



MESSENGER

Editorial: June 1948 On the 7th Tradition

The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contribution of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve its ideal: that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Our growth continuing, the combined income of Alcoholics Anonymous members will soon reach the astounding total of \$250,000,000, a quarter of billion dollars yearly. This is the direct result of A.A. membership. Sober we now have it, drunk we would not.

By contrast, our overall A.A. expenses are trifling.

For instance, the A.A. General Office now costs us \$1.50 per member a year. As a fact, the New York office asks the groups forward this sum twice a year because not all of them contribute. Even so, the sum per member is exceedingly small. If an A.A. happens to live in a large metropolitan center where an intergroup office is absolutely essential to handle heavy inquiries and hospital arrangements, he contributes (or probably should contribute) about \$5.00 annually. To pay the rent of his own group's meeting place, and maybe coffee and doughnuts, he might drop \$25.00 a year in the hat. Or, if he belongs to a club it could be \$50.00. In case he takes *The A.A. Grapevine*, he squanders an extra \$2.50!

So, the A.A. member who really meets his group responsibilities finds himself liable for about \$5.00 a month on the average. Yet his own personal income may be anywhere between \$200. and \$2,000. a month--the direct result of *not* drinking.

"But", some will contend, "our friends want to give us money to furnish that new club house. We are a new small group. Most of us are still pretty broke. What then"?

I am sure that myriads of the A.A. voices would now answer the new group saying, "Yes, we know just how you feel. We once solicited money ourselves. We even solicited publicly. We thought we could do a lot of good with other peoples' money. But we found that kind of money too hot to handle. It aroused unbelievable controversy. It simply wasn't worth it. Besides, it set a precedent which has tempted many people to use the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous for other than A.A. purposes. While there may be little harm in a small friendly loan which your group really means to repay, we really beg you to think hard before you ask the most willing friend to make a large donation. You can, and you soon will, pay your own way. For each of you these overhead expenses will never amount to more than the price of one bottle of good whiskey a month. You will be everlastingly thankful if you pay this small obligation yourselves.

When reflecting on these things, why should not each of us tell himself, "Yes, we A.A.s were once a burden on everybody. We were 'takers.' Now that we are sober, and by the Grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about face and become 'thankful givers'! Yes, it is high time we did!".

Bill W. (June 1948)

Printed with the permission of Grapevine, inc

PRICE LIST 7/1/09

<i>Big Books</i>	
Hard cover	\$ 8.50
Soft cover (English and Spanish)	\$ 8.00
Large print	\$ 9.00
Pocket size	\$ 6.50
<i>Twelve & Twelve Books</i>	
Hard cover	\$ 8.50
Soft cover (English and Spanish)	\$ 8.00
Large print	\$ 9.00
Pocket size	\$ 7.50
Gift Edition (small hard cover)	\$ 9.00
<i>All Other Books</i>	
24 Hours a Day (hard cover)	\$ 10.00
24 Hours a Day (soft cover)	\$ 9.00
AA Comes of Age	\$ 10.00
AA Around the World	\$11.00
AA in Prison	\$ 4.25
AA in Prison (Spanish)	\$ 4.25
AA Service Manual	\$ 4.00
As Bill Sees It (hard cover)	\$ 9.00
As Bill Sees It (soft cover)	\$ 8.50
As Bill Sees It (Large Print)	\$ 11.00
As Bill Sees It (Spanish)	\$ 9.00
Beginners Book	\$ 10.00
Best of Bill	\$ 6.50
Best of Bill (Large Print)	\$ 7.50
Came to Believe	\$ 5.00
Came to Believe (Large Print)	\$ 6.00
Daily Reflections	\$ 8.50
Daily Reflections (large print)	\$ 10.50
Daily Reflections (Spanish)	\$ 9.50
Dr. Bob & the Good Old-timers	\$ 11.00
Dr. Bob & Bill W. Memorial Issue	\$ 7.50
Emotional Sobriety	\$11.00
Experience, Strength & Hope	\$ 10.00
Home Group, The	\$ 6.00
I Am Responsible	\$11.00
In Your Own Words	\$11.00
Language of the Heart	\$ 14.00
Little Red Book (hard cover)	\$ 10.00
Little Red Book (soft cover)	\$ 9.00
Living Sober (English and Spanish)	\$ 5.00
Living Sober (Large Print)	\$ 6.00
Pass It On	\$ 11.50
Spiritual Awakenings	\$11.00

