



May 2024

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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:
avcentraloffice@gmail.com

Email Scoop submissions:
Jessica Christman
Jchr93551av@gmail.com

Please limit submissions to 500

The Scoop

AA in the AV 55

AA in the AV 55
By Bruce L.
District 7 Archivist



The Palmdale Cultural Center, where the AV Wednesday Night Men's Stag met from 1981 to 1992 or 1993

During the time that the AV Wednesday Night Men's Stag was at the Cultural Center in Palmdale (1981 to 1992 or 1993), the meeting went through a very interesting change that is probably worth mentioning. I was there myself from '82 to '90 and I distinctly remember the blowups and arguments surrounding whether or not to allow "druggies" to attend our meeting. It was a closed meeting and it said right in the format that it was for alcoholics only.

Those days, in the '90s, rehabs and recovery programs were new on the scene and big business, and they would send their patients to outside AA meetings. At our Wednesday night meeting, if someone

identified as an addict or even an alcoholic-addict, some of our regulars would tell them right to their face they weren't welcome. Others felt we should be more welcoming. It seems to me, in my memory, that every two or three weeks someone would mention the controversy in their share and then the whole rest of the meeting would be everyone expressing their opinion when it was their turn to share, and it got pretty heated.

We finally came to a solution, which is still read every Wednesday night as part of the format: "If you are what is commonly known as dual addicted you are welcome, but we ask that you confine your sharing to your experiences with alcoholism." That seemed to work. We no longer have the old arguments over this topic, and I think it reflects a more general change in AA as a whole, which has become overall more accepting of a wider range of people in need.

(This little essay is meant as a historical piece, not an opinion piece, just recording a fairly major change that the AV Men's Stag went through in the 1990s that is reflected in the format as it's read today.)

Calendar of Events

Central Office Intergroup

Meeting-1st Thursday of the month at Central Office @7pm

Roundup Meeting-1st Sunday each month @5:30, Grange

H&I Meeting- 2nd Sunday each month @10am, Friends of Bill

District 7 Meeting- 2nd Monday each month @ 630, Grange Hall

Annual Unity Picnic & BBQ, May 18th 11 to 2pm@ Rawley

Duntley Park

Step 5

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

All of A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires . . . they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit

living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

So intense, though, is our fear and reluctance to do this, that many A.A.'s at first try to bypass Step Five. We search for an easier way- which usually consists of the general and fairly painless admission that when drinking we were sometimes bad actors. Then, for good measure, we add dramatic descriptions of that part of our drinking behavior which our friends probably know about anyhow.

But of the things which really bother and burn us, we say nothing. Certain distressing or humiliating memories, we tell ourselves, ought not be shared with anyone. These will remain our secret. Not a soul must ever know. We hope they'll go to the grave with us.

Yet if A.A.'s experience means anything at all, this not only unwise, but is actually a perilous resolve. Few muddled attitudes have caused us more trouble than holding back on Step Five. Some people are unable to stay sober at all; others will relapse periodically until they really clean house. Even A.A. oldtimers, sober for years, often pay dearly for skipping this Step. They will tell how they tried to carry the load alone; how much they suffered of irritability, anxiety, remorse, and depression; and how, unconsciously seeking

relief, they would sometimes accuse even their best friends of the very defects they themselves were trying to conceal. They always discovered that relief never came by confessing the sins of other people. Everybody had to confess his own.

The practice of admitting one's defects to another is, of course, very ancient. It has been validated in every century, and it characterizes the lives of all spiritually centered and truly religious people. But today religion is by no means the sole advocate of this saving principle. Psychiatrists and psychologists point out the deep need every human being has for practical insight and knowledge of his own personality flaws and for a discussion of them with an understanding and trustworthy person. So far as the alcoholic is concerned, A.A. would go even further. Most of us would declare that without a fearless admission of our defects to another human being we could stay sober. It seems plain that the grace of God will not enter to expel our destructive obsessions until we are willing to try this.

G.ood O.rderly D.irection

As Bill Sees It

Page 164- A Saving Principle

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-Twelve and Twelve, PP 56-57

The 5th Tradition

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

“Shoemaker, stick to thy last!” . . . better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this Tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

Alcoholics Anonymous can be likened to a group of physicians who might find a cure for cancer, and upon whose concerted work would depend the answer for sufferers of this disease. True, each physician in such a group might have his own specialty. Every doctor concerned would at time wish he could devote himself to his chosen field rather than work only with the group. But once these men had hit upon a cure, once it became apparent that only by their united effort could this be accomplished, then all of them

would feel bound to devote themselves solely to the relief of cancer. In the radiance of such a miraculous discovery, any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.’s all around the globe.

Fourth Concept:

Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Announcing: “A Celebration of the Big Book” Flash Sale!

May 1 – July 31, 2024

Dear friends,

In commemoration of the 85th anniversary of our life-saving text, Alcoholics Anonymous,

we are delighted to announce our special duo of Big Book discounts:

A. “A Celebration of the Big Book Flash Sale” Big Book Special “Spring into Summer” Offer! - 10% off all Big Books, all print formats, all languages! The offer is available for all orders large and small, for our print and video Big Book editions: hardcovers, softcovers, pocket editions, ASL videos, Braille -- and all translations of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous that are catalogued for sale in the United States and Canada.

B. Special Discount Pricing on our Big Book Facsimile First Printing Edition! Alcoholics Anonymous (Item B-0). Regular List Price: \$12.00 Special Discount Price: \$3.00.

Discounts are combinable with our other quantity discounts, and are effective May 1 – July 31, 2024.

As always, we encourage ordering the Big Book and all of our items of literature from local groups, districts, areas, Intergroups and Central Offices, as they play a vital role in local Twelfth Step activities.

Happy reading!

David R.- Publishing Director
A.A. World Services, Inc. A.A

Malini Singh-Director of
Operations, World Services, Inc.

