

THE HARBOR LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2021

A NEWSLETTER FOR HARBOR AREA ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEMBERS

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A Note from the Editor

By Erica O.

Welcome to Harbor Light. First and foremost, thank you for the opportunity to be of service. This is a community newsletter and I welcome your suggestion on content ideas and your perspectives on the month's Concept, Step, or Tradition. I look forward to your email.

HARBORLIGHTCHAIR@HACOAA.ORG

ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS CONCEPTS

How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

AA Concept Two

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

Concept I establishes the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” of the A.A. groups; but, in actual practice, how are they to manage A.A.’s service affairs? By delegation, Concept II declares. Bill and Dr. Bob, entrusted by the early groups to get the program going and to spread the message, found nonalcoholic friends to help them. They formed a trusteeship and delegated to it the responsibility for finances, the Big Book and other literature, public information, the service office and the AA Grapevine. However, as the trustees constantly looked to the co-founders for advice and guidance and the groups also continued to hold them account-able, it was evident that the leadership should be transferred to the A.A. groups as a whole. But if the groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, the staffs of the General Service Office and AA Grapevine and certain other service workers. Thus, this General Service Conference of A.A. is “the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.”



AA Step Two

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity"

"...Step Two gently and very gradually began to infiltrate my life. I can't say upon what occasion or upon what day I came to believe in a Power greater than myself, but I certainly have that belief now."

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE
TRADITIONS p. 27



AA Tradition Two

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern"

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE
TRADITIONS p. 132

Joke of the Month

Police officer pulls over a speeding car. The Officer says, " Our patrol helicopter clocked you at 80 mph. sir."

The driver says, "Gee, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60, perhaps your radar needs calibrating."

Not looking up from her knitting the wife says sweetly, "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control."

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you keep your mouth shut for once?"

The wife smiles demurely and says, "You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did."

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Dammit, woman, can't you keep your mouth shut."

The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine."

The driver says, "Yeah, well you see officer, I had it on, but took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket."

The wife says, " Now dear you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat - belt when you're driving."

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife and barks, "WHY DON'T YOU SHUT THE HELL UP-???"

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?"

"Oh heavens no, officer. Only when he's been drinking."

A Loving Tribute to my Sponsor

Alma Kirkland

By Ronda S.



The Alcoholics Anonymous Community lost a shining star over the summer. Alma Kirkland passed away on August 19, 2020 at the age of 93. She passed a few weeks before what would have been her 48th year of sobriety on October 14, 2020. During her many years of sobriety Alma sponsored dozens of women and tirelessly spread the message of hope in recovery. At the time of her passing, Alma was still sponsoring close to twenty women, many of whom have decades of sobriety. She once told me that she was so proud to still be sponsoring her very first sponsee. A woman that she had begun sponsoring 46 years earlier, when she was just a few years sober herself.

Shortly after Alma joined AA she co-founded the Long Beach Naples Women's Meeting. That meeting has become one of the best known and largest women's meetings in the entire area. At the time of her passing, there were four generations of AA sponsorship in that meeting in direct succession to Alma. She worked continually to help other women to recover from the disease of alcoholism.

Alma loved people in general and always tried to attend as many meetings as possible. Throughout her life, she hosted AA sponsee meetings and sponsee dinner parties in her home. She was known for her Annual AA Woman's Christmas Parties. Alma was totally committed to AA and enjoyed using Zoom over the last few months to attend AA meetings on a regular basis. She told me that she thought it was great fun to be able to attend out of state and even international AA meetings through Zoom.

Alma was grateful for the gifts that sobriety had given her. She was proud of her 3 children and often spoke fondly of her deceased husband, Frank, who had a career as an NFL Referee. Years ago Alma wrote a column for the Long Beach Press Telegram. She also wrote a children's book. Later in life, she became a successful, award winning realtor. She always said that her greatest accomplishment was that she got sober in AA, because without sobriety, nothing else would have been possible.

As a sponsor, Alma was gracious, kind, light-hearted and loving. She was like a second mother to me. She taught me to deal with life on life's terms with dignity and grace. Alma believed that we should always show respect for AA and the program that had saved our lives. Her motto was to always have "Classy Sobriety". I will always love Alma Kirkland and will always think of her as a bright light in the dark world of addiction. I miss her so much!.

