



NO BOOZE NEWS

2016

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

7th Step	2
Attitude of Gratitude	3
Announcements	4
Anniversaries	5
Got Service?	6
Managers Report	7
Group Contributions	8
Treasurer's Report	9
EVI Minutes	10 & 11
We Agnostics-	
Tempe Group History	12

If you are looking for something to criticize in this newsletter you will probably find it. We aim to please everyone!

Denial is not a river...

"Your daughter has something in her lung. She needs to have it removed, and it needs to be today."

My daughter was eighteen months old when she inhaled a popcorn seed deep into her left lung. It was a big deal and had to be surgically removed. When the doctor used words like "Probability of death" and, "She could incur permanent damage", well let's just say that I handled it like I usually handle anything that scares me. "This doctor is nuts", I said to my wife, "We should get a second opinion."

And some vodka, I thought to myself.

Denial. The first of the five stages of grief. Denial not only presents itself in my life when someone dies, but whenever anything happens that involves having to accept any kind of change that scares me. I go into denial at work, over finances, with my kids, my wife, my sponsor... Doesn't matter. If something is about to happen, and I don't want it to happen, then it didn't ever happen. Denial is one of my defects of character, it is the first aggressive angle I take to say, "No." I have to say no to myself before I say no to anyone or anything else.

As an alcoholic, I use denial as a weapon in the form of arrogance, because I really, really want things to go on as they were. Especially when it came to my drinking, I was unbreakable. People tend to retreat when I get snide and cocky, I'm really good at it, and I'm even better at it when I'm hammered. There wasn't a spouse, a parent, a therapist, a friend or a religion that could convince me that I had a problem. And even when alcohol stopped working for me physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially, I still wanted it in my life. That is how powerful the obsession was for me.

I did not want to stop drinking, so when I got to AA and accidentally got a sponsor, I did what any outstanding drunk would do when it came to Step One, I faked it. "Oh, yes. I am an alcoholic. I am powerless over alcohol, sure my life is unmanageable". I said. I am ready for step two, suckers! But as I faked it, even though I was staying sober, my life got worse. My wife asked for a divorce after I got sober, my relationship with my kids broke after I got sober, I saw my financial situation failing after I got sober, I realized I had no friends after... shall I go on?

My life really was unmanageable. It's amazing what a few weeks of "undrunkness" will show a person. I was in serious denial over all of it. I have said it in meetings a million times, the only thing that alcohol has ever given me was the gift of desperation. Desperation to try a couple of new things that were foreign to me... Honesty and God.

Not sure about anyone else, but I was terrible at honesty when I got to AA. I lied and distorted everything for personal gain and to avoid confrontation. Even when I could tell the truth, I lied. Just a little tweak here and a little fake there and I looked like an even bigger hero, or a much more generous person, or a martyr, or just an all around great guy. It took a lot for me to go to a meeting and finally admit that I used alcohol to fix my life and that I didn't want to stop, that I was scared, unhappy and alone. But, from that moment on, my life has not been the same.

That was my first lesson in true acceptance. It is the shortcoming that eventually overcomes denial in my world. I don't have to be okay with a situation just yet, I just have to stop denying that it's there. If I work an honest program, acceptance soon follows. I did get to make one choice as an alcoholic, I got to pick a cool higher power, and that higher power will exist as long as I try to give him my life and connect with him every single day.

Every now and then the old version of me pops in for a sneak attack, but it is only temporary, thanks to the resources that AA has given me... Meetings, a good sponsor, literature, a good conversation with any other alcoholic, and some service work. It is all wrapped up in the power of my God.

I pray for the newcomer and for anyone who is starting over in this program that they get a good sponsor to take them through honest step work, so that they can ultimately seek and find a higher power to manage their daily lives.

God was there for my daughter during her surgery, even though I didn't know him very well at the time, he was there. He was always around, actually. With the help of AA, I can see him in my life now, and it is amazing.

For today, I feel that AA is and always will be a part of my life. God willing, I'm not in denial about that.

Rick T., Queen Creek, Arizona.



Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings

FOR ME, at first glance Step Seven seemed a cinch, especially in comparison to some of the preceding Steps. As is often the case, on closer examination the seemingly simple proved to be anything but! I thought this Step was only a kind of mopping-up maneuver or an interlude where I could rest on my laurels. (I was wearing them in the wrong place at the time.) Steps One through Six had shown me how inadequate my own powers and resources were--as far as my alcoholism was concerned. Besides, I had to be entirely ready to part with my defects (Step Six), and I wasn't at all ready.

The earlier Steps, however, had removed some of the careful padding from my ego, and a remark made by an old-timer and dear friend had helped. I had heard one member complimented by another for a wonderful talk. The speaker said, "Don't thank me or give me credit. Give God the credit." I was determined that if ever anyone thanked me for my talk, I would say the same thing (humbly, of course).

