

Remembering Neil E.

We could always count on a couple of folks that were ALWAYS there at Central Office Service meetings. Neil E. was one of those folks. Long term attendance meant that he had "seen it all" and was always willing to provide perspective. That sometimes meant that when newer representatives were attempting to lead or steer the committee in one direction or another, he was one of the folks who could be counted on to get us back to the more middle road. Over the years, the Harbor Area Central Office AA CSR committee meetings could have been de-railed at some point, but thanks to Neil and others, we and the meetings did not go too far astray...

We were grateful that Neil had been there long term for the Central Office committee. He did not tend to get into other area's business. But if a person was running into some problems or issues, Neil was there in a supportive way, providing background, assistance and mentoring to the person. It was deeply appreciated that someone was there who had assisted nearly every Chair in the Harbor Area at one point or another. If we felt like doing it on our own, he would normally let us; but if we were floundering, Neil was there to provide history, support, encouragement and perspective on what had been done in the past. It meant that the new chairpersons could get support and information if needed. Neil acted as a kind of "safety net" for the HA CO Committee at times, and that was deeply appreciated.

Neil also served as the official Central Office Secretary/Manager/Coordinator from 1997 through 2000. The Office Manager is in charge of leading and performing the day-to-day business activities of the Harbor Area Alcoholics Anonymous Business Office for the entire Los

Angeles/Long Beach Harbor area, including meetings from Torrance and San Pedro to Sunset Beach, and Norwalk to Paramount and Compton. That required obtaining AA literature and providing a business connection to Alcoholics Anonymous, while the governing/service connection is provided by General Service through the Districts, especially 2 and 4. One key activity that Neil provided was the Harbor Area Directories, a complete listing of all meetings in the extended Harbor Area.

Neil wanted the Harbor Area Directory to be up-to-date and inclusive. Our directory at that time did not include all the categories that the Los Angeles area Directory did. Neil reviewed what a more progressive Central Office/Directory was doing/incorporating/including in the greater Los Angeles area, and added some Code updates that are still in use today, that made it more complete, gave it greater coverage and made it more inclusive. Those changes/updates/improvements were greatly appreciated and for many, Neil is a hero for instituting those when he was the Central Office Manager.

Sometime later Neil wrote a short book called, "A Brief History the of the Harbor Area Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 1948-2012", partly based on an earlier, complete Harbor Area history authored by John S. The book by Neil records the workers and Office Managers over that period. It shows that John S. was in charge for two years prior to Neil E. taking over in 1997 through 2000. It reported that Flossie Lewis was our first Central Office Manager in 1948, and reveals there was a fairly even match of men and women who managed and worked at our Central Office over the years. That book is still available from our Central

Office as a lasting memory of all that Neil E. did for us over the years. Our thanks and appreciation go to him for his dedicated service

and to his family who gave him to us for some 20 years.
Caesar C.

Editor's Note

As the new editor of the Harbor Light, I apologize for the missing issues. The only excuse I can offer is that I'm an old fellow and my learning curve is somewhat flat. In any case there are a few things that should be drawn to the attention of the reader.

There are a total of 90 subscribers to the Harbor Light. It can be viewed online, using the harbor area web sight. Therefore, the Harbor Area Service Committee is considering discontinuing the physical printing of the the Harbor Light. The current subscribers will have to be considered in that they have payed to receive the issues through the remainder of their subscriptions.

Much of the information contained in the Harbor Light (meeting minutes, financial statements, etc.) might best be directly available online from the web sight itself, as opposed to using the sight to call up the Harbor Light and then searching through it to find the desired information.

Before any of the changes suggested above are implemented they will be thoroughly vetted by the service committee. If you, the readers, have ideas about the possible changes suggested above, please ask your representatives to attend the service committee meetings.

Gathering the material that constitutes an issue of the Harbor Light is somewhat difficult, especially articles contributed by Harbor Area AA members. Any of your thoughts expressed in a written form are welcome. They only requirement is that submissions be in conformity with the singleness of purpose defined by the fifth tradition. Please send your contributions to:

harborlightchair@hacoaa.org

Thanks,

Mike W.

Harbor Light is a monthly publication of the Harbor Area Service Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous. Send articles, comments, letters artwork, etc. to:
Editor, Harbor Light
3450 E. Spring Street, Suite 109
Long Beach, Ca. 90806
E-mail: HarborLightChair@hacoaa.org

Thanks to all the delegates who attended the May Harbor Area Service Committee Meeting.

