

June 2016

Inside this Issue

Central Office Logo/ My Sobriety Focus

Bye Bye Booze/ My Poem

Step 6/ Sixth Tradition

Daily Reflections/ Sixth Concept

Quotable Quotes/Word
Game

Calendar of Events;
Birthdays

AV Intergroup of AA 43619 N. 17th Street West, Suite 106 Lancaster, CA 93534 661-945-5757 17th Street West / Avenue K

Central Office Web Site: www.avcentraloffice.org Central Office Email: centraloffice@gmail.com

Email Scoop submissions: Jessica Christman Christman_jess2011@live.com

Please limit submissions to 500

The Scoop

What is This New Central Office Logo?

You may have noticed that our Central Office has adopted a new logo design that shows a camel in the middle of our traditional AA symbol. The camel has some historic meaning in Alcoholics Anonymous that stemmed from Dr. Bob explaining prayer by using the camel and it's nature to go to their knees to unload what they were carrying all day. It evolved into a saying, "The camel each day goes twice to his knees. He picks up his load with the greatest of ease. He walks through the day with his head held high. And stays for that day, completely dry."

This image has double meaning for us living in the Antelope Valley since this is the high desert. This was the thinking behind using this logo for our office and it can be seen on our front door, our website, directories, and The Scoop.

My Sobriety Focus Points

By Arne P., A.A. 1976

After making a phony half-hearted start in AA for about 6 months, drinking between meetings, going out in the parking lot and drinking during meetings, stopping at a bar on the way home, I was finally hospitalized and put under psychological evaluation. A 28-day treatment program got me to

understand just how bad a shape I was in, Scary SELF-HONESTY to say the least !!

I was scared of ALCOHOL!! Ads about booze, billboards about any kind of booze, TV shows with drinking, neon signs outside bars, if I saw a beer truck on the road i would choke up. Forget about walking down the liquor isle at the Supermarket. It would all scare me, the only place I felt safe was the Alano Club. Fear of Booze was my first Focal point!

One day in a meeting I happened to look up at the Traditions display on the wall and saw those words...'a Loving GOD' ..!! It really grabbed me because i had earlier noticed that Chapter 5 talked about God having all Power!! So AA offered me a Loving God with all Power......yes, I wanted that. The first 3 Steps got me in a place of spiritual comfort I had never known. Search for God Consciousness became my second Focal point.

My first Sponsor was a Service dedicated old timer. Told me to ... 'always do more than just go to meetings'..!! I took an interest in H&I and heard that H&I folks stand the best chance for long term sobriety. They must have been right 'cause I am now in my 40th year of Sobriety. GSR service for 2 years was interesting, serving on committees was always fun and challenging, helping to start 2 new meetings was a spiritual adventure, hospital visits to fellow AA's keep me bonded to the people I need . Service is my third Focal point!!

My current Focal point is not to take Sobriety for granted, writing a monthly Scoop Article keeps me tuned in to the AA Program!!

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh....It's a GOOD LIFE!!

BYE BYE FROM BOOZE

By: Andrew H., A.A.1982

A fellow member recently shared a "goodbye letter" he wrote to booze. It got me thinking...what if booze wrote back?

Memories, between two friends, recalling ALL that's true,

Remembering the good, remembering the great, but NOW you say "Adieu?

I feel confused, I feel betrayed, and I feel you let ME down,

I built you up; I stood you up, no appreciation found.

You know you owe me, many times, for all the joy I gave,

But now you say our friendship, turned a man into a slave.

I gave you friends, power & prestige, a way to fit "right in",

And NOW you take, the love I gave, you crush me from, within.

How can it be, I gave so much, and NOTHING now to show,

You got your NEW friends, from those groups, a different boat, you row.

It was ME who gave you courage, making up for all YOU lack,

The thanks I get, for all I did, you stabbed ME in the back.

You listen to YOUR buddies, and THEY said things, that weren't true,

Like "easy does it", "live and let live",

these DON'T apply to you. You don't need a sponsor, or the "steps", its brain-washing YOU, INDEED,

Just sit, don't share, and SMILE a lot, it's exactly what I need.

To cause a stir, within YOUR soul, and bring you BACK to me,

And when you say, "it didn't work",
I'll say that I agree.

Just sign his court card, and let him go, the SAME way he came in,

Cause I'll be waiting, right outside, to take HIM back again.

You don't need your job, your health, your kids; these "THINGS" just get in the way,

Of what I want to do to YOU, for ONCE, the TRUTH I'll say.

