career is taken as a whole, we begin to see the downward spiral, which, like a roller coaster, never quite reaches the same heights, but the lows are lower each time – *"Over any considerable period we get worse, never better."* There are always moments where Bill thinks he has the solution, but there is always failure. Bill even does an absolutely perfect first step, and drinks again, (Page 8) *"No words can tell of the loneliness and despair I found in that bitter morass of self-pity.... I had met my match. I had been overwhelmed. Alcohol was my master. Trembling, I stepped from the hospital a broken man. Fear sobered me for a bit. Then came the insidious insanity of the first drink..."* Though he knows about the insanity of the first drink, he drinks again anyway. Until Ebby visits him and gives him the 2nd Step, he cannot come to believe that he can be restored to sanity through reliance on a higher power.

Every "line in the sand" is crossed or erased – at one point Bill looks with disgust at the people committing suicide on Black Friday by jumping from buildings, yet just two pages later he seriously contemplates the same escape more than once. He considers his "poor wife," yet steals from her "slender purse" to support his drinking. Again, this should be very familiar to most of the readers as the life of an alcoholic *"in his cups."*

When Ebby miraculously appears, (you'll need to read *Pass it On* to see just how miraculously) Bill is given the rest of the solution by another man with the same alcoholic experience as Bill. *No lectures to be endured, just a sincere desire to be helpful.* Bill is interested enough to listen with the open-mindedness that only the dying can have. He accepts the principles of a spiritual way of life laid out by Ebby, (see pages 13 and 14 where Ebby lays out the principles of his new way of life) because he realizes Ebby, a man who drank just like him, has accepted them and is free from alcohol.

On page 16, Bill sums up his experience and the experience of our society for more than 75 years. *"Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have*

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Spirituality and Sobriety

Long-time AA member recounts struggles with bottle

The first time I got sober was in 1972 after 20 years of periodic alcoholic behavior that tore at my family life and nearly killed me. I grew up with an alcoholic wife-beating father and was conditioned to the drama that living the alcoholic life imposed.

After four years in the military, I went to work for a major corporation and luckily started fast-tracking my professional life. Doing well in my career and deluded by ego and false pride, I dismissed my domestic troubles as a case of bad breaks, or the fault of others. I knew God disapproved of my lifestyle, so ignoring thoughts of God stuff worked for me.

In 1972, I had two kids, the house with the swimming pool and two nice cars in the driveway. I never missed a day of work due to drinking, and my friends and associates did the same thing - no harm, no foul.

And then it happened. After a week of hard drinking and dalliances, my wife told me that unless I stopped drinking she and the children were gone.

My conscience was already tearing me apart, and suicide seemed the only way to end my shame. I told my wife to leave the house, I was either going

to commit suicide or call our pastor and seek help.

Our pastor came to the house and that day I became a Christian. Spending a lot of time in my Bible and relentless prayer for strength, the days and months of sobriety piled up.

One of our congregation members offered to take me to an AA meeting. I felt trapped; accept and show I am serious about my new lifestyle or refuse and suffer unspoken judgment. I accepted the invitation and went to a meeting.

That AA meeting was filled with smoke, low bottom drunks and old people over 50. (I'd put old as being over 50.) Not my kind of place. I was not anything like them, I just had a drinking problem. I never went to another meeting. God alone would have to keep me sober.

About a year later, I was in seminary to become a Presbyterian minister. Still, there was something missing and I felt restless and unworthy of the ministry. What I now know as character defects dogged my every step. I was living a lie, if not in actions, certainly in my head.

I knew I had to leave seminary before I did something stupid. If I finished and

got ordained, I knew the day would come when I would shame myself, family and the church. I left seminary at the end of that semester.

I convinced my family to move and start over, when my real motive was avoiding the shame I felt in disappointing the church members who had supported my efforts. We relocated out of state and I stayed sober for about two more years.

The day came when, feeling alienated from fellow workers for not drinking, my mind and false pride had me toying with the idea that, I can't be alcoholic because I had been without a drink for five years. I had proved drinking was just a control issue.

That night I had one gin and tonic, and by the end of the month I had been arrested for driving under the influence and found myself in jail. I was off and running for another nine painful years -- as if I had never stopped. I drank myself into such a state that I ended up drunk one morning in my sister's kitchen crying like a baby. I said, "I can't stop drinking and don't know what to do." Her reply was, "You are an alcoholic and everyone knows that except you. Our hospital has a rehab program and your insurance will pay for it." I went into rehab that day, still drunk.