One Hour Men's Stag Monday - Ron W.
Bowling Green - Eric B.
Carry the Message - Elizabeth D.
Downey Thursday Night - Alan O.
Faith in Action - Corey P.
East Bay - Bruce E.
High On Life Meeting - Dale C.
Invisible Speaker - Tim R.
La Palma Big Book - Chris I.
Lakewood Speakers - Chris I.
Living Sober Topic Discussion 10AM -
Jamie C.
Long Beach Men's Stag (M-W-F 7AM) -
Scott B.
Los Altos Group - Kate O.
Men's Stag (Thursday 8PM) - Mike W.
Signal Hill Speakers - Gilbert G.
Sober on the Sand - Eric A.
There is a Way - Frank U.
Tuesday Night Women's Closed -
Jacqueline V.
Wednesday Discussion - Brad S.
Willing to Grow - Elizabeth D.

Be the voice of your meeting in the Harbor Area Service Committee.

Dealing with Unhelpful Attitudes and Remarks

When I was drinking I wanted everyone else to be drinking. I didn't feel comfortable around abstainers. I would become irritated, maybe a little angry, if I offered you a drink and you turned it down. This unreasonable attitude is not uncommon among alcoholics in their cups. It was certainly true of Bill Wilson.

Bill was near the end of his drinking career when an old pal, Ebby Thacher, came to see him. "The door opened and he stood there, fresh-skinned and glowing," Bill recounted in the Big Book. Ebby was there to tell his friend about his new-found sobriety. Bill was astonished. He wondered what had gotten into the man, but put his curiosity on hold long enough to push a drink across the table. Ebby refused to pick it up. Bill wrote that he was "disappointed."

Very probably Bill was disappointed because his drinking had been threatened by this "fresh-skinned and glowing" sober alcoholic who would not take a drink. It would have been so much easier for Bill to associate with the old Ebby. Sober Ebby presented a problem, for if he, who had been a hopeless drunk, could change, there was no reason Bill Wilson could not change or at least admit to the possibility of embarking on a changed way of life.

Alcoholics who are sober can cause a certain amount of unease among those who are still drinking. The fact of their sobriety may provoke reactions ranging from sarcasm to insults. I personally have been on the receiving end of a few such remarks. Shortly after I came into Alcoholics Anonymous, for example, a former drinking companion tried to reason with me. "You're not an alcoholic," he said vehemently. This was no doubt because his drinking behavior and mine had been pretty much the same. Later, as it became clear that I was committed to staying sober, he became annoyed enough to call me a "tea-totaling turkey."

Another time I was at a golden wedding anniversary party honoring the parents of one of my oldest friends. When it came time to toast the couple, my friend noticed that I had not drunk any of the champagne. He was offended and said that I was carrying my AA sobriety "too far." He had no concept of the powerlessness of alcoholics or the danger resulting from a single drink.

His attitude was not all that different from another friend who wanted to know why I couldn't have a glass or two of wine. Hadn't I been sober long enough, he asked.

Some time ago my wife and I went on a tour of Southern Germany with another couple, Stan and Karen. We had known this couple for a few years and were good friends. They knew that I did not drink but were unaware that I was a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Anyway, Oktoberfest was underway when we arrived in Munich and our friends wanted to go to the Hofbrauhaus to celebrate. Stan said, "When we get there, I'm going to buy you a beer and watch you drink it." Obviously, he thought there was something wrong with a person like me who never drinks.

I agreed to go with them to the Hofbrauhaus, but when the time came, I would simply refuse to drink any beer. I would have a soft drink and maybe a bratwurst. It turned out, though, that I did not have to turn down Stan's offer because we could not find an empty table in that huge beer hall and had to leave. We went to a restaurant down the street for dinner. The subject of my having a beer never came up.

Derisive comments directed at alcoholics who abstain from alcohol can be potentially harmful. If I were not convinced of my need for Alcoholics Anonymous as a defense against the first drink, I might be inclined to listen to those who would, intentionally or not, open a crack that might eventually undermine my sobriety. That is why it is so important for me to be surrounded by people who value sobriety above all else. I need the support and the good example of other sober alcoholics. This is what I get through frequent participation in AA meetings. The meetings are where I see clearly the terrible consequences of continued drinking and the wonderful rewards of sober living.

John B.

Rule 62 Summer Picnic 2018

Don't miss it.

There will be: ***Live Music***

Food

Games

Raffles

Date: July 7, 2018

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: El Dorado Park West Community Center, 2800 Studebaker Road

The Rule 62 Planning Committee is seeking donations and group participation for booths. Be part of the fellowship. Have fun while working step twelve.

