



September 2024

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# The Scoop

## AA in the AV 59

AA in the AV 59  
By Bruce L.  
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History of the Antelope Valley  
Intergroup and Central Office

By 1981, thirty-two years had passed since the first officially registered meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Antelope Valley was held, which was at the White Spot Hotel on Palmdale Boulevard in 1949. Some thirty-two years later, A.A. in the Antelope Valley had grown to the point that some members wanted to create an intergroup or central office. Up to that time (1981), the Arid Club on Yucca Avenue, with its coffee bar and pool table and meeting room, was the de-facto central office where old timers and newcomers mixed, literature was purchased, and 12-step calls came in.



White Spot Hotel (since demolished) on Palmdale

Boulevard where first registered and listed AA meeting in the Antelope Valley met in 1949 (photograph unknown date).

## Calendar of Events

*Central Office Intergroup Meeting*-1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Central Office @7pm  
*Roundup Meeting*-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month @5:30, Grange  
*H&I Meeting*- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month @10am, Friends of Bill  
*District 7 Meeting*- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month @ 630  
Area 93 Election Assembly-  
Nov, 16,17<sup>th</sup>@AV College

## In Memory of David G.

As we trudge the happy road of destiny once in a while we look around and see someone is missing and take little notice, but now and then the person missing makes a huge impact on our lives and that is the case in the passing of David G. Though David is no longer with us, his memory will live in the hearts of those he left behind. We find comfort in the legacy he has left and the countless beautiful memories we shared. The stories of going through dumpsters to pay for a "happy meal" for his kids on his way to finding A.A. and the stories of his first days sober as

he experienced the fellowship of A.A. Saying the Third Step Prayer by the side of the road with a newcomer. We all remember the stories he shared from his “pitch.”

David was a huge part of the Antelope Valley AA community though he never took credit he was always there to help with fund raising and events that kept the A.A. community going. He was an example to many in recovery, starting and maintaining a successful business working with others, sponsoring, yet remaining humble. He touched the lives of so many people with his kindness and generosity and yet avoided the spotlight as he epitomized service to our program of recovery.

## As Bill Sees It

*Page 70- Truth the Liberator*

How truth makes us free is something that we A.A.'s can well understand. It cut the shackles that once bound us to alcohol. It continues to release us from conflicts and miseries beyond reckoning; it banishes fear and isolation. The unity of our Fellowship, the love we cherish for each other, the esteem in which the world holds us—all of these are products of the truth which, under God, we have been privileged to perceive.

Just how and when we tell the truth—or keep silent—can often reveal the difference between genuine integrity and none at all.

Step Nine emphatically cautions us against misusing the

truth when it states”We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.” Because it points up the fact that the truth can be used to injure as well as to heal, this valuable principle certainly has a wide-ranging application to the problem of developing integrity.

*-GRAPEVINE , 1961*

## As Bill Sees It

*Page 195- The Language of the Heart*

Why, at this particular point in history, has God chosen to communicate His healing grace to so many of us? Every aspect of this global unfoldment is “communication” among ourselves, with the world around us, and with God.

From the beginning, communication with A.A., has no ordinary transmission of helpful ideas and attitudes. Because of our kinship in suffering, and because our common means of deliverance are effective for ourselves only when constantly carried to others, our channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart.

*-A.A. Today., PP.7-8*

## Step 9

***“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”***

Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and

prudence—these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.

After we have made the list of people we have harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases when action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” we usually want to sit down with some members of the family and

readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking. Almost always we want to go further and admit other defects that have made us hard to live with. This will be a very different occasion, and in sharp contrast with those hangover mornings when we alternated between reviling ourselves and blaming the family (and everyone else) for our troubles. At this first sitting, it is necessary only that we make a general admission of our defects. It may be unwise at this stage to rehash certain harrowing episodes. Good judgment will suggest that we ought to take our time. While we may be quite willing to reveal the very worst, we must be sure to remember that we cannot buy our own peace of mind at the expense of others.

## **The 9th Tradition**

*“A.A., as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”*

When Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous – A.A. as a whole – should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming

contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

Well, let’s see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn’t somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn’t nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

## **Nineth Concept:**

- The trustees of the General Service Board act in their two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with

respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

- Principle of the Concept: Consistency

- Trustee Oversight has 2 Primary Parts

- 1. They plan manage, and execute large matters of overall policy and finance, and...

- 2. They oversee both of our corporations (A.A. World Services, Inc., [which includes the General Service Office] & A.A. Grapevine, Inc.).

- Trustees have the responsibility of ensuring good conduct of all world service affairs. Their attitude is one of custodial oversight instead of executive order. They are guarantors of good management as opposed to micro-managers. The in’s and out’s of day to day operations are not for them.

They leave that up to those they elect to run the organization. Their broad brush strokes strategically guide the enteritis they oversee.

- The text above is as an excerpt from the A.A. conference approved pamphlet (P8) The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated

