

East Valley Intergroup, Inc. 1855 E Southern. Suite 103 Mesa, AZ 85204 480-834-9033 Fax: 480-964-4639 info@aamesaaz.org

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NO BOOZE NE

WE AGNOSTICS | A GOD OF UNDERSTANDING SCOTT M. | FARMERS BRANCH. TEXAS

Not long ago, I read through the June 2020 edition of the Grapevine, and two articles stood out to me: Facing our Fears and Unity is the Gift.

In Facing our Fears a man was faced with a dilemma when his home group was supporting an outside event, a charity benefitting children at Christmas time. It's hard to imagine a more worthy and innocuous cause than that, and yet it was a problem because it was outside of the Traditions. The young man, despite great anxiety over possible rejection from his fellows, chose to say something. While some received the message well, some did not. He was lectured by some members, but a group conscience decision ultimately affirmed his position.

I find myself in a similar situation to that man after reading Unity is the Gift which tells the story of a secular AA who finds acceptance and purpose in his home AA group despite being an atheist and excluding God as part of the program. He feels rejected at first but finds support through an online community of like-minded people in recovery. Eventually his home group allows him to start a secular AA meeting one night a week. They study the Big Book from a secular perspec-

This member of AA has overcome a great deal and is greatly appreciated and respected within his group for his dedication to AA service and his heart for helping others.

My dilemma is that I disagree with this member. Unlike the man from Facing our Fears, I don't have to fear rejection for saying what I believe because this is not happening in my home group, but I do think that what I have to say will be unpopular. Worse, I hate to think of the man who wrote Unity is the Gift reading this submission and there being strife between him and me. The easiest thing to do would be to conclude that it is more important to be accepting than it is to follow the letter of the law, but I don't think that I am splitting hairs in this situation. The Twelve Steps are the foundation of the program, and God is the foundation of the Steps. The acceptance of others is not found in the exclusion of God, but rather the approach to finding God. The definition of God is completely up to the individual. He is referred to in the Steps as "God as we understood him."

Continue on 2

The name of the secular meeting that the man chairs is named We Agnostics, the same as the name of the chapter from the Big Book. In the chapter We Agnostics from the Big Book it says "At first some of us tried to avoid the issue, hoping against hope we were not true alcoholics. But after a while we had to face the fact that we must find a spiritual basis of life-or else." Shortly thereafter, the chapter states: "If a mere code of morals or a better philosophy of life were sufficient to overcome alcoholism, many of us would have recovered long ago. But we found that such codes and philosophies did not save us, no matter how much we tried." And finally "We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a 'Power greater than ourselves.""

The author Unity is the Gift mentioned that he relied on the online group of secular AA's to stay sober. Does this qualify as a "Power greater than ourselves?" For some, G.O.D. is an acronym for Group Of Drunks. Acceptance of the agnostic and the atheist does not come from removing God from the steps, the acceptance comes in the freedom to find a God of our own understanding.

In doing all we can to be as accepting as possible of everyone, we needn't change or dilute the Steps or the teachings of the Big Book. We accept everybody exactly as they are. Membership is gained simply by claiming it. If someone says they are a member of AA then they are. And if someone says you can't be an atheist and a member, they are wrong. And if someone tells me they got sober without God, then I thank God that they are sober.

But I am against removing God from any of our proceedings. It's part of our message, and it is part of what alcoholics need to recover. If we send the message to a newcomer that God is not something they need to recover, we risk their recovery. If an atheist or agnostic comes to you for help, welcome them and direct them to the chapter We Agnostics. Explain to that person that they will come to their own understanding of God's place in their recovery.

I believe this is in keeping with the original intent of the Big Book. A lot of thought and discussion went into the text by the original authors. In the end it was decided that God was a necessary inclusion.

One of the things I enjoy most about AA is that nobody's version of God is the correct one. Everyone is free to say whatever they want about their God, including

that they don't have one. But the Big Book definitely encourages us to seek God, and it's important we stay true to that part of our program.

