

# Verde Valley Buzz

Official Newsletter of the Central Mountain Intergroup

Serving the entire Verde Valley

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928-646-9428 - www.centralmountain.org - Open weekdays noon to 4



**February 2020**

Step 2: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition 2: 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.

Concept 2: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.

Step 2: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

I can still remember the way I felt when I got to the 2nd Step with my sponsor. Pure panic! I didn't believe in God or any other Power as tears fell down my cheeks. I had through the years tried to stay sober without a Higher Power, but time and time again I ended up drunk, hitting an unbelievable bottom as my disease progressed.

So here I was again. I got honest with my sponsor and told her I did not believe in God. She did the most amazing thing. She knew I loved being outdoors, along the river or hiking, just being outside. She instructed me to look for a Higher Power there, in the wind, the trees and the waters of Beaver Creek. And so that is what I did. I opened my mind up and begin my search for this power that was to solve my problem. Thank God for sponsorship as her instruction saved my life.

"Came to believe" tells me that it will be something that is going to happen in the future and so I continued on with the rest of the Steps. I searched for my Higher Power everywhere and well, that's just where I found him! I have not had a drink since. It's been almost a decade "one day at a time" and I swear I have never had it so good. Sandee H., Camp Verde

TRADITION TWO: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority— a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscious. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

My experience is that Tradition 2 is the equalizing Tradition and best understood through observation.

Let me share an experience. Several years ago, at one of the Area Assemblies, a motion came to the floor very late in the day to raise the price of the Arizona Area meeting list from \$1.25 to \$1.50. The reason given was that the meeting list had been losing money and it should be self supporting. The motion came from the Financial committee as a result of their review of the budget per the Area Handbook. As I said it was late in the day (about 5:30) and there was no additional business to be discussed the next day. Most of the participants had a two or three hour drive to get home and we were getting hungry. Does restless, irritable and discontent sound familiar? After some “lively” discussion, the question was called, and the issue was put to a vote where it passed by a large majority. This being the last business for the assembly, people started packing their notes and papers in preparation to leave. The Chairperson asked if there were any minority opinions. About 15 people went to the microphone and groans could be heard in the crowd. For those not familiar with minority opinion, in AA anyone in the minority on a vote may express their opinion and if that opinion sways the vote of any member in the majority another vote may be called. As the members expressed their opinions some of the crowd interjected their “growing” impatience. Someone was heard to shout, “It is only a quarter”. One by one the opinions were heard until one member simply stated that the issue had come up before and as a result it was found that much of the reason for the overrun was that there were more lists printed than sold, and that they had printed less this year but six months of sales data was not enough to determine if the fix was effective. This information was enough to change the vote of several people (mine included) and the motion was put to another vote. The motion failed by an even larger majority than it had previously passed and the price stayed at \$1.25.

The following spring, at the next Assembly, the Treasurer’s report showed that the meeting list was in the black. For me this was Tradition 2 at work. What had happened was that the group conscience had resulted in the best decision, whereas the “loudest voices” would have only resulted in an easy decision. How often in life has the easy decision been taken and not the best decision made. (Note: Three years later the price was raised to \$1.50 when the cost of printing increased and made it necessary.)

Have you noticed that the long form of Tradition 2 is shorter than the short form? Check it out in the back of the Big Book.

My first experiences with this Tradition taught me what that added part meant. At six months sober my sponsor and the other old-timers arranged for me to overcome my fear of people and get involved with A.A. by electing me secretary for the Monday night men’s meeting group and the Friday night group meeting. This entailed getting there early, making the coffee, setting up the tables and chairs, and finding a chairperson to lead the meeting, followed by cleaning up afterwards, taking down the chairs, washing the coffee pots and ashtrays, sweeping the floors, etc. My pride swelled at the ‘trust’ and responsibility bestowed on me. I was all set to perform my duties for the next six months.

Over that period many of the other members helped with the setup and clean up, but there were times when most of the work fell to me. After about five months the honor became a job and the job became a chore. As I made the coffee one evening and complained to myself about the ‘injustice’ played upon me, the words of Tradition 2 came to me. Suddenly I understood how my ego was at play in my dissatisfaction with the situation. The term trusted “servant” took on a new meaning and I laughed at the irony of the language and at myself and my ego. Since that time, I have been in service making coffee, setting up or taking down tables and chairs and other tasks that may need to be performed for the meetings. It is my way of giving back to A.A. what it has given to me- peace, serenity and a way of living. Terry P. Rim Rock

## Concept 1

A.A. is commonly referred to as an upside-down organization. Our upside-down organization is represented by the upside-down triangle found on page S16 of the A.A. Service Manual and at the end of Concept 1 in The Concepts Illustrated pamphlet. It represents the idea that the Groups are responsible for the changes that occur in Alcoholics Anonymous. Each entity moving down the triangle serves all the entities preceding it and are directly responsible to those they serve. The Groups are the ultimate authority, and with that authority comes responsibility.