Woman to Woman 44th Annual Conference in San Diego

Dates: September 28, 2018 12:30 pm through 30, 2018 1:30 pm

Venue: San Juan Mobile Estates

Accommodations: The Dana on Mission Bay

Contact Phone: (714) 904-4428

Website: womantowomansandiego@gmail.com

April Contributions

Group	Apr 18	Apr 17	Jan - Apr 18
11th Step Study	0.00	50.00	35.00
12 Steps & 12 Traditions Sunday	0.00	0.00	160.00
12 Steps & Traditions Thursday 7PM	0.00	0.00	300.00
5420 Group	0.00	50.00	0.00
A.A. Book Study	100.00	0.00	170.00
Aloha Women's Group	0.00	264.73	0.00
As Bill Sees It Fri 7 am at Thursdays	0.00	45.00	0.00
As Bill Sees It Thurs Night	90.00	0.00	90.00
Att Adj 7 AM Sat Marina Pacifica	700.00	0.00	825.00
Att.Adj Sun IFH	0.00	0.00	50.00
Attitude Adj 645 am Lakewood	50.00	65.00	200.00
Bellflower Big Book Group	1,920.00	1,840.00	3,920.00
Big Book Study Los Alamitos 6pm	0.00	0.00	240.00
Big Book Study Thursday's	0.00	0.00	30.00
Bowling Green	0.00	0.00	100.00
Bring Your Own Coffee Book Stude	0.00	0.00	120.00
Carry The Message	0.00	0.00	220.00
Compton 401 Bullis Group	25.00	25.00	100.00
Courage to Change	0.00	0.00	50.00
Cypress Women's Step Study	0.00	96.60	0.00
Dirty Shirt Group	0.00	0.00	125.00
Downey 5th Street	65.34	0.00	65.34
Downey Beginners	50.00	0.00	50.00
Downey Tues Womens Home Group	0.00	0.00	120.00
Drunk Busters	0.00	0.00	50.00
Early Att.Adj Mon IFH	0.00	0.00	45.00
Early Att.Adj Sun IFH	0.00	50.00	60.00
East Bay Group	300.00	0.00	300.00
Friday Night Big Book (Lakewood)	55.08	0.00	55.08
Friday Night Men's Stag	300.00	0.00	850.00
Full Flight	0.00	0.00	40.00
Full Moon	120.50	0.00	120.50
Girls Night Out	0.00	0.00	140.00
Group #150646	0.00	0.00	35.00
Group #159497	0.00	45.00	45.00
Group #168356	50.00	50.00	100.00
Group #178801	78.00	0.00	78.00

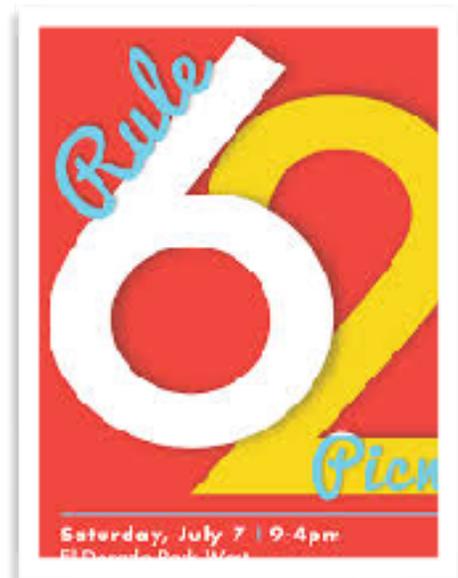
Group	Apr 18	Apr 17	Jan - Apr 18
Group #648615	0.00	0.00	84.00
Group #687848	0.00	0.00	60.00
Group #705297	0.00	0.00	216.00
H.A.S.C. Receipts	29.05	36.50	29.05
Happy Hour Mon MWA	0.00	50.00	0.00
Happy Hour MWA Mon	0.00	0.00	50.00
Happy Hour Thurs MWA	0.00	0.00	75.00
Happy Hour Topic Discussion	90.00	180.00	185.00
Happy Hour Tue MWA	0.00	0.00	46.42
Happy Ms Step Study MWA	0.00	0.00	100.00
Harmony Group	0.00	0.00	60.00
High Hopes Norwalk	36.00	28.00	36.00
Hopeful Trudgers	0.00	0.00	40.00
Indian Charlie Group	0.00	0.00	50.00
Intercity Womens	0.00	0.00	15.00
Invisible Spkr Mtg	80.00	0.00	80.00
Keep it Simple	450.00	0.00	450.00
KISS	0.00	0.00	60.00
Kiss Grp Fri Artesia	100.00	0.00	100.00
Ladies Power Hr Thurs SB	34.20	0.00	34.20
Let's Get Together	84.00	0.00	84.00
Living Sober LB	0.00	65.63	55.50
Long Beach Mens Stag	192.00	98.17	755.69
Los Altos Group	0.00	0.00	50.00
Los Altos Open Door	0.00	0.00	50.00
Lucky 13	40.00	0.00	40.00
Men's Banquet	0.00	0.00	1,434.42
Men's Stag - Thurs 1429 Clark	37.50	0.00	37.50
Men's Stag Tues MWA	150.00	0.00	165.00
New Millenium	0.00	0.00	15.00
One Hour Men's Stag	120.00	0.00	360.00
Outside the Fence	0.00	0.00	25.00
Over 50 Group	0.00	60.00	0.00
Paramount Speakers	0.00	0.00	200.00
Participation - Sun 10am MP	0.00	0.00	60.00
POF	100.00	100.00	100.00
Rocky Timers	57.47	75.00	127.47
Rule 62 Daily Att.Adj	0.00	0.00	180.00
Sanctuary Group	0.00	35.00	24.15
Sat Nite Lite Los Al	0.00	0.00	200.00
Seniors 4 Sobriety	96.00	0.00	196.00
Sober Gender Non-conformists	50.00	0.00	50.00
Sober on the Sand	0.00	50.00	0.00