Finally, my old-timer friend did compliment me on my talk one night, and I did say, "Don't thank me. God did it."

The old-timer smiled, put his arm about me, and said, "Honey, it wasn't *that* good!" Up until that time I had thought "humble" was some kind of pie.

I knew from the beginning that my vices were 'way ahead of my virtues. That was bad. Worse, some of my vices were being classed as virtues. But, since other members seemed to be gaining on their vices, I could hope for myself. By this time, introspection had become somewhat habitual, and I realized that I would have many hang-ups in working these Steps, as I'd had hangovers during the wet years (or should I say the monsoons?).

In Step Seven, the word "humbly" threw a monkey wrench into my sensitive emotional gears. Oh, what it did to my poor id! It seemed I was forever searching feverishly through all the dictionaries I could lay hands on for a definition of "humble" that I could accept. Even the excellent coverage of this aspect in the "Twelve and Twelve" availed me nothing. Humble? Humbug! Hadn't I always been the one put upon? The doormat type? Was I now to wear sackcloth and ashes or a hair shirt?

All my life, I'd been taught that I alone was responsible for my character, including my shortcomings--responsible for self-discipline and self-reliance also. That reminds me of the fellow who claimed that he was a self-made man, whereupon his friend remarked that this belief certainly relieved God of an embarrassing responsibility!

Still, I could plainly see the golden thread of true humility running through all the Steps, and I knew how very important humility was to my continued sobriety. I became reconciled to the definition I found in a new, revised dictionary: "Humble indicates a personal realization of smallness, without loss of respect, and differs from humiliation, which implies public shame in front of others or being made to seem foolish or inferior" and "to be neither inordinately proud of our talents and assets, nor ashamed of our defects or failures, nor unduly on the defensive over them." Also: "free from vanity."

In other words (I quote Tryon Edwards): "True humility is not an abject, despising spirit; it is but a right estimate of ourselves as God sees us."

My willingness to have my defects of character removed was bolstered by the realization that little, if any, spiritual growth was possible as long as I held on to my old ideas and defects. The words in our Big Book keep appearing before me: "Burn the idea into the consciousness of every man that he can get well, regardless of anyone. The only condition is that he trust in God and clean house." This is what Step Seven is to me; it means I am going to clean house and I will have all the help I need. By taking this Step, I am not *giving up* anything; I am getting rid of whatever might lead me to drink again and whatever might prevent achieving real serenity. Now, with God's help and my own cooperation, via Step Seven, I can become on the individual level a first-rate power, instead of the second-rate power that I was before AA. (I was truly suffering from an immense power failure--or bad wiring.)

I have a favorite reminder which helps me keep Step Seven in view: "At moments she discovered she was grotesquely wrong, and then she treated herself to a week of passionate humility." This quote from the works of Henry James has become part of my inventory.

I believe that through the first six Steps I have gained some knowledge of my character defects and that I know (at least in part and at times) what I need to get rid of! It is certainly no problem for me to humbly ask my Higher Power to remove them, either. I never *did* know what to do with them before. Besides, my pride is the only thing I can swallow any more that is nonfattening. In fact, this diet tends to reduce the ego and eliminate fatheads--mine, anyhow.

Step Seven simple? Not on your ego!

M. U.
Brighton, Colorado

Reprinted with permission of the Grapevine, November 1970

Traditions Checklist

Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. **Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?**
2. **Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?**
3. **If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?**
4. **Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?**
5. **Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?**
6. **How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?**





Attitude of Gratitude

If you are grateful for your sobriety and would like to give back to the program that has so freely given to you, please use the Gratitude With Service form below to volunteer for any of EVI's Standing Committees, such as PI/CPC (Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community), Special Events, Literature, Unity, or Phone Volunteers. Participating in any of these committees can be a great way to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, both in and out of the rooms.

As an ongoing reminder, we are still in need of more volunteers for the 12th Step call list. Although we are great at making sure the phones are answered day or night, finding someone willing and available to do a 12th Step call can sometimes be very challenging, and often times it's hit or miss depending on the time of day. If you have at least one year of continued sobriety and are willing to make yourself available to the alcoholic reaching out to AA for help from time to time, please be sure to complete the form provided below and return to the EVI Central Office via fax, mail, e-mail or in person as soon as possible. Who knows — the life you save could be your own....

