

The Scoop

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Please contribute to Central Office

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This month's Central Office

50/50 winner is: Ticket # 368455

Name: Luke Warmwater **Amount** \$48.00

Jim K. Drew the winning ticket!

ALCOHOLIC JOKE: A driver who never wears his seat belt spots a police car in his rear view mirror.

"Hold the wheel," he orders his wife. Too late. The police officer orders the driver to stop the car. Cop: "You weren't wearing your seat belt, were you, sir?" Driver: "Yes, I was wearing my belt. Ask my wife if you don't believe me." Cop: "Ma'am?" Wife: "Officer, after 20 years of marriage, I've learned one thing: It's useless to contradict my husband when he's had one drink too many."

My Security Blanket St. Francis Prayer

Most of us are familiar with the characters in the Peanuts comic strip including Linus who has his Security Blanket. As long as he has his blanket, his world is a good place to be and all seems to go well. Occasionally, the other characters, usually Lucy, sometimes Snoopy, play tricks on Linus and hide the blanket. Immediately Linus' disposition turns to something similar to an angry dry drunk. He searches feverishly, and of course finds the blanket. He smiles and all is well.

It seems over the years the Prayer of St. Francis has taken similar importance in my life. No one hides my blanket, just my self-centeredness gets in the way. Sometimes being in too big a hurry, anger causes the blanket to banish. My security rests in

remembering short portions of the Prayer,...'seek to understand rather than be understood'...'make me a channel of Thy peace'...'it is in forgiving that we are forgiven'...'where there is sadness, I may bring joy'...'where there is doubt, I may bring truth'...'that where there are shadows, I may bring light'...! There are many others. Good hunting!!

Arne AA 1976

Similarities vs. Differences

As an alcoholic, I am often fascinated by other alcoholics' worries over similarities and differences among us. I don't know how many times I have heard "look for the similarities, not the differences." Well, we are people that normally wouldn't mix. That's not because we are so similar, but because we are so different.

I personally enjoy listening to the differences. The reason is that I cannot, no matter how long I live, experience everything mentally, emotionally, physically, or spiritually, good or bad, drunk or sober. Nor do I want to. Someplace along the way I have to admit I don't understand what someone is going or has gone through. From the families we were raised in, the areas we lived, worked and drank, to the bottoms we hit can range widely. No matter what my ego tells me, I do not have the necessary "depth and weight" in every arena.

The great thing of Alcoholics Anonymous is I don't have to, there are plenty of people in the program that have the depth and weight in areas I don't. When someone new comes into the program I may not necessarily relate to them or them to me, but I usually know someone who he or she can. If I don't know, I can ask around until I find someone that new person has a better chance with. It isn't difficult to see how this works.

A number of years ago working with a newcomer, he looked me straight in the eye and said, "You don't understand. You've never been to the penitentiary." I didn't blink an eye but looked right back at him and said, "You're right, I don't understand." What I did is asked him to talk to a friend I knew before writing off AA as to being any help to him. He went and heard my friend speak at a meeting. When I asked him what he then thought, he responded "How did you know?" I said I didn't, but my friend did. By the way, this can work in reverse, too.

If someone hasn't gone down the ladder as far as you have and they give you that "I'm not that bad," statement or look, introduce them to someone who wasn't "that bad." Avoid the yets, he or she may be years away from them, or the feelings, many may need the experience they don't currently have or will ever have. But, another alcoholic that stopped where they are now or sooner could be their ticket to avoiding the mess that may come much later in their drinking, if ever.

In my early days of being sober, I was on my way out from all the differences and war stories I was hearing. I felt so far removed from these I was becoming certain I wasn't an alcoholic. But one person asked me to go to one more meeting the following week to listen to an old timer with 44 years. I figured why not, he'll have the wildest story in AA and I'll be out of here, One more week of being sober wouldn't hurt me. The old timer introduced himself as the original high bottom drunk in AA. He got sober in 1940 so I would guess his claim was fairly true. I was finally able to see my alcoholism from someone who stopped higher up the ladder than I was. For that I am grateful, not just for the few similarities but for the many differences as well.

Paul E. - A.A. 1984

Step 8

"Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

The 8th Tradition

"Alcoholics Anonymous should 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 word “Feely ye have received, freely give.” We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world’s best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

***Daily Reflections* excerpt on the 8th Step**

Page 223: We became willing...