I was finally *Continued on page 6*

Bill's Story ... From Page 1

it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men."

Next issue, "There Is A Solution".

Nick M.
Intergroup Rep, NOCCO

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

South Bay Roundup Slated For July 1-4

"We Surrender to Win" is the theme of the 27th Annual South Bay Roundup, to be held July 1-4 at the Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way in Torrance.

The event will feature AA and Al-Anon meetings, banquets, a golf tournament, AA archives and memorabilia exhibit, live music, 12-step workshops, a "Las Vegas Night" and a "Young People's Meeting."

To register or for more information, visit www.southbayroundup.org or call (310) 354-7660.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

“Summer of Love” Benefit will be held on June 11

A “Summer of Love”- themed fundraiser to benefit the Fullerton Alano Center will be held Saturday, June 11th from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The event will feature a 1960’s Guru’s play, prizes for people wearing the best 1960’s era outfits and an assortment of other sober, funfilled activities.

Tickets are \$5 if purchased in advance or \$6 at the door. The FAC is located at 530 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832.

Laughlin, NV Roundup Slated for May 19-May 22

The 27th Annual Tri-State Round-Up will be held Thursday, May 19 to Sunday, May 22 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 for complete details and to register online.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Since the last issue,
Central Office took 904 calls:

478 from men and
426 from women.



Keep up the great work — YOU
make a difference!

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

May

Thur., 5-5 - Sun., 5-8. **Sober in the Sun Speakers & Workshops.** Hotel Zoso. 150 S Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262 email: info@soberinthesun.net

Fri., 5-6- Sun., 5-8 **22nd Annual Mountain High Conference** Not Your Ordinary Conference PineCrest Christian Conference Center 1140 Pinecrest Road, Twin Peaks, CA 92391 www.mountainhighconf.com

Thur., 5-19-Sun, 5-22 **27th Annual Tri-State Round-Up.** Marathon meetings, banquet/dance, speaker meetings, ice cream social. Hotel discounts available. Go to www.tristate-roundup.com for complete details.

June

Thur., 6-9 - Sun., 6-12. **2011 A.A. Desert Pow Wow** Indian Wells, CA SherAli J. 760-321-6568. Sandy W. 760-776-1066 www.desertpowwow.com.

Fri., 6-24 - Sun., 6-26. **21st Annual June Lake Kampvention "Arch to Freedom."** Hiking, Swimming, Fishing, Boating & Fellowship with Al-Anon Participation! www.kampventionjunelake.com.

Recycle Newcomer Chips!

You've heard about recycling aluminum cans and glass bottles for pocket change. How about recycling your newcomer chips for a worthy cause?



If you have been sober awhile, no doubt you have several newcomer chips among your collection. Why not put them to good use and donate them to NOC Central Office?

Contact Roxy at **(714) 773-4357** for more information. Or stop by Central Office, 111 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831.

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Harry B.	58 years
Ernie C.	30 years
Jim D.	29 years
Steve D.	21 years
Paul H.	15 years
Boomer	13 years
Holly	2 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.

Central Office News

Softbound literature on sale now

Central Office is continuing its sale on packets of softbound literature. For the time being, get \$35 worth of pamphlets and literature for \$10.

With titles such as "Understanding Anonymity," "The 12 Traditions Illustrated" and "The A.A. Group - Where it All Begins," it's enough literature to last the typical meeting six months or longer.

Visit NOC Central Office now at 111 E. Commonwealth Ave., Ste. D., Fullerton, CA 92831.

Back-Up Volunteers Needed

Temporary volunteers are needed at Central Office to answer phone calls and talk to people in need of help at various times throughout the week.

Any time of year can be troublesome for people struggling with alcoholism. And while Central Office is typically staffed with caring and knowledgeable individuals, there are times when they are sick or on vacation and must temporarily miss their shifts.

Those with at least six months of sobriety are encouraged to contact Roxy at Central Office to help as a back-up volunteer. Call (714) 773-4357.

How Critical is Sponsorship?

I have been around AA roughly 25 years. For 17 of those years I have been sober. I have had a sponsor for those 17 years. I believe there is a correlation.

