



April 2025

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Please limit submissions to 500

The Scoop

“Alcohol was for me what spinach was for Popeye”

One of the greatest myths I loved to embrace in my drinking days was, “You’d drink, too, if you had my life.” What I’ve come to know is that I didn’t drink because I was blind; I drank because I was, and am, an alcoholic. I grew up during the boom days of the big automakers in a feisty working-class Polish-Russian neighborhood. My dad and my uncles—sons of immigrants—drank, gambled and swaggered. The corner bar was the heartbeat of the neighborhood, and alcohol was the social lubricant. Here I was, a skinny, frightened child, who at five years old found out he was going blind and there was nothing that could be done to prevent it. I had a progressive eye disease, and for the next 40 years, I endured the agonizing process of gradually losing all of my sight. My dad was a great teacher he taught me how to gamble, how to cheat at cards, and how to always look for an angle to exploit. The work ethic was a foreign concept to him, but we managed to scrape by, even when dad went to prison for stealing.

I was a shy, gawky, awkward kid with thick glasses—so totally outside of what it meant to “be a man” in this family. As a teen and young adult, I had enough

residual vision to work in supermarkets, factories, and offices, always trying to hide my condition. Until my late 20’s I kept trying to pass as sighted, but not without bumping into poles, tripping on the stairs, or sitting on strangers’ laps on the bus. So early on, alcohol became a friend. Alcohol was for me what spinach was for Popeye. I was married at 24, but truly didn’t have the ability to love or give of myself. I was unfaithful, ambitious, and willing to bend the rules whenever it suited my needs. In the meantime, as my blindness progressed, I knew my only hope was to get an education. That I did, School gave me the kind of structure that I’d never had. During the next 12 years I kept changing jobs, returning to school, dragging my family from place to place in pursuit of my dreams and, of course, drinking regularly. Eventually I earned a doctorate in rehabilitation administration. By this time I was using a white cane and relying on braille and large print to read. My big city gift of gab and street smarts blasted me into leadership positions. Unfortunately, my history taught me to try to control people, places, and things, and to finish first at all costs. Now I was a big shot—attending conferences, traveling and being the “boss.” My two favorite phrases quickly

became “open bar” and “happy hour.” One of my “aha!” moments came on an icy winter day, when I found myself crawling over a snow bank on my hands and knees, with my white cane in one hand and a bottle of vodka in a brown paper bag in the other. Such was my desperation. Some big shot!
-Access to AA, P-83

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 @ 6:30, Grange Hall

Quotable Quotes

I did some hard time, 30 days, 60, 90, 6 months, 9 months. My 30 day chip feels like an academy award!

The circumstances of my life don't determine the quality of my life; the quality of my life is determined by my reaction to circumstances.

Isn't it interesting that the same letters spell both “silent and listen.”

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. –C.S. Lewis

I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I said.

The more you try to control another person, the more you are under that person's control. –Dr. Paul O.

When we mind-trip into the past or future, we travel alone. The best thing that you can do for others, is to be okay for yourself. –Dr. Paul O.

Facebook is no substitute for facetime.

If you feel far from God, then guess who moved!

I'm not arguing with you; I'm trying to convince you that I'm right.

Step 4

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Creation gave us instincts for a purpose. Without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. If men and women didn't exert themselves to be secure in their persons, made no effort to harvest food or construct shelter, there would be no survival. If they didn't reproduce, the earth wouldn't be populated. If there were no social instinct, if men cared nothing for the society of one another, there would be no society. So these desires—for the sex relation, for material and emotional security, and for companionship—are perfectly

necessary and right, and surely God-given.

Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions. Powerfully, blindly, many times subtly, they drive us, dominate us, and insist upon ruling our lives. Our desires for sex, for material and emotional security, and for an important place in society often tyrannize us. When thus out of joint, man's natural desires cause him great trouble, practically all the trouble there is. No human being, however good, is exempt from these troubles. Nearly every serious emotional problem can be seen as a case of misdirected instinct. When that happens, our great natural assets, the instincts, have turned into physical and mental liabilities.

Step Four is our vigorous and painstaking effort to discover what these liabilities in each of us have been, and are. We want to find exactly how, when and where our natural desires have warped us. We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves. By discovering what our emotional deformities are, we can move toward their correction. Without a willing and persistent effort to do this, there can be little sobriety or contentment for us. Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith

which really works in daily living is still out of reach.

G.ood O.rderly D.irection

The 4th Tradition

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Autonomy is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

When A.A.'s Traditions were first published, in 1946, we had become sure that an A.A. group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So

confident of this had we become that the original statement of A.A. tradition carried this significant sentence: “Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups “wet,” others “dry,” still others “Republican” or Communist,” and yet others “Catholic” or “Protestant.” The A.A. group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong.