Have you heard the Responsibility Declaration? It is found on the inside cover of the AA Grapevine and reads as follows: "I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." As with individual responsibility, so is the responsibility of the A.A. Group. More information on A.A. Group positions, functions, and services can be found in pamphlet The A.A. Group (P-16).

Just how does the A.A. Group participate in being the ultimate authority? The answer to this is rather long, but let's look at the short version. First, becoming a registered Group at the General Service Office (GSO), acknowledging they are part of A.A. Secondly, by electing a General Service Representative (GSR), this is normally done by the Group through a Group Conscience meeting.

The GSR is funded by the Group to attend and participate in Sub/Local District, District, and Area meetings. At these meetings, business will be conducted and information given relating to topics, problems and solutions, and other various items affecting our local AA Community and/or AA as a whole. Some of the topics may include how to spend contributions, how we have spent contributions, committee reports on Corrections, Public Information, or Policy & Admissions, upcoming events, proposed events, changes in policy of how the entity operates, suggested changes to our literature, and most importantly information helpful to carrying the message of A.A., which is to stay sober and help others to recovery from Alcoholism (Our Primary Purpose). They will elect DCM's, DCMC's, and Area Officers to represent, lead, and serve us. They will also, elect our Area Delegate. One of the Delegates responsibilities is to give the Groups information/topics to discuss and then take their responses/questions/concerns to the annual General Service Conference (GSC). This is called the collective voice of A.A. The Delegate will participate at the GSC and do what is in the best interest of A.A. as a whole. Results of the GSC are reported back to us by the Delegate in the form of presentations in and around our Area. The GSR is a vital link in passing information between the Group and the Delegate and ultimately to the Conference.

In Summary, the Groups have the responsibility to participate by having a GSR to give and get information from the Sub/Local District, District, and Area. Their thoughts, feelings, questions, and concerns are forwarded to the General Service Conference by our Delegate. Through this process they have the ultimate authority in affecting change(s) in Alcoholics Anonymous. My personal experience with this Concept and process has enhanced my sobriety and love of A.A.

Above we have discussed Concept 1 only briefly. Ongoing study of the Concepts is always desirable. You can find more information about Concept 1 in The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. (BM-31), The Twelve Concepts Illustrated (P-8), or Grapevine Archive in writings from Bill W. Happy studying and may your Home Group embrace their responsibility, giving them the authority for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Yours in Love & Service, Dee P. Mesa

## Concept 2

Let's take a closer look at Concept 2 by reviewing the Long Form: *"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."*

In 1951, Bernard Smith, then Chairman of the Alcoholic Foundation, convinced the Board of Trustees to have the Conference for a 3-year trial basis, 1951-1954. It was adopted and made permanent at the 2nd International Convention in 1955 at St. Louis. By doing this the Groups through representation of their Delegates voted to give the Conference the authority to act on their behalf to do what is in the best interest of A.A. as a whole. This is considered to be when Bill W. and Bob S. turned A.A. over to itself to become self-governing. We should note that even though this was done in 1955, The Twelve Concepts for World Service were not adopted until the 12th Annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous on April 26th, 1962. Just another little bit of trivia, which came first the General Service Conference (GSC) or the Twelve Concepts for World Service? GSC!

Why did the Groups do this? In the beginning, the Groups were responsible to carry the message to the new A.A. member, and by and large still are. If they were to continue and grow, they needed a way to delegate day to day operations of the General Service Office, literature changes, new literature, and A.A. Grapevine oversight and publishing, just to name a few. It is easy to see that the Groups themselves could not do all the work necessary, but needed a way to have a say in what was being (see page 5)

7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contribution Mailing Addresses  
Please include **your group's name, group number, contact name, and return address** along with your group's contribution check or money order.

**All group Treasurers: Please note there is a new address for Area 03 contributions. Checks should still be made out to "Area 03 Committee" but sent to GILBERT instead of Tucson.**

**General Service Office** P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163  
**Area 03 Committee** P.O. Box 3691 Gilbert, AZ 85299  
**District 14-141** P.O. Box 708 Sedona, AZ 86339  
**Central Mountain Intergroup** P.O. Box 1125 Cottonwood, AZ 86326  
**Central Mountain H&I Committee** P.O. Box 341 Cornville, AZ 86325

**WHATS UP!!!**

**Monthly CMI Birthday Meeting**

February 23rd 3:00 p.m.  
Cottonwood Alano Club  
1309 E. Cherry St.  
Host groups needed!  
Contact James H. 928-323-2464

**Service Meetings at CMI Office**

3900 E. Western Dr. Ste. C  
Cottonwood, AZ

**District 14-141** meeting on the 2nd Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

**Intergroup** meeting on the 2nd Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

**H&I** meeting on the 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Founder's Day Planning Meeting**

February ??  
Cottonwood Alano Club  
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**PRAASA**

March 6-8  
Tucson

twww.PRAASA.org

**All District 14 Meeting**

March 9  
435 S. Main St. Rm. 211  
Camp Verde 6:00 p.m.