Pa	ge	3

FOREWORD TO SECOND EDITION | Figures given in this foreword describe the Fellowship as it was in 1955.

"...So far, upon the total problem of several million actual and potential alcoholics in the world, we have made only a scratch. In all probability, we shall never be able to touch more than a fair fraction of the alcohol problem in all its ramifications. Upon therapy for the alcoholic himself, we surely have no monopoly. Yet it is our great hope that all those who have as yet found no answer may begin to find one in the pages of this book and will presently join us on the high road to a new freedom."

Please use the Gratitude With Service form below to volunteer for any of EVI's Standing Committees, such as Special Events, Literature, Unity, or Phone Volunteers.

We always need volunteers for our 12th Step call list. 12th Step work can be very challenging yet spiritually rewarding. If you have one year of continual sobriety and are willing and available to the alcoholic who reaches out, be sure to complete the form below and return to EVI Central Office via fax, mail, e-mail or drop off in-person.

EAST VALLEY INTERGROUP — Gratitude With Service form <i>revised 9/020</i> Return to: 1855 E Southern Ave. #103 Mesa, AZ 85204 (480) 827-1905 <i>e-mail</i> : info@aamesaaz.org www.aamesaaz.org			
Date *First Name Last			
Address		*Phon	ne
 *City	*\$T	*Zip	*Gender
 *Sobriety Date 	Home Group		
e-mail address	e-mail address Alt Phone		hone
<u> </u>	* = required for listing	ng in 12 th Step List	
[] <i>No E</i>	Booze News Subscription / Renewal	(\$18.00 annual subs	scription fee enclosed)
Volunteer Se	Volunteer Service Options Committees of Interest		Committees of Interest
Check only those you are	willing to commit time to		
12 th Step List Volunteer 	Phones Night & Weekend		rmation / Cooperation with the
[] Weekends	[] Weeknights	[] Special Eve	•
[] Weekdays	-	[] Literature	
		[] Newsletter	(No Booze News)
[] Office Phone Volunteer		[] Unity Committee	
[] Other Office Help [] Deliver A Meeting			Meeting

Group, District, and Area AA Announcements

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ROUNDUPS, CAMPOUTS AND CONFERENCES

PRESCOTT SHOESTRING ROUNDUP

JULY 26 ~ JULY 28

II E SHELDON ST. PRESCOTT AZ
YAVAPAI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SRI SUMMER ROUNDUP

AUGUST 9 ~ 11, 2024 Doubletree resort by Hilton Scottsdale AZ



PAYSON ROUNDUP

AUGUST 23 ~ 25, 2024 LOCATION TBD

APACHE LAKE CAMPOUT

NOVEMBER 8 ~ 10 APACHE LAKE MARINA

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

ASCYPAA XXXI

Arizona State Conference of Young People in A.A.

Friday, August 16 ~ 18, 2024

2515 E Butler Ave. Flagstaff AZ

Ascypaa.org

EVI BOWL-A-THON

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD. 2024
11:00AM TILL ???
\$25 INCLUDES: ALL DAY ACCESS
BOWLING, LASER TAG, ARCADE
FOOD BUFFET AND SODA BAR

JAKE'S UNLIMITED

1830 E BASELINE RD. MESA
(NW CORNER OF GILBERT AND BASELINE)
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT AAMESAAZ.ORG
FROM YOUR GROUP REP OR AT THE OFFICE

SRI SUMMER ROUNDUP

AUGUST 9 ~ 11
5401 N SCOTTSDALE RD. SCOTTSDALE AZ
DOUBLETREE RESORT
SRIROUNDUP ORG

Pacific Regional Forum

July $12 \sim 14$ 3000 Paradise Rd. Las Vegas (Westgate Resort)



ICYPAA

International Conference of Young People in A.A. July 4 $^{\sim}$ 7, 2024 110 E 2nd St. Austin TX the64thicypaa.org

2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

VANCOUVER, BC JULY 3-6, 2025

90 Years – Language of the Heart Save the date!

Sober Anniversaries Page 5

Name Date Tom F.......16437 Bill R......11686 Eileen K......8401 Jerry S......7/8/20047305 Kristina B......7/16/20066575 Deana E......6210 Jim H......5479 Michael W. 7/15/2010 5114 John R......5114 Kerry R......4749 Rick T......7/8/20162922 Jody G......1461

HELP WANTED

Your Intergroup needs you!