Group	Apr 18	Apr 17	Jan - Apr 18
Southern California AA Convention	0.00	0.00	500.00
Staggers On Monday	0.00	100.00	0.00
Stay Connected	0.00	0.00	100.00
Sun Spots	20.00	0.00	40.00
Sunset Bch Sun 1000 AM	0.00	120.00	0.00
Sunset Beach 11th Step Study	0.00	0.00	180.00
Sunset Beach Discussion	0.00	73.63	100.00
Sunset Beach Fellowship	0.00	0.00	52.50
Sunset Beach Morning	0.00	0.00	120.00
Sunset Sober on the Sand	145.00	0.00	145.00
T. Campbell	0.00	0.00	50.00
Thursdays	0.00	0.00	200.00
Tuesday at Thursdays	0.00	65.00	0.00
Tuesday Night Live Big Book Study	0.00	0.00	190.00
Tuesday night round robin	60.00	0.00	60.00
Tuesday Night V.A.	100.00	100.00	300.00
Tuesday Night Women's	0.00	0.00	129.60
Uppity Women	0.00	0.00	150.00
VA Sat Nite Wateringhole	0.00	100.00	0.00
Wed Att Adj Thursdays 7 am	0.00	0.00	90.00
Wed Night Men's Stag	0.00	0.00	150.00
Wed Noon SS MarPac	0.00	120.00	0.00
Wednesday Book Study	0.00	0.00	600.00
Wednesday Discussion	0.00	300.00	250.00
Westside Early Risers	350.00	200.00	650.00
Willing to Grow	0.00	50.00	63.00
Winners Circle	0.00	120.00	0.00
Winners Circle Reflections	110.00	0.00	110.00
Women's Discussion	0.00	0.00	75.00
Women's Step Study	50.00	0.00	50.00
Women Achieving Serenity	50.00	0.00	50.00
	6,535.14	4,708.26	19,274.42

June 7 - 10

Convention Activities Include:
A.A. Speaker Meetings
A.A. Topic/Discussion Meetings
Al-Anon Meetings
A.A. Banquet (\$)
A.A. Breakfast (\$)
Al-Anon Luncheon (\$)
Golf Tournament (\$)
Fun Run / Walk (\$)
Dances (\$)

Come and join us for fun and fellowship at the The Renaissance Indian Wells Resort and Spa. The hotel is located at: 44400 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells, California, 92210. For reservations call 760.773.4444 or use the website desertpowwow.com



A. A. DESERT POW WOW
with Al-Anon Participation

Income/Expenses - February	Feb 18	Feb 17	Jan - Feb 18
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Contribution			
Group Contributions	3,250	4,124	8,669
Personal Contributions	110	50	176
HASC Receipts	33	41	61
Bulletin Contributions	10	261	20
Total Contribution	3,403	4,476	8,926
Literature Sales	4,045	3,399	6,644
Other Income/Interest	1	1	1
Total Income	7,449	7,876	15,571
Cost of Goods Sold			
Cost of Goods Sold	21	1	134
Cost of Literature	2,616	2,389	4,191
Inventory Adjustment	(67)	(14)	(67)
Credit Card Fees	24	55	67
Total COGS	2,594	2,431	4,325
Gross Income	4,855	5,445	11,246
Expense			
Website	12		312
Bank Charges	38		38
Bookkeeping	95	45	140
Copy Plan (Xerox)	206	277	478
Less Directory & HL copies	(50)	(90)	(166)
Harbor Light		59	
Insurance - General	125	125	249
Insurance - Workers' Comp	78	78	155
Payroll	4,077	3,783	8,263
Postage		25	147
Rent	1,336	1,285	2,672
Rent - HASC	65	65	130
Rent - Storage	75	60	150
State Sales Tax Adjustment			39
Security System	20	20	20
Supplies	153	219	159
Telephone/Internet			285
Total Expense	6,230	5,951	13,071
Net Ordinary Income	(1,375)	(506)	(1,825)

