



2020

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Send your articles, jokes, poems and artwork
to Rick T. info@aamesaaz.org

NO BOOZE NEWS

Feeling Blue

DECEMBER 2015 Grapevine

December can be tough for some alcoholics. One member hopes his fellows understand

Another run through the holiday gauntlet: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day and many others I am ignorant of or have simply forgotten. Heck, even Halloween is a marketing bombardment that spurs drinking to excess.

During these times, depression seems to be prevalent, and even more so for those of us in AA. It is no secret that many AA members suffer from depression in some fashion or another. The severe depressive is mentioned in the Big Book (I wish they had written an entire chapter about it). There also is moderate to mild depression. And then there is my case, which is that of the person with depression who longs for the "mental bill of health" he once had. This situation of mine can be a difficult one in AA, as there are plenty of people professing (or maybe I should say, preaching) in meetings about how others should feel. I recently heard a man with more than 20 years in the program declare, "Happiness is a choice. I make it every day. God wants us to be happy, joyous and free after all."

Well, good for him. But statements like his can be detrimental to people who are of the depressive type. Doesn't he think we ask God to remove our depression? Don't we want to be happy, joyous and free? I guess I must have done the Steps wrong. I must not have the right Higher Power. That is what we depressive types in the program hear at times.

While some strive to be happy—hell, while they excel at it—it's actually a daily struggle for many others of us to thank God for keeping us sober and giving us a shot not to do something harmful to ourselves, our loved ones or our sobriety. We're doing the best we can. Drinking to excess wasn't a choice; it was our physical allergy coupled with our mental obsession. In other words, it was our disease. We had to, and have to, pray that it be removed on a regular, sometimes daily, basis, even with multiple years of sobriety.

Mental illness is a disease as well, and to say I am simply supposed to be happy by choice can be as dangerous as it is ridiculous. I must pray that my mental illness, which is depression, be removed every day.

Please be careful throwing around absolutes in the rooms of AA. What works for some members to be happy may work only to keep some people sober. We sometimes have to settle for that- being OK with just being OK. We have lives to lead. We have family and friends who rely on us and we have sobriety to maintain. It's hard enough to meet these responsibilities without being told that feeling happy is just a choice. Especially this time of the year.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Though these assignments are still before us, Dr. Bob and I are now going to confess a deep yearning. As private citizens of A.A., we shall often wish to come and go among you like other people, without any special attention. And while we would like always to keep the wonderful satisfaction of having been among the originators, we hope you will begin to think of us as early A.A.s only, not as "founders." - **Bill W. 1947**

—Stu K., Phoenix, Ariz

Christmas Message

DECEMBER 1970

GRATITUDE is just about the finest attribute we can have, and how deeply we of AA realize this at Christmas time. Together, we count and ponder our blessings of life, of service, of love.

In these distraught times, we have been enabled to find an always-increasing measure of peace within ourselves. Together with all here at AA's General Service Offices, Lois joins me in warmest greetings to each and all of you, and me share our confident faith that the year to come will be counted among the best that our Fellowship has ever known.

BY: BILL W

On cultivating tolerance

Dr. Bob's message in the July 1944 Grapevine is a wonderful thought to carry into the New Year

During nine years in AA I have observed that those who follow the Alcoholics Anonymous program with the greatest earnestness and zeal, not only maintain sobriety, but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance.

Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of ways: in kindness and consideration toward the man or woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path; in the understanding of those who perhaps have been less fortunate in educational advantages, and in sympathy toward those whose religious ideas may be at great variance with our own. I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior—which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another—and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to preconceived ideas and stubbornly adhered-to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important—in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.

These, then, are a few of the reasons why an attempt to acquire tolerance should be made by each one of us.

BY: DR. BOB | AKRON, OHIO



Words From the Big Book

In our belief any scheme of combating alcoholism which proposes to shield the sick man from temptation is doomed to failure. If the alcoholic tries to shield himself he may succeed for a time, but he usually winds up with a bigger explosion than ever. We have tried these methods. These attempts to do the impossible have always failed.