Current open positions:

Steering Committee Secretary

PI/CPC Chairperson

PI/CPC Committee Members

Evening Phone Volunteers

12 Step Volunteers

Events Committee Members

Office Front Desk Volunteers

*Regular and Fill In spots

Unity Committee Members

H&I Liaison

Spanish Liaison

Please contact the office for information on how to sign up for these service opportunities.

480 834-9033



AA is the only place you can get change for a dollar.

Our Seventh Step, Tradition and Concept

Step 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition 7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Concept 7. 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 tradi-

tion and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness."

PI / CPC

(Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community)

1st Mondays at 7pm.

1855 E Southern Ave #103 (EVI Office) and on Zoom Zoom ID: 984 4383 7353

Passcode: 061035

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

480 827-1905 or email picpc@aamesaaz.org

aamesaaz.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 Tom S.

EVI Sponsorship Workshop

10am the 1st Saturday of every other month

Check aamesaaz.org for location information

Contact: Ken H.

HOST GROUP SCHEDULE

August 3 ~ Common Thread

Join the

EVI Unity Committee

Meeting at 6:15pm Every 3rd Friday

Check aamesaaz.org for location information aamesaaz.org

Contact 480 827-1905

Bring It!

aamesaaz.org/contact/

EVI Special Events Committee

Meeting held before the Monthly Speaker Meeting
1st Friday of the month
2222 S Price Rd. Tempe

contact: 480 827-1905

Office Volunteers & EVI Hot Line Phones

4 hour shifts in the EVI office

Call Roxanne for specific

times and days.

*** Fill and Regular Shifts Available ***

EVI Monthly Speaker Meeting

lst Friday of Every Month

2222 S Price Rd. Tempe

(Church of the Epiphany)

Doors open at 7:00pm

Now Live only, no more ZOOM

July 5 ~ Good Orderly Direction

August 2 ~ Courage to Change

These are subject to change - so keep watching.

Central Office Manager's Report June 21, 2024

In May we received 391 requests for information and assistance. Of those 108 calls were for meeting info, 98 were office visitors and 8 resulted in a 12-step call. Our website stayed busy too. It had 36,824 visits in the last 30 days. Our Google totals for April were 1,867 views. Of those 307 went to our website, 81 requested directions and 33 gave us a call.

GSO has raised their limit on individual annual contributions. They will now accept up to \$7500 from any person per year. In accordance with our bylaws. EVI will also raise their annual limit to match GSO.

From page 2, paragraph2 of the AAWS March 2024 Board Meeting Highlights:

"The Employee Retention Tax credit- The committee discussed whether claiming the employee retention tax credit (ERTC) credit aligns with the Seventh Tradition. ERTC is a government program that provides financial support to businesses and encourages businesses to keep employees on payroll during tough times like the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee agreed the tax credit does align with the Seventh Tradition and recommended to the AAWS Board to file for the ERTC Credit equal to the amount paid in 2021".

Our Business Liability Insurance will be renewing in July. The cost of the policy that also covers many of the groups that meet in our area, will be \$4245.00 for the year. If your Group is one that participates in this shared policy, please consider sending a contribution to help cover the cost of coverage.

Box 459, the quarterly newsletter from GSO, is no longer available in hard copy. A free digital subscription is available to anyone who signs up for it at aa.org. This is similar to what we have done with our local newsletter. Free subscriptions are available, just drop us an email, info@aamesaaz.org, and say "sign me up for the newsletter".