To tear you from, what means the MOST, is what I plan to do, IGNORE your GOD, and listen to me,

I'll NEVER lie to you.

Don't read THEIR book, or do their steps, your life they want to CHANGE,

A "spiritual experience", is nothing less, than strange.

For no one REALLY, needs, no one else, you'll do better on your own,

Yeah, "that's the ticket", you can buy, and you're BETTER, safe at home.

With just YOUR thoughts, and attitude, an independent guy,

And when you're gone, you're A.A. friends, will be the ones that cry.

For THEY will know, what we all lost, the beauty that was INSIDE,

If you don't follow, God's special plan, and give me one more ride.

(June 2014 Issue)

My Poem

By: Cindy B., A.A.

I sit alone at times

And I think about my past,

Thank you God I'm Sober now

From bondage "Free at Last"...

The meetings and the fellowship

Are a few of the "Perks"

But they don't keep me Sober

I have to do the work...

12 Steps in the program

Have released me from the Strife

Taking them 1 by 1

I celebrate "New Life"...

If you're new and you're not sure
You might become one of us
Sit on down and listen
Try not to make a fuss...

All of us where in your shoes

Not so long ago

Desperate and all you too will hear

"Alcohol is your Foe"...

(March 2012 Issue)

Step 6

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

"This is the Step that separates the men from the boys." So declares a well-loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.'s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and

honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults—without any reservations whatever—has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to

Calendar Events

June 11th 2:00-6:00pm, Grange Hall 81st AA Birthday Celebration

Central Office fundraiser hosted by the Mid-Day Mod ~ BBQ, speaker, & fellowship!

June 18th

Annual Round-Up Poker Run & Picnic ~ Poker Run begins AT Harley Davidson at 8am and Picnic begins at 10 am at Rawley Duntley Park.

June 24th – 26th AV Fairgrounds – Van Dam Bldg AV Round-Up

Our 43rd Annual Convention ~ speakers, dance, and Casino Night!

June 25th 8:30 - Midnight, Van Dam Bldg *Casino Night*

Learn how to play a new game and win chances for raffle prizes . . . including a 55" LED 1080p Flat Screen TV with Roku!

July 4th

AV Alano Club celebration begins at 1pm ~ Jethawks game and fireworks afterwards.

grow in the image and likeness of his own creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can—and will, under certain conditions—remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this:

"Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just

wouldn't work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends, doctors, and clergymen got no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn't stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished. It was lifted right out of me."

In A.A. meetings all over the world, statements just like this are heard daily. It is plain for everybody to see that each sober A.A. member has been granted a release from this very obstinate and potentially fatal obsession. So in a very complete and literal way, all A.A.'s have "become entirely ready" to have God remove the mania for alcohol from their lives. And God has proceeded to do exactly that.

Having been granted a perfect release from alcoholism, why then shouldn't we be able to achieve by the same means a perfect release from every other difficulty or defect? This is a riddle of our existence, the full answer to which may be only in the mind of God. Nevertheless, at least a part of the answer to it is apparent to us.

When men and women pour so much alcohol into themselves that they destroy their lives, they commit a most unnatural act. Defying their instinctive desire for self-preservation, they seem bent upon self-destruction. They work against their own deepest instinct. As they are humbled by the terrific beating administered by alcohol, the grace of God can enter them and expel their obsession. Here their powerful instinct to live can cooperate fully with their Creator's desire to five them new life. For nature and God alike abhor suicide.

But most of our other difficulties don't fall under such a category at all. Every normal person wants, for example, to eat, to reproduce, to be somebody in the society of his fellows. And he wishes to be reasonably safe and secure as he tries to attain these things. Indeed, God made him that way. He did not design man to destroy himself by alcohol, but He did give man instincts to help him to stay alive.

6th Tradition

"An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.

Here are some of the things we dreamed. Hospitals didn't like alcoholics, so we thought we'd build a hospital chain of our own. People needed to be told what alcoholism was, so we'd educate the public, even rewrite school and medical textbooks. We'd gather up derelicts from skid rows, sort out those who could get well, and make it possible for the rest to earn their livelihood in a kind of quarantined confinement. Maybe these places would make large sums of money to carry on our other good works. We seriously thought of rewriting the laws of the land, and having it declared that alcoholics are sick people. No more would they be jailed; judges would parole them in our custody. We'd spill A.A. into the dark regions of dope addiction and criminality. We'd form groups of depressive and paranoid folks; the deeper the neurosis, the better we'd like it. It stood to reason that if alcoholism could be licked, so could any problem.