Fourth Concept:

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the

responsibility that each must discharge.

The principle of “Right of Participation” is built into the General Service Conference through the Conference Charter. Voting members include not only delegates, but also the trustees, and the directors and staff members of A.A. World Services (i.e., GSO) and the AA Grapevine.

In the same way, the boards of these two operating entities include as voting members not only trustees, but also nontrustee directors and paid administrators and staff members.

The chairperson of the General Service Board appoints nontrustee members to the standing committees in order to have the advantage of their expertise, and staff members serve as committee secretaries. “There are no ‘superiors,’ no ‘inferiors,’ and no ‘advisers.’” New trustees on the General Service Board and new directors of the AAWS and Grapevine boards are sometimes surprised to see paid executives, staff members and outside accountants attending the board meetings. They are invited because of A.A.'s “Right of Participation.” Thus, the trustees and directors “are put into direct communication with these workers, who. . . feel wanted and needed. Although they do not vote, these workers may freely participate.”

April 2024 Office Manager Report

	Jan - Feb	Mar	YTD Total
Sales of Goods	\$10,201.74	\$4,547.06	\$14,748.80
Expenses	(\$12,446.94)	(\$5,152.93)	(\$17,599.87)
Cost of Goods	(\$5,491.83)	(\$1,106.86)	(\$6,598.69)
Contributions	\$7,341.89	\$1,430.60	\$8,772.49
Net Income	(\$395.14)	(\$282.13)	(\$677.27)



Contributions			
Group	Jan - Feb	Mar	Total
A Gathering of Women	\$101.00		\$101.00
AM/Mid-Day Mod	\$1,262.32		\$1,262.32
Anonymous	\$551.83	\$67.01	\$618.84
Any Lengths Group	\$0.00		\$0.00
AV Hospital	\$0.00		\$0.00
AV Men's Stag	\$152.19	\$140.19	\$292.38
AV Roundup	\$1,310.94		\$1,310.94
AVYPAA	\$0.00		\$0.00
Birthday	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Cal City Clubhouse	\$0.00		\$0.00
Crown Valley Group	\$87.00	\$20.00	\$107.00
Daily Reflections	\$0.00		\$0.00
District 7	\$78.20		\$78.20
Faithful Fiver	\$555.00	\$195.00	\$750.00
High Desert BB Grp	\$0.00		\$0.00
Intergroup Fundraisers	\$0.00		\$0.00
Into Action	\$0.00		\$0.00
Joe & Charlie Book Study - Alano	\$0.00		\$0.00
Lake Hughes Group	\$210.00		\$210.00
New Beginnings	\$0.00		\$0.00
Open Door	\$0.00		\$0.00
Open Participation	\$0.00		\$0.00
Palmdale Grp	\$766.08	\$247.40	\$1,013.48
Palmdale Mon Noon 12 & 12	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Pearblossom Grp	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
PM Mod	\$167.97		\$167.97
Quartz Hill Unity Grp	\$490.00	\$218.00	\$708.00
Rainbow Grp	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Recovery @ The Ranch	\$0.00		\$0.00
Rosamond Sun Night	\$0.00		\$0.00
Rule 62 Grp	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sat AM Men's Stag	\$0.00		\$0.00
Step Workshop Meeting	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sun Love & Tolerance	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sun Night BBS	\$90.00		\$90.00
Thursday Night Step Study	\$0.00		\$0.00
Tuesday Topic Mtg - Alano	\$0.00		\$0.00
Unity Group	\$0.00		\$0.00
Wed Night BBS	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Westside Grp	\$0.00		\$0.00
Women in Recovery	\$0.00		\$0.00
Women Seeking Serenity	\$100.00		\$100.00
Sober Sisters	\$0.00		\$0.00
Digital Contributions	\$1,419.36	\$103.00	\$1,522.36
TOTALS	\$7,341.89	\$1,430.60	\$8,772.49

