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## Inside this Issue

- 1 AA in the AV 62
- 2 Calendar of Events/  
Hospitals &  
Institutions/Step 12
- 3 12<sup>th</sup> Tradition/ 12<sup>th</sup>  
Concept
- 4 Manager's Report

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Please limit submissions to 500

# The Scoop

## AA in the AV 62

AA in the AV 62  
By Bruce L.  
District 7 Archivist

Well, my dear readers, pulling together the history of AA in the AV has been a great exercise, but with this issue, I bid you adieu. In closing, it seems appropriate to print an excerpt from my first installment of AA in the AV published five years ago in the October 2019 Scoop:

“AA arrived in the AV in 1948 from Los Angeles. Eight out of ten meetings were in people's homes. An AA phone number was in the Antelope Valley phone book since the early 1950s. One man put it there and he paid for it out of pocket until he died in the 1970s. In 1966 there was a weekly meeting in Palmdale at Carl P.'s house (personal note: Carl P. was Whitey's sponsor, and Whitey was my first sponsor). In Lancaster there was one meeting a week at Beech and Lancaster. The Arid Club was started in 1967. Secrecy and word of mouth really made AA stay underground in those days and true 12-step calls were how AA grew, one drunk talking to another.”

We just passed the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Central Office and

the AV Intergroup, which had its first meeting November 18, 1981. Today, a strong Central Office is a symbol of a strong AA presence in the Antelope Valley.



I am resigning as District 7 Archivist after five years, but my job is not done. So far, besides my monthly contributions of AA in the AV, I have put together two two-page histories: the Palmdale Group and the Open Door, which are available at Central Office. My plan is to do the same for the AV Men's Stag, the AV Intergroup, and the early history of AA in general as it grew up in the Antelope Valley. The archives has all the materials and notes and pictures to put these histories together, and I plan to do so, even though I will no longer be the official archivist. It's been great serving you in this capacity, but at this point, I am signing off and making this my last installment

of AA in the AV (number 62, five years and two months without missing a Scoop). Onward into the unknown!

Bruce L.

## **Calendar of Events**

*Central Office Intergroup Meeting-1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Central Office @7pm*  
*Roundup Meeting-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month @4:00, Friends of Bill*

*H&I Meeting- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month @10am, Friends of Bill*  
*District 7 Meeting- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month @ 630, Grange Hall*

## **Hospitals &**

**Institutions** has become a huge part of my recovery. I had no intention of getting involved until someone I may or may not be married to invited me to the So Cal H&I Conference. I remember meeting a lot of people with solid recovery who seemed to be having a blast in sobriety. A speaker at a meeting started talking about their experience with H&I and that people who were involved had a much better chance of staying sober. That right there hooked me. I was not even 2 years sober and knew that if I said I was willing to go to any lengths to stay sober, that meant stepping out of my comfort zone and trying something new. I started going to the monthly AV

H&I meetings and quickly received a panel to start leading on the 3rd Monday of the month.

That panel has been one of the bright spots of my life. Each month I get the honor of going into Tarzana and sharing just a little bit of my experience, strength, and hope. And I get to help others get involved. Watching people's eyes light up hearing the stories of those who have found a solution is not something to be missed. It has been absolutely beautiful getting to be a small part of something so big. Not just H&I but AA as a whole. I know how blessed, lucky, whatever you want to call it, I am. I don't ever want to take that for granted.

-Vanessa D. A.A. 2020

## **Step 12**

***“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”***

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety. When the

Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs. “What do you mean when you talk about a ‘spiritual awakening’?” they ask.

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others. And these things which they have in common are not too hard to understand. When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. He has been set on a path which tells him he is really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered. In a very real sense he has been transformed, because he has laid hold of a source of strength which, in one way or another, he had hitherto denied

himself. He finds himself in possession of a degree of honesty, tolerance, unselfishness, peace of mind, and love of which he had thought himself quite incapable. What he has received is a free gift, and yet usually, at least in some small part, he has made himself ready to receive it.

## 12th Tradition

***“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”***

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

But in the beginning, anonymity was not born of confidence; it was the child of our early fears. Our first nameless groups of alcoholics were secret societies. New prospects could find us only through a few trusted friends. The bare hint of publicity, even for our work, shocked us. Though ex-drinkers, we still

thought we had to hide from public distrust and contempt.

When the Big Book appeared in 1939, we called it “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Its foreword made this revealing statement: “It is important that we remain anonymous because we are too few, at present, to handle the overwhelming number of personal appeals which may result from this publication. Being mostly business or professional folk, we could not well carry on our occupations in such an event.” Between these lines, it is easy to read our fear that large numbers of incoming people might break our anonymity wide open.

## Twelfth Concept:

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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

Meditation  
Promotion  
Gratitude  
Public  
Giving  
Contact  
Power

Attraction  
Relations  
Maintain  
Prayer  
Sought  
Service  
Films

Knowledge  
Anonymity  
Improve  
Policy  
Press  
Radio