**Pre-Conference Assembly**

April 3-5  
Sheraton Four Points North  
Phoenix

**Verde Valley Roundup**

April 24-26  
Jackpot Ranch  
Camp Verde

**10th Annual A.A. Women's Gratitude Luncheon**

May 16  
11:00-2:00 p.m.  
Mortimer Farms  
Dewey, AZ  
annualgratitudeluncheon.com

**Tri-State Roundup**

May 14-17  
Laughlin, NV  
tristate-roundup.com

Central Mountain Intergroup Treasurer's Report for January 2020		
<b>Group &amp; Individual Donations:</b>		
Camp Verde Group	C. Verde	\$500.00
Placeholders	Sedona	\$474.25
Keep it Simple	Cottonwood	\$57.00
Steps to Success	Cottonwood	\$23.00
Anonymous B'Day	V.V.	\$16.00
Red Road Group	Rim Rock	\$80.00
Free Thinkers	V.V.	\$70.00
A New Beginning	Cornville	\$50.00
Rule 62 Group	Sedona	\$450.00
Upon Awakening	Sedona	\$294.17
Sub-Dist. 14-141		\$45.00
Eye Opener Group	Cottonwood	\$57.00
One Step at a Time	Sedona	\$80.00
<b>Total Donations:</b>		<b>\$2,196.42</b>
<b>Literature Sales:</b>		<b>\$493.20</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$2,689.62</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Rent</b>		<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Rack Service</b>		<b>\$140.00</b>
<b>Allegra Printing</b>	January Buzz	\$76.90
<b>Century Link</b>	phone-inter.	\$114.36
<b>APS</b>	ofc. Ele.	\$58.41
<b>office supplies</b>		\$91.73
<b>Larson advertising</b>	Christmas ad	\$175.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,056.40</b>
<b>Operating funds balance fwd</b>		<b>\$1,398.80</b>
Transfers (to)/from Savings		<b>(\$953.96)</b>
<b>Total Operating Funds:</b>		<b>\$2,078.06</b>
<b>Savings Acct:</b>		
Beginning Balance		\$10,072.53
Deposits/(withdrawals)		\$953.96
Interest to savings		\$0.51
<b>Total in Savings Account</b>		<b>\$11,027.00</b>
Prudent Reserve per B:	\$8,400.00	
<b>Set Aside Accounts (SSA):</b>		
Intergroup Liaison	\$1,000.00	
Activities Chair	\$200.00	
District/CMI activiti	\$1,427.00	
<b>Total in SSA:</b>	<b>\$2,627.00</b>	
Actual PR Balance:		\$8,400.00
Over/(Under) desired PR after SAA:		\$0.00

### CMI Minutes January 9, 2020

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. by Tom with the Serenity Prayer.

Present were: Tom, Sean, Suzanne, Dustin, Mike, Glenn, Eileen, Emily, Denise, Bell, Walter, Ginger, Donna, Julie.

Secretary's Report- Motion made to accept as read, seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report- Mike read report to us and motion made to accept, which was seconded and passed.

Intergroup Liaison- Glenn present. No report.

P.I.- Patricia not present. No report

CPC- VACANT

Office Coordinator- Nancy not present. No report

Phone Coordinator- Suzanne reported all slots filled.

Buzz- Emily delivered January Buzz to the meeting.

Literature- Donna is preparing a new order to go out soon.

Web Servant- Dustin is building a new web site for 2020 as soon as possible. It will be compatible with all new technology including "The Chair" meeting finder app.

H&I-Denise reported all is well at the jail and new books were ordered.

Activities Director- Michael not present. No report.

Birthday Meeting- James not present. No report.

Elections-

CPC job duties can be found on the CMI website.

New Business-

Glenn thinks the 6-month \$10,000.00 prudent reserve is too much for CMI to be carrying. Discussion followed and motion was made to change the by-Laws for amount in prudent reserve and also the amount carried in gratitude seed money, as well as adding 2 officer positions to CMI. Both Birthday and H&I positions. Notice to be posted in February Buzz about discussion to change the by-laws concerning these 3 issues will be held at the March CMI meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 13, 2020. Motion made by Dustin to bring sobriety coins back to the CMI office for purchase as our by-laws state we carry them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. followed by the Responsibility Pledge.