EAST VALLEY INTERGROUP – Gratitude With Service form *revised 2/09*

Return to: 1320 E. Broadway Rd., Suite 105 Mesa, AZ 85204

(480) 827-1905 e-mail: info@aamesaaz.org www.aamesaaz.org

Date _____ *First Name _____ Last _____

Address _____ *Phone _____

*City _____ *ST _____ *Zip _____ *Gender _____

*Sobriety Date _____ Home Group _____

e-mail address _____ Alt Phone _____

* = required for listing in 12th Step List

No Booze News Subscription / Renewal (\$12.00 annual subscription fee enclosed)

Volunteer Service Options

Check only those you are willing to commit time to

12th Step List Volunteer

- Weeknights**
- Weekends**
- Weekdays**

Phones Night & Weekend

- Weekends**
- Weeknights**

- Office Phone Volunteer**
- Other Office Help**

Committees of Interest

Check only those you are willing to serve on

- Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community**
- Special Events**
- Literature**
- Newsletter (*No Booze News*)**
- Unity Committee**
- Deliver A Meeting**



ROUNDUPS, CAMPOUTS AND CONFERENCES

1ST ANNUAL AZ WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

JULY 8 ~ 10 2016
PRESCOTT RESORT AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
1500 HWY 69
PRESCOTT AZ

**PRESCOTT SHOESTRING
ROUNDUP**

JULY 15 ~ 17
EMMANUEL PINES CAMP
3000 SPENCE SPRINGS RD.
PRESCOTT



KAIBAB LAKE ROUNDUP

JULY 15 ~ 17
GROUP SITE, KAIBAB LAKE
WILLIAMS AZ

LEWIS CANYON CAMPOUT

JULY 29 ~ 31
LEWIS CANYON CAMPGROUND
SHOW LOW AZ

PAYSON ROUNDUP

AUGUST 27 ~ 28
SLIM JIM CAMPSITE #2
FOREST LAKES AZ



ROCKY POINT ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 14 ~ 16
SONORAN SEA RESORT
PUERTO PENASCO MX

APACHE LAKE CAMPOUT

NOVEMBER 4 ~ 6
APACHE LAKE MARINA AND RESORT
APACHE LAKE AZ.

Escape the Heat at the 2016

EVI Bowl-A-Thon

Saturday, Aug 6th

3pm to 5pm

Mesa Lanes

2115 E Southern Ave

2 hrs of bowling, shoes

\$20 ea.

**Tickets available from your
Intergroup Rep. and Central Office**

ASCYPAA 2016

July 1st—3rd

9495 W Coyotes Blvd, Glendale, AZ 85305

Renaissance Hotel in Westgate



08-820 Quarterly Potluck And Speaker

Saturday, July 9th

1050 W Superstition Blvd. AJ

6:00pm Potluck

7:00pm Speaker

Hosted by the Apache Junction Groups

Area 03 Assembly

August 12—14 2016

901 Colombo Ave.

Cochise Community College

2016 Area 03 Convention

September 2—4 2016

2620 W Dunlap at I17

Sheraton Crescent Hotel



Name	Date	Days
Sandy T.	7/24/1978	13880
Kathy L.	7/4/1982	12419
Paul S.	7/18/1983	12054
Carilyn D.	7/19/1983	12054
Sandy S.	7/23/1984	11688
Pat J.	7/31/1984	11688
Donna A.	7/4/1985	11323
Kathy K.	7/26/1986	10958
Tim H.	7/12/1987	10593
Gail J.	7/5/1988	10227
Chris P.	7/20/1989	9862
Sandy S.	7/25/1989	9862
Shelley M.	7/15/1990	9497
Bill R.	7/28/1992	8766
Beth F.	7/9/1993	8401
Pam W.	7/31/1993	8401
Craig M.	7/21/1996	7305
Steve C.	7/14/1998	6575
Larry W.	7/11/1999	6210
Kelli W.	7/21/2000	5844
Leslie M.	7/21/2000	5844
Mercer C.	7/2/2001	5479
Eileen K.	7/11/2001	5479
Becky S.	7/25/2002	5114
Greg S.	7/27/2002	5114
Susan T.	7/17/2003	4749
Jerry S.	7/8/2004	4383
Steve W.	7/13/2005	4018
Anita B.	7/5/2006	3653
Jim C.	7/6/2006	3653
Mary L.	7/14/2006	3653
Kara P.	7/25/2006	3653
Susan S.	7/8/2007	3288
Anne H.	7/28/2007	3288
Ralph G.	7/31/2007	3288
Kelly D.	7/31/2008	2922
Arne R.	7/14/2008	2922
Deborrah B.	7/28/2008	2922
Matt V.	7/30/2008	2922
Jim H.	7/10/2009	2557
Steve S.	7/21/2009	2557
Michael W.	7/15/2010	2192
John R.	7/23/2010	2192
Lindsay R.	7/24/2010	2192
Justin H.	7/1/2011	1827
Kerry R.	7/17/2011	1827
David K.	7/27/2011	1827
Zach	7/30/2011	1827
Cindi D.	7/2/2013	1096
Robbie T.	7/2/2013	366
Pam R.	7/24/2015	366

Passing the Basket . . . Or Passing the Buck?

