

THE HARBOR LIGHT

MARCH 2021

A NEWSLETTER FOR HARBOR AREA ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS MEMBERS



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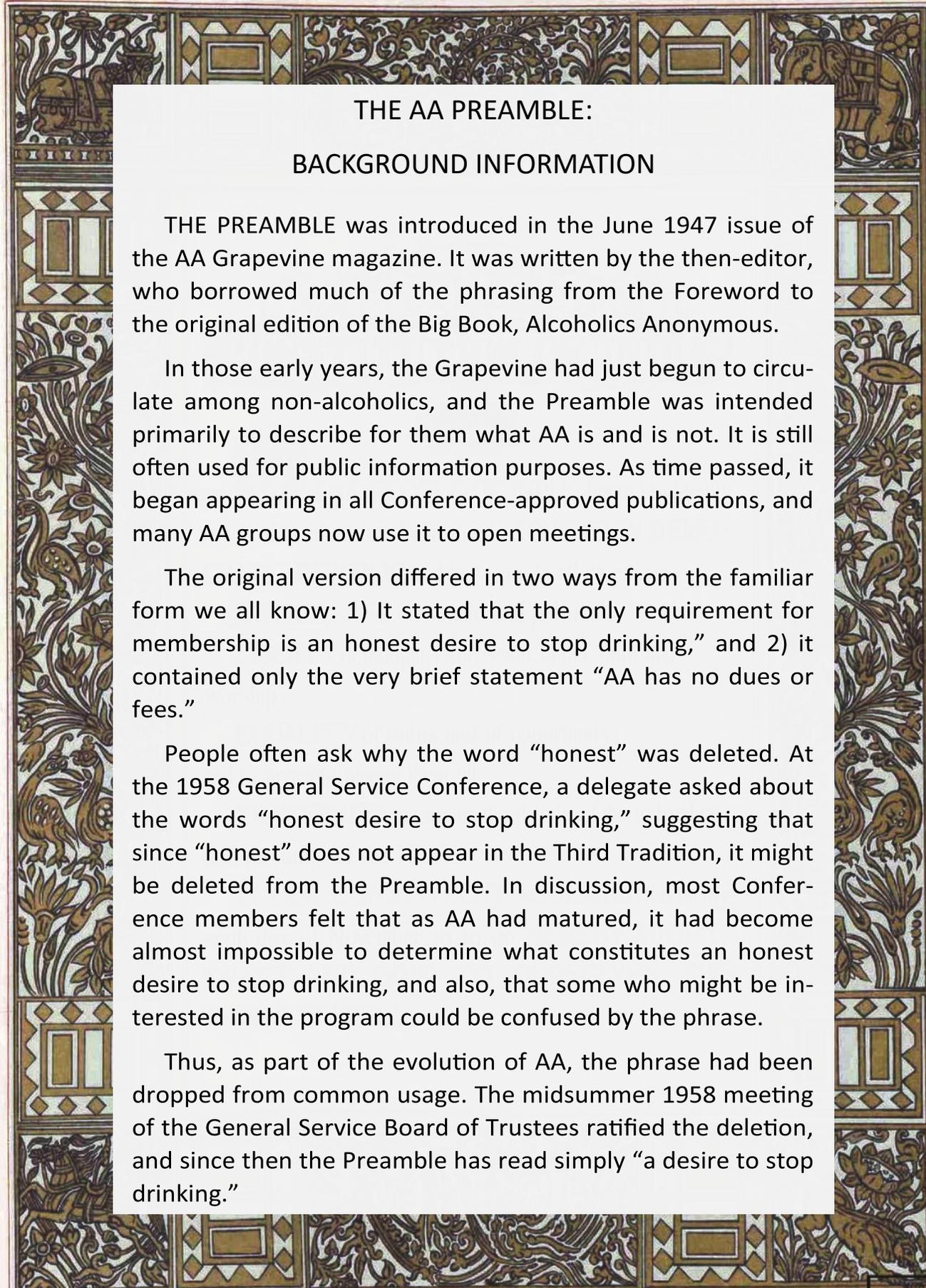
AA TRADITION THREE

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THE AA PREAMBLE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE PREAMBLE was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine. It was written by the then-editor, who borrowed much of the phrasing from the Foreword to the original edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

In those early years, the Grapevine had just begun to circulate among non-alcoholics, and the Preamble was intended primarily to describe for them what AA is and is not. It is still often used for public information purposes. As time passed, it began appearing in all Conference-approved publications, and many AA groups now use it to open meetings.

The original version differed in two ways from the familiar form we all know: 1) It stated that the only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking," and 2) it contained only the very brief statement "AA has no dues or fees."

People often ask why the word "honest" was deleted. At the 1958 General Service Conference, a delegate asked about the words "honest desire to stop drinking," suggesting that since "honest" does not appear in the Third Tradition, it might be deleted from the Preamble. In discussion, most Conference members felt that as AA had matured, it had become almost impossible to determine what constitutes an honest desire to stop drinking, and also, that some who might be interested in the program could be confused by the phrase.

Thus, as part of the evolution of AA, the phrase had been dropped from common usage. The midsummer 1958 meeting of the General Service Board of Trustees ratified the deletion, and since then the Preamble has read simply "a desire to stop drinking."

AA CONCEPT III

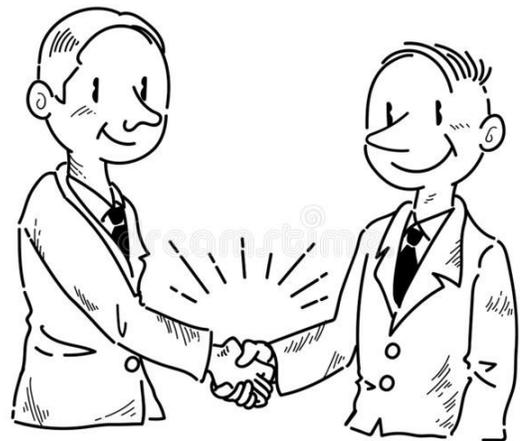
As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

You should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board as background for this Concept, both of which are found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. For, except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service — has the right “to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” That is, they can “decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.” This is “the essence of ‘The Right of Decision.’”

But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its “trusted servants.” If the groups *instruct* their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s *instruct* the area delegates rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, “our Conference delegates are *primarily* the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.”

Similarly, if the General Service Board, acting through its subsidiary boards, “were to attempt to manage” the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine *in detail*, then . . . the staff members . . . would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot.”

Bill warns against using “The Right of Decision” as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes: “



3rd Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to
Thee-to build with me
and to do with me as
Thou wilt. Relieve me
of the bondage of self,
that I may better do
Thy will. Take away
my difficulties, that vic-
tory over them may
bear witness to those I
would help of Thy
power, Thy love, and
Thy Way of life. May I
do Thy will always!

Alcoholics Anonymous
Pg 63

AA STEP THREE

*"Made a decision to turn our will and our
lives over to the care God as we understood Him."*

-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 34

AA TRADITION THREE

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

-Third Tradition, Long Form, 1946

Isn't every organization entitled to have rules for membership? Why did A.A. decide to forgo this privilege, to be "inclusive ... never exclusive"? That's easy. Early members tried it the other way, and it just didn't work. As the Fellowship was nearing its ten-year mark, the office that served as headquarters "asked the groups to list their membership rules and send them in," Bill W. recalled. "If all of these edicts had been in force everywhere at once, it would have been practically impossible for any alcoholic to have ever joined A.A. About nine-tenths of our oldest and best members could never have got by!" So the rule books went out the window and were replaced by one uncomplicated sentence: Tradition Three.

But, somebody may ask, isn't this Tradition itself a rule? It does state *one* requirement for membership. Let's read it again, and ask another question: Who determines whether or not newcomers qualify, whether they do want to stop drinking? Obviously, nobody except the newcomers themselves; everybody else simply has to take their word for it. In fact, they don't even have to say it aloud. And that's fortunate for many of us who arrived at A.A. with only a halfhearted desire to stay sober. We are alive because the A.A.

AA TRADITION THREE CONTINUED

The problem faced by this Tradition isn't just past A.A. history. It keeps coming up-for instance, when a group debates whether to exclude alcoholics who have problems other than alcohol or have differing lifestyles. The Tradition mentions no such additional requirements , no demand that prospective members must *not* have a history of drug abuse, a certain lifestyle, or an institutional background. All alcoholics are welcome.

What about the group that seems to impose extra requirements, beyond "a desire to stop drinking"? This might be a "special interest" group or collection of groups in which, for example, each member must be a physician- or a young person, a man, a woman, a priest, or a law enforcement officer. By their own account, those attending special interest groups consider themselves A.A. members first. They attend general membership meetings as well as those that fill in their other individual needs, and they remain devoted to A.A.'s primary purpose. These "special interest" groups offer only one instance of the diverse and inclusive membership within our Fellowship. Our Traditions allow unparalleled freedom, not only to every A.A. member, but to every A.A. group.



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Please join us at the
Harbor Area Service Committee
2nd Wednesday
7:30pm
Zoom ID: **257-790-1752**

For more information visit:
www.hacoaa.org

AN AA MEMBER WRITES ...

By Noel E.

Hi, my name is Noel E. I'm a fully recovered, well-adjusted alcoholic. My sobriety date is December 28th, 1978. My home group is Thursday Night at 7:30 meeting. I was awarded this program by the courts. The judge thought I had a drinking problem and he was wrong. I never had a problem drinking. I'm a social drinker. You have a drink and so shall I. You had one, I'd have two and that's my kind of drinking. I came to Alcoholics Anonymous on my second drunk driving ticket. I didn't know anything about Alcoholics Anonymous. All I knew was I didn't want to go to jail. Alcoholics Anonymous gave me a court card and I was a card holding member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I went to your silly meetings. I listened to your stupid people talking about idiotic things, but they signed my card and that the only thing I wanted was not to go to jail. I had to go to Alcoholics Anonymous and I called the central office.

Thank God they have people that are on the phones. Because if it wasn't for that, I don't know if I'd be here. I called up central office and I said, where can I get my card signed? She said, well, there's a place over on Fourth street that'll sign your card. It's called the Roundtable. And those days, the Roundtable was associated with Central Office. They're a very independent group. I went down there and walked into the Roundtable and an old timer, Mack, was there. That was his name, the guy who was senior in that area. And, he had a cane. There's always some old guy at the door that has a cane. And he slapped me upside the ankle with a cane.

He says, sit down and shut up. He says, you'll be lucky if you catch alcoholism. You'll be unlucky if you go back to jail where you came from. And he was right. They never lied to me. They were not nice, but they were never lied to me. They said 90% of your problems are alcohol related. Quit drinking alcohol and see if your problems don't dissipate. I was sober the first time there. Then my wife and I had had an altercation on the phone and I'm sitting in a bar having a Coke and I found out that alcoholics should not sit in bars and drink Cokes because they sell alcohol in bars and Cokes in grocery stores. So, I'm sitting there having a Coke and all of a sudden, the switch goes off in the back of my head and I said, 'Oh, screw it.'

I'll have a drink. I'll have a beer. The bartender looked down at me and I had a Budweiser and I got up to leave. He said, sit down Noel; 'I've never seen a bird fly on one wing.' That described me as an alcoholic right there. I knew exactly what he was talking about. I never went out to have one beer, ever. I had another beer and then I got up and I left and the whole thing just started all over again. Luckily, I only stayed out three weeks and I woke up one morning in the old maggot manor; my apartment, which is another story. I realized that normal people don't wake up in the morning and have a can of beer; that's what I was doing.

And so, I took it and did the absolute worst thing an alcoholic can do. I took a nice cold fresh can of beer. I turned it over and poured it down the drain. I haven't had a drink since.

I went back to the Round table and day-time Mack says; 'sit down, shut up and do it all over again.' And that's the way it was. And I sat in the back of the room and I didn't drink.

In the Roundtable in those days you didn't raise your hand to share. They picked on you. Nobody ever raised their hands. And if you said; I'll pass, they'd say, tell me when you passed up a drink and you can pass up a pitch, get your ass up here.

I know a lot of people, a lot of friends of mine, they're in their forties now. There are people who've done this, and it's worked. It doesn't matter whether we're applauding in California or they're not applauding in Arizona. It doesn't matter whether we read the fifth chapter, or we don't read the fifth chapter. Different meetings in different places do it different styles. And it's okay. They stay sober. And that's the end result here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL BINGO

Saturday

April 24th, 2021

MORE DETAILS TO COME

BINGO

| | | | | |
|----|----|------------|----|----|
| 1 | 27 | 33 | 48 | 75 |
| 8 | 19 | 45 | 56 | 61 |
| 3 | 18 | FREE SPACE | 49 | 69 |
| 15 | 26 | 41 | 53 | 66 |
| 2 | 21 | 37 | 46 | 65 |

ANNOUNCING:

The limited edition publication of a new book!

SPECIAL
EARLY BIRD
PRICING!

~~\$12~~
\$11

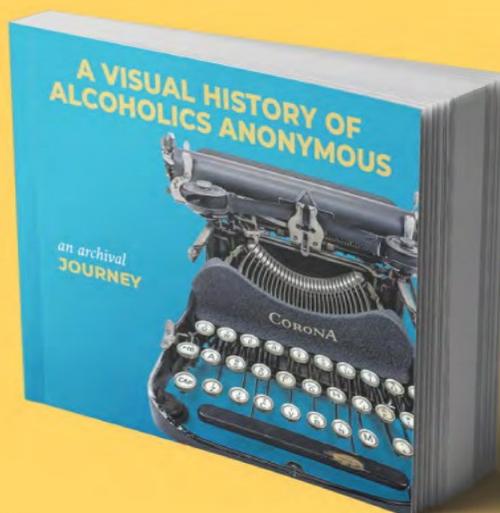
A VISUAL HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:

An Archival Journey

Lavishly illustrated, this lively tour through A.A.'s history is told in hundreds of iconic images never before published in one volume. Illuminating descriptions walk us through powerful moments in our shared history — from the people, places and things integral to A.A.'s early growth, and forward to today's vibrant, international Fellowship. Includes a special focus on Detroit in A.A.'s history and updated coverage of recent innovations in A.A. group life. 4.75" x 3.75", 416 pages.

Release date: **February 14, 2021**

Special pre-order discount: **Save \$1 on every copy!**



JOKES ...

Math Teacher:

“If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?”

Student: “A drinking problem.”

Customer: “Your finest Scotch, please.”

Employee: “Yes, sir.” says the Staples employee as he hands him a 12 year old roll of tape.

MIRUS, Nov 2020



If drinking is interfering with your work, you're probably a heavy drinker.

If work is interfering with your drinking, you're probably analcoholic.

Only Two More Aisles!

A newcomer mom waked into a grocery store with her 3-year-old girl in the seat of her shopping cart. As they passed the cookie aisle, the little girl asked for cookies, and her mother told her no. The girl immediately began to whine and fuss, kicking her legs in irritation. “Now, Sally, we only have half the aisles to go through. Don't be upset. It won't be long.” the mother said quietly.

Next they came across to the candy section, and the girl began to beg for candy. When her mother said she couldn't have any, the little girl began to cry. The mother patiently said, “There, there Sally. Only two more aisle to go, and then we'll be checking out.”

When they got to the checkout counter, the little girl started clamoring for gum, and she threw a loud tantrum when her mother refused. With a deep sigh, the mom said, “Sally, we'll be through this checkout lane in five minutes, and then you can go home and have a nice comfy nap.”

A customer followed them out to the parking lot and stopped the woman to compliment her. “I couldn't help but notice how patient you were with little Sally,” he said

The newcomer laughed. “My little girl's name is Alice. My name is Sally.”

Paul C. Oceanside, Calif

MEETING MINUTES

Harbor Area Service Committee
January 13, 2021 Minutes
www.hacoaa.org

1. Meeting called to order by Debra L. at 7:34 P.M. followed by the Serenity Prayer.
2. HASC meeting announcements and rules were announced.
3. Tradition one (long form) was read by Sandra H.
4. New delegate introductions. There are three new delegates.