(Continued from page 3)

done, get information back on what was being done, and suggest new ideas on how to support our primary purpose of carrying the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic. To find out more about G.S.O. and the many services it provides look at the following pamphlets: Your A.A. General Service Office (F-6), Inside A.A. – Understanding the Fellowship and its Services (P-18), Circles of Love and Service (P-45). – One of my favorites, and A.A.'s Legacy of Service by Bill W. (P-44) – History leading to The General Service Manual.

It is easy to see that Concept 2 builds on Concept 1. In Concept 1 the Groups are responsible, then in Concept 2 the Groups pass on their authority to the Conference to act on their behalf. In the Concepts to follow we see how these two Concepts are the building blocks to which the other Concepts stand. Interestingly enough a similar correlation between Steps 1 & 2 are to the remainder of the Steps and Tradition 1 & 2 are to the remainder of the Traditions. I am always amazed that the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts were largely written by the same person, Bill W. We should also note the time it took in between their development, printing and adoption. Steps, presented in 1938 and printed in the Big Book in 1939; Traditions, first published in 1946 in the A.A. Grapevine and adopted at our 1st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, held in 1950; and The Concepts as mentioned in the above paragraph, 1962. A complete history is in the new book, Our Great Responsibility (B-70) – A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference talks 1951-1970.

Above we have discussed Concept 2 only briefly. You can find more information about Concept 2 in The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. (BM-31), The Twelve Concepts Illustrated (P-8), or any of the other literature listed above. Happy Studying! Yours in Love & Service, Dee P. Mesa

### HEARD IN MEETINGS

We can't sail on yesterday's wind.

*I go to A.A. because everywhere else I went they kicked me out.*

God, please help me to be who and what you need me to be.

*Once you stop rushing through life, you'll be amazed how much more life you have time for.*

Trying to do A.A. with no Steps, no Sponsor, no Home Group gives me the anti-promises.

### Daily Reflections

**February 3** We needed to ask ourselves but one short question. “Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?” As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 47

**February 12** Selfishness— self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles. *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 62

**February 17** Some of us won’t believe in God, others can’t, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 25

**February 23** Such is the paradox of A.A. regeneration; strength arising out of complete defeat and weakness, the loss of one’s old life as a condition for finding a new one. *A.A. Comes of Age*, p. 46

**February 29** Save for a few brief moments of temptation the thought of drink has never returned; and at such times a great revulsion has risen up in him. Seemingly he could not drink even if he would. God had restored his sanity. *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 57

ANGLE, BEACHED, BELLIGERENT, BENIGN, BESET,  
 COMPEL, CONFUSION, CONSCIENCE, DEFIANT,  
 DILEMMA, EGG, ERRING, FAITH, FALLACY,  
 GOVERN, GRIEF, HEN, HOOP, INFILTRATE,  
 INNUMERABLE, NEBULOUS, PIECEMEAL, PINE,  
 PLIGHT, PRIMORDIAL, PRIDIGIOUS, RESIGN,  
 SANITY, SAVAGE, SERVE, SLICE, THRESHOLD,  
 ULTIMATE, VENERATE

### **TRADITIONS CHECKLIST**

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

### **CONCEPTS CHECKLIST**

1. Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the “Conference”)?
2. What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group’s G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
3. Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

N E B U L O U S G R I E F L E  
 G U L T I M A T E L G N A O H  
 I Z C B K V B X T H G I L P Y  
 N G M G A L E P M O C P L S C  
 E E K G E R A R D E H C A E B  
 B T E E C N E I C S N O C R Q  
 M A P I E C E M E A L N Y V H  
 P R O D I G I O U S G F M E D  
 B E L L I G E R E N T U N E U  
 E N R E V O G D R W N S F D Y  
 S E T A R T L I F N I I A T S  
 E V F K Y K I A P Q A O I P L  
 T H R E S H O L D N O N T O I  
 K D I L E M M A T Z A E H O C  
 S X G G N I R R E S I G N H E

Question of the month!!!! Ebbie Thatcher died drunk. True or false? False. Ebbie was sober when he talked with Bill Wilson at the kitchen table ‘that bleak November’ in 1934, but he had periods of drunkenness and sobriety after that. He died sober in 1966 in New York. Lois Remembers, p. 117-118.

Quote of the month!!!! “We knew that we had been— and might soon again be— victims of one of the most hopeless compulsions short of utter lunacy that mankind knows.” Our Great Responsibility, p. 45.