WHEN I WAS newly sober in AA, fourteen years ago, I seldom attended a meeting without taking a pamphlet to read. I always had at least two cups of coffee, and if there was anything to eat, I ate. When the basket was passed, I always put a quarter in it--for two people, my wife and me. If we could truly stretch a dollar as far as I must have thought we could, the financial world would be beating a path to our doorsteps to learn AA's remarkable brand of economics.

Most of us decry the fact that more than forty percent of the groups do not support the Fellowship. When it comes to AA's being self-supporting, many fail to recognize one important aspect: If we aren't even willing to pay our own way at a meeting, how can we expect the group to support the Fellowship? What we need to realize is that we *are* the groups, and we *are* Alcoholics Anonymous. I have seen AAs spend more money at a coffee shop than they would ever think of putting in the collection at a meeting.

Early in my sobriety, it was explained that it was imperative for me to get my priorities in order. Learning to become responsible was one of them. This financial buck-passing certainly seems to run counter to responsibility. If we want "the hand of AA always to be there," we each need to assume our own share of responsibility. If money and spirituality do mix in the basket, as the "Twelve and Twelve" says, then how much better they will blend when money is used to perpetuate AA by making more Twelfth Step work possible.

We, who have had so much given to us freely--in love, with no strings attached--sometimes forget that this also is an area where we have to give it away to keep it. One of the promises in the Big Book is freedom from "fear of economic insecurity." Long ago, one of my sponsors suggested that if I stayed sober and tried to live along spiritual lines, my needs would always be met. Today, I can honestly say that never has there been an instance where I have given of myself, financially or otherwise, and have not been compensated many times over. Our family has never lacked anything because we accepted our responsibility to help carry the message.

God has given each of us a share of the responsibility. He has given each of us the tools to work with and the ability to use them. Let's all of us assume our shares so that we may all reap ever-increasingly the fruits of selflessness and love in service to our Fellowship.

C. C.
West Palm Beach, Florida Reprinted with permission of the Grapevine— June 1983



7th Step Prayer

 "My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen."

-- Alcoholics Anonymous, p.76

PI / CPC

(Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Meets 1st Monday's at 7:00pm

235 E Guadalupe Rd. Gilbert

(Gilbert Presbyterian Church)

Come help carry the message at the public level and to professional groups who have contact with alcoholics.

For more information contact:

(480) 827-1905

EVI Phone Workshop



Third Friday's at 6:15 pm

Before the monthly business meeting at

1125 N Dobson Rd

Faith Community Church

Or

Workshops can also be done at your Group !



For more information

Call

(480) 827-1905

EVI Sponsorship Workshop

10am the 1st Saturday of every other month

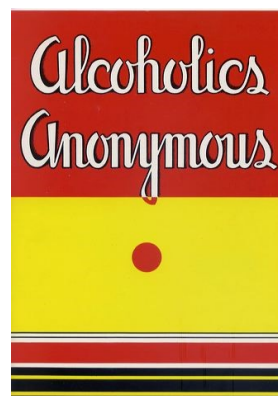
235 E Guadalupe Rd. Gilbert AZ

(Gilbert Presbyterian Church)

Contact: Mary R.

HOST GROUP SCHEDULE

July 2nd— Page A Day



Join the Newly Re-Organized

EVI Unity Committee

Meeting at 6:15pm Every 3rd Friday

Faith Community Church

1125 N. Dobson Rd Chandler

Contact (480) 827-1905

EVI Special Events Committee

Meeting held before the Monthly Speaker Meeting

1st Friday of the month

Faith Community Church

1125 N Dobson Rd Chandler

contact: (480) 827-1905

EVI Monthly Speaker Meeting

1st Friday of Every Month

Meeting Now At 7:30pm

Faith Community Church

1125 North Dobson Road, Chandler

July 1st—East Side Men's

August 5th— Road to Recovery

These are subject to change - so keep watching.

Office Volunteers & EVI Hot Line Phones

4 hour shifts in the EVI office

Call Roxanne for specific times and days.