At the moment we are trying to put our lives in order. But this is not an end in itself.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p.77

How easily I can become misdirected in approaching the Eighth Step! I wish to be free, somehow transformed by my Sixth and Seventh Step work. Now, more than ever, I am vulnerable to my own self-interest and hidden agenda. I am careful to remember that self-satisfaction, which sometimes comes through the spoken forgiveness of those I have harmed, is not my true objective. I become willing to make amends, knowing that through this process I am mended and made fit to move forward, to know and desire God’s will for me.

***Daily Reflections* excerpt on the 8th Tradition.**

Page 252: A Unique Program

Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient word “Freely ye have received, freely give” We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.166

I believe that Alcoholics Anonymous stands alone in the treatment of alcoholism because it is based solely on the principle of one alcoholic sharing with another alcoholic. This is what makes the program unique. When I decided that I wanted to stay sober, I called a woman who I knew was a sober member of A.A., and he carried the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to me. She received no monetary compensation, but rather was paid by staying sober another day herself. Today I could ask for no payment other than another day free from alcohol, so in that respect, I am generously paid for my labor.

Quotable Quotes

Don’t judge A.A. by the people in it!

I don’t know how long I can stay sober on someone else’s sobriety.

Alcoholism doesn’t care who you love.

If someone is ready, you can’t say anything wrong. If they are not ready, you can’t say anything right.

If just not drinking isn’t the solution, then neither is drinking; but these do define insanity.

Don’t compromise, even if it hurts to be yourself.

The greatest conflicts are not between two people, but between one person and himself.

We create our own misery and unhappiness. The purpose of suffering from that is to make us understand we are the ones who cause it.

The first rule of holes; when you are in one, stop digging.

A narcissist is someone better-looking than you are.

Never be afraid to laugh at yourself; after all, you could be missing out on the joke of the century.

The most beautiful thing in the world is “you seeing it,” Dano B.

Word Game

FEAR; GUILT; REMORSE;
 RESENTMENT
 RESPONSIBILITY; REVENGE; SANITY
 SERENITY; SERVICE; SEX;
 SHORTCOMINGS; SLIPS; SPIRITUAL
 SPONSORSHIP; SUCCESS; SURRENDER
 TEMPTATION; TOLERANCE
 TROUBLE; TRUST; UNITY; WILL
 WILLINGNESS; WORRY

B M P T T I P L O S V K C F I
 X S S P O N S O R S H I P Y B
 E U G N O I T A T P M E T Z R
 B C N D M K Y N R H R I O N E
 B C I U E V T T O W L A L R M
 T E M V Z F I F U I A A E W O
 N S O G R R N N B L E D R F R
 E S C U A E A I L L G D A Q S
 M N T I X E S Y E I N L N X E
 T U R L R N T T K N E M C D W
 N H O T O I S T S G V Q E V O
 E O H P N U I E N N E V V L R
 S J S U R R E N D E R K C B R
 E E Y T I N E R E S L I P S Y
 R L A U T I R I P S V C D P C

**Show your gratitude for your
 sobriety, contribute one dollar
 to Central Office on your
 sobriety birthday for each year
 you have been sober.**

FOUNDERS MONTH DONATIONS

PALMDALE GROUP	\$830.33
MID-DAY GROUP GRANGE Q.H.	\$400.43
A M ATTITUDE MODIFICATION	\$349.46
OPEN DOOR GROUP	\$283.75
P M MODIFICATION	\$223.00
CROWN VALLEY GROUP	\$154.00
A V MEN'S STAG QUARTZ HILL	\$114.07
PEARBLOSSUM GROUP	\$83.00
Alano Club Thur Noon Participation	\$64.00
SUNDAY 7th DAY ADVENTIST B/B/S	\$50.00
Alano Club Sat. Morning Men's	\$49.40
Alano Club Sun Bottles were only a symbol	\$47.00
A.V. H & I	\$43.00
FRI-NITE SPEAKER DESERT WINDS	\$40.75
A WOMAN'S STORY	\$37.90
Alano Club Wed Dare To Be Different	\$35.37
WESTSIDE GROUP WED-NIGHT	\$34.98
Alano Club Wed Alanon Ladies	\$33.29
Alano Club Fri Longtimers	\$31.64
STEPS IN DEPTH WED-NIGHT	\$28.88
RAINBOW GROUP	\$23.00
LITTLE RED BOOK	\$18.50
HIGH DESERT BIG BOOK GROUP	\$14.25
Alano Club Fri Noon	\$12.95
Alano Club Mon Sobriety Rocks	\$5.25
Alano Club Thur Step Workshop	\$2.00
TOTAL	\$3,010.20



**"I had a layover in Omaha ... which
 led to a hangover in Des Moines."**