

FILING CABINET

Volume 30, Issue 5

May, 2020

SALT RIVER INTERGROUP

The Step Five Ball and Chain Freedom and Peace of Mind

By Rick R.

I don't think I've ever witnessed an alcoholic that came to alcoholics anonymous that loved themselves or that wasn't riddled with guilt and shame. It's hard to understand why alcohol affects some people differently than others. I've observed members that came from good family environments that ended up on the streets and others that came from alcohol infested families that turned out normal as can be. In either case, the alcoholic seems to have something missing in their mental state that engender the need to find a way to neutralize this negative self image and that first drink of alcohol does something that gives them the relief which makes them feel somewhat normal. I've heard it said that once a person starts to drink to cover up these feelings, especially in adolescence years, they stop growing emotionally and when they finally show up in A.A. they have the emotional state consistent with the age they were when they started drinking, absent of the coping skills of a normal person. They'll have to revisit all those under developed behavioral patterns and replace them with mature and healthy thoughts and actions. Easier said than done!

When I look around the room at an A.A. meeting we all seem to look about the same in the way we dress and in our outside appearances. The only thing that makes us different is what is going on in between our ears. If we all woke up this morning with amnesia we would all be the same. It's the tortures of past that torments us and therein lies the problem and the solution. If we can understand and accept this well established approach to our mental condition we can take actions that will restore our self esteem and we can live an incredibly happy and peaceful life.

We cannot change one moment of the past, but we can

resolve the issues in our lives that brought about the need to escape from those horrible memories of the things that we regretted having done. The habits and deeds that triggered the guilt and shame that led us to seek relief in the bottle can be reigned in and if we are fortunate enough to believe this you may want to revisit the fourth and fifth steps, Identify those deeds that we drag around like a ball and chain, and keep us from actuating the rest of the program. 12x12 pg. 56 "Even A.A. Oldtimers, sober for years, often pay dearly for skimping this step." Those things will not go away but the mental and emotional pain that we drank to nullify can be arrested and we can finally put it all behind us and live a wonderful life. I know this from experience.

When I revisited my fourth and fifth step, I was stronger and talked to someone about those deeds from the past that plagued me and realized that most people who abuse alcohol have them, to one degree or another, and if they are willing to address them, they can be free from that *Ball and Chain* and my experience is that it freed me up to continue the rest of the step with pleasure. From the day I entered A.A. to the day I mustered the strength to do this, I had no comprehension of the effect it would on me, for if I did, I would have cut to the chase much sooner and avoided several years of discontent. As long as those deeds were in the past and not habits of the present, this process worked exactly as it was intended as per the program. I hope that this encourages at least one person to find someone they trust and find the relief that I have experienced as the result of cleaning the slate and I wish them a happy life. It worked for me.

Central Office is closed due to COVID19. If you need anything from Central Office, you can call us and we can do a "Take Out" order. You can coordinate when to meet at Central Office to pick-up your items. Please call 602-753-4165.

From Your Steering Committee

Tradition Five

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

This tradition is one that is so unifying, simple and clear. The message of Alcoholics Anonymous is found in the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve...nowhere else. So as my first sponsor told me, if it is not in the book it is not part of the message of AA.

It says in the very first paragraph of Tradition Five in the Twelve and Twelve... "The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle". For AA to continue in to the future we, the current members, must be willing to be the ambassadors of the AA message. I remember the first time I was asked to go on a twelve step call...very early in my sobriety...something devastating (like my fingernail polish was chipped or some other equally horrible dilemma) was going on that morning as I headed out for my meeting. When I arrived my sponsor told me we girls were going to go sit with another woman until her ride for rehab showed up. I commented on my personal dilemma and she volunteered me what I was doing after the meeting. The gift was the woman got sober and became a friend, I stayed sober and my morning crisis somehow vanished in to thin air.

"It is a great paradox of AA that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away". This is the other important message in this Tradition. This is truly an amazing gift to behold...humility as the result of a self centered act...I do this for my sobriety and the result is the perpetuation of AA's message and existence.

The twelfth step visit told in Tradition Five ends with this..."My sponsor sold me one idea, and that was sobriety. At the time, I couldn't have bought anything else".