LONG BEACH AA IN THE 'FORTIES

The earliest known appearance of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Harbor Area was when Hugh Van Aiken (deceased) made a Twelfth Step Call on Daniel "Curley" O'Neil (also deceased). This was on February 4, 1941. They talked and "Curley" began his early sobriety. Soon others in the Long Beach area who had similar problems began meeting at "Curley's" home. For some time they met in each others homes and attended A.A. meetings at the Cecil Hotel in Los Angeles.

The leaders of the Los Angeles group Frank Randell and Mort J., suggested that these pioneers of A.A. in the Harbor Area start a meeting of their own in Long Beach. The earliest known "official" meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Long Beach was on Wednesday April 2, 1941. It was initially called "The Long Beach Group" and they met at the Lagoon Clubhouse for about four months, and then moved to Townsend Hall on Pine Avenue and in 1943 moved to the Bowling Green Clubhouse. At this time a local newspaper published the following:

Progress Reported by Local Chapter of "A.A."

Continued growth of the Long Beach "chapter" of Alcoholics Anonymous and "excellent results" among its membership were reported yesterday by a prominent citizen who had been permitted to sit in as a spectator at one of the Monday night meetings of the organization. Alcoholics who have attained the "ex" stage or are striving seriously to do so are welcomed into membership and the meetings may be attended by members of their families also.

About 25 Long Beach men and women are now enrolled as members off the local "chapter." No social, financial, religious nor political lines are drawn; there are no membership dues or other charges; names of members are not revealed —unless by themselves individually, and the only announced method of establishing contact with the organization is by addressing a letter to "Alcoholics Anonymous," P.O. Box 751, Long Beach.

Anyone desiring to suggest the name of someone who might be interested in receiving help through the organization may submit the name in a letter so addressed. Sources of such names, it is emphasized, are never revealed.

The Alcoholic Foundation of New York is the national headquarters of the ex-alcoholicsThe Alcoholic Foundation of New

York is the national headquarters of the ex-alcoholics fellowship. Inquiries to the headquarters may be addressed to P.O. Box 658 Church Street Annex, New York, N.Y. The nationwide membership of the organization totals 2,000 or more.

"We of A.A. believe that two-thirds of our number have already laid the foundation for permanent recovery," reads in part, a statement of the position and efforts of the growing group. "More than half of us have had no relapse at all, despite the fact we often had been pronounced incurable. This approach to the alcoholism problem is based squarely upon our own drinking experience, what we have learned from medicine and psychiatry, and upon certain spiritual principles common to all creeds. No member is obliged to conform to anything whatever except to admit that he has the alcoholic illness and that he honestly wishes to be rid of it. We have found that genuine tolerance of others, coupled with a friendly desire to be of service, is most essential to our own recovery".

There is no use of drugs in this program of regeneration of "all kinds of people," young and old, rich and poor, educated and otherwise, who have one thing in common, namely, they all had been "licked" by alcohol and now, because of something they have found, are or are becoming ex-

The first Central Office was established in the Harbor Area on May 14, 1948. It's first listing in the Long Beach Telephone Directory read "Alcoholics Anonymous Harbor District, 1128 Dawson Ave.,

Long Beach, California - Telephone number 305-150" (later changed to 905-150)

Between 1943 and the date the Harbor Area Central Office was established, a number of groups had sprouted:

1. The Long Beach Group (April, 1941) (Later named The Mother Group)
2. The Bowling Green Group (March, 1945)
3. The San Pedro Group (May, 1947)
4. The Wilmington Group (May, 1947")
5. The North Long Beach Group (Jan., 1948)
6. The Downey Group (May, 1947)
7. The Signal Hill Group (1946)
8. The East Bay Group (July, 1947)
9. The 20 - 40 Group (for younger members) (May, 1947)
10. The Westside Group (date unknown)

It is interesting to note that the first known A.A. member in the Harbor Area to receive his First Year Pin was Hugh Van Aiken, in 1941. It was presented to him by his first sponsor, "Curley" O'Neil. The pin's shape was two hearts with the letter "A" in the center of each heart. In February 1942, Hugh gave "Curley" his first year pin. He was the first local A.A. member with one year of continuous sobriety, as a direct result of Hugh's first Twelfth Step Call in Long Beach. The ceremony took place in Townsend Hall on Pine Avenue.