Scott M. Monday Night Bowling Green 7:30
Jody W. Cover to Cover Women's Meeting 7:30
Joplin D Belmont Heights Wed 10:00 a.m.

5. Confirmation of the presence of a quorum. 5 Delegates will make quorum, per Kristen and Debra L. We have 6.

Secretary's Report (Debbie W.):

Secretary read the minutes
One Change to "November minutes" instead of "October"
Chris I. motioned, Stewart L. seconded accepting minutes as amended

Treasurer's Report (Chris I.):

 Chris read the Treasurers report:

Contributions were up by the end of the year. Storage will no longer be required, saving \$80/month.
Bank is charging 25\$ a month for fees, Literature account. Dan H suggested to address this at the board meeting.
Matthew L. made a motion to approve the report. Rosa P. seconded Motion passed

Chair 1 Report (Dan H.):

 Following is for December 2021:

| In-house phones | | Harbor Light | | After-hours phones | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------|
| Fellowship calls | 73 | Paid | 0 | Total calls | 219 |
| Newcomer | 46 | Total mailed | 0 | Persons reporting | 35 |
| 12 th Step | 1 | Total printed | 0 | Website visits | 10,187 |
| Other | 8 | Subscriptions emailed | 0 | Central Office Receipts | |
| | | | | Contributions | \$5,597 |
| Total in-house calls | 128 | <i>No issue produced</i> | | Literature | \$1,079 |

Committee Reports

Public Information: Open - Debra L. requested that the delegates announce to their meetings that the Public Information chair is open and the job description is in the packet.

Program Chair: Rosa P. (Estefany A., Alt.) –

Had to postpone Bingo to January 23, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Now through Eventbrite. Have received gift cards for prizes and there will be a 50/50 raffle. Goal is 50 people. Estefany mentioned that their host is now unable to do it and an energetic host is needed.

MEETING MINUTES

CONTINUED

H&I: Sandra H. -

Next meeting is Wed Jan 20th, and we are working on filling the panels. H & I can use support. Debra L. requested for delegates to bring information to meetings and Sandra H. said that they would need to contact H & I. aapanel@gmail.com to lead, recruit or participate in panels.

In Office/Twelve Step: Eric B. –

Eric mentioned he would be interested in hosting the Bingo. Stated Sue is so awesome that she has everything covered and he is in on the sidelines.

Action & Responsibility: Brad S. - (temp)

Brad is filling in until someone wants to take the position. We are not referring people to open meetings. We are referring them to zoom meetings due to the pandemic. Debra L. suggested delegates bring this open position to meetings.

Archives: Gerry W. – Good feedback on the “In Memoriam.” Richard wrote a wonderful piece about Mark.

Phones (After-Hours): Carlina W. -1st Monday and 2nd Thursday 5P-9A are open. Please announce at your groups. We need volunteers for those times. She thanked Sue as “the Rock.”

Harbor Light Erica O. - Has ideas for February issue. She is reaching out to Kristen. Will take suggestions from anyone with experience to assist.

Website Comm. Report: Matthew L. – Had a meeting with Web Design committee. Want to update design and requests increase to \$430 per year.

District 2: Chris I. No meetings recently. 4th Wed of the month - if there is a meeting.

District 4: Gerry W. – Had good attendance and delegate makes every meeting and reports what is going in NY.
Website: LongBeachAA.org

Area 9: Gilbert G. (temp) No report.

HASBPAA: Open. Debra L. explained the position is to go to young people’s meetings and report what is happening.

Old Business: Public Info still open.

New Business

Matthew L. would like to make a motion to increase budget from 312\$ to 430\$ per year to pay for improvements. Estefany mentioned it would be great to give the website an update and she brought forward a motion to approve. Chris I. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brad mentioned the zoom account. We have some things to investigate. Debra L. would like to get together with Matthew regarding this topic.