It occurred to us that we could take what we had into the factories and cause laborers and capitalists to love each other. Our compromising honesty might soon clean up politics. With one arm around the shoulder of medicine, we'd resolve their differences. Having learned to live so happily, we'd show everybody else how. Why, we thought, our Society of Alcoholics Anonymous might prove to be the spearhead of a new spiritual advance! We might transform the world.

Yes, we of A.A. did dream those dreams. How natural that was, since most alcoholics are bankrupt idealists. Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout. Providence, through A.A., had brought us within reach of our highest expectations. So why shouldn't we share our way of life with everyone?

Daily Reflections excerpt on the 6th Step

Page 138: If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing.

Alcoholics Anonymous p. 76

When I had taken my Fifth Step, I became aware that all my defects of character stemmed from my need to feel secure and loved. To use my will alone to work on them would have been trying obsessively to solve the problem. In the Sixth Step I intensified the action I had taken in the first three Steps—meditating on the Step by saying it over and over, going to meetings, following

my sponsor's suggestions, reading and searching within myself. During the first three years of sobriety I had a fear of entering an elevator alone. One day I decided I must walk through this fear. I asked for God's help, entered the elevator, and there in the corner was a lady crying. She said that since her husband had died she was deathly afraid of elevators. I forgot my fear and comforted her. This spiritual experience helped me to see how willingness was the key to working the rest of the Twelve Steps to recovery. God helps those who help themselves.

Daily Reflections excerpt on the 6th Step

Page 75: Carefully reading the first five proposals we ask if we have omitted anything, for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last. . . . Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable?

The Sixth Step is the last "preparation" Step. Although I have already used prayer extensively, I have made no formal request of my Higher Power in the first Six Steps. I have identified my problem, come to believe that there is a solution, made a decision to seek this solution, and have "cleaned house." I now ask: Am I willing to live a life of sobriety, of change, to let go of my old self? I must determine if I am truly ready to change. I review what I have done and become willing for God to remove all my defects of character; for in the next Step, I will tell my Creator I am willing and will ask for help. If I have been thorough in the preparation of my foundation and feel that I am willing to change, I am then ready to continue with the nextStep. "If we still cling to something we will not

let go, we ask God to help us be willing."

Daily Reflections excerpt on the 6th Tradition

Page 189: Having learned to live so happily, we'd show everyone else how. . . Yes, we of A.A. did dream those dreams. How natural that was, since most alcoholics are bankrupt idealists. . . . So why shouldn't we share our way of life with everyone?

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 156

The real discovery of sobriety led me to feel the need to spread the "good news" to the world around me. The grandiose thoughts of my drinking days returned. Labor, I learned that concentrating on my own recovery was a full-time process. As I became a sober citizen in this world, I observed a rippling effect which, without any conscious effort on my part, reached any "related facility or outside enterprise," without diverting me from my primary purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Compelling Love

The life of each A.A. and of each group is built around our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We know that the penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death for the individual and dissolution for the group. But an even greater force for A.A.'s unity is our compelling love for our fellow members and for our principles.

Twelve Concepts, P. 8

Sixth Concept:

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the

principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

huotable Quotes

She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

"Seriously son, I don't care what step you were on. Just step out of the car." I took an IQ test and the results were negative.

"I have become a pupil of the AA movement rather than the teacher I once thought I was." Bill W. 1949 You can always tell when you are on the right road: It is uphill!

Time wasted in getting even can never be used in getting ahead.

I'm able to have a normal conversation with a bunch of abnormal people.

I don't have issues, I have subscriptions. Is your list of things to do today all about you.

If you want some peace and serenity, try giving without recognition.

Safe, sane, and sober: Well one out of three isn't bad.

"I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother, and I found all three. - Came to Believe

pg. 97

He who frees himself of hampering

regrets for the past and worry about what lies ahead finds himself able to deal with the present.

The doctor writes: We feel that after many years of experience that we have found NOTHING which has contributed more to the rehabilitation of these men than the altruistic movement now growing up among them. Abraham Lincoln said, in 1842, at a

temperance meeting.

"I believe if we take habitual drunkards as a class, their heads and their hearts will bear advantageous comparison with those of any other class. There seems to have been a proneness in the brilliant, and the warmblooded, to fall into this vice.

"The demon of intemperance ever seems to have delighted in sucking the blood of genius and generosity."