So our rule is not to avoid a place where there is drinking, if we have a legitimate reason for being there. That includes bars, nightclubs, dances, receptions, weddings, even plain ordinary whoopee parties. To a person who has had experience with an alcoholic, this may seem like tempting Providence, but it isn't.

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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**.

We are still in need of more volunteers for the 12th Step call list. Finding someone willing and available to do a 12th Step call can sometimes be very challenging, If you have at least one year of continued sobriety and are willing to make yourself available to the alcoholic who still suffers, 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.

EAST VALLEY INTERGROUP – Gratitude With Service form *revised 9/020*

Return to: 1855 E Southern Ave. #103 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

RIVER ROUNDUP

JANUARY 7 ~ 9
RIVERSIDE RESORT
LAUGHLIN NV

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 18 ~ 21, 2021
VIRTUAL, HOSTED BY CHARLOTTE NC
INTERNATIONALWOMENSCONFERENCE.ORG

2021 Pre Conference Assembly

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY.
Hosted by Sub-district 02-201.
March 26-28, 2021
Register at area03.org

Western US / Canada Forum - Virtual

December 19, 2020

Registration opens November 20th at aa.org

No charge to register.

Workshops, presentations, Q&A

And more...



Looks like most events are shut down
or going to online formats.

Check the events page on our website
periodically. We will post information
as it becomes available.



(5)

THE VICIOUS CYCLE

*How it finally broke a Southerner's obstinacy and
destined this salesman to start A.A. in Philadelphia.*

JANUARY 8, 1938—that was my D-Day; the place, Washington, D.C. This last real merry-go-round had started the day before Christmas, and I had really accomplished a lot in those fourteen days. First, my new wife had walked out, bag, baggage, and furniture; then the apartment landlord had thrown me out of the empty apartment; and the finish was the loss of another job. After a couple of days in dollar hotels and one night in the pokey, I finally landed on my mother's doorstep—shaking apart, with several days' beard, and, of course, broke as usual. Many of these same things had happened to me many times before, but this time they had all descended together. For me, this was It.

Here I was, thirty-nine years old and a complete washout. Nothing had worked. Mother would take me in only if I stayed locked in a small storeroom and gave her my clothes and shoes. We had played this game before. That is the way Jackie found me, lying on a cot in my skivvies, with hot and cold sweats, pounding heart, and that awful itchy scratchiness all over. Somehow, I had always managed to avoid D.T.'s.

The Big Book page 219



Name Date Days

Patricia C.	12/31/1975	16437
Lila J.	12/20/1981	14245
Steve C.	12/23/1981	14245
Sheri S.	12/19/1982	13880
Mike S.	12/17/1984	13149
Gary P.	12/18/1984	13149
Lee N.	12/8/1986	12419
Shelly P.	12/21/1986	12419
Thomas M.	12/27/1988	11688
Tom P.	12/18/1989	11323
Joe D.	12/28/1989	11323
Joe C.	12/1/1990	10958
Lois L.	12/3/1991	10593
Robin F.	12/13/1993	9862
Scott K.	12/10/1995	9142
Karen N.	12/12/1996	8766
Denny P.	12/23/1997	8401
Bridgitte L.	12/25/1997	8401
Gabi N.	12/17/2000	7305
Paul P.	12/19/2000	7305
Maria D.	12/13/2001	6940
Jared H.	12/13/2004	5844
Sharon A.	12/4/2008	4383
Lars S.	12/26/2008	4383
Sheila H.	12/7/2009	4018
Jim T.	12/27/2009	4018
Corie R.	12/29/2009	4018
Andrea M.	12/4/2011	3288
Jeff R.	12/5/2011	3288
Jan N.	12/26/2011	3288
Susan B.	12/19/2012	2922
Jeremiah N.	12/1/2013	2557
Tracy B.	12/17/2013	2557
Jeff B.	12/18/2013	2557
Erik J.	12/25/2013	2557
Wesley H.	12/12/2014	2192
John S.	12/20/2014	2192
Victor V.	12/1/2015	1827
Hope J.	12/24/2017	1096
Jacob M.	12/25/2018	731
Lorrie R.	12/28/2018	731
Bri H.	12/18/2019	366

Step Twelve~ Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition Twelve~ Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept Twelve~ The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Q. What do Santa Claus and an alcoholic have in common?