Today I get to practice the responsibility pledge whenever I am called on to be of service...delivering a message of sobriety...and as Porky Pig says, "that's all folks!"

Question: Am I willing to Twelfth Step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?

Holly, Steering Committee Advisor

Tradition Five Checklist

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose- to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

- Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
- Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
- Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a follow alcoholic?
- Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
- Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?



Concept Five

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional " Right of Appeal " ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

The "Right" of Appeal is also considered to be the "Duty" of appeal. As explained by Bill W. it can become an essential component in keeping an uninformed or emotionally charged Majority from voting in haste. Especially in decisions that impact and effect A.A. as a whole. By allowing the Minority Opinion to be heard and considered, prior to taking a Vote, is an important and key element to our Success. Even at times when it is wrong, partially or wholly, it encourages a more comprehensive and thorough discussion. And in some cases, a well stated minority opinion can, and does, bring about a complete reversal of direction. I have seen this happen personally, on more than one occasion.

In the form of a Petition, it becomes a vehicle for any grievance or perceived mistreatment to be presented to the General Service Board, to be considered for redress or resolution. This option is available to all Staff Members, be they paid or volunteer workers.

Trusted servants do for other groups, what they can not, or perhaps should not do on their own. It is in their own best interest to listen carefully and with an open mind, to the minority opinion. Particularly in matters of grave import to the well being of the A.A. community. Using their experience and discretion, they can actually Veto the apparently Two-thirds majority vote. either postponing, or tabling a vote for further discussion and consideration.

In matters like Election of representatives, where time is of the essence, we have the Third Legacy Procedure in place. When a vote must be taken at a given time or date, the " Go to the Hat " practice is put into place. When a popular, but not necessarily the Best candidate fails to get a two-thirds majority vote, the names of all are put in the hat. By a process of elimination, starting with fewest votes, the field is narrowed, until such time as one person has at least two thirds of the remaining votes. This is another way of respecting the minority opinion.

Question from checklist :

Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

Greg Eisenhart
Steering Committee Adviser

NEW MEETINGS

None at this time

Concept Five Checklist

Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal," to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

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Digital 7th Tradition**A GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICES FOR A DIGITAL 7TH TRADITION**

Online meeting spaces make it difficult to “pass the basket.” Some groups have set up digital contribution accounts with services like Venmo, PayPal, Google Pay, etc. to deal with this problem. Now might be a good time to review an essential piece of AA literature, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.” Each group is autonomous and might consider taking a group conscience on whether digital contributions are an option, and which platform (or mix of platforms) best suits their groups’ needs.

But first, why collect 7th Tradition for an online meeting?

- Our regular meeting locations still have operating expenses...
- Our meetings facilities may rely on our regular rent to help pay their rent, utilities, and employees

Meeting supplies will still be needed when our meetings reopen – coffee, paper products, literature, refreshments. And after an extended closure, we may experience a large influx of people who are motivated to re-join the fellowship in person.

- Central Office and the General Service Office still have operating expenses such as...
- Websites – which we may now rely on more than ever!
- Phone lines, rent and insurance on office space
- Utility and other ongoing expenses

Paid Special Workers who deserve our continued support. Their compensation is crucial to their ability to serve us.

- Our Districts and Areas and H&I still have expenses...
- Regular expenses to support the work of committees and events that will take place when the crisis has passed are still there.
- Web services support for groups

Expenses for venues for events that have been cancelled may still need to be met, since any income from the event won’t be there to support the pre-payment of reservations, cancellation fees, etc. The expense of re-arranging for venues to reschedule events is very real.

Let’s continue to support these folks during the crisis.

We realize that even though the immediate need for virtual connections is relatively inexpensive, the real expenses of our fellowship continues. Please consider continuing to practice our 7th Tradition and make contributions to the service entities that support your group – your Intergroup or Central Office, your District, Area and the General Services Office. Individual members may choose to contribute directly to service entities—consider making contribution to SRI Central Office [here](#). Contributions to GSO can be made [here](#).

Now, how does our Group go about collecting digital contributions?

Understand the role of treasurer – read [The A.A. Group Treasurer](#) to learn about the role of treasurer within the group. Here you will learn the importance of selecting a treasurer, how to safeguard and distribute group funds, what a “prudent reserve” is, and more!