Scott M. mentioned his Bowling Green meeting was not under the virtual meeting list. Sue mentioned to please send an email to hacoaa.org with the meeting information and it would get to Matthew L.

Motion to adjourn at 8:36 from Steve W. and Stewart L. seconded. Debra L. read the Responsibility statement:

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie W.

FINANCIALS

02/02/21

Harbor Area Central Office Income Statement

| | <u>Jan 21</u> | <u>Jan 20</u> | <u>Jan 21</u> | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|--|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | |
| Contribution | | | | | |
| Group Contributions | 8,160 | 4,037 | 8,160 | | |
| Personal Contributions | 973 | | 973 | | |
| Birthday Contributions | | 33 | | | |
| Total Contribution | 9,133 | 4,070 | 9,133 | | |
| Literature Sales | | | | | |
| Los Angeles Lit Sales | | 29 | | | |
| Orange Cty Literature | | 34 | | | |
| AA Books | 645 | 2,892 | 645 | | |
| AA Pamphlets | | 86 | | | |
| Grapevine Lit | 54 | 127 | 54 | | |
| Harbor Area Lit | | 543 | | | |
| Merchandise Sales | 22 | | 22 | | |
| Other Sales | | 14 | | | |
| Literature Sales - Other | | (22) | | | |
| Total Literature Sales | 721 | 3,703 | 721 | | |
| Other Income/Interest | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Program Income | | | | | |
| Bingo 2021 | 786 | | 786 | | |
| Total Income | 10,640 | 7,773 | 10,640 | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | | | |
| Cost of Literature | | | | | |
| Orange Cty Lit. | | 29 | | | |
| Los Angeles Lit | | 20 | | | |
| A.A. Books | 484 | 2,194 | 484 | | |
| A.A. Pamphlets | | 19 | | | |
| Grapevine Literature | 42 | 111 | 42 | | |
| Harbor Area Literature | | 247 | | | |
| Merchandise | 16 | | 16 | | |
| Other Goods | | 8 | | | |
| Total Cost of Literature | 542 | 2,628 | 542 | | |
| Credit Card Fees | 20 | 73 | 20 | | |
| Total COGS | 562 | 2,701 | 562 | | |
| Gross Income | 10,078 | 5,072 | 10,078 | | |

| Bingo | Recap |
|-------------|-------|
| 2021 | 786 |
| 2020 | 97 |
| Total Bingo | 883 |

FINANCIALS

CONTINUED

02/02/21

Harbor Area Central Office Income Statement

| | <u>Jan 21</u> | <u>Jan 20</u> | <u>Jan 21</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Expense | | | |
| Website | 430 | 312 | 430 |
| Bank Charges | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Bookkeeping | 815 | 100 | 815 |
| Computer | 13 | 117 | 13 |
| Copy Plan (Xerox) | 238 | 218 | 238 |
| Less Directory copies | | (141) | |
| Insurance - General | 100 | 125 | 100 |
| Insurance - Workers' Comp | 47 | 40 | 47 |
| PayPal Fees | 134 | | 134 |
| Payroll | | | |
| Payroll - Wages | 4,702 | 4,532 | 4,702 |
| Federal Payroll Taxes | 347 | 288 | 347 |
| State Payroll Taxes | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Christmas Club | | 80 | |
| Year End Payroll Processing | 53 | | 53 |
| Total Payroll | 5,107 | 4,904 | 5,107 |
| Postage | | 165 | |
| Rent | 1,444 | 1,444 | 1,444 |
| Rent - HASC | | 65 | |
| Security System | 20 | 167 | 20 |
| Supplies | | | |
| Drinking Water | 30 | | 30 |
| Paper | | | |
| Less Directory Paper | | (45) | |
| Office Supplies | | 156 | |
| Total Supplies | 30 | 111 | 30 |
| Taxes | | 51 | |
| Telephone/Internet | 180 | 169 | 180 |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| Reconciliation Discrepancies | | (243) | |
| Total Other Expenses | | (243) | |
| Total Expense | 8,583 | 7,629 | 8,583 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 1,495 | (2,557) | 1,495 |
| Net Income | 1,495 | (2,557) | 1,495 |