At Wits End

A: Both know where the naughty people live and can never be found on Christmas.

—

A computer lets you make mistakes faster than any other invention—with the possible exception of tequila.

—

"I have a deep and abiding faith—that comes and goes."

—

"Bad decisions make good stories."

—

My favorite oxymoron: "Functioning alcoholic."

—

Sign in cantina in Mexican fishing village: "If our drinks and service don't meet your standards, please lower your standards."



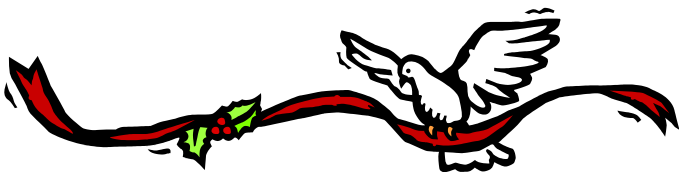
Get Published!

Send your articles, jokes, poems and artwork to Rick T. info@aaamesaaz.org

Things We Can Not Change

Max C., a long time member of our Fellowship has passed from this world.

His life and sobriety touched many, he will be missed.



PI / CPC

(Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Meets 1st Monday's at 7:00pm

1855 E Southern Ave #103

(EVI Office) and on Zoom

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 or email picpc@aamesaaz.orgaamesaaz.org**EVI Phone Workshop**

Third Friday's at 6:15 pm

Before the monthly business meeting at

On ZOOM**aamesaaz.org**

Or

Workshops can be done at your Group !

For more information

Call Beth H

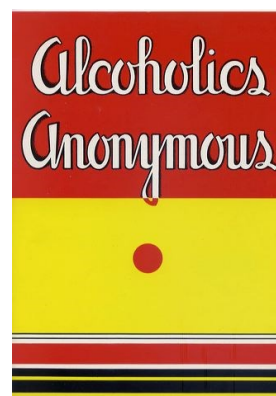
**EVI Sponsorship Workshop**

10am the 1st Saturday of every other month

Check aamesaaz.org for location information

Contact: Jerry C.

HOST GROUP SCHEDULE

January 2nd ~ TBD

Join the

EVI Unity Committee

Meeting at 6:15pm Every 3rd Friday

On ZOOM**aamesaaz.org****Contact 480 827-1905****EVI Special Events Committee**

Meeting held before the Monthly Speaker Meeting

1st Friday of the month

Check aamesaaz.org for location information

contact: 480 827-1905

EVI Monthly Speaker Meeting*1st Friday of Every Month***Meeting Now At 7:30pm**Check aamesaaz.org for location information**December 4th ~ The Way Out**

January 1st ~ TBD

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.

***** Regular Shifts Available *****

Central Office Manager's Report

November 20, 2020

In October we received 5221 requests for information and assistance. Of those 148 calls were for meeting info, 136 were office visitors and 15 resulted in a good old fashioned 12 step call. Our Google listing also receives steady traffic. Our Google totals for October are 5,040 searches resulting in 294 visits to our website and 34 phone calls. Our website stays busy too with 25,433 visits in the last 30 days. We are seeing a few events popping up in the future both live and virtual. Keep checking the Events page at aamesaaz.org.

We have received book/literature orders from both AAWS and Grapevine. We have plenty of stock available for your Group and personal holiday shopping needs.

EVI tax reporting for 2019 has been filed. We reported gross revenue of \$149,400. The filing deadline had been extended to November due to COVID.

Good connections: We are seeing an increase in 12 step calls and newcomers. It has been a tough year for many and it is good to see people seeking help for their problems with alcohol. Talking with a new person and helping them get started in recovery is always the best part of my day.

I have been invited to participate in a panel discussion on Intergroups/Central Offices at the Virtual Western US/Canada Forum on December 19, 2020. The theme is "2020: Experience, Strength and Hope – What it was like, what happened and what its like now." Registration is free at aa.org.

There are regular spots available for the office front desk. Please discuss with your group the service opportunities that are available thru your East Valley Intergroup. Please take some Gratitude with Service forms back to your group and encourage them to volunteer. The life you save may be your own.