Group bank account vs Treasurer’s personal account – Your group likely has this sorted out already. For smaller groups, treasurers tend to use their personal bank account and account for group funds using a spreadsheet. A larger group might have a bank account established in the name of the group. For more information on how to set up a group bank account, see this [How to Open a Group Bank Account](#).

Digital payment options – [Google Pay](#), [Venmo](#), [PayPal](#), [Zelle](#), [Apple Pay](#), [Cash App](#), and [Stripe](#) are all viable options. Take a group conscience – A group conscience is recommended as each member who wishes to contribute will need to open an account with the chosen service. Many members may already have a service they use and prefer.

You can select one or multiple – A group can agree to use just one service, but larger groups may even want to consider multiple options for their members. Consider the costs and benefits of each platform – each service has varying fees for money transfers depending on the users’ chosen method of payment (debit, credit, checking account, etc.). Some may have a more user-friendly interface than others.

Once your group selects a platform:

- **Setting it up** – choose a username that is easy and intuitive for the group. You may want to include the name directly in the secretary script.
 - **Security** – Create a strong password for the app and ensure your mobile device used to access the app also has a passcode. If possible, set up two-factor authentication for added security.
- Privacy** – Learn the app’s privacy settings! Some digital payment platforms have social components that you may want to disable to protect anonymity.

[*Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix](#)

Central Office Manager's Report

Hello everyone...

We will have a few spots open on **Tuesday's 9a-12p, Wednesday's 12p-3p, and Thursday's 12p-3p** to answer the phones here at Central Office. This is a weekly commitment and has a sobriety requirement of 1 year of continuous sobriety and have worked your 12 steps. We also have a spot to answer the phones from your home; Monday's 6am-9am, Thursday's 11pm-6am, and Friday's 11pm-6am, if nobody is scheduled, the phones don't get answered. Period.

You never know... the life you save just might be your own!!! If interested, please let me know! I can be reached at (602)264.1341.

Please remind groups to buy literature & chips from SRI office to help support your local AA Intergroup so that we can keep the hand of A.A. there for all who need it.

We have approx. 1,600 meetings per week here in the Valley. Approx. 700 of those meetings are registered with us, Salt River Inter Intergroup. Approx. 275 are registered with Agua Fria Intergroup and approx. 500 are registered with East Valley Intergroup.

In the Spirit of Tradition Eight,
Cyndee Rogers

March Phone Stats	This Month	Last Month	↑
Total Help Line Calls:	1245	909	37%

March WEB Stats:	This Month	Last Month	↓
Total Sessions:	18,915	18,921	0.03%

	This Month	Last Month
New Visitor	67.7%	67.3%
Returning Visitor	32.3%	32.7%

Sessions by Acquisition	This Month	Last Month
Organic Search:	57.5%	58.3%
Direct	36.9%	38.0%
Referral	3.6%	3.4%
Social	2.0%	0.26%

Sessions by Device	This Month	Last Month
Mobile	68.7%	71.2%
Desktop	27.9%	26.0%
Tablet	3.3%	2.8%



A Life Without a Central Office/Inter-Group

People are often confused about the difference between a Central Office and an Inter-Group. For many aspects they are the same. My understanding is the Central Office it is the physical location where members of A.A. answer the phones, sell literature/meeting lists, post events which are happening in the A.A. community, help individuals and Groups carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, and much more. We publish a monthly newsletter. We are not a part of World Services, but support them through our purchases of Conference approved literature.

The Inter-Group is a group of A.A. members who help guide how our Central Office is run. The Inter-Group in our area has a Steering Committee which consists of the Chair, Co-Chair, 5 Advisors, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Office Manager. Each person holds a position to serve on a Committee, such as Public Information; a Central Office service event; a liaison with our Area, County and General Service Office; and other service oriented committees.