Michael T.	4/12/2021	4	Jim H.	4/25/1999	26
Natalie G.	4/21/2019	6	Krystal C.	4/27/1999	26
Alena M.	4/28/2019	6	Mark H.	4/6/1999	26
Sandy T.	4/8/2016	9	Ray R.	4/1/1999	26
Brad P.	4/4/2013	12	Scott S.	4/8/1999	26
Julie B.	4/10/2013	12	Steve K.	4/1/1999	26
Catalina C.	4/13/2012	13	Jerry H.	4/1/1998	27
Craig R.	4/1/2012	13	Alan P.	4/28/1997	28
Jeff S.	4/28/2012	13	Alfonso O.	4/5/1997	28
Boston John	4/1/2011	14	Betty S.	4/4/1997	28
Brian B.	4/14/2011	14	Dawn J.	4/17/1997	28
Dianne E.	4/17/2011	14	John W.	4/25/1997	28
James S.	4/10/2011	14	Joyce P.	4/13/1996	29
Jennifer	4/14/2011	14	Linda D.	4/8/1995	30
Oliver C.	4/29/2011	14	Ketty L.	4/3/1994	31
Rick H.	4/15/2011	14	Vesta S.	4/25/1994	31
Jennifer G.	4/27/2010	15	Earl W.	4/14/1993	32
Mishone J.	4/13/2010	15	Joanna O.	4/20/1993	32
Scott D.	4/26/2010	15	Steve P.	4/24/1993	32
Tim J.	4/27/2010	15	Wanda	4/15/1993	32
Bob H.	4/20/2009	16	Dana S.	4/26/1992	33
Johnny L.	4/16/2009	16	Jill R.	4/22/1992	33
Kim T.	4/3/2009	16	Joe H.	4/29/1992	33
LaVonda L.	4/16/2009	16	Raymond B.	4/4/1992	33
Patrick M.	4/4/2009	16	Ron B.	4/3/1992	33
Rory D.	4/9/2009	16	Tony H.	4/3/1992	33
Ike W.	4/20/2008	17	Ray B.	4/3/1991	34
Karyn M.	4/1/2008	17	Walter P.	4/14/1991	34
Danielle B.	4/14/2007	18	Kevin M.	4/7/1990	35
Dawn C.	4/17/2007	18	Richard P.	4/5/1990	35
Kim R.	4/3/2007	18	Susan R.	4/14/1990	35
Mike W.	4/15/2007	18	Terry J.	4/22/1990	35
Patrick S.	4/24/2007	18	Charlie K.	4/16/1989	36
Rowdy J.	4/10/2007	18	Jerry L.	4/26/1989	36
Susan C.	4/13/2007	18	Ron N.	4/21/1989	36
Venessa Y.	4/11/2007	18	Rico C.	4/9/1989	36
Alicia	4/13/2006	19	Steve A.	4/1/1989	36
Bernie A.	4/2/2006	19	Carol H.	4/17/1988	37
Chase M.	4/17/2006	19	Monica L.	4/8/1987	38
Earl M.	4/17/2006	19	Bill G.	4/24/1986	39
Gail R.	4/10/2006	19	Danny A.	4/18/1986	39
Gwen C.	4/12/2006	19	Frank S.	4/21/1986	39
Jean M.	4/25/2006	19	Kathy P.	4/19/1986	39
Lisa N.	4/27/2006	19	Steve W.	4/23/1986	39
Renal F.	4/14/2006	19	Pat R.	4/3/1985	40
Richard L.	4/16/2006	19	Deborah H.	4/13/1984	41
Charles G.	4/22/2005	20	Glenn C.	4/20/1984	41
Christina J.	4/10/2005	20	Terry C.	4/22/1983	42
Khalil W.	4/22/2005	20	Charlie W.	4/26/1982	43
Lisa R.	4/23/2005	20	Bob Fisher	4/30/1981	44
Monique A.	4/16/2005	20	Chris W.	4/1/1981	44
Albert M.	4/15/2004	21	Les G.	4/16/1980	45
Mimie R.	4/1/2004	21	Norma S.	4/16/1979	46
Steve H.	4/20/2004	21	Stephanie S.	4/23/1979	46
Jim T.	4/3/2003	22	Annie M.	4/15/1977	48
Landy B.	4/7/2003	22	Don M.	4/13/1976	49
Sharon R.	4/9/2003	22	Stu C.	4/13/1974	51
Linda A.	4/5/2002	23			
Tina D.	4/22/2002	23			
Judy H.	4/24/2001	24			
Victor D.	4/6/2001	24			

Get your groups birthday list to Central Office
... That's how they appear here!

Total Years = 3,041

Managers Corner

Faithful Fivers is not doing as well as last year. Please consider being part of the SOLUTION!

Thank You Saturday Volunteers!!

- 1st ~ Larry W. & Kurt H.
- 2nd ~ Wendy W. & Deborah L.
- 3rd ~ Nonna W. & Vacant
- 4th ~ Carmen R. & Vacant
- 5th ~ Stephanie S. & Vacant

Thank you for allowing me to be of service!!

Jeffrey Harlow

Don't forget to visit us on the Web!