In the spirit of Tradition Eight, Love and Service

Kim Watkins

Central Office Manager, East Valley Intergroup

EVI CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY

	Oct	2020
Meeting Information Calls.....	148	1498
General Information	108	1093
Referred to Salt River Intergroup	6	58
Referred to Al-Anon.....	13	107
Referred to Community Info.....	1	2
12th Step Calls	15	128
Business Calls	94	969
Office Visitors	136	1118
Meeting lists printed.....	200	3500
Info request via E-mail	66	808
Desk Volunteers-Reg/Sub/None.....	21/ 12/ 6	
Desk Volunteers-Reg HRS YTD.		1096hrs

Web Stats

Website Visits last 30 days 25,433 YTD 313,165

Google Searches last 30 days 5,040

Meeting List Updates...

Our website (aamesaaz.org) is being updated weekly. Check it out for the latest on which groups are meeting and how.

New Meetings:

Good Orderly Direction	241 Queen Anne Dr. Queen Valley	MO 7:00p	O
	(Queen Valley Baptist Church)		
Happy Destiny	5764 E Hunt Hwy. San Tan Valley	TU 6:00p	O
	(American Legion Community Center)		
Serenity Now	655 S Crismon Rd. Mesa	SU, MO, WE 9:30a	O
	(Skyline Park N of RR)		

The Patio Group 4040 W Ray Rd. Chandler Every Day 7:00a O

Changes: ~Too many to mention.~

Deletions:

East Valley Intergroup ** NEW **
1855 E Southern Ave. Suite # 103
Mesa, AZ 85204

General Service Office
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Area 03 Treasurer
PO Box 3691
Gilbert AZ 85299
Make Check To: AZ Area Committee

District 08-818
PO Box 12044
Tempe, AZ 85284

District 08-819
PO Box 594
Mesa, AZ 85211

District 08-820 ** NEW **
PO Box 1901
Queen Creek, AZ 85142-9998

District 08 (Maricopa County)
PO Box 45066
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Valleywide H & I
PO Box 80126
Phoenix, AZ 85060

Example of Group Contributions to A.A.

Service Entities

Distribution of funds from groups that support four service entities

10% to District 10% to Area

30% to GSO 50% to Intergroup



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GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS



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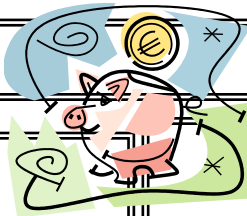
GROUP	Oct	YTD
11th Step Candlelight	\$40.00	\$185.00
2121 Beginner Workshop		\$0.00
417 Group		\$524.29
A Vision For You Group		\$150.00
ABC Group		\$0.00
Ahwatukee Group		\$400.00
Ahwatukee Nooners		\$700.00
Ahwatukee Saturday Men's	\$240.87	\$525.57
Ahwatukee Women's Group		\$454.06
Arbor Daily Noon Group		\$1,00.00
As Bill Sees It QC		\$310.33
As You Wake Up		\$25.00
Attitude Adjustment CG	\$200.00	\$360.00
Attitude of Gratitude		\$0.00
Basic II		\$200.00
BBookworms		\$40.00
Bloopers	\$50.00	\$50.00
Bootstrap Men's		\$300.00
Both Books		\$0.00
Breakfast Club		\$0.00
Busted Ego		\$250.00
By The Book		\$122.43
Chandler Men's Stag Group	\$200.00	\$440.00
Chandler Noon Group		\$1,684.40
Chandler Women's Big Book Group	\$427.78	\$690.28
Common Solution		\$500.00
Common Thread		\$787.04
Copper Basin Group		\$0.00
Courage To Change		\$150.00
Dog Tired		\$300.00
East Valley Men's Stag	\$237.00	\$1,187.00
East Valley Veterans		\$20.00
Easy Does It Group	\$88.87	\$888.70
Eye Opener Group		\$600.00
Fae Pack		\$375.25
Family Recovery Group		\$0.00
Fill in the Blank		\$325.39
Firehouse Meeting	\$200.00	\$550.00
Florence Group		\$70.00
Friday Night BB, Step Study		\$454.00
Friends Of Bill W.		\$115.00
Get It Together		\$998.79
Gilbert Gals		\$0.00
Gilbert Group		\$150.00
Gold Canyon 12 X 12 Group		\$102.96
Good Ol' Back to Basics		\$300.00
Grateful Girlfriends		\$200.00
Gratitude Group	\$350.00	\$950.00
Great Start	\$300.00	\$950.00
Gut Level		\$0.00
Happy Hour @ Sunbird		\$150.00
How It Works		\$40.00
Into Action		\$210.00
Keepin It Real Ladies		\$424.30
Last Resort		\$60.00
Life In The Big Book	\$100.00	\$453.00
Livin Life		\$0.00
Maricopa 12 X 12		\$80.00
Maricopa Group	\$50.00	\$200.00
Mid-Morning Group		\$200.00
Monday Night Madness		\$200.00
Name In The Hat		\$488.20
New Beginnings		\$100.00
New Spirit Group	\$300.00	\$1,050.00
No Big Deals	\$185.00	\$185.00
No Name AA Group		\$150.00
Not A Glum Lot		\$0.00
Opportunity Knocks		\$300.00
Page A Day	\$885.50	\$2,916.77