In our Home Group, we elect an Inter-Group Representative which is the voice between the Home Group and the Inter-Group/Central Office. The Inter-Group is autonomous, according to Tradition 4, but our voices are heard through our Inter-Group Representative. The Inter-Group and Central Office operate taking into consideration A.A.'s Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The Inter-Group Steering Committee/ Officers are elected by the Home Group's Inter-Group Representatives during the Inter Group's business meeting. Inter-Group Representatives express the voice of your Home Group on how the Office can better serve Alcoholics Anonymous in the Community. Recently our Central Office had an issue come up. An individual in Alcoholics Anonymous bequeathed a large sum of money to the Central Office when they died. Should we take the full amount or should we follow the A.A. Guidelines which suggests a considerable lesser amount? The Inter-Group Representatives went to their own Home Group and asked for the Group's opinion. At the following Inter-Group meeting we decided to take the lesser amount and followed the suggested guidelines.

A few months ago I attended the Inter-Group/Central Office annual Conference. It got me thinking what it would be like if we did not have a Central Office/Inter-Group. I take for granted how much they do for us. It serves as a clearing house for information about A.A. If I needed to get sober, what do I do, where can I get help? How would I find out about A.A. events in my city? I would depend on outside companies to purchase a A.A. literature, probably paying more if I needed it right away. The General Service Office would lose income if the Central Office did not purchase literature from them. Our Central Office has an umbrella insurance policy for Group meetings that need insurance coverage by their Landlord. Contact your Central Office to see if they offer such a service. Holidays could be pretty dismal if I didn't know of a place to go to be with other sober people. Worse, how could we be able to help someone who really wanted to quit drinking? Or if that someone was me?

One of our Home Group's activities is to come into the Central Office on a Saturday morning and assemble meeting books. It draws us closer as a Group and we enjoy the fellowship. If we didn't have meeting lists, whether paper or on line, we wouldn't know where meetings are. We would not be able to go to our phones or computer to find out about meetings, service opportunities, and A.A. events.

I am ever so grateful for Alcoholics Anonymous and the fellowship for my sobriety. I'm also grateful that our Central Office/Inter-Group helps me to carry the message and stay sober myself. If you have never been to the office, come visit. See how much they do for us and in turn what we can do for them.

Leslie JW



Group Contributions

Group	Group Name	March	YTD
5221	11 AT 7		335.50
5134	11TH STEP MEDITATION MTG.		220.00
1900	12 AND 12 (CAREFREE)		22.00
1030	1-6-4 GROUP		117.41
1087	6 P.M. HAPPY HOUR (LAMBDA)		74.66
1211	6:00 RUSH HOUR (CROSSROADS)		204.00
1071	6:00 TIME OUT		200.00
5352	A WAY OUT ON TATUM GROUP		180.00
1700	A.A. SAFE PLACE		111.10
5097	BEFORE BREAKFAST CLUB		200.00
1083	BELLANO		80.00
6168	BEYOND THE FIRST MIRACLE		77.25
6060	BIG BOOK EXPERIENCE		146.45
1510	BIRDS OF A FEATHER	100.00	100.00
5110	BREAKFAST CLUB		64.90
6106	BRUNCH BUNCH		110.39
6137	CAREFREE RATTLERS		50.00
1080	CAREFREE WILDLIFE		50.00
1089	CASUAL NOONERS		182.50
5070	CELEBRATE LIFE		1,200.00
5273	DESIGN FOR LIVING		48.06
6215	DIVINE DIVAS		600.00
6129	FEELINGS & SOLUTIONS	150.00	350.00
2706	FREEDOM HOUR		550.00
2731	FRIDAY MORNING BIG BOOK STUDY		127.50
6054	FRIENDS OF BILL W.	200.00	200.00
5257	FRIENDS OF EBBY		105.50
6067	FRIENDS STAYING SOBER		90.00
1097	FUNCTIONAL GROUP		100.00
1610	GET YOUR SPIRITS HERE		31.40
1098	GO FOR IT GROUP I		390.00
2111	GRANITE REEFERS		300.00
5188	GRAPEVINE MEETING		50.00
5234	HAPPY ALCOHOLICS		364.00
1162	HAPPY HOUR (CROSSROADS 4PM)		100.00
5171	HOGAN'S HEROES		182.50
5341	HOW FREE DO YOU WANT TO BE?	20.00	20.00
5290	HOW IT WORKS BIG BOOK STEP STUDY		115.62
5104	IN-BETWEENERS		100.00
6061	KNUCKLEHEADS		148.00
6142	LADIES' TEA PARTY		200.00
1023	LADYBUGS		178.16
5122	LANGUAGE OF THE HEART		105.00