From Bill Wilson's last message, read by Lois on 10/10/1970

"My thoughts are much occupied these days with gratitude to our fellowship and for the myriad blessings bestowed upon us by God's

"If I were asked which of these blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our community, I would say, the 'concept of anonymity'.

"Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical."

Note From the Editor:

Let me know if there are suggestions about the Scoop. Do you like the layout? What would you like to read more? Do you have any questions or comments, please let me know. I am always looking for new writers and new experiences to share. Thank you. -Jessica C.

Word Game

ASKED, CHARACTER, DISPOSE ENTIRELY, LEARN, LIKENESS, OBJECTIVE, PROMPT, READY, TOWARDS, UNDERSTOOD, WILLING

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

June 2016 Office Manager Report

	Jan - Apr '16	May '16	YTD Total
Sales of Goods	\$18,065.25	\$4,100.02	\$22,165.27
Expenses	(\$10,592.16)	(\$3,345.27)	(\$13,937.43)
Cost of Goods	(\$14,847.03)	(\$3,250.62)	(\$18,097.65)
Contributions	\$8,593.53	\$2,630.40	\$11,223.93



Contributions	\$8,593.53	\$2,630.40	\$11,223.93					
Net Income	\$1,219.59	\$134.53	\$1,354.12			and the second s		
Contri	butions			Alex W. Bonnie S.		Natasha H. Nick J.	6/8/2004 6/24/2004	11
	Jan · Apr '16	May '16	2016 Total	Brian H.		2 Jim B.	6/17/2003	12
(From L	\$0.00	May 10	\$0.00	Carol F.		2 Marc A.	6/23/2003	12
A Gathering of Women	\$1,589.83	\$421.38	\$2.011.21	Carrie		Veronica A.	6/9/2003	12
A.M. Attitude Modification	\$1,589.85	\$100.00	\$100.00	Deitrich V.		Lisa B.	6/26/2002	13
A.V. Hospital ~ 2 West	\$598.60	\$73.20	\$671.80	Denise M.		Noel P.	6/14/2002	13
A.V. Men's Stag Quartz Hill	\$0.00	\$10.40	\$0.00	Joni R.	6/10/2013	Pete S.	6/6/2002	13
A.V. H & I Alano Club Thursday Night	\$88.00		\$88.00	Lance B.	6/6/2013	2 Terry B. C.	6/27/2002	13
Alano Club Wednesday Dare to be Different	\$0.00		\$0.00	Lauren C.		Steve E.	6/4/2001	14
Anonymous Donations	\$698.87	\$366.73	\$1,065,60	Leigh H.		Dave S.	6/4/2000	15
Any Lengths Group	\$0.00	\$300.73	\$0.00	Mark S.		Dee R.	6/14/1999	16
Arbor Court Tuesday	\$30.00		\$30.00	Michael G.		2 Don J.	6/2/1999	16
A Women's Story	\$100.00		\$100.00	Mike H.		2 Bill E.	6/15/1997	18
Birthday Celebrants	\$71.00	\$54.00	\$125.00	Paul W.	6/1/2013	2 Debbie B.	6/30/1997	18
B.Y.O.C. A.V. Y.P.	\$29.00		\$29.00	Janie S.		3 Dena B.	6/24/1997	18
Big Book Ladies Women	\$0.00		\$0.00	Kim B.		3 Iron Michael	6/2/1997	18
California City Clubhouse	\$501.50		\$501.50	Raissa K.	6/4/2012	3 Karen C.	6/27/1996	19
Crown Valley Group	\$0.00		\$0.00	Richard T.	6/18/2012	3 Dave C.	6/11/1995	20
Founders Month	\$0.00		\$0.00	Rick H.	6/15/2012	3 Patrick F.	6/25/1995	20
Friday Night Non-Smoker Speaker Mtg	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	Rob T.		3 Toni L.	6/8/1994	21
Fund Raiser Monthly 50/50	\$0.00		\$0.00	Alena	6/19/2011	4 Darrnell B.	6/10/1993	22
High Desert Big Book	\$451.81		\$451.81	Delores G.	6/14/2011	4 Linda S.	6/3/1993	22
High Desert Hospital Friday	\$90.00		\$90.00	Kathy T.	6/18/2011	4 Wanda	6/10/1993	22
High Desert Medical Group	\$59.12	-	\$59.12	Lisa B.	6/18/2011	4 Yolanda L.	6/8/1993	22