Thank You For Sharing	\$11.00
<i>Books on Tape</i>	
Big Book on tape	\$ 25.00
Twelve & Twelve on tape	\$ 25.00
AA Comes of Age on tape	\$ 25.00
Living Sober on tape	\$ 25.00
Living Sober, CD	\$ 17.50
Big Book on CD	\$ 70.00
History of Service CD	\$ 15.00
12 and 12 CD Braille/Regular	\$ 25.00
CD AA Comes of Age	\$ 15.00
Three Legacies by Bill CD	\$ 10.00
CD Voices of our Co-Founders	\$ 10.00
CD Bill Discusses the 12 Traditions	\$ 10.00
CD Pioneers of AA	\$ 15.00
DVD, Bill Discusses 12 Traditions	\$ 17.50
DVD, 09 Hope A.A. DVD	\$ 15.00
CD A Brief Guide to AA	\$ 5.00
<i>Chips</i>	
Chips, (aluminum)	\$ 0.40
Chip (bronze)	\$ 2.00
Chip (gold)	\$ 5.00
Chip (gold & silver bi-plate)	\$ 7.50
Chip (enamel tri-plate)	\$ 15.00
<i>Other Merchandise</i>	
12 & 12 Dictionary	\$ 3.50
Big Book Dictionary	\$ 3.50
Book Cover, Big Book	\$ 12.50
Decal, Triangle Circle (large)	\$ 1.00
Decal, Triangle Circle (small)	\$ 0.50
Display Rack	\$ 22.00
Greeting Card	\$ 2.00
Group Record Book	\$ 3.00
Keychain, Bronze Chip	\$ 3.00
Keychain, Chip Holder	\$ 6.50
Meeting Format	\$ 5.00
Meeting in a Pocket	\$ 1.00
Newcomer Packets	\$ 2.00
Pamphlets, misc.	\$ 0.30
Wallet Cards, Misc	\$ 0.25
Shades, Steps & Traditions	\$ 60.00
AA Sign Round, Triangle & Circle	\$ 10.00
Santa Barbara Meeting Directory	\$ 0.25

It Works it Really Works

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualifications for membership is that they can't hold their liquor and don't want to learn how. It has no rules, dues or fees, nor anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program, except that it works... The groups are always broke, yet always seem to have money to carry on... They are always losing members but seem to grow.. They claim AA is a selfish program but always seem to be doing something for others...

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements which everyone blithely ignores, members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing happened and greeted accordingly. Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and survive magnificently.. Nothing in AA is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God made man and woman. He made laughter, too. Perhaps he is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe he is pleased, not with our perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe he is pleased with our trying to be nobody, but ourselves. We don't know how it works, but it does and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their AA investments. It is smart to be sober and it is much easier, my friends, to stay sober than to get sober.

Anonymous

Supporting Member Donation Coupon

I would like to become a supporting member of the Santa Barbara AA Central Office, and help it continue to carry the message and be there for the alcoholic who still suffers. I look forward to finding my monthly newsletter in the mail each month!

Enclosed is my first contribution of \$ _____. I will continue to donate this amount on a (circle one) monthly, quarterly, annual, other _____ basis.

I am already a supporting member. This is my regular contribution of \$ _____.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please make check payable to: AA Central Office, S.M.C.

1213 State Street, Suite H

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. – Seventh Tradition (short form), reprinted by permission of AA World Services, Inc.

CONVENTION NEWS JULY 2009

CONVENTION UPDATE

“HOPE IS THE KEY”

The Convention Committee is working hard to organize a great function for this year. Great speakers have been booked, the various meetings are being planned, and special events are coming together for a week-end of fun, fellowship and great AA messages.

The website is sbaaconvention.org and gives you all the pertinent information you will need; on-line registration is available there or you may print out a registration form and send it in. Registration forms are also available at Central Office and at many meetings. A convention package is available until October 15th which includes all events (except golf and Al-Anon luncheon), a mug and a T-shirt.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th at 6:00 at our regular meeting place. For directions go to the website or call Central Office. Volunteer opportunities are always available and it's a great way to work with your fellows on behalf of a great event. Volunteers are being recruited to lead the marathon meetings; call Kevin C. at 252-1508 to find out more.

Your Convention Committee

A GREAT BIG 4TH OF JULY THANK YOU.

I would like to thank everyone who came out and participated in our 4th of July barbeque. It was a beautiful day and a great afternoon of fellowship, fun and a fantastic \$5.00 meal. I would like to also thank all the people who showed up and helped with the set-up and the meal, especially the newcomers who provided invaluable service in getting the food from the serving table to the hungry crowd. A special thanks goes to Hopper, who manned the barbecue in his usual seemingly effortless style – and made great food! Also thanks to the folks who participated in the bake sale, to those who brought and donated baked goods, those who organized and handled the bake sale, and those who supported the bake sale by buying the goodies.

It was really awesome to see so many people show up. The energy around and fun had by all was heart-warming. And once again, the cake walk was a big hit with lots of participation and lots of laughter. Next year, we hope to see all of you again to continue our July 4th tradition of enjoying a great day, good food and warm fellowship.

As a preview, next year we will be doing the Resentment Wall, should anyone out there happen to have a resentment or two. And any new ideas are welcome about possible games and activities for all the children attending. (Please email any ideas you have to me at JohnS@SantaBarbaraAA.com.)

So, once again, thanks to everyone who was there, and for everyone's support of your Central Office and our Fun raisers.

In Service

John S.