(480) 827-1905

***** Regular shifts available now*****





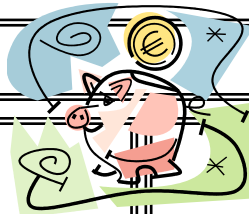
<u>GROUP</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
11th Step Candlelight	75.00	\$75.00
12 X 12 @ 12		\$0.00
2121 Beginner Workshop		\$100.00
24 Hours A Day		\$20.00
A Vision For You Group		\$196.50
ABC Group		\$0.00
AHA! It's Monday		\$50.00
Ahwatukee Daybreak Serenity		\$0.00
Ahwatukee Group		\$0.00
Ahwatukee Nooners.....		\$1,000.00
Ahwatukee Saturday Men's		\$433.38
Ahwatukee Women's Group		\$296.80
Arbor Daily Noon Group.....	\$250.00	\$600.00
ASCYPAA.....		\$0.00
As You Wake Up		\$75.60
Attitude Adjustment CG		\$60.00
Attitude of Gratitude		\$0.00
Basic II		\$300.00
Before Breakfast Group.....		\$0.00
Bloopers	\$30.00	\$150.00
Bootstrap Men's		\$400.00
Breakfast Club		\$0.00
Busted Ego.....	\$200.00	\$200.00
By The Book	\$112.50	\$218.80
Chandler Men's Stag Group		\$0.00
Chandler Noon Group	\$106.72	\$551.96
Chandler Women's Big Book Group		\$228.61
Cold Coffee Group		\$100.00
Common Solution.....		\$160.00
Copper Basin Group.....		\$0.00
Courage To Change.....		\$100.00
Daily Reflections Group		\$0.00
Day At A Timers		\$0.00
East Valley Men's Stag.....		\$210.00
Easy Does It Group	\$88.87	\$494.35
Experience, Strength and Hope		\$0.00
Eye Opener Group		\$0.00
Family Recovery Group		\$0.00
Feelings & Solutions.....		\$0.00
Firehouse Meeting		\$60.00
Friday Night Big Book Study		\$250.00
Friends Of Bill W.		\$120.00
Get It Together.....	\$163.00	\$1,377.03
Gilbert Gals.....		\$210.00
Gilbert Group		\$0.00
Gold Canyon 12 X 12 Group	\$186.33	\$186.33
Good Ol' Back to Basics		\$0.00
Grateful Dames		\$0.00
Gratitude Group		\$62.98
Cut Level		\$23.25
Happy Hour @ Sunbird.....	\$155.15	\$318.15
Heard It Thru The Grapevine		\$24.00
Into Action		\$38.73
Inwardly Reorganized.....		\$0.00
Keep It Simple.....		\$110.00
Keepin It Real Ladies		\$60.00
Life In The Big Book		\$577.74
Maricopa 12 X 12		\$40.00
Maricopa Group	\$75.00	\$75.00
Mesa Group		\$0.00
Mid-Morning Group.....		\$80.00
Morning After Group	\$190.00	\$19.00
Name In The Hat.....		\$700.00
New Beginnings.....		\$300.00
New Hope Group	\$20.00	\$50.00
New Spirit Group		\$450.00
No Name AA Group		\$50.00
Not A Glum Lot.....	\$65.00	\$65.00
Page A Day Group		\$1,183.87

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pioneer Group	\$17.80	\$17.80
Playground Solutions Group		\$0.00
Price Is Right	\$82.50	\$247.50
Primary Purpose BB Study.....		\$0.00
Primary Purpose Group		\$124.40
Prime Time.....	\$10.00	\$20.00
Progress Rather Than Perfection		\$60.00
Puttin' Sober East		\$60.00
Putting God First		\$660.00
Queen Creek BB Study Group.....		\$125.00
Re-Awakening Group		\$0.00
Remember When		\$0.00
Renewed Spirit.....		\$400.00
Right Place Women's		\$0.00
Rising Spirit		\$598.42
Road To Recovery	\$117.00	\$2,404.00
San Tan Group		\$0.00
Second Chance Group		\$322.55
Seniors In Sobriety-Tempe.....		\$55.00
Serenity At Six.....		\$0.00
Sisterhood Of Solutions		\$0.00
Sobriety is Gold		\$0.00
Sobriety Rocks		\$0.00
Society Group		\$1,675.00
Solutions Group		\$0.00
Some Are Sicker Than Others		\$0.00
Southeast Valley Stag.....		\$0.00
Spirited Women		\$0.00
Step By Step Group		\$0.00
Stepping Stones		\$250.00
Sunday Morning Reflections.....		\$0.00
Sunday Morning Women.....		\$0.00
Sunday Night BB Step Study		\$203.63
Sunland Serenity Seekers.....		\$205.00
Sunset Group		\$0.00
Tempe Group		\$0.00
Tempe High Noon		\$0.00
Tempe Nooners	\$25.00	\$125.00
Tempe Sunrisers		\$0.00
The Kick		\$0.00
The Library		\$70.00
The Real Thing		\$9.88
The Way Out Group		\$200.00
This Simple Program.....		\$0.00
Thursday Night Step Group.....		\$0.00
Tuesday Night Steppin Out		\$70.00
Tuesday's Trudgers		\$5.00
Tumbleweeds Group	\$267.00	\$267.00
Twelvers (disbanded).....		\$0.00
We Ain't Dead Yet.....		\$75.00
We Agnostics		\$60.00
We Can Group		\$0.00
Wednesday Night Step	\$170.00	\$170.00
Wednesday Night Winners		\$0.00
West Chandler Men's.....	\$25.00	\$25.00
Who's Driving Your Bus?.....	\$50.00	\$50.00
Wolf Pack Group		\$0.00
Women in Solution		\$0.00
Women in Touch		\$0.00
*Anonymous Groups.....	\$148.00	\$148.00

