



May 2023

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Please limit submissions to 500

# The Scoop

## AA in the AV 43

AA in the AV 43  
 By Bruce L.  
 District 7 Archivist

Dear reader,

I am pleased to announce the new publication “A brief history of the Open Door,” a two-sided flyer that was condensed and compiled from numerous installments in the Scoop that gave the long version of the history. This flyer is now available in the literature rack at the AV Central Office alongside “A brief history of the Palmdale Group.”



**A brief history of the Open Door**

There's an old saying in AA that all you need to start a new meeting is a Big Book, a coffee pot, and a resentment. Ike W., they say, had resentments on steroids against the Arid Club and certain people in it (I even heard from one reliable source that a gun was pulled at one time), and so Ike W. and Mary Lou (who got sober at The Nest in the S.F. Valley) set out to find a new meeting location and settled on a small narrow room behind a shoe repair shop at 45141 Yucca Avenue. Today the store in front is Desert Locksmith, and its own back door is the original Back Door. July 9, 1988, marks the first meeting and the official birthday of the Back Door.

By 1986 the Back Door had expanded and taken over the shop in front, but around 1989 the owners either chose not to renew the lease or they raised the rent to an unaffordable amount and the Back Door had to relocate. At the time of the move, in 1989 or 1990, the name was changed by group consensus to the Open Door to avoid confusion with a local gay bar on Avenue I.



Today's store in front of what used to be the Back Door on Yucca Avenue.



The back door that people had to enter through in the early days!

The new meeting location was in a corner storefront, three doors east of the Serenity Outpost on Ave. H-4, a store that specialized in 12-Step materials, medallions, cassette tapes, etc. In 1992 the Serenity Outpost closed, and the Open Door moved to its current location and members went to work building the coffee bar, installing kitchen cabinets, and making the stage and the podium. Tables and chairs were a mishmash of whatever could be scrounged. Someone grabbed some of the old folding theater seats from the old Lancaster Boulevard movie theater when it was torn down to make way for the LPAC.



In 1992, when the Serenity Outpost closed, the Open Door moved here. When the Back Door moved to H-8 (1989-1990) it moved here and became the Open Door.

The Back Door on Yucca sold cinder blocks on the wall to put your sobriety date and favorite phrase for \$10, the birthplace of today's Open Door tradition of sobriety plaques on the wall.

The Open Door became known for having potlucks, barbecues, dances, and picnics, especially on the holidays. There were marathon meetings and lots of food on Christmas and Thanksgiving. “Christmas for the Kids” was a special occasion for children. In fact, The Open Door still claims to be the only meeting hall that allows kids in the meetings (single parents need meetings too).

The Open Door was also unique in staying open during the pandemic, a decision that was roundly criticized by some, but was justified by its group conscience and strict adherence to the 12 Traditions and Covid guidelines (as they saw them).

In the words of long timer Steve L., “Many members over the years have contributed to make the Open Door what it is today – a fellowship of common drunks who have somehow become a family.”



At its new location in 1992, Doug H built the stage and podium, still there today more than 30 years later.



The old Back Door plaque hangs in the Open Door, a tribute to its own history.

Compiled by Bruce L., District 7 Archivist (April 18, 2023)

## STEP 5

### “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**

## **The 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Fifth 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.

This is a very important aspect of AA. We want all opinions. All opinions "For" and "Against" a motion should all be considered. If you part of the minority opinion, your voice should be heard as to why you value your opinion. No one would be mad for voicing your opinion. This creates an inclusive environment. I have seen one person against a motion and this opinion changed the opinion of the majority. Sometimes the majority opinion brings up ideas the majority has not been thinking. I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Does your group have a GSR to represent your group? If not, then why not? These meetings that do not participate will not have a voice in A.A. When changes are made within A.A. and these meetings do not participate, then we can never live up to the valuable concept. In the Antelope Valley, we are part of District 7 and Area 93. District 7 does host District meetings at the Grange in Quartz Hill the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. The start time is 6:30pm. So, please come and be part of A.A. as a whole at the next District meeting.