District 23 General Service

www.ccaadistrict23.com

Accessibilities & Special Needs Committee

While there are no special AA members, there are many members who have special needs. This would include those who may be hearing-, visually-, or speech-impaired, those who are homebound, chronically ill, and those who are developmentally disabled or who suffer from brain damage, stroke, etc. Whatever their disability may be, it is hoped that they would never be excluded from AA meetings, Twelve Step work or AA service. A locked access door, a blocked ramp or parking problem can make it impossible to get to a meeting. We may take for granted our physical and mental health but, if we were to experience the daily challenges of those with special needs, we might have a different point of view.

You can add your name and phone # to the Accessibilities List and be part of the action. Give a ride to an AA member who is not able to get to a meeting due to a disability. Join us and take a meeting into a member's home who cannot get out to a meeting.

Contact Committee Chair Melody at 566-0377 or email: accessibilities@ccaadistrict23.com

Upcoming District 23 & GSR events:

- **Delegate Report-Back Day**
Saturday, July 25th 10AM-12:30PM
Veteran's Memorial Bldg (upstairs),
Refreshments Provided.
- **Area Delegate Jeff J.'s Presentation and Q&A from the recent General Service Conference**
- **GSR Monthly Meeting: 1st Monday at 6PM, Holy Cross Church, 1740 Cliff Dr.**
- **Facilities Committee Meeting:** 3rd Monday at 6 PM, SB AA Central Office.
Committee Chair: Earl U.
- **Area 93 ACM meeting:** July 19, 9 AM,
Goleta Valley Community Center

For more info, please contact your GSR, or the District 23 DCM (Don H.) Phone: 630-4834 or email: dcm@ccaadistrict23.com

Responsibility Declaration:

"I am responsible.

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.

And for that: I am responsible."

Is AA a Cult?

The eighties and nineties brought in an influx of people from the "me" generation and the rooms of AA were packed to the rafters. This tidal wave of recovery took a little while for a backlash to form in popular culture (as seen by the stereo-typing and mimicking of AA on a variety of television shows; I suspect because Studio City [where many TV and film writers live and work] has a very active AA presence). The reaction to the spirituality of AA takes on a few common objections in most of these programs. They go something like this (I draw from an old South Park episode I saw last night): AA is a cult. The insistence on powerlessness is anathema to most liberal-minded thinking and thus, the membership comes off as unimpeachable or irresponsible for our actions. That alcoholism is a disease, no different from cancer, that only a relationship with a Higher Power can save one from this disease: That one must completely abstain from alcohol and must stay that way. One is never "cured". Any fun we have must be within the confines of AA; i.e., a cult.

I have been an active member of AA for over ten years now and in that ten years I have seen a lot of cultish behaviors and personalities but it never crosses that line because, unlike a cult, we are each responsible (i.e., leaderless) for our actions in a way that is mysterious from the outside. Our insistence that alcoholism is a disease means that it has a pathology rendering it able to be diagnosed and treatable. This business about a Higher Power is absolutely inclusive and practical; never exclusive or religious; allowing infinite latitude for each individual. I could go on and on but my point ought to be clear enough for now: AA will survive this criticism and evolve to adapt if we avoid cultish behavior and let it.

George C.



June 2009

BIRTHDAYS

Name	Years
Dave C	1
Melissa R	1
Troy R	1
Summer H	1
Terry L	1
Kimberly	1
Julie H	2
Alex J	2
Mike B	2
Liz R	3
Grant	3
Kari	3
Bernie C	5
Stacy P	6
Patrick D	7
Darcee D	10
Olga K	10
Donnette B	12
David R.	13
Bev J.	15
Dan B	15
D.A. Metrove	17
Anna	20
Dottie G	21
Mike B	24
Jennifer O	24
John S	24
Cherly L	25
Mary W	28
Peggy E.	32
Mike G	34

The Messenger is published monthly by:

**23rd District Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous
1213 State Street, Suit H
Santa Barbara, California, 93101**

805-962-3332

JohnS@SantaBarbaraAA.com

Submissions Needed

The Messenger needs your submissions and letters. For the August 2009 Messenger, we are looking for articles for Step 8, Tradition 8, or Concept 8. Or any other AA related story, H and I, or any on your experience, strength and hope. Send submissions to **JohnS@SantaBarbaraAA.com**

Central Office Statistics

During the June 2009 your Central Office had:

AA Information calls	749
Al-Anon Referrals	55
Referrals to other programs	42
12 step via answering service	51
Out-of-town visitors	40
12-step via office	29
Office walk-ins	501
Hits on our Web site	1,202

Service Meetings

General Service Representatives (GSR) meet at 6:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month at Holy Cross Church Hall, 1740 Cliff Dr. Behind the Church.

IGR's (Intergroup Representatives) meet at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, 21 East Constance in Santa Barbara.

H&I (Hospitals & Institutions) meets at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at Central Office.

PI (Public Information) meets on the 4th Saturday of each month. Call 687-7673 for more information.

25th ANNUAL Santa Barbara Convention Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 3523 Modoc Rd. Commitments Available!

Central Office
1213 State Street, Suite H
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 962-3332