OTHER GROUPS/COMMITTEES

Apache Lake Campout.....		\$0.00
SWACYPAA		\$0.00
Dist 08-819		\$0.00
Dist 08-820		\$0.00
Mesa Round Up		\$0.00

Group Totals	\$2,609.87	\$21,668.81
EVI Committees	\$59.00	\$394.45
Individual Contributions	\$374.00	\$1,663.90
GRAND TOTALS	\$3,042.87	\$23,727.16



BALANCE SHEET
May 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking	3,180.25
Prudent Reserve (Savings)	20,540.24
Accounts Receivable	72.70
Inventory Asset	22,333.79
Undeposited Funds	381.05
Fixed Assets	
Cash On Hand	50.00
Office Equip/Furnishings	22,538.00
Depreciation	(-22,538.00)
Total Assets	\$46,558.03
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Visa Credit Card	0.00
Payroll taxes	235.32
Total Liabilities	\$235.32
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	43,778.94
Retained Earnings	-537.28
Net Income	3,081.05
Total Equity	\$46,322.71
Total Liability & Equity	\$46,558.03

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
May 2016

27 Group contributions totaling	\$2,609.67
3 Individual contributions totaling	\$374.00
Intergroup Business Meeting & Service Committee's 7th Tradition	\$59.00
Total Contributions	\$3,042.67
Total Income	\$6,783.66
Less total Cost Of Sales	\$2,877.65
Gross Profit	\$3,906.01
Less total Expenses of	\$6,002.01
Net May. Loss	-\$2,096.00
YTD 2016 Income	\$3,081.05

The current Prudent Reserve balance is \$20,540.24
The Prudent Reserve has been established for 2016 in the amount of \$26,804.32

Please call me with any questions or comments regarding the financial statements.

Yours in service,
Ed B. EVI Treasurer

Step Seven~ Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition Seven~ Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Concept Seven~ The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

East Valley Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2016

Meeting Opened by Gordon about 7pm-ish with Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer

12 Traditions - Tom N.

INTRODUCTIONS: Your attendance and participation is appreciated and visitors are always welcome!

Intergroup Representatives: (New Reps are in **BOLD**)

Rep	Group
Rosa M	Aha, It's Monday
Don B	Ahwatukee Group
Rick T	As Bill Sees It
Jamie W	Bloopers
Charlie R	Bootstrap Men's
Bev M	Breakfast Club
Katy M	By The Book
Vida J	Chandler Women's
Sam N	East Side Men's Group

Rep	Group
Andrew C	Easy Does It
Denis W	Friends of Bill
Mary R	Gilbert Group
James R	Gratitude Group
Deana E	Life in The Big Book
Lonnie	Playground Solutions
Anne W	Price Is Right
Kyle W	Remember When
Jeremy V	Road To Recovery

Rep	Group
Wendy K	Road To Recovery
Andrea M	Serenity Sisters
Beth Ann	Sisterhood of Solutions
Roxanne B	SNBBSS
Lindsay K	The Real Thing
Jack B	Tumbleweeds
Gary L	Welcome Home
Regina S	Women in Gratitude
Shirley L	Women in Touch

Committee and other Trusted Servants:

Name	Service Position
Gordon R	Chair
Tom N	Vice Chair
Ed	Treasurer
Regan	Secretary
Zach	Advisor - Unity
Barbara	advisor Phones

Name	Service Position
Brad B	Advisor - Special Events
Kim	Office Manager
Larry	Unity Chair
Mike	PICPC Chair
Andrea	Special Events Chair
Bev	No Booze News Editor

Name	Service Position
Roxanne	H&I Liaison
Marge	Spanish Liaison
Aaron	DCM 08-818
Paul T	DCM 08-819
Carole	Alt DCM 08-820
Lonnie	DCMC 08

Secretary's Report: Regan G. - (Written Report in Packet) Motion to Accept by Aaron , 2nd by Jeremy – Motion Carries.

Treasurer's Report: Ed – Written Report in Packet – Ed Reviewed our current financial state. Group Contributions have dropped drastically from April to May, and so far in June are even lower still. Motion to Accept by Aaron 2nd by Beth Ann, Motion Carries

7th Tradition: \$108.00 (Thank you!)

Chairperson's Report: Gordon R- Slow month for June so far. Chaired the Steering Committee Meeting last week. Volunteered at Intergroup Office. Chairing the IG Meeting right now.

Vice Chair's Report: Tom N. – Written report in packet.

Office Managers Report: Kim W. – Written Report in Packet

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PICPC – Mike – Written Report in Packet – Roxanne would be more than happy to go to the Fire Department with Mike.