Kim W

Central Office Manager, East Valley Intergroup

EVI CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY

	May	2024
Meeting Information Calls	-	
General Information	74	382
Referred to Salt River Intergrou	p 2	11
Referred to Al-Anon	9	33
Requests for chips/medallions	20	93
12th Step Calls	8	41
Business Calls	72	323
Office Visitors	98	495
Meeting lists printed	300	1700
Info request via E-mail	31	184
Desk Volunteers-Reg/Sub/Non	e	23/ 4/7
Desk Volunteers-Reg HRS YTD.	120hrs	520hrs
717-1- C4-	4	

Web Stats

Website Visits last 30 days 36,824 YTD 234,949

Google Searches last 30 days 1,867 YTD 10,661

Meeting List Updates...

Our website (aamesaaz.org) is being updated weekly. Check it out for the

latest on which groups are meeting and where.

New Meetings:

Garden Variety	Group 300 E Orange Mall Tempe	FR 6:00p	0
Lost & Found M	Ien's 1020 N Horne, Mesa	TU 6:30p	M,O
Friday Knights	Live 145 E 1st Ave. Mesa	FR 8:00p	M,C
GMC	750 Paxton Ave. Miami	TH 6:30p	N,O

Changes:

Ahwatukee Nooners moved to 2601 E Thunderbird Pl. (Esperanza Church)

Deletions:

There Is A Solution CLOSED FOR SUMMER 100 N Magma Rd. Superior TU SOSO CLOSED FOR SUMMER 5880 S Hospital Dr. Rm Globe SU 2pm O

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - Contributions

PO Box 2407

James A Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407

General Service Office - correspondence

PO Box 459, Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

Area 03 Treasurer *NEW 1-13-24* PO Box 13714 Scottsdale, AZ 85267 *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 PO Box 1901 Queen Creek, AZ 85142-9998

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

Alcoholicos Anonimos - Oficina 2720 E Thomas Rd. B#180 Phoenix AZ 85016

Valleywide H & I

PO Box 80126 Phoenix, AZ 85060

GSO 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



GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS



GROUP	May	YTD
11th Step Candlelight	<u>1716 y</u>	#150.00
2121 Beginner Workshop		
A Vision For You		
ABC Group		
Ahwatukee Group		
Ahwatukee Nooners		·
Ahwatukee Saturday Men's		
Ahwatukee Women's Group		
Arbor Daily Noon Group		
Attitude Adjustment CG		\$60.00
Atitude of Gratitude		
Basic II		\$0.00
BBookworms		
Bloopers		
Bootstrap Men's		
Bottom of the Bottle		
Breakfast Club		
Busted Ego		
By The Book		
Chandler Men's Stag Chandler Noon Group		
Chandler Women's Big Book Gro		
Chant 2	=	
Common Thread		
Courage To Change		
Dr's Nightmare		
East Phoenix Men's		
East Valley Men's Stag		\$544.00
East Valley Veterans		\$0.00
Easy Does It Group	\$88.87	\$1,212.95
Eye Opener Group		\$0.00
Feelings and Solutions	\$286.00	\$286.00
Fill in the Blank		<u>.</u>
Firehouse Meeting		
Florence Group		
Fresh Air Group		
Friday Night BBGet In The Car		
Get It Together		
Gilbert BB Step		
Gilbert Gals		
Gilbert Group		
Gold Canyon 12 X 12		·
Good Ol' Back to Basics		\$250.00
Good Orderly Direction		
Grateful Girlfriends		
Gratitude Group		\$223.00
Great Start		\$0.00
Gut Level		
Happy Hour @ Sunbird		
Hidden Valley Seekers		
Hope For Today		
Kitchen Table Group		
Ladies Lunch Bunch		
Last Resort		
Life In The Big Book		
Livin Life Women		
Maricopa 12 X 12 Maricopa Group		
Miracle House		
Name In The Hat		
New Beginnings		
New Spirit Group		
No Big Deals		
No Name AA Group		
Opportunity Knocks		
Over The Influence		
Page A Day		
Path Less Traveled	\$250.00	\$250.00