GROUP	Oct	YTD
Pioneer Group	\$87.00	\$503.60
Price Is Right		\$156.95
Primary Purpose Group		\$300.00
Progress Rather Than Perfection		\$0.00
Putting God First		\$0.00
Queen Creek Nooners	\$105.02	\$1,111.33
Re-Awakening Group		\$20.00
Remember When		\$0.00
Renewed Spirit		\$250.00
Rising Spirit		\$926.21
Road To Recovery	\$50.00	\$6,102.54
Rock Solid		\$130.00
San Tan Men's		\$100.00
Second Chance Group	\$40.00	\$376.00
Serenity Now	\$122.00	\$671.50
Shade Tree		\$150.00
Sisterhood Of Solutions		\$151.68
Sobriety is Gold		\$400.00
Sobriety Rocks		\$0.00
Society Group		\$51.00.00
Solutions Group		\$0.00
Some Are Sicker Than Others		\$175.00
Southeast Valley Stag		\$450.00
Spirited Women		\$87.75
Step By Step Group		\$255.29
Stepping Stones		\$583.50
Sunday Afternoon Step		\$200.00
Sunday Night BB Step Study		\$0.00
Sunday Serenity Seekers		\$343.50
Sun Lakes Women Serenity Seeker		\$250.00
Sunland Serenity Seekers		\$0.00
Sunset Group		\$150.00
Tempe Group		\$205.00
Tempe Nooners	\$50.00	\$375.00
Tempe Sunrisers		\$0.00
Tempe Young People		\$0.00
The Library		\$0.00
The Real Thing		\$0.00
The Way Out Group	\$200.00	\$1,071.00
Thursday Night Step Group		\$0.00
Tuesday Night Steppin Out	\$22.00	\$222.00
Tuesday's Trudgers		\$0.00
Tumbleweeds Group		\$771.36
Upon Awakening		\$2150.00
We Ain't Dead Yet	\$50.00	\$115.00
We Agnostics		\$406.59
We Can Group		\$0.00
Wednesday Night Step		\$0.00
Wednesday Night Winners		\$0.00
Welcome Home		\$450.00
West Chandler Men's		\$0.00
Who's Driving Your Bus?		\$0.00
Wolf Pack Group		\$200.00
Women in Gratitude		\$43.00
Women in Solution		\$30.00
Women in Touch		\$168.55
Wonder Women		\$200.00
*Anonymous Groups		\$339.00

OTHER GROUPS/COMMITTEES

Apache Lake Campout		\$0.00
AZ AA Women's Conf		\$500.00
District 08	\$500.00	\$500.00
Dist 08-818		\$0.00
Dist 08-819		\$1,750.00
Meal and a Message		\$500.00
Group Totals	\$5,081.04	\$50,299.98
EVI Committees	\$28.00	\$394.39
Individual Contributions	\$937.00	\$9,421.00
GRAND TOTALS	\$6,046.04	\$60,115.37