Special Events: Andrea – Bowlathon coming up on August 6th from 3 to 5pm. Location will be Southern and Gilbert Roads in Mesa. Get some flyers and tickets to sell to your home group! Price is \$20 including shoes and a RAFFLE. (Food is NOT included). Get there by 2:30 and be ready to bowl by 3pm!! The Monthly EVI Speaker meeting for July is being hosted by the group Formerly Known as Eastside Men's! Please come support the Intergroup. 50/50 Raffle, great speakers and food!! Andrea has started the sign-up sheet for Groups to Host the 2017 EVI Speaker Meetings. Always looking for participation on the special Events Committee! Come help us plan the EVI events! Committee Meets right before the IG Meeting at 6:30.

Phone Committee: Tamara L. – Not Present – Barb filling in. July Calendar is filled and everything is running smooth. If you are interested in answering phones, fill out the Service Forms. Training before every IG meeting. At 6:15pm.

Unity Committee: Larry – Larry was in Flag last month, so there was no Unity Meeting last month. He passed out Fruit Pies and Creme Pie cookies to illustrate the GSO PIE CHART and the suggested distribution of group funds to the various Service Committees. The unity committee works to contact unrepresented groups to make sure they know we are here and what we do and that we would love to see them here. Unity meets before IG meeting at 6:15pm.

Sponsorship Workshop: Mary – Had a Great Panel in May with Into Action Group and Page A Day is hosting July. November 5th is open and we need a group to Host! If interested contact Mary.

Newsletter Editor – Bev W. – No Booze News (NBN) is now available on the aamesaaz.org website! Always looking for local articles, stories, jokes, and group history's, etc. from members for the No Booze New. Please call or email Bev!

LIASION REPORTS

Alanon Liaison: Lee filling in. No Report 25th is speaker meeting at St Peter's Lutheran 28th General meeting at the Alanon Office next to the AA Office. There will be representative from Alanon at the AA State Convention.

H&I Liaison: Roxanne – H&I Steering Committee requested to buy a computer for their Secretary and it has been approved, and will stay with the acting secretary. Budget is \$1000 over 8 years and are looking for a computer. They have also agreed to accept Electronic payments and have a committee researching. Also a committee working on By Laws. Corrections conference recently in Flag – lots of participation! Ending balance for May was \$3746.42 – their financials are good. They purchase between \$10 and \$12k worth of literature every month to distribute. In June they distributed \$6098.20 worth (860 pieces) of literature. Community Bridges East has 4 meetings a day. They are hosted by AA members in the East Valley. New Treatment Center on the West side for women and they are looking for women to carry meetings. A letter of support is required to carry meetings to Maricopa County Sheriffs Dept incarcerated Veteran AA's are interested in getting more Veterans to attend the meetings and serve as sponsors. 4th Ave Jail and Towers Jail need men to bring meetings. If you are interested you can get badged. Badging process is much easier. Coordinators needed for Lewis (Florence) and Durango. The Lewis prison AA Members run their own meetings, hold Alcolthon's, and contribute to GSO. Discussion regarding voting process at H&I for the Computer motion and for Accepting on line payments. Sometimes motions are taken back to groups and sometimes they are not.

Spanish Liaison – Marge – Did not attend the Spanish IG Meeting last month, but has attended several Spanish meetings in the valley. Still is usually the only woman in the meeting. She is on a mission to find the other Spanish AA women. She has been given some names to add to our 12 step call list. She has invited them to the State Convention. Will be attending the next Spanish IG Meeting.

Sub District 08-818: Aaron. – Meets 2nd Tues at Bloopers at 7pm. Attended the Delegates Report Back assembly. Info included GSO Finances having only 10 months of Prudent Reserve. Safety was discussed as well due to some pending lawsuits.

Sub District 08-819: Paul – Meet 2nd Thurs at Gilbert Presbyterian church at 7pm. District has formed a Unity Committee to contact groups who don't participate. Post Conference Committee Agenda item on Common language translation no action on that motion.

Sub District 08-820: Alt – Carol W. – Meets 1st Monday of each month. Their District discussed the Finances at GSO as well. \$1 equates to \$13 in today's dollars. 820 sponsoring service panel June 25th. 11am – 1pm Watching Bills own story – original footage of Bill and Lois. Flyers available. July 9th will be Quarterly Pot Luck. Meeting. District 818 819 and 820 was awarded the bid on the Pre Conference Assembly for April 2017. The venue has been lost so Carol is looking for a venue to hold the assembly!

OLD BUSINESS

Intergroup Survey – 25% Total Response – highest percentage responses from Casa Grande and Florence. Nothing stood out as a red flag. Results are attached. Discussion. Perhaps allow more time for groups/members to fill out. Perhaps put the survey on the website. **(Will send to Agenda for Steering Committee for further discussion)**

NEW BUSINESS:

John the Steering Committee Advisor for PICPC is out of country for an extended period, so we have an Advisor position open for appointment next month. If you are interested contact Gordon or the EVI Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea – reminder to get the bowlathon tickets.