CROUD	N/Lone	VIIID
GROUP Patio Group	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Priore Is District		
Price Is Right		
Primary Purpose Group		
Progress Rather Than Perfektion		
Province Group		
Putting God First		
Queen Creek Nooners		
Re-Awakening Group		
Renewed Spirit		
Rising Spirit		\$692.11
Road To Recovery	\$100.00	\$500.00
Rock Solid		\$50.00
San Tan Group		\$0.00
San Tan Men's	\$52.50	\$90.00
Second Chance Group		\$120.61
Serenity Now		
Serenity Sisters		
Serious Over Sobriety		
Shade Tree		
Slay the Dragon		
Sobriety is Gold		
Sobriety Rocks		
Society Group		
Some Are Sicker Than Others		
Southeast Valley Stag		\$425.00
Starlight Ranch		\$149.31
Step By Step Group		\$525.11
Steppers	\$94.00	\$194.00
Stepping Stones		\$500.00
Sunday Night BB Step Study		\$0.00
Sunday Afternoon Step		
Sunday Serenity Seekers		
Sunrisers		
Sun Lakes Women Serenity Seeker		•
Sunset Group		
Superstition Sunrise		
Tempe Group		
Tempe Nooners		
Tempe Sunrisers		
The Library		
The Promises		
The Real Thing		
The Tribe		\$0.00
The Way Out Group		\$0.00
Tuesday Night Steppin Out Group		\$100.00
Tuesday Trudgers		\$494.00
Tumbleweeds Group		
Upon Awakening		
We Ain't Dead Yet		
We Agnostics		
Wednesday Night Winners		
Welcome Home		
West Chandler Men's		
		· ·
Wolf Pack Group		
Women in Gratitude		
Women in Solution		
*Anonymous Groups		\$447.79
OTHER GROUPS/COMMITTEE		
Apache Lake Campout		
AZ AA Women's Conf		
Mesa Roundup		
Dist 08-819		
Dist 08-820		
Meal and a Message		
Group Totals\$		
=		
EVI Committees		
Individual Contributions		
GRAND TOTALS\$		\$32,609.65
*Group contribution with no group name liste	ed)	

Financial Statements Page 9

BALANCE SHEET
May 31, 2024

Assets

550	
Current Asset	
Checking	3,400.22
Prudent Reserve (Savings)	39,930.50
Accounts Receivable	1,075.50
Inventory Asset	28,454.18
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Fixed Assets	
Cash On Hand	50.00
Office Equip/Furnishings	22,538.00
Depreciation	(-22,538.00)
Total Assets Liabilities & Equity	\$77,939.18
• •	
Liabilities	0.00
Accounts Payable Visa Credit Card	0.00
Payroll taxes	220.00
rayroll dixes	220.00
Total Liabilities	\$220.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	43,778.94
Retained Earnings	31,119.45
Net Income	2,820.79
inet income	2,020.79
Total Equity	\$77,719.18
Total Liability & Equity	\$77,939.18

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT May, 2024

29 Group contributions totaling 7 Individual contributions totaling Intergroup Business Meeting &	\$4,528.72 \$255.39	
Service Committee's 7th Tradition	\$0.00	
Total Contributions	\$4,784.11	
Total Income	\$8,414.40	
Less total Cost Of Sales	\$2,560.27	
Gross Profit	\$5,854.13	
Less total Expenses of	\$7,263.42	
Net May Loss	(\$1,409.29)	
<u>YTD 2024 Gain</u>	\$2,820.79	
The current Prudent Reserve balance is \$39,930.50		
The Prudent Reserve has been established for 2024 in the range of \$35,703.95 - \$42,844.74		
Please call me with any questions or comments		

CJ M. EVI Treasurer

Grateful to be of service,

regarding the financial statements.

From the FOREWORD TO SECOND EDITION

As we discovered the principles by which the individual alcoholic could live, so we had to evolve principles by which the A.A. groups and A.A. as a whole could survive and function effectively. It was thought that no alcoholic man or woman could be excluded from our Society; that our leaders might serve but never govern; that each group was to be autonomous and there was to be no professional class of therapy. There were to be no fees or dues; our expenses were to be met by our own voluntary contributions. There was to be the least possible organization, even in our service centers.