-Keith H., A.A. 2008

### *Word Game*

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

Searchlight	Necessary	Contrary	Quit
Yesterday	Remember	Nature	
Cannot	Bypass	Perilous	
Admit	Ought		

# May 2023 Office Manager Report

	Jan - Mar	Apr	YTD Total
Sales of Goods	\$12,161.61	\$3,030.25	\$15,191.86
Expenses	(\$16,386.92)	(\$4,364.42)	(\$20,751.34)
Cost of Goods	(\$16,784.29)	(\$1,772.57)	(\$18,556.86)
Contributions	\$10,655.21	\$2,797.63	\$13,452.84
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$10,354.39)</b>	<b>(\$309.11)</b>	<b>(\$10,663.50)</b>



<b>Contributions</b>			
Group	Jan - Mar	Apr	Total
A Gathering of Women	\$647.39		\$647.39
AM/Mid-Day Mod	\$2,358.78	\$384.12	\$2,742.90
Anonymous	\$619.92	\$208.61	\$828.53
Any Lengths Group	\$80.00		\$80.00
AV Hospital	\$350.00		\$350.00
AV Men's Stag	\$218.00	\$478.00	\$696.00
AV Roundup	\$2.00		\$2.00
AVYPAA	\$14.59		\$14.59
Birthday	\$68.00	\$83.00	\$151.00
Cal City Clubhouse	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Came to Believe - Alano Club	\$0.00		\$0.00
Crown Valley Group	\$350.00		\$350.00
Daily Reflections	\$0.00		\$0.00
Dare to be Different - Alano Club	\$0.00		\$0.00
District 7	\$441.23		\$441.23
Faithful Fiver	\$325.00	\$15.00	\$340.00
Friday Noon - Alano	\$0.00		\$0.00
High Desert BB Grp	\$842.75		\$842.75
Intergroup Fundraisers	\$920.00		\$920.00
Into Action	\$440.00	\$246.50	\$686.50
Joe & Charlie Book Study - Alano	\$0.00		\$0.00
Lake Hughes Group	\$120.00	\$157.00	\$277.00
New Beginnings	\$0.00		\$0.00
Open Door	\$300.00		\$300.00
Open Participation	\$0.00		\$0.00
Palmdale Grp	\$564.18	\$287.73	\$851.91
Palmdale Grp Mon Noon 12 & 12	\$45.00		\$45.00
Pearblossom Grp	\$0.00		\$0.00
PM Mod	\$94.00		\$94.00
Quartz Hill Unity Grp	\$380.00	\$130.00	\$510.00
Rainbow Grp	\$0.00		\$0.00
Recovery @ The Ranch	\$0.00		\$0.00
Rosamond Sun Night	\$0.00	\$153.00	\$153.00
Rule 62 Grp	\$50.00		\$50.00
Sat Spkr Mtg - Alano	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sobriety Rocks	\$0.00		\$0.00
Step Workshop Meeting	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sun Night BBS	\$32.00		\$32.00
The Promises - Alano Club	\$0.00		\$0.00
Thurs Night Step Study	\$100.00		\$100.00
Tuesday Topic Mtg - Alano	\$0.00		\$0.00
Unity Group	\$0.00		\$0.00
Wed Night BBS	\$0.00	\$86.36	\$86.36
Westside Grp	\$0.00	\$104.00	\$104.00
Women in Recovery	\$0.00		\$0.00
Women Seeking Serenity	\$101.00		\$101.00
Sober Sisters	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Digital Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,091.37</b>	<b>364.31</b>	<b>\$1,455.68</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,563.84</b>	<b>\$2,797.63</b>	<b>\$13,452.84</b>