Intergroup Meeting	\$74.26	\$14.00	\$88.26	Lorri C.		4 Claudia C.	6/8/1992	23
Into Action	\$30.00		\$30.00	Rick S.	6/15/2011	4 Eileen K.	6/5/1992	23
Lake Hughes Friday Night	\$0.00		\$0.00	Arlene C.		5 Pat S.	6/12/1992	23
Lake Hughes Men's Stag	\$0.00		\$0.00	Eddie O.		5 Dora W.	6/3/1991	24
Lake Hughes Monday Night	\$100.00		\$100.00	Lisa C.		5 Gerry B.	6/6/1991	24
Mid-Day Modification	\$788.50		\$788.50	Mary S.		5 Harriet Castille	6/18/1991	24
Mojave Big Book Awakening	\$10.00		\$10.00	Paul D.		5 Ernie A.	6/29/1990	25
Mojave Group New Beginnings	\$10.00		\$10.00	Amanda P.		6 Roger J.	6/18/1990	25
P.M. Modification	\$808.42		\$808.42	Aminta C.		6 Bob L.	6/3/1989	26
Palmdale Group	\$0.00	\$723.17	\$723.17	Lenny C.		6 Bryce A.	6/18/1988	27
Pearblossom Group	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	Mel M.		6 Rick M.	6/22/1988	27
Rainbow Group	\$0.00		\$0.00	Terry M.		6 Bill G.	6/2/1987	28
Rosamond Thursday 7 Minutes to Sobriety	\$0.00		\$0.00	Dorothy B.		7 Ron W.	6/27/1987	28
Rosamond Wednesday 7 Minutes to Sobriety	\$0.00		\$0.00	Keith H.	6/13/2008	7 Beth S.	6/14/1986	29
Rule 62 Grp	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	Ken H.	6/3/2008	7 Janie R.	6/9/1986	29
Saturday Morning Men's Stag	\$28.00	\$50.00	\$78.00	Sandy	6/2/2008	7 Jim M.	6/20/1986	29 30
Stepping Stones	\$0.00		\$0.00	Will F.	6/9/2008	7 Tom C.	6/15/1985	
Sunday Night B.B.S. 7th Day Advent	\$0.00	\$9.72	\$9.72	Beverly R.		8 Chris B.	6/1/1983 6/22/1982	32
The 10,11,12 Group	\$0.00		\$0.00	Jamie A.		8 Randy W. 8 Bill J.	6/26/1981	34
The Shop Wednesday Night	\$380.00	000.00	\$380.00	Julie B.			6/20/1981	34
We Care	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	Tom L.		8 Bruce L. 9 Cookie H	6/3/1981	34
Wednesday Night BBS @ The Grange	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00 \$38.20	Carolyn B. Kelly F.		9 Cookie H. 9 Marge B.	6/8/1981	34
Westside Group	\$0.00	\$38.20	\$38.20	Mike D.G.		9 Elizabeth I.	6/10/1980	35
Women in Progress	\$0.00		\$97.77	Jimi A.		10 Mike L.	6/11/1979	36
Women in Recovery	\$97.77		\$96.38	Sterling S.		10 Russ D.	6/15/1975	40
Women Seeking Serenity Monday	\$96.38		. <u>გა. ია</u> ნ.	Amanda H.		10 Russ D. 11 Ron M.	6/28/1973	42
				Charles P.		11 Robert E.	6/10/1971	44
				Cora W.		11 Carol P.	6/1/1968	47
				Lacy F.		11 Don Crandall	6/28/1967	48
				Lori F.		11 Ted Summers	6/16/1965	50
				Lori F.		11 Eddie Wilson	6/16/1961	54
				LOHF.	0/1//2004	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	0/10/1701	77

Managers Corner

\$6.586.91 \$2.630.40 \$9.217.31

This is Founder's Month ~ Please remember to support our Central Office! There are many changes happening - we are now a non-profit corporation and tackling issues to make our office better - your suggestions are welcomed!

Curious about Central Office specific expenses and bank balances, etc? Ask your Intergroup Representative to see the monthly report! Your group doesn't have an Intergroup Rep? Be one!!

Thank You Saturday Volunteers!!

1st ~ Larry W. & Barbie Q.

2nd ~ Aurora J. & Juan

3rd ~ Merredith F., Darin F. & Frankie F.

4th ~ Matt C. & Erica B.

5th ~ Christine F. & Wendy W.

Don't forget to visit us on the Web!



Total Years =

1,759