EVI MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

East Valley Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes Friday, May 17, 2024

Roxanne opened the meeting at 7 pm in person and on zoom with the Serenity Prayer

(Attendees list was edited for space. It is available on request.)

John V. read the Twelve Traditions

Secretary Report – Linda C. Written report is in packet. Motion to accept made by Ken C., 2nd by David -passed.

Treasurer Report – CJ went over the written report in the packet. Question Tom from Ahwatukee Group how the payment for the insurance is it paid annually, semi-annually and the costs? CJ – Liability Insurance is paid annually and will get back with the costs next month. This insurance is provided to groups who use a facility requiring it and a certificate of insurance is submitted to the location showing proof of insurance. Motion to accept made by Carol, 2nd by, Tom. Passed

Chairperson's Report: Roxanne B. Informed the group the office needs help answering the phones. There is a Gratitude of Service Form on each table. Please bring back to your groups. Fill out and return if interested, If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne.

Vice-Chair's Report: Ginger R. B. - Presented a report in Old Business of this report.

Office Manager's Report: Kim W. reviewed her report.

Gratitude with Service forms are now available on our website (AAmesaaz.org OR email us at info@aamesaaz.org.) There are many opportunities for service, please encourage your group members to volunteer for a service position.

AWWS article

Box 459 is no longer mailed to homes and can be found on the aa.org website.

Standing Committee Reports:

PI/CPC: John reported there are two marketing professionals putting together a marketing budget. Will be rotating out of this position and if anyone is interested, they meet the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm at the EVI office located at 1855 E. Southern Avenue, Unit 103 Mesa, AZ 85204 480-827-1905. Responsibilities of this position: Coordinate with John, attend EVI meetings every month, must have 2 years of continuous sobriety.

Special Events: Roberta E. The Bowlathon is taking place Saturday, August 3, at Jakes Unlimited, 1830 E. Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ. Tickets are \$25. Purchase your tickets through your EVI representative, online and by calling the EVI Office. The committee needs help securing a venue for the NYE party. If anyone can help with this contact Roberta email Blacky_108@yahoo.com. Volunteers needed for all events.

Phone Committee: Tom S. July has forty after-hour shifts with 3 open spots. The call (email) for volunteers to fill the remaining open slots will go out later this week, with the planned final calendar to EVI by the 25th. Robin has stepped up as co-chair. Thank you to all and to those who take more than one shift, all of your help is really appreciated. Tom's rotation ends December of 2024.

Unity Committee: Jennifer S.- met with the As You Wake Up group and Joe accepted the position and is in attendance. The meeting for this committee meets monthly, the third Friday of the month before the EVI Business meeting at 6:15 pm.

Sponsorship Committee: Janette reported that Common Thread is hosting next workshop, Saturday, August 3, at 10 am in the classroom at The Church of the Epiphany, 2222 S. Price Road, Tempe, AZ. Will make up a corrected flyer with the information as there was some confusion about which group was hosting in August. Will drop off the 7th Tradition.

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Literature Committee: Monica S. reported that it was a very busy month. Pre-sale purchases (5 cases) and Founder's Day (2 cases) for the reproduction of the 1st Edition sales. Please let Monica know if there is an anniversary or special occasion where you would like book to be available.

Liaison Reports:

Al-Anon: Lee R. reported the State Convention for Al-Anon is coming up next weekend June 23-25, Tucson, AZ.at Casino del Sol, 5655 W. Valencia Road. Family Recovery Night June 22, and flyer is on the Al-Anon East Valley website. Tuesday – EVIC Meeting, and next Get in the Car meeting July 13th, 7 pm at Church of the Epiphany, 2222 S. Price Road, Tempe, AZ.

H&I: Open

Spanish Liaison: Open

Sub Districts:

08-818: Jason C.- Suggested could be more GSR's in Ahwatukee area Contact Jason C. if your group does not have a GSR and you need information.

08-819: Robert S. Meeting takes place at 7pm the second Thursday of each month at the EVI office located at 1855 E Southern Avenue,.