Over the years, I have heard a lot of opinions from a lot of people on the subject of sponsorship. These opinions run the gamut – a sponsor should run your life, some say, while others believe you shouldn't have a sponsor at all. All I have is my experience. I was not able to sober up until I accepted some help.

My first sponsor was the first guy in a long time to show concern for me without looking down on me. I actually only had this man for a couple of weeks. His work schedule changed, and he set me up with another fellow. At the time I didn't understand, but he did me the greatest favor. He was a great guy – he cared enough about my new sobriety that he was willing to drop the "sponsor" tag and just be my friend. He has remained my friend to this day.

The second guy was a complete opposite from me. He was (and is) very organized and fairly successful. He would get me in his new car with his suit and tie on and take me to AA meetings four or five nights a week and tell me things like, "No matter what you've done, we will still love you." After a couple weeks of this, I told him a couple things I had done. To my surprise, he not only let me stay in the car, he shared a couple things he had done. Apparently, we're all basically the same, no matter how we look on the outside.

At about four or five years, my ego was up and I decided I needed my sponsor's sponsor to be my sponsor. It was the right move. The motive may have been a little shaky but I learned some things about myself. My new sponsor sponsored

a lot of guys, so the one-on-one attention I got from sponsor No. 2 was gone -- he did remain available to me. I had to refer to the Big Book a lot more, and I had to learn to get right to the point when I did have a question or concern. I don't want to make this sponsor sound like he was harsh; he was usually upbeat and stressed compassion for the new man.

There came a time to split with the group in which I got sober and that meant a new sponsor (we have neither the time or space to get into that). There is a God. I have never been a big supporter of AA'S working as drug and alcohol counselors. I am in meetings and I'm listening to people share. I ask this "old timer" for his phone number just to have someone to talk to and he appoints himself my sponsor. He was not what I wanted but he was exactly what I needed. I was struggling with some things that were occurring in my personal life.

We spent a year looking at step 3. I didn't know that's what he was doing but at the end of it, things started to get better and I am okay with AA's working as counselors.

Which brings us to today. I have a wife, a daughter, a job, family and a good amount of AA commitments. My sponsor today has experience with all these things and I go to him with the situations he has already experienced. When I asked this guy to be my sponsor, he told me "no." he then explained he doesn't want to end up as a guru. He said he would be my friend. When I told him that I have a handful of guys watching me who need the accountability of having a sponsor, he told me I could call him my sponsor if anyone asks. So when I am doubtful about something, I ask his opinion. Although he rarely tells me what to do, he asks questions and I usually come up with an answer that I had all along.

Here is my opinion -- get a sponsor. If nothing else, they will help you navigate the AA landscape. They should be able to tell you when to stand up and when to sit down. A relationship with a sponsor is not a marriage; it is a tool to help us stay sober and sane.

Paul P., Fullerton

Spirituality ... From Page 3

beaten, helpless as a child and morally and spiritually bankrupt. With the help of AA and a restored spiritual commitment, the process of recovery began. AA led me to deal with character defects of alcoholic thinking that were not appropriate subjects for church prayer groups, hence ignored the first time I got sober. My faith coupled with the steps of AA strengthened my in-

ner self like never before. It took that hopeless state of surrender to begin rebuilding a new man on a spiritual and ethical foundation.

To deny that humans require spiritual fitness as well as moral, mental and physical fitness, seems insane today. I cannot imagine an alcoholic recovering without a higher power and the steps of AA. In my experience, you cannot be both spiritually fit and an alcoholic.

Nor can I hardly believe I have 24 years clean and sober.

It was, and is, the shared link between AA and my faith that restored me from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.

*Dick C.
Anaheim*

SPEAKER MEETINGS: MAY/JUNE 2011

Anonymous Times would like to publish your list of speakers for July/August 2011.
Deadline for publication is June 15, 2011. Email: aaletters@gmail.com.

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

May 6 Eric T., Laguna Niguel
May 13 Jim F., Laguna Woods
May 20 Patti O., Orange
May 27 Roxy T., Fullerton
June 3 Michele L., Tustin
June 10 Deimitrius, Bellflower
June 17 TBA
June 24 Rob C., Anaheim

Friday
8:00 p.m. Downtown Fullerton Speakers
109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92832
Hear a fabulous speaker in Alcoholics Anonymous share their experience, strength and hope every Friday night.