(*Group contribution with no group name listed)



BALANCE SHEET October 31, 2020

Assets

Current Assets

Checking	6,215.54
Prudent Reserve (Savings)	26,492.47
Accounts Receivable	1,787.80
Inventory Asset	23,953.26
Undeposited Funds	50.00

Fixed Assets

Cash On Hand	50.00
Office Equip/Furnishings	22,538.00
Depreciation	(-22,538.00)

Total Assets **\$63,540.01**

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	0.00
Visa Credit Card	12.98
Payroll taxes	102.00

Total Liabilities **\$262.89**

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	43,778.94
Retained Earnings	24,503.74
Net Income	-4,857.65

Total Equity **\$63,425.03**

Total Liability & Equity **\$63,540.01**

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT October 2020

33 Group contributions totaling	\$5,081.04
12 Individual contributions totaling	\$937.00
Intergroup Business Meeting & Service Committee's 7th Tradition	\$28.00

Total Contributions **\$6,046.04**

Total Income **\$10,157.23**

Less total Cost Of Sales **\$3,055.64**

Gross Profit **\$7,101.59**

Less total Expenses of **\$5,912.57**

Net Oct Gain **\$5,912.57**

YTD 2020 Loss **(\$4,857.65)**

The current Prudent Reserve balance is \$26,492.47
The Prudent Reserve has been
established for 2020 in the amount of \$27,817.34

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

Grateful to be of service,
Ron S. EVI Treasurer
fullflight@cox.net

Traditions Checklist

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million AAs?

East Valley Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2020

Meeting Opened at 7:00 PM via Zoom with the Serenity Prayer

12 Traditions Read by: Dave K

Attendees (from Zoom Attendance Report):

Barb M - SC Advisor to Unity Comm; Berenice; Beth H - phone committee; Biker Dave – Advisor PICPC; Bill W – GIT; Bri - Courage to Change; Buddy- Gratitude Group EVI Rep; Busted Ego – Mary; Charlie R - EV Men's Stag Alternate; Corie - Chandler Women's Big Book; Cris H -Bloopers ALT; D J - Easy Does It; Dave K - Unity Committee Chair; Dave T – SNBBSS; Debbie C - ALT-DCM 08-820; eddie – bootstraps; JASON H - EAST PHX MENS STAG; Jay J - Special Events Chair; jerold t; Jim T; Ken C. - SUNSET REP; Kim W. - EVI Office Manager; Laura K; Marge M - Spanish liaison; Marna W - The Way Out Rep; Mindy - The Society; Monica IR - Women's Serenity Seekers; Nancy L - both books step study; Noah G - Ahwatukee Mens Group; Ron S. - EVI Treasurer; Rose M - happy hour sunbird; Shap W-Tempe Nooners; Sharon B - Stepping Stones; Shawn R – GIT; Shari L - Sobriety is Gold; Stephen S - Men's Shade Tree; Steven H - common thread men's; Susan G. - WIG ALT; Ted P; Tom C - PICPC Chair; Tom N - EVI Chair; Travis m - Serenity now; Vicki B - phone co-chair; Wendy H - H&I liaison

New Reps: Bri H - courage to change; Monica – Women's Serenity Seekers; Shawn R – GIT; Buddy – Gratitude Group Sun Lakes; Stephen S – Men's Shade Tree; Cris H - Bloopers

Committee and other Trusted Servants:

Service Position	Name	Service Position	Name	Service Position	Name
Chair	Tom N	Office Manager	Kim W	H&I Liaison	Wendy H
V. Chair	n/p	Chair- Special E.	Jay J.	Spanish Liaison	Marge M
Treasurer	Ron S	Chair- PI/CPC	Tom C	Al-anon Liaison	n/p
Secretary	n/p	Chair- Phones	Beth H	DCM 08-818	n/p
Advisor- Special E.	n/p	Chair- Unity	Dave K	DCM 08-819	n/p
Advisor- PI/CPC	David M	Chair- Sponsorship	n/p	DCM 08-820	Debbie C
Advisor- Phones	n/p	No Booze News	n/p	ZONYPAA	n/p
Advisor- Unity	Barb M	Literature	n/p		

Tom welcomes everyone and states that we have a lot to cover this evening...