MEETING MINUTES

HARBOR AREA SERVICE BOARD Minutes for December 2, 2020

www.hacoaa.org

The meeting was called to order with the Serenity Prayer at 6:04pm by Rosa P.

Opening Remarks: Rosa stated this is her last Board Meeting as Chair #1. Dan will now be responsible for the office. He will work with Sue and Susan on any issues, the pandemic, etc. Rosa wants to get a new position and stay involved. Stated attendance has been down as long as she can remember. She asked if you are unable to attend the Board Meeting to communicate that with each other. Things happen, but moving forward let's keep communication open. We are all willing to help. She felt she didn't remind members about the Board Meeting enough. Committees attendance is good, but it is vital the Board attend. Hopes more people will attend – not too many attended the workshop. There is a new flyer out. We are putting our name out there and asking people to come join us. Some people want to be part of Public Information, Programs and Board. Reach out to your groups. We are not in danger of closing, but we need help.

Board Members Present: Chair 1: Rosa P., Chair 3: Brad S., Chair 5: Shannon B.

Secretary's Report: Rosa P. read November minutes, which were approved with one correction (Shannon's last name initial), by Board Members present. (Brad motioned, Shannon seconded)

Chair 1 Report: Rosa P. covered above in opening remarks.

Treasurer's Report: Chris I. absent. Rosa read highlights of Income Statement and Literature Report.

Central Office Reports: Sue T. read the HACO services provided for the month of November 2020:

In-house phones		Harbor Light		After-hours phones	
Fellowship calls	63	Paid copies mailed	0	Total calls	186
Newcomer	41	Total mailed	0	Persons reporting	36
Out of town	0	Total printed	0	Central Office Receipts	
12 th Step	0	Subscriptions emailed	0	Contributions	\$5,394
Other	12			Literature	\$228
Total in-house calls	116	<i>No issue for produced</i>		Website visits	9,534

Committee Reports

Program Chair: Estefany A. absent - Rosa is helping create the virtual Bingo. She will put up flyer. Will be on January 2nd (not 1st as originally stated), from 2-3:30PM. Hope to have 50 people. Charge will be \$10. You will signup/pay on website, then link and Bingo cards will be emailed to you. Asking groups to contribute any money they can to purchase gift cards as prizes. Have \$50 so far. Kindly ask your meetings to help fund raiser. Hope to make \$500. If more than 50 people attend, even better! Gerry said Willing to Grow group will participate with donation. Still looking for someone with "personality" to pick the numbers and get people excited. Brad suggested talking Flip. He will ask him.

Public Information: OPEN. No report.

H & I: Sandra H. absent – No report. Rosa stated still issues with panels. Sue T. said H&I still purchasing books for facilities. They are having their monthly meeting live.

12 Step (In Office): Eric B. absent - Sue T. reported office is covered.

MEETING MINUTES

(CONTINUED)

Action and Responsibility: Brad S. talked to Cynthia regarding the questionnaire. It is on our web site to be used as a tool before we add groups to "live" directory. Cynthia stated they are still having problems. Complaints have come in regarding Marina Pacifica meetings not following guidelines. Matthew stated all meetings show as "closed" on web site.

Archives: Gerry W. said his friend, Tim, may be interested in getting involved. Mark J. started the monthly Archive posting. Mark passed away recently and in his honor Gerry would like to do a "In Memorium" page. He will see what he gets from people wanting to list people. He has gathered some inspirational stories of people who really helped someone in their sobriety, but have now passed. He may edit down their stories depending on how many respond. May do the page annually.

Phones (After Hours): Carlina W. absent – Sue T. reported the following openings: 1st Friday 5P-9A, 4th Tuesday 5P-9A, 5th Sun 9A-5P. Brad S. took 5th Sunday!

Harbor Light: Kristin S. absent – Rosa will find out what is going on.

Website: Matthew L. said web site is currently down again for second time. They are upgrading the network. Should be back up within 24 hours. Posted New Year Bingo flyer, Intergroup Recruitment Flyer, birthday contributions and 12 Day Christmas flyer. Has had some feedback about using new design pending purchase of new template. Has been posting archives, elements and stories. Very few meeting changes.