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

May 6 Jack M.
May 13 Ed S.
May 20 TBD
May 27 Karen G.
June 3 Alberta K.
June 10 Paul H.
June 17 Kitty R.
June 24 John L.

Friday
8:00 p.m. No Puffers Speaker
395 S. Tustin St., Orange

May 6 Mike O., Tustin
May 13 Bob D., Placentia
May 20 Tyler H.
May 27 TBA
June 3 Judson M., Santa Ana

Saturday
8 p.m. Visiting Speakers
1221 Wass St., Tustin (St. Paul's Church)

May 7 Larry E., Santa Ana
May 14 Julia K., Orange
May 21 Vaun I., Tustin
May 28 Surprise
June 4 Zach B, Fountain Valley
June 11 Glenn H.(Pickle), Tustin
June 18 Surprise
June 25 Red B., Tustin

Saturday
8:00 p.m. Oddfellows Speaker
109 E. Wilshire, Fullerton 92632

May 7 Michelle K., Huntington Beach
May 14 Sam P., Orange
May 21 Pat L., Riverside
May 28 Don M., Orange
June 4 David, Whittier
June 11 TBA
June 18 Tony, Irvine
June 25 Jane, Lake Forest

Saturday
8:00 p.m. Liverpool Speaker
4861 Liverpool @ Yorba Linda Blvd
(Messiah Lutheran Church)

May 7 Fred L., Brea
May 14 Rob, Orange
May 21 Paul S., Orange
May 28 TBA
June 4 TBA
June 11 Nancy C., Downey
June 18 Joe F, Venice
June 25 Elaine G., Orange

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

May 1 Sheila F., Long Beach
May 8 Paula S., Fullerton
May 15 Gloria V., El Monte
May 22 Chris H., Tustin
May 29 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
June TBA

Sunday
10:30 a.m. Western Medical (24 Hr. Spkr.)
1025 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim
Hear a fabulous speaker in Alcoholics Anonymous share their experience, strength and hope every Sunday morning.

Sunday
8:00 p.m. Fireside Speaker Meeting
641 S. Western Ave. Anaheim CA 92804
(NEW LOCATION!)

May 1 Clancy I., Venice
May 8 Jane I., Long Beach
May 15 Steve L., Los Angeles
May 22 Tom G., Garden Grove
May 29 TBA
June 5 Hector E., L.A
June 12 Mickey C., Downey
June 19 TBA
June 26 Linda H., Thousand Oaks

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

May 4 George S., Fullerton
May 11 Gordin, Yorba Linda
May 18 Jon N., Anaheim
May 25 Cindy V., Fullerton
June 1 Bob D., Lakewood
June 8 Cathy A., Anaheim
June 15 Patrick, Yorba Linda
June 22 Angella M.
June 29 Ed C., Anaheim

NOC Central Office BULLETIN BOARD

H&I 2ND SUNDAY May 8 and June 12	NOCPIC 2ND WEDNESDAY May 11 and June 8	INTERGROUP 2ND WEDNESDAY May 11 and June 12	VOLUNTEER MEETING June 11 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-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 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

60th Annual SoCal Convention Set

Plan now to attend the 60th Annual Southern California AA Convention, to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Rancho Mirage. "Serenity in Motion" is the theme for this year's event, to feature an abundance of meetings, events and exhibits. Among the events will be AA and Ala-non meetings, Young People in AA marathon meetings, Spanish language assemblies, a golf tournament, dances and banquets.

Visit www.aasocal.com or email socalconventionchris@gmail.com.

Send Us Your Story

Online!

Anonymous Times
articles can be submitted to
aaleters@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



Charlie P., who Launched Big Book Workshops With Joe McQ., Dies at 82

Charlie P., 82, who in the late 1970s teamed up with another recovering alcoholic, Joe McQ., to deliver the "Joe and Charlie Big Book Workshops," died on April 21 in Maysville, AR.

Joe and Charlie met in 1973 when Joe introduced Charlie as the AA speaker at an Al-Anon Convention. Joe had wondered if Charlie might be the country-western singer Charlie Pride. "He wasn't even the right color," Joe laments. They instantly discovered their mutual fascination with AA's basic text, "The Big Book." What interested them most was that The Big Book was written in a particular sequence to convey certain ideas.