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary's Report: Tom shared minutes on screen from last month's business and Steering Committee Minutes from past week (also in packet). Voting tonight on second ed motion from Steering Committee on 2021 Budget. Motion to accept as amended by Buddy, seconded by Noah. Report accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Ron S. Report shared on screen and in packet. Currently about \$1300 under Prudent Reserve. Question about office expenses – Are they all accounted for? There may be a few minor additions to office move expenses before year-end. Motion to accept report as presented – DJ, seconded by Ken C, report is accepted as presented.

7th Tradition: You can make a 7th tradition contribution on the EVI website. www.aamesaaz.org

Chairperson's Report: Tom N. no written report. We will have committee service positions opening up at the end of the year, most notably the Phone Committee Chair and Alt-Chair. Please contact the office or Steering Committee with any interest.

Vice Chair Report: Wesley H not present.

Office Manager: Kim W. - report in packet

521 requests for info and assistance (not 5221 – typo in report). 148 calls for meeting info, 136 office visitors.

Service Day is 9AM, Tuesday, Nov 24. Plenty of room, please come on down and help fold Newsletters and eat donuts.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PI/CPC: Tom C.

Minutes from PI/CPC meeting are in the packet. Tom recapped. Next PI/CPC Committee Meeting is on Monday, Dec 7 @ 7pm on Zoom and at EVI Office.

Special Events: Jay J.

Monthly Speaker was hosted by Gilbert Gals on Nov 6 on Zoom. The next Monthly Speaker Meeting will be hosted by The Way Out Group in Dec.
 Virtual Thanksgiving Alcahthon to be held on Zoom from Wed, 11/25 @ 12:00noon to Fri, 11/27 @ 12:00noon. Flyer is on the EVI Web-site.

Phone committee: Beth H.

Term is coming to end. Willing to help transition. Will be doing January 2021 phone calendar.
 Trained 2 new people tonight at workshop and they filled the last 2 open spots for Dec!

Unity Committee: Dave K.

Starting to visit meetings again. New EVI rep here tonight based on recent Unity Committee visit!
 If you would like to do service work with the Unity committee, or would like a visit by the Unity Committee, please contact me

Sponsorship Workshop: Jerry C. (Not Present)

Great Start group is going to host January workshop.

No Booze News (NBN) Newsletter Editor: N/P – Rick

Need articles submitted! Group histories, personal experience, strength and hope, etc...
 Would love to publish stories about anyone who got sober during COVID!
 Feel free to send shout outs to newcomers with something nice to say.

Literature: N/P – Eric J.**LIAISON REPORTS****Al-anon Liaison:** N/P – Warren E.**H&I Liaison:** Wendy H. –

H&I Elections are coming up on Dec 9 - many Coordinator positions available.
 No new training taking place due to COVID (no meetings allowed to be taken into facilities currently).

Spanish Liaison N/P – Marge M.

Attending Spanish IG Meeting this month. Attendance down about half.
 Spanish Women's Workshop is next year and I will be involved in the committee.

ZONYPAA Liaison: N/P – Megan P.**Sub District 08-818:** Tearsa C. – Not Present**Sub District 08-819:** Lois L. – Not Present**Sub District 08-820:** Debbie C.

Mailing address changed. Nothing else to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vote to approve 2021 EVI Budget (Seconded Motion from Steering Committee). No further questions or discussion. Motion passed unanimously (20 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain).

NEW BUSINESS:

EVI Policies & Procedures Manual Revision – Seconded Motion from Steering Committee:
 Motion: "To approve and implement the revised 'EVI Policies and Procedures Manual' dated 12/9/19".
 Take back to groups and will vote on this next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marge - Campfire Meeting at Riparian Reserve is last Saturday of month Oct – April. Flyers will be at office.
 Cris – Bloopers will have a live Alcahthon Wed-Fri at Tempe Bloopers – 5000 S. Price Rd, Tempe.

Travis motions to close, EVERYBODY seconded, passed.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm with Responsibility Pledge - *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.*

Minutes transcribed from Zoom recording by Tom N.