On November 10, 1943, Bill Wilson and his wife Lois met with a group of over 400 sober men and women here in Long Beach who came to hear about the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and how the program works.

Rumor has it that this was when Lois W. and Flossie Lewis first discussed having a fellowship for those who were related to the alcoholics. Two names were tried; "Autonomous Auxiliary" and "Non-Alcoholics Anonymous". It would not be until 1951 that the organization was officially established and the name "Al-Anon" was finally decided upon.

At Central Office in the early days the only contact with the A.A. Foundation that the Harbor Area Groups had was with the fledgling Los Angeles A.A. Office. As the story goes, Jack Jones got tired of running up to Los Angeles every time they needed something, so he got together with the group in Signal Hill and proposed that they start a Central Office in Long Beach for the mutual benefit of the groups in the Harbor Area.

They got in touch with Major Harry J. White - USAF retired, a representative of the Los Angeles Central Office and a member of the East Bay Group. Members of the first nine groups in the area (now including the Westside Group) met in his home in Naples to discuss and plan such a venture.

The outcome — they formed the Harbor Area Central Committee. The first Chairman of the Harbor Area Central (later called 'Service') Committee was Bill S., 1948 - 1949. The next step was to find an office and a secretary. Clarence J. Lewis and his wife Flossie (who was first exposed to A.A. January 1, 1945 at the Ebell Club) were asked and they accepted, and became the original "Special Workers" (from 1948 to 1955). The Harbor Area Central Service Office was started in the Lewis' home on May 14, 1948. The mailing address was P.O. Box 751, Long Beach, California.

Bert Kersey, Jack Jones and Jack C. were chosen to see about a telephone, which was installed in the Lewis' home (the Central Office) at 1128 Dawson Avenue, Long Beach. The telephone number was 305-150. Flossie took most of the calls and did the majority of the running of the office in the beginning. Advertisements were placed in the local newspaper, the Press Telegram.

Another interesting development in the early days in Southern California was when Sybil C. and her brother Tex started the Hole In The Ground Group.

They had both been attending the meetings in Los Angeles and Tex said, ". . . I'm sick of picking up guys in Long Beach and driving them thirty-five miles to Los Angeles. Well, the "boys" in L. A. were not happy about that and threatened to excommunicate Tex. He just laughed.

That was in 1941 and The Hole In The Ground Group has been meeting in Huntington Park ever since. Some time later the "boys" in Los Angeles asked Sybil to come up and be the executive secretary for the Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in Los Angeles. She did and she stayed there for twelve years.

The first public meeting was held at 728 Elm Street, in the Long Beach Machinists building, the speaker was Myrtle S.

And so it started. For more information go to: "A Brief History of The Harbor Area Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous" located in the "Archive Documents" section of the HACOAA.org website.

This article taken from that history which was compiled by Neil E.

Fear...It Feels Real, But What If It Isn't

“The only thing that we have to fear, is fear itself.” Those words were spoken by one of our political leaders when addressing the problems of the depression of the 1930's. Those words are applicable to most alcoholics. They're true for “out there” in the world about us as well as “in here,” in the gut of the alcoholic. Remember the fears we had when we were drinking: fear of not having the money for the next drink; fear of being judged by others so we isolate ourselves and still feel judged; fear of having someone rip the masks that we wear to hide our inner, real self who is even worse than the drunk that inhabits our bodies. Fear is what drives the stock market down. Fear that we are not in control often results in anger hoping that our anger will re-establish control even if it causes grief to those we love and to ourselves. Many of us drink so as not to feel that fear, confront that fear, experience that fear because we sure that, we fear that, what we fear will destroy us. Fear is often what we seek to cover over and hide with alcohol.

But what if our fear, while feeling very real, is not real. Because of our fear we might feel driven to act stupidly, hurting ourselves and others. But we are not driven to do anything. What we do is our choice. There are many responses to fear other than denying it, fighting it or just giving in to it. Isn't what we learn in our meetings is that fear is usually evoked by something that might happen in the future, a future that might not come. And if what we fear does happen we might be surprised to find the experience not as bad as we expected. For example, we fear the dreaded eighth step even though we are hardly finished step one. We fear giving our lives over to some Higher Power because we are afraid of our childhood god who was always judging us, only to find that just maybe our Higher Power wants to care for us thus providing a foundation of acceptance that helps us complete all the steps.