08-820: Carol M. reported their Treasurer stepped down due to health issues and needs a new Treasurer. There will not be a potluck in July, the next one is planned for October.

Old Business: Carol M. withdrew the tabled motion, read by Kim and a copy was in the packet.

Vice Chair- Ginger- Location of the EVI Business Meeting. Ginger gave a visual presentation showing where all meetings of the EVI group are located to assist in finding a central location. (the map copy can be emailed upon request). Three Locations in the most concentrated areas are being considered, but we do not have a location to offer yet. Ginger said she would like to continue the process. At the current location the cost is \$50 per meeting including speaker meetings, they also provide storage. Question if the map center location included the outliers in the group and if the red on the map were not going to be factored in. These are all being considered and noticed there is growth in the Casa Grande area.

CJ – Inventory- Questions are being compiled, when these are completed the list of questions will go out around September to the EVI representatives to bring to their groups. We will then get the feedback from the representatives. Carol M . asked for some sample questions and CJ read few.

New Business:

Carol – Women in Gratitude presented three new motions all of which did not receive a second. Motions were included in the business meeting packet.

<u>Announcements:</u> There are three positions open, Secretary(requires 1 year of sobriety), H&I, Spanish Liaison, also answering phones at the EVI office.

At 8:14 Roxanne made a motion to close. Clark 2nd. Closed with the Responsibility Declaration.



This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

SURRENDER | LET GO | LET GOOD

Surrender is a very common word and a necessary action in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. This word sounds so absolute and can mean something different to each person who daily attempts, whether successful or not, to let go of the things, thoughts, persons, that ravage their mind and rob them of peace. However, I have found that my experiences coupled with all my character defects makes a full surrender impossible, until I can identify and pull up each root of each defect, one by one. If I am unable to identify the deep roots of whatever requires surrender, how can I truly let go and let God?

The answer is found in the Twelve Steps, and Step One is but the springboard which catapulted me into the depths of my soul, to understand how to be free from the insanity to drink. I myself had almost twenty-one years of sobriety. Nineteen of those years I was poised in the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous and walked through many joyous and difficult times in a dignified and successful manner. However, at nineteen years I began to decline, regress and grow weary of life-on-life terms. I resided in the "blind spot" the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions speaks of in terms of faith, or the lack thereof.

I began to withdraw from the program and all of a sudden took on the cares of all within my area of influence and placed them on my shoulders. Fear was present and my self-will rose up and began to run riot. Resentment, control and all the other earmarks of the disease were common expressions in my daily dealings. I fell deeper and deeper into a tired, weary and exhausted state.

Suddenly the years I had sober meant less and less and carelessness and apathy took root in my soul. Surrender would have been a handy tool in those days; however, I could not see just what to surrender, or how to be free from all that I was thinking and feeling. It was like a ball of rubber bands that are so tightly connected it takes a ton of patience to unravel and see just where the first rubber band is. I had years sober, working the Steps, serving my Higher Power, being a soccer mom, volleyball mom and wife and living life on life terms, but without the program. The quality of my life went slowly and cunningly and bafflingly down the toilet.

And so after 21 years sober, I stopped caring and took a drink. Thank goodness for the moment of clarity my Higher Power allowed me to have, because that drink did not turn into a drunk, nor did I stay out for long. I immediately got back to AA and there I was faced with the work which had to be done to get the 'me' back that I had discovered through the Steps. Which all began with surrender.

Today my first Step is multi-faceted. To drink after two decades of sobriety revealed to me that I had failed to admit how powerless I am over the many things which led me to that first drink. That first Step leads me to surrender, deeply, wholly, and with complete abandon. To investigate the emotions and my part of each resentment, to let go, make amends and be free. The remaining Steps help me enter into the pathology of my soul and cut away all the infected mess that life can cause, thus enabling me to embrace the healthy parts that engender freedom, selflessness and usefulness.

I am approaching my first anniversary, once again, and feel great joy. The Steps have taught me how to truly surrender and live a happy, useful, joyous life. One day at a time.