Down but not out

APRIL 2009

After several false starts, a sponsor learns that sponsorship keeps him in touch with the literature

During my early years in the program, I tried doing my part in sponsoring other men. I felt I wasn't being very successful, because all of them either went back out drinking or fired me. I was feeling defeated, and was quickly losing interest. I thought I was a failure because I wasn't getting through to these men. Didn't they understand what I was trying to do for them? Sponsoring discouraged me so much that I quit doing it for several years. I felt I should leave sponsoring to people who were better at it than I was. I was involved in other forms of service work. I went on with my life, being successful at many things that I never could accomplish when I was drinking. I didn't drink during those years, but I stayed miserable. I was sober and going to meetings, but I could not figure out what was wrong.

I have come to learn that by not sponsoring other men, I wasn't reading the Big Book, the "Twelve and Twelve" or any other AA books. Oh, I read all those books when I first came in and I really got involved in service work. However, my perceived failure at sponsorship burned me out with all of it. After years of reflection, I now realize I was just inexperienced, and could not transmit to other men what I did not have.

A few years ago, a man asked me to be his sponsor. My initial reaction was fear. I didn't feel I knew what I was doing. However, I learned early on that you don't turn down an AA request. I gave it my best shot and got right into the books to journey through the Steps. Then a second man asked me to be his sponsor. I accepted. Then a third, then a fourth, then a fifth. Working a full-time job, I was spread thin with my time. I had to try to balance time with my family. It's not easy. The best way I know how to sponsor other men is to spend a couple of hours with each of them each week. If I don't spend time with them, how are they ever going to learn from me? A funny thing happened. By repeatedly reading the Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, As Bill Sees It, etc., with them, I started remembering a lot of the things I was reading. I was learning as much as the men I was sponsoring. I was re-learning the program, the Steps, the Traditions and so on. Bill W., Dr. Bob and the rest of the AA founders were very crafty in putting these books together. They kept repeating the same things over and over, but they worded it differently each time. This alcoholic needed to hear these things over and over before they sank in. It is my opinion that these founders were geniuses in creating these books that would make such an impact on so many alcoholics. Sure, times are different today. However, it is still very simple language to understand, even for today's younger generation.

By not sponsoring other men, I wasn't reading the Big Book or any other AA books.

I learned about the history of AA all over again. I learned that the beginnings of this program were divinely inspired by God. There is no denying our history. The history books tell the story that several people from different religions helped the founders of AA get this program off the ground. I also learned that Bill W. had a similarly bad record as I had in the beginning, when he tried helping other alcoholics prior to meeting Dr. Bob. The difference was that he didn't give up, as I had. He hung in there, and look what he has done for millions of alcoholics throughout the world. Bill had learned, as I finally learned, that it was not his fault if the alcoholic he was trying to help went back out drinking. He, Dr. Bob, and the rest of the founders continue to teach me every day how to be a better sponsor.

All I have to offer the people I sponsor is what the founders of AA passed down to me through the books they wrote. That is the AA program. I also have my personal experiences to share with them, and how I apply the AA program to every aspect of my life. Once I try to teach them things I make up in my head, I'm inventing my own modified program. I'm also diluting this gift I was given that has saved my life. What right do I have destroying a sponsee's life by teaching him a bunch of garbage I made up, instead of this gift that was so freely given to me? As long as I stick to the information in the books that the AA founders passed down to me, they are going to learn, and I'm going to learn.

Am I still miserable, as I was through those years that I was not sponsoring anyone, or doing much of anything else? No, I'm just grateful that I didn't go back out drinking. I realize today how close I came, and I don't recommend doing what I did to anyone. I have a lot of peace and serenity today. I'm happy with both my self-esteem and self-worth. I'm confident in who I am. I have never been happier in my entire life. I am totally convinced that the reason I feel the way I do is that the AA Steps and Traditions are a big part of my life on a daily basis and I'm very involved in service work today. All this involvement in the program is the key to happiness, and the other things I have described above. I wish success in sobriety to all alcoholics. It will turn your life around if you just give this program a chance.

BY: JERRY L. | PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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Send your articles, jokes, poems and artwork to Rick T. info@amesaz.org