Beth – Mesa Round Up 70's Dance 8/20. 10/29 Halloween Dance - also a New Years dance/event will happen.

AZ State Convention Sept 2 – 4 Crescent Sheraton in Phoenix!!

John – Apache Lake Round Up Nov 4-6. Flyers available.

Group Problems & Solutions: (Call your sponsor...)

Motion to close made by Andrew and seconded by Mary Beth and everyone. Motion Carried.

Close Meeting: Statement of Responsibility and Lord's Prayer

Thank you for allowing me to be of Service

Regan G

Secretary



My name is Beth H. and I'm an alcoholic.

I'm one of the founding members of this secular AA group. Not the main one or the most important one, but I'm only speaking for myself as to why this meeting was started.

I was raised in a Christian church and had no problem with it, nor do I have any resentment toward it or bad memories of it. But one day in about 10th grade I stopped believing. I'm a very skeptical, analytical person by nature. I don't go in for supernatural explanations. I believe in coincidences.

Anyhow, when I got sober in 1985, I tried very hard to become a believer again. I pursued it for many years because I was told I had to or I would get drunk. I attended three different churches over the years. I studied cultural anthropology, thinking that if deep down inside every person there is the idea of God, I would learn how to strip away the cultural trappings and uncover the essence. I ended up with a master's degree but all the more confirmed in my belief that cultures invent higher powers to suit their purposes. Remember, this is my personal belief and I do not speak for all the group members. The point is, I was open-minded and did my due diligence to become a believer, but the bottom line is that I cannot just make myself believe something no matter how much I may want to.

After a while, I started feeling like a second-class citizen in AA. I beat myself up mercilessly over being close-minded as Bill called it, having too much intellectual pride as Bob called it. When I got to AA I had really low self-esteem and believed I was a defective human being, and this part of AA was feeding right into that instead of helping with it. It is pretty miserable to feel like you don't fit in anywhere, and then you find AA, and then you realize you don't fit in there either, especially if it's the last house on the block.

But I did fit into AA in every other respect. I love AA. I love the fellowship. I love meetings except when the topic is Higher Power, and I definitely tune out when they read How It Works or say the Lord's Prayer. I love that everyone admits they are flawed, and we meet on this common ground and love each other back to health. I have definitely had a psychic change. All the promises have come true for me. I would only change one word, that AA, not God, is doing for me what I could not do for myself. I attribute my good fortune to the magic of one alcoholic talking to another.

After I'd been sober more than 20 years, I finally gave myself permission to be who I am. Our chips say, "To thine own self be true." Apparently it is possible to stay sober without a higher power, because I've been doing it. I decided not to beat myself up over it any more.

I discovered a website called aaagnostica.org. I found that there were others like me. It was wonderful to be able to speak freely and not be ashamed. I learned there was going to be the first ever international conference of We Agnostics and Freethinkers in AA in November of 2014 in Santa Monica. I attended the conference. I learned that there are hundreds of people who have stayed sober for decades without a higher power. It is AA's best kept secret. I ran into three other people I knew from the East Valley (but had no idea they were nonbelievers) and a few I didn't know. When we got back we started the Tempe We Agnostics meeting.

We Agnostics has been going since January 2015. We meet on Fridays and Sundays at 1:30 at the Pigeon Coop, and Tuesdays at 6:40pm at the Valley Alano Club. After we read the AA preamble, we read our own preamble.

AA agnostic meetings endeavor to maintain a tradition of free expression, and conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or disbeliefs they may have, and to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, or their rejection of it. In keeping with AA tradition, we do not endorse or oppose any form of religion or atheism. Our only wish is to ensure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in AA without having to accept anyone else's beliefs, or having to deny their own.

We are very much a part of AA. We participate in EVI and GSO. I truly appreciate the East Valley Intergroup for not even balking at putting us on the meeting list, because some agnostic groups in other locations have not been so fortunate. We are not trying to change AA. We are making AA more inclusive. The only requirement is a desire to stop drinking. You will not hear God-bashing at our meetings except for the occasional newcomer who needs to vent. We just share what has worked for us. I don't want other like-minded newcomers to have to go through what I did before they can find peace and joy in sobriety. I would have found it much sooner if just one other person had told me, "It's OK if you don't believe. You can still stay sober, and you belong."

The second We Agnostics, Atheists and Freethinkers International AA Conference will be held in Austin this coming November. You can get more information at our meetings or on the aaagnostica.org website.

Beth H.
Mesa, AZ



**Please send us your stories,
MAIL, EMAIL OR CALL IT IN!!**



I'd like to hear your story and put it in the No Booze News! Mail your story to the Intergroup office, or email it to me! Or call me and tell it to me and I'll write it down! Please include your name and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for content and/or clarity.

Bev W.