So, what if “the only thing that we have to fear is fear itself.” What if, as fear arises in our gut, we can choose to live life one day at a time. What if, when fear threatens to overwhelm us with destructive emotions that we ask ourselves if what we fear will happen is something that we can either control or not control. If what we fear is out of our control is it not healthier to just let it go rather than stew about it? And if it is something we can control to begin, one day at a time, to face what we are fearing. What if our fears are only based upon our own self-centeredness, something that, if we have completed steps 4, 5, 6 and 7, we have already asked our Higher Power to eradicate

from within us. For fear is really a figment of the imagination, based upon a belief that we are victims and not persons, persons who have been matured by a recognition that we our powerlessness over alcohol. Something to consider when fear crashes in, not from outside of us, but from within.

Don K



The Executive and Planning Committees of AALA 2018 would like to welcome you to our convention's new home – Millennium Biltmore Los Angeles.

This Biltmore provides us the space we need for meetings, activities, workshops, and shows. It is strikingly beautiful and is conveniently located in Downtown LA across the street from the Pershing Square Metro station. The room rate is \$168/night, which is almost half of the original cost. We have been offered a great parking deal across the street from the hotel. The cost is only \$7 a day.

How can we afford this luxurious, grand hotel?

This is where we all come in together. Pre-registration, Fundraising, booking rooms at the hotel, and purchasing food from the hotel while on-site. Last year, we granted over 300 scholarships to convention participants who could not afford to register. We are amazingly self-supporting... but it truly does take a village.

Big Book Manuscript Sale

The Alcoholics Anonymous book has statistics most authors only dream of: more than 30 million copies sold. Translated into 67 languages. In 2012, the Library of Congress [ranked](#) it No. 10 in its top 25 “Books That Shaped America.”

But when it was published in 1939, its primary writer, William “Bill W.” Wilson, received neither payment (save writing costs) nor credit. The official author is still listed as “Anonymous.”

Now the original manuscript — lost for decades and containing handwritten notes by Wilson and his friends — has been sold at auction for \$2.4 million to billionaire Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, who attended his first AA meeting 25 years ago.

Irsay told the AP that he will display the manuscript publicly for several months a year at Alcoholics Anonymous’s headquarters in New York. “I’ve held it. I’ve looked through it. It is absolutely mind-blowing,” he said. “It was just a miracle to see this thing live.” The sale Saturday at [Profiles in History auction house](#) in Los Angeles came after a year of legal wrangling. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, the publishing wing of A.A., tried unsuccessfully to halt the auction.

When Wilson, a once-successful stockbroker, descended into alcoholism in the 1920s and ’30s, addiction was largely regarded as a moral failing, a crime, a sin — or all three. (This was the height of Prohibition, after all.) There were no fancy rehabs, but there were a few hospitals that specialized in the treatment of alcoholics. Wilson found himself in one of them, Towns Hospital in Manhattan, in the fall of 1933.

There he met William D. Silkworth, who told Wilson his theory that addiction was actually a medical condition akin to an allergy and that the only long-term solution was total abstinence from alcohol. (The American Medical Association declared alcohol and drug addiction an illness in 1956. In 2016, a Surgeon General’s [report](#) described it as a chronic brain disease with the potential for both relapse and recovery.)

Wilson latched on to Silkworth’s medical theory, but that didn’t help him abstain. He ended up in Towns Hospital three more times over the next year. With Wilson unable to work, his long-suffering wife, Lois, took a job at Macy’s.

During this period, Wilson was visited by an old drinking buddy who’d managed to quit after joining something called the Oxford Group.

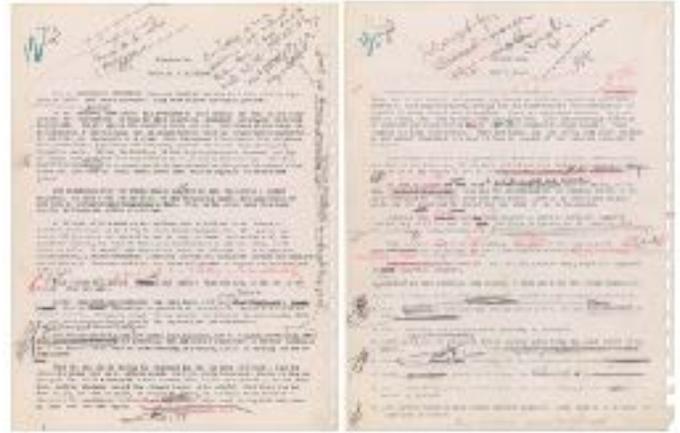
Started in 1921 by missionary Frank Buchman, the Oxford Group was a Christian evangelical movement that promoted confession of one’s sins, restitution for harms caused, frequent meditation and unselfish service to others. Wilson’s friend encouraged him to join.