Soon they were planning meetings at AA conventions in Oklahoma and Arkansas. In 1977, some members met in a Tulsa, OK hotel room for a discus-

sion of the Big Book. One asked Joe & Charlie to come to his home group to present a program on the book. An AA taper made a four tape set of their presentation and called it "The Big Book Study". The tapes were gradually circulated throughout the fellowship and invitations were received for Joe & Charlie to present the study at AA conventions, roundups and special events.

At the 1980 International AA Convention in New Orleans, Westly P. an impassioned Big Booker from Pompano Beach, Florida, organized a lunch for 1,500 AAs from all over the world and gave away 100 Joe & Charlie tape sets as door prizes. Invitations exploded and within a couple of years, Joe & Charlie were presenting about 36 studies a year worldwide.

The seminars have been presented in 48 states and Canada. Additionally, Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands have all hosted the Big Book Study seminars with Joe & Charlie.

Joe McQ. died in 2007.

Some fellow AAs have termed the duo, "self-appointed gurus". Others have accused them of making money on these weekends. Actually, only travel expenses, meals and lodging are paid for by the independent AA host committee sponsoring the study. Since 1977, an estimated 200,000 AA Members have experienced the spiritual benefits of these collective studies (as of 2007).

Charlie was was a friend of Bill W. 's for 41 years.

This is an edited version of an article that appeared at <http://www.aahistory.com/charliep/sign.php>

NOC Central Office Shines at Annual Convention

2011 event gives local office chance to raise funds, get name before attendees

The annual Orange County AA Convention is a team effort, with dozens, if not hundreds, of people beginning planning for next year's event soon after the most recent one ends.

Every other year the OCAA Convention committee offers each of the two Central Offices a chance to go in and sell literature to help raise funds for their respective offices. This year, it was North Orange County's turn.

It is a wonderful opportunity to get the name of NOCCO out into the community and also to make a little extra cash. The convention committee gives us the best spot in the hotel to set up our tables. They nestle us right at the end of the first set of escalators. From this vantage point, we can see everyone who comes in the front door, as well as those who come up from the bottom floor.

Sometimes I get to see people I haven't seen for two years. Everyone has a wonderful time. This year one of the volunteers donated her time and money and made the most beautiful quilt, which we raffled off. Congratulations to the winner; I am sure she will enjoy the quilt. It was stamped with this year's convention logo, so she has a collector's item now. She surely was excited to win the comforter.

For those who have never been to a convention, it is a experience not to be missed. The high energy of thousands of alcoholics under the same roof for three days is quite something. This year we raised a little over \$1,000 for NOC Central Office, and all proceeds go back to our little office. So thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the booth, and a big thank you to Audrey A., who made and donated the quilt, and thank you especially to the convention chairman who gave us the invite.

It is a lot of work but it's full of pleasant surprises, love and laughter. See you in two years.