Adolfo T.	5/3/2015	8	James S.	5/12/2000	23
Erica B.	5/9/2015	8	Liz K.	5/30/2000	23
Jaclyn W.	5/13/2015	8	Stephanie H.	5/27/2000	23
Terry B.	5/16/2015	8	Carl F.	5/27/1999	24
Joel	5/11/2013	10	Scott T.	5/30/1998	25
Andre' A.	5/31/2013	10	Terry M.	5/30/1998	25
Brice C.	5/22/2012	11	Bob H.	5/27/1997	26
Frank M.	5/4/2012	11	Kathy D.	5/5/1997	26
Tom K.	5/1/2012	11	Paul M.	5/29/1997	26
Brian W.	5/6/2011	12	Rav R.	5/17/1997	26
Diane M.	5/29/2011	12	David P.	5/30/1995	28
Karen M.	5/10/2011	12	Erich R.	5/15/1994	29
Mario G.	5/17/2011	12	Linda M.	5/31/1994	29
Tammy S.	5/15/2011	12	Ron H.	5/14/1994	29
Theresa B.	5/7/2011	12	Ron J.	5/9/1994	29
Valerie Jo H.	5/25/2011	12	Tom H.	5/7/1994	29
Ernesto H.	5/3/2010	13	Earl W.	5/16/1993	30
Kevin G.	5/10/2010	13	Marsha Y.	5/15/1993	30
Paul B.	5/20/2010	13	Steve W.	5/9/1993	30
Wendell F.	5/27/2010	13	Tom M.	5/14/1993	30
Amy M.	5/2/2009	14	Betty C.	5/27/1992	31
Danielle G.	5/29/2009	14	David G.	5/16/1992	31
Edward S.	5/20/2009	14	Laura E.	5/17/1992	31
Eric M.	5/31/2009	14	Lee M.	5/25/1992	31
Kathi D.	5/6/2009	14	Cathy R.	5/1/1991	32
Kathryn M.	5/29/2009	14	De Andre M.	5/29/1991	32
Kathy S.	5/19/2009	14	Kevin Mc	5/16/1991	32
Lisa K.	5/20/2009	14	Sharon L.	5/10/1991	32
Yvonne E.	5/5/2009	14	Deto	5/21/1990	33
Chris G.	5/21/2008	15	Joh F.	5/22/1990	33
Georgia A.	5/21/2008	15	Robert G.	5/9/1990	33
Jonie R.	5/21/2008	15	Scott T.	5/5/1990	33
Michael S.	5/13/2008	15	Walt B.	5/13/1990	33
Rickey C.	5/17/2008	15	Robin K.	5/6/1989	34
Robert M.	5/13/2008	15	Bill M.	5/20/1988	35
Ashley A.	5/8/2007	16	Kim C.	5/18/1988	35
Bayla	5/15/2007	16	Sandy C.	5/1/1987	36
Brian O.	5/21/2007	16	Gene S.	5/7/1986	37
Cathleen K.	5/30/2007	16	Lou B.	5/1/1986	37
Melissa G.	5/14/2007	16	Michele R.	5/26/1986	37
Rive C.	5/10/2007	16	Tom K.	5/27/1986	37
Stan V.	5/9/2007	16	Kim T.	5/12/1985	38
Dave K.	5/14/2006	17	Beverly M.	5/12/1984	39
Charlie P.	5/26/2005	18	Paul E.	5/4/1984	39
Kevin M.	5/4/2004	19	Barbara	5/8/1983	40
Steve H.	5/2/2004	19	Dawn E.	5/22/1983	40
Sylvia	5/7/2004	19	Herbert H.	5/12/1983	40
Cathy W.	5/9/2003	20	Lori H.	5/15/1983	40
Dave M.	5/15/2003	20	John C.	5/3/1982	41
Debbie T.	5/7/2003	20	Jose T.	5/3/1982	41
Patti B.	5/21/2001	22	Loretta R.	5/25/1978	45
Robert B.	5/27/2001	22	Don M.	5/2/1976	47
Tomas C.	5/29/2001	22	Ken L.	5/7/1976	47

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

Total Years = 2,509

## Managers Corner



Contributions are down and inflation is rising. Please consider joining the Faithful Fiver club!  
Be well, my friends.

Be safe &



## Thank You Saturday Volunteers!!

- 1st ~ Larry W. & Vacant
- 2nd ~ Wendy W. & Laura Linn
- 3rd ~ Joni R & Vacant
- 4th ~ Katie H. & 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!