Never a religion buff, Wilson demurred. In hopes he’d come around, his friend told him about William James’s book “The Varieties of Religious Experience” and described another Oxford Group member’s meeting with

famed psychiatrist Carl Jung, who told him he’d only quit drinking via a “spiritual awakening.”

Finally, following his fourth trip to the hospital and a “bright light” conversion experience, Wilson took his last drink in late 1934. He threw himself into the Oxford Group, focusing his service efforts on getting other alcoholics sober. For months, he was unsuccessful.

Wilson kept trying — this time meeting with a doctor in Akron, Ohio, who had been struggling with alcohol for years. It worked; Dr. Robert Smith took his last drink on June 10, 1935, which A.A. now regards as the day of its founding.



Two pages from the original Alcoholics Anonymous manuscript that became the subject of a legal battle. (Profiles in History via AP)

Within a few years, Wilson and Smith assembled about 100 recovered alcoholics, who were eventually pushed out of the Oxford Group. To help their movement grow, they wrote a book. Wilson volunteered to write it, but the group’s members, sticking to the notion of unselfish service, voted not to pay him.

Wilson threw all his influences into writing the new program — Silkworth, James, Jung — and he expanded the Oxford Group’s six steps to 12.

On the 161-page review copy, Wilson and his friends scribbled edits in red, blue and black pencil. One of them persuaded Wilson to change the tone of the entire thing from lecturing advice to a humble offering of personal experience. Thus, “Half measures will avail you nothing” became “Half measures availed us nothing.”

Initially, the self-published book seemed doomed. According to “[Pass It On: The Story of Bill Wilson and How the A.A. Message Reached the World](#),” 5,000 copies sat in a warehouse for months, nearly bankrupting them. But after positive coverage on radio and in the Saturday Evening Post, sales exploded, and requests for help came flooding in to the newly formed Alcoholic Foundation.

Today, A.A. claims more than 2 million members in 170 countries.

While the 12-step message spread worldwide, the printer's copy and its historic value remained with Wilson until his death in 1971.

In 1978, Wilson's wife, Lois, gave it to the couple's close friend Barry Leach. According to a 2017 lawsuit, Leach signed a notarized letter in 1979 gifting the manuscript to A.A. World Services. (The nonprofit Alcoholic Foundation is now called the General Service Office of A.A. The publishing house is called A.A. World Services. Both are funded through book sales and member donations.) In exchange, Leach asked only to be able to keep it in his possession until his death.

Somewhere between 1979 and Leach's death in 1985, however, everyone at A.A. World Services apparently forgot about this arrangement. Leach's brother, as executor of Leach's estate, declared that Leach had "no tangible personal property of significant value."

The whereabouts of the manuscript remained unknown until it reappeared at an auction house in 2004, sold by a "Joseph B." for \$1.5 million. It was auctioned again in 2007 to Alabama resident Ken Roberts for \$992,000.

A few months later, according to court documents, A.A. World Services rediscovered Leach's notarized letter. When Roberts moved to auction the manuscript last year, the organization sued to stop him, claiming it was the rightful owner.

Details of the settlement are unclear, but A.A. agreed to waive its right to the manuscript.

Irsay said in his interview with AP that he decided to reveal his identity as the purchaser to fight the stigma associated with alcoholism and addiction.

"The only way we stay sober is to give it away," Irsay said. "I think it'll help a lot of people. That's the reason I'm doing it."

This article was filched from the internet by Mike W.

34th Annual Sunshine of the spirit High Desert Convention - with Al- Anon Participation

June 8th, 9th, & 10th, 2018

Holiday Inn

Victorville, California

Reservations:

Call 760-245-6565 or

tinyurl.com/AAConvention2018Rooms

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**Lake Havasu City, November 2nd - 4th,
2018**

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A. A. DESERT POW WOW

with Al-Anon Participation

June 7 - 10

Convention Activities Include:

A.A. Speaker Meetings

A.A. Topic/Discussion Meetings

Al-Anon Meetings

A.A. Banquet (\$)

A.A. Breakfast (\$)

Al-Anon Luncheon (\$)

Golf Tournament (\$)

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Come and join us for fun and fellowship at the The Renaissance Indian Wells Resort and Spa. The hotel is located at: 44400 Indian Wells Lane, Indian Wells, California, 92210. For reservations call 760.773.4444 or use the website desertpowwow.com

Don't forget the H&I Chili Cook Off Coming in September

34th Annual South Bay Roundup

August 31st - September 3rd, 2018

Torrance Marriot

The purpose of the Southbay Roundup's is to bring people together, so they can celebrate their sobriety with family and friends. Featuring Vegas Night Dinner, Show & Dance Poker Run Al-Anon Luncheon for All Details please visit event website.