Roxy T.
NOC Office Manager

2010 Meeting Donations Totals

City	Day	Meeting	YTD
Anaheim	Friday 6:30 p.m.	Gratitude is action	200.00
Anaheim	Thurs 7:30 p.m.	Men's we got a coffeepot Stag	35.00
Anaheim	Sunday	Western Medical Am	100.00
Anaheim Hills	Monday 7 p.m.	K aiser Women's Myg.	120.00
Anaheim Hills	Saturday 8:30 a.m.	It's In The Book	220.00
Anaheim Hills	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Women's Solution	70.00
Anaheim Hills	Thursday 7 p.m.	Men's Stag, Kaiser	260.00
Anaheim Hills	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Women's Big Book & Step	90.00
Anaheim Hills	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Big Book Study	97.05
Brea	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	Mens Stag	60.00
Brea	Monday 10 a.m.	Women's Discussion	314.39
Brea	Monday 5:30 p.m.	Happy Hour Step study	210.00
Brea	Saturday 10:30 a.m.	Women's Step Study	70.00
Brea	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	Living in the Solution	200.00
Brea	Thursday 10:30 a.m.	Step Sisters	193.75
Brea	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	Women's 10th Step	123.07
Brea	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	As Bill Sees It	185.91
Cypress	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Big Book Study	50.00
Cypress	Friday 8 p.m.	Lunatic	120.00
Cypress	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Big Book Study	90.00
Fullerton	Daily 6 a.m.	Attitude Adjstment FAC	180.00
Fullerton	FAC Wednesday 2 p.m.	Women's Coffee Talk	84.00
Fullerton	Richard R.	Birthday Donations	30.00
Fullerton	Friday 8 p.m.	St. Jude Speaker	7.00
Fullerton	Fullerton	Alfred K. B-Day Donation	127.00
Fullerton	Monday 6 p.m.	Mens Lemon at Wilshire	40.00
Fullerton	Monday 6:30 p.m.	Women Living in the Solution	60.00
Fullerton	Wednesday FAC	Sober Horse theives	21.00
Fullerton	Saturday 6 p.m.	Saturday Night Live	38.00
Fullerton	Saturday 8 p.m.	Oddfellows	260.00
Fullerton	Birthday Donation	Henry and Lisette	26.00
Fullerton	Sunday 8 p.m.	Wilshire	50.00
Fullerton	Faithful Fivers	Colleen B.	35.00
Fullerton	Thursday 8 p.m.	We Got a Coffee Pot	35.00
Fullerton	Monday Night 6 p.m.	First Lutheran Church 6:00pm	25.00
Garden Grove	Monday 12 p.m.	Serenity Hall	98.00
Garden Grove	Not taking a trip	Garden Grove	50.00
Garden Grove	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Speaker Meeting	20.00
La Habra	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Discussion	35.30
La Mirada	Men's	Big Book Study	47.25
La Mirada	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Winners Circle	40.00
Los Alamitos	ALL	Surrender is Freedom	575.00
Los Alamitos	Sunday 6 p.m.	Big Book Study	60.00
La Habra	Basic	Beginners Basic Group	150.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Holly Birthday	2.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Richard R. Birthday	30.00
NOCCO	Central Office	birthday Harry B.	58.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Colleen Ballas	35.00
NOCCO	Central Office	INTERGROUP	226.44
NOCCO	Central Office	Jerry L. OC Conv. Donation	105.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Henry Gittler	13.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Lisette L. Birthday	13.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Orange County AA Convention	1,107.78

City	Day	Meeting	YTD
NOCCO	Central Office	B-Day Dede S.	6.00
NOCCO	Central Office	Soda Coffee	81.00
NOCCO	Dec. 19	Holiday Banquet refund	1,000.00
Orange	Friday 6:30 a.m.	Smashing Donuts	92.00
Orange	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Easy Does It	100.00
Orange	Monday 6:30 a.m.	Taking Care of Business	150.00
Orange	Saturday 7 p.m.	Not a Glum Lot	55.00
Orange	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Attitude Adjustment Orange-Olive	75.00
Orange	Friday 5:30 p.m.	Rush Hour, Friendship Club	70.00
Orange	Tuesday 6:30 a.m.	Doughnut Meeting	87.50
Orange	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Easy Does It	70.00
Placentia	Sunday AM	Right Start	187.60
Villa Park	ALL 6 a.m.	Attitude Modification	15.00
Whittier	Friday 7 a.m.	Attitude Adjustment	10.00
Whittier	Monday 7 a.m.	Attitude Adjustment	15.00
Whittier	Monday 7 p.m.	As Bill Sees It	50.00
Whittier	Saturday 7:30 p.m.	Speaker	20.00
Whittier	Thursday 6 p.m.	Happy Hour Big Book	50.00
Whittier	Wednesday Night	Shepard of the Hills Partcip	70.00
Yorba Linda	ALL 6 a.m.	Attitude Modification	2,769.02
Yorba Linda	Friday 8 p.m.	Winners Circle	70.00
Yorba Linda	Monday 8 p.m.	Yorba Linda Lutheran Ch.	50.00
Yorba Linda	Tuesday	Women's Nazarene	60.00
Yorba Linda	Saturday 8 p.m.	Saturday Night Speaker	50.00
Yorba Linda	Thursday 8 p.m.	We Got a Coffee Pot	164.29
Yorba Linda	Thursday 8 p.m.	119601	100.00
Yorba Linda	Wednesday 12 p.m.	Noontimers	140.00

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**

Captured Quips from California Jack

The wit and wisdom of Bill and Bob's friends

From the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, pg 163; "You are saying to yourself: 'I'm jittery and alone. I couldn't do that.' Buy you can. You forget that you have just tapped into a source of power much greater than yourself."