Old Business: Elections – Rosa wants to practice how to do a poll. Gerry said reach out to Mitchell as he knows how to do it. We can do elections as usual – read description and nominate. Only have to poll if two or more are nominated. Trying to get good attendance for elections and trying to be prepared. Brad unsure where we stand on parliamentary procedure, but suggested maybe if we can just survive pandemic, then worry about rebuilding our Committee afterwards. We are doing well surviving, office is still open. Districts not getting large attendance either. Rosa stated District 4 and H&I average about 30 people even with pandemic. We just are not reaching people. Folks don't know who we are, or what we do. Don't want us to crumble even though people have their own hardships. Shannon asked could we postpone elections due to low attendance. Asked if that is possible due to Covid. By-Laws and job descriptions were done in the '50's. In 2020 we need to do what we can. We don't want to lose anyone. Maybe people continue in their current capacity and we extend a few months. Gerry suggested if sparse next week we make a motion to put off elections. If people are there and interested, we will do as normal. If not, table it and campaign to recruit others. Let people know they don't have to be a Chair person – they can be part of the committee. Brad said maybe put job descriptions on Chat. Rosa did a PowerPoint workshop and could do same format on each position. Maybe have people jump in and tell what it is like (not just read boring descriptions – keep it upbeat). Reiterate how service keeps people sober and busy in AA. Maybe keep Rosa as Chair 1 Emeritus!! We need a Secretary and a new Board member more than Committee Chairs. Essential to keep inviting and encouraging people to come. Stay visible and have a Service Committee and help each other. Rosa feels we are too separate from each other.

New Business: None

Shannon made motion to adjourn, seconded by Brad. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue T.

FINANCIALS

3:27 PM

01/13/21

Harbor Area Central Office Profit & Loss January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contribution	
Group Contributions	73,715.88
Personal Contributions	8,046.64
Birthday Contributions	597.00
Total Contribution	82,359.50
Literature Sales	
Los Angeles Lit Sales	98.90
Orange Cty Literature	86.96
AA Books	13,031.67
AA Pamphlets	370.00
Grapevine Lit	329.46
Harbor Area Lit	1,326.27
Merchandise Sales	48.90
Other Sales	31.33
Literature Sales - Other	(113.00)
Total Literature Sales	15,210.49
Event Income	
Program Income	
Bingo 1-23-2021	100.00
LB1960	263.00
Total Program Income	363.00
Program Expenses	(186.19)
Total Event Income	176.81
Other Income/Interest	7.69
Total Income	97,754.49
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	0.00
Cost of Literature	
Orange Cty Lit.	88.01
Los Angeles Lit	67.62
A.A. Books	10,097.48
A.A. Pamphlets	173.78
Grapevine Literature	286.88
Harbor Area Literature	630.45
Merchandise	39.98
Other Goods	20.00
Total Cost of Literature	11,404.20
Inventory Adjustment	(2,567.87)
Credit Card Fees	262.56
Total COGS	9,098.89
Gross Profit	88,655.60
Expense	
Website	312.00
Bank Charges	571.60
Bookkeeping	675.00
Computer	2,380.65
Copy Plan (Xerox)	2,827.81
Less Directory copies	(275.00)
Insurance - General	1,589.92
Insurance - Workers' Comp	(16.51)
License/Permits	39.00
PayPal Fees	111.52
Payroll	

FINANCIALS

(CONTINUED)

3:27 PM

01/13/21

Harbor Area Central Office Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>
Payroll - Wages	43,991.25
Federal Payroll Taxes	3,248.03
State Payroll Taxes	13.03
Christmas Club	0.00
Payroll Service	1.50
Total Payroll	47,253.81
Penalties & Interest	120.64
Postage	330.00
Rent	17,328.00
Rent - HASC	260.00
Rent - Storage	680.00
Sales Tax Adjustment	148.91
Security System	426.50
Shipping Charges	30.00
Supplies	
Drinking Water	542.85
Paper	110.32
Less Directory Paper	(88.00)
Office Supplies	435.51
Supplies - Other	235.74
Total Supplies	1,236.42
Taxes	51.11
Telephone/Internet	2,141.08
Other Expenses	
Miscellaneous	0.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	(243.24)
Total Other Expenses	(243.24)
Total Expense	77,959.22
Net Ordinary Income	10,696.38
Net Income	10,696.38