Two questions: 1. Do you think you have a problem? 2 Do you want to do something about it?

"Do what you're supposed to do until your ass falls off. And if it does, so what? You learn to sit different."

You don't have to want to, you just have to do it.

...When I first came in I looked like I'd just fallen out of the washing machine and couldn't find the dryer

I need to start calling God for 411 instead of 911.

AA is a banquet but most people are standing in the doorway eating a sandwich.

Any time I complain I'm really telling the world that there's a victim in the house.

Hope is the oxygen of the soul.

Alcohol doesn't care if you're in the outhouse or the White-house. It's an equal opportunity disease.

It's hard to find a solution while trying to find someone to blame.

Talking about the tragedies of my drinking doesn't help me. Talking about the miracles of my recovery does.

So tell me; what kind of a winning streak were you on when you got here?

The book says when agitated or doubtful we pause. Sometimes I spend the whole day in pause.

I don't fear fear anymore.

And Here Are a Few Thoughts Just For Fun - -

Paraprosdokian - A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to re-frame or reinterpret the first part.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

Do you have a quote that you think should be added to the list?

Send it to California Jack at Golden.Buckeye@yahoo.com.

Intergroup - What's In It For My Meeting?

Each group is encouraged to have an Intergroup Representative. This person is the liaison between Intergroup and their home group. Any decisions for changes to the way Central Office runs must be voted on.

Any questions or concerns or compliments may be put on the agenda for discussion. By having an Intergroup representative your group will be able to bring a vote to the intergroup meeting.

No vote can take place without a quorum. Your group must be a registered meeting in order to vote.

Any AA member is welcome to attend the Intergroup or Board meeting as a guest.

If your group is interested in joining Intergroup, send a member to the meeting, and we will gladly give you all the information you need to get started. Intergroup meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 109 E. Wilshire in Fullerton.

Contact North Orange County Central Office at (714) 773-4357 for more information about the importance of Intergroup representation.

CHARMING IS THE WORD FOR ALCOHOLICS

BY FULTON OUSLER
Liberty Magazine© - 1940

Down at the very bottom of the social scale of AA society are the pariahs, the untouchables, and the outcasts, all known by one excoriating epithet-relatives.

I am a relative. I know my place. I am not complaining. But I hope no one minds if I venture the plaintive confession that there are times, oh, many, many, times when I wish I had been an alcoholic. By that I mean that I wish I were an AA. The reason is that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist it has been my fortune to meet many of the people who are considered charming. I number among my friends stars, and lesser lights of stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet.

I know the ladies and gentleman of both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House. I have broken bread with kings and ministers and ambassadors and I say after that catalog, which could be extended, that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to any

person or group of persons I have indicated.

I ask myself why I consider so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in Alcoholics Anonymous. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few.

They are imaginative, and that helps to make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their ambition on to greater efforts. Others guzzled only to black out unendurable demons that rose in their imagination. But when they have found their restoration, their imagination is responsive to new incantations, and their talk abounds with color and light, and that makes them charming companions too.

The AA people are what they are, and they were what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor and awareness of universal truth. They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them to become alcoholics.

But when they have found their restoration, they are still as sensitive as ever; responsive to beauty and to truth and eager about the intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions.

They are possessed with a sense of humor. Even in their cups they have been known to say damnable funny things. Often it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that make them seek escape in a bottle. But when they have found restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom, and they are able to reach a godlike state where they can laugh at themselves, the very height of self conquest.

Go to the meetings and listen to the laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candlelight.

And they are possessed of a sense of universal truth. That is often a new thing in their hearts. The fact that this at-one-meant with God's universe had never been awakened in them is sometimes the reason why they drank. The fact that it was at last awakened is almost always the reason why they were restored to the good and simple ways of life.

Stand with them when the meeting is over, and listen while they say the "Our Father." They have found a power greater than themselves which they diligently serve. And that gives them a charm that never was elsewhere on land or sea. It makes you know that God, Himself, is really charming, because the AA people reflect His mercy and His forgiveness.

Think twice before taking that first drink! Then call your sponsor or another sober member of AA instead.