1514	LET'S TALK ABOUT IT	941.71	1,372.38
5139	LIVING SOBER		567.18
5178	LONE MOUNTAIN BB STUDY		146.75
3114	LUNCH BUNCH (CROSSROADS)	25.00	175.00
5275	MAD MEN	784.00	784.00
1092	MENS 4PM MONDAY MEETING		124.50
1056	MEN'S CAREFREE SOBRIETY		148.00
5305	MOHAVE GROUP		25.00
5006	MONDAY MORNING MIRACLES		247.00
2003	MONDAY NIGHT B.B. STEP STUDY		180.00
6064	MORNING MIRACLES	106.51	106.51
5390	NEW COMERS AA	7.00	31.00
5286	NEW VISION GROUP		81.16
1037	NO SNIVELING	1,241.60	4,132.22
1006	NORTH PHOENIX MEN'S STAG	1,000.00	1,000.00
6034	NORTH SCOTTSDALE STEP STUDY		200.00
6214	ON AWAKENING		200.00
0007	OTHER 7TH TRADITION	362.85	362.85
1159	PATHFINDERS		40.00
2820	PINNACLE PEAK GANG		131.12
2402	POST TIME		114.83
2824	PUTTIN' SOBER		729.74
4066	QUIT-IN-TIME		280.00
5200	RAIN OR SHINE		600.00
5252	RENEWAL IN THE DESERT		208.32
1103	SATURDAY MORNING BROTHERHOOD		900.00
1606	SATURDAY NIGHT 12&12	100.00	100.00
1113	SATURDAY NITE VARIETY		225.00
1040	SCOTTSDALE NON-DRINKERS	180.00	180.00
6005	SISTERS OF SERENITY		261.44
5386	SMOKIN OLDIES		100.00
6133	SNAKEPIT		300.00
1065	SOUTHSIDE GROUP		28.83
1021	STEP SISTERS		289.66
5013	SUNDAY EVENING SERENITY		600.00
1129	SUNNYSLOPE GROUP	330.00	330.00
2823	SUNRISE SERENITY		276.22
6104	TGIF	13.00	17.00
6006	THOMPSON PEAK GANG		353.50
5280	VALLEY ALANO CLUB		200.00
1251	WE CHOSE LIFE		96.42
2105	WINNERS GROUP		600.00
2803	WOMAN BY THE BOOK		120.20
5263	WORKS BEST WHEN READ	60.00	105.00
		5,621.67	25,252.73



31st Annual Summer Roundup committee meeting will be Monday May 4th, 6:30pm via Zoom, please contact Les for details

480-208-4029

I am Responsible . . .

**When anyone, anywhere
reaches out for help**

I want the hand of AA to be there,

And for that,

. . . I Am Responsible

SRI Intergroup Meeting via Zoom May 12th, 2020 at 7pm.

If you are the Intergroup Rep for your home group, do we have your e-mail? If, you are not sure if we have your current info please send an e-mail to info@sriphoenix.org

Salt River Intergroup, Inc.		
Balance Sheet		
As of March 31, 2020		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
General Fund		16,998.61
Prudent Reserve Fund		40,029.81
Total Checking/Savings		57,028.42
Other Current Assets		35,242.39
Total Current Assets		92,270.81
Fixed Assets		17,328.48
TOTAL ASSETS		109,599.29
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Funds Balance		98,897.43
Net Income		10,701.86
Total Equity		109,599.29
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		109,599.29

Salt River Intergroup, Inc.		
Profit & Loss		
March 2020		
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Group Contributions		5,621.67
Individual Contributions		103.44
Store Income		5,068.45
Non Store Income		142.43
Total Income		10,935.99
Cost of Goods Sold		6,883.55
Gross Profit		4,052.44
Expense		
Ordinary Expenses		3,659.93
Employee Expenses		5,310.29
Total Expense		8,970.22
Net Ordinary Income		-4,917.78
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Anniversary Income		795.00
Total Other Income		795.00
Other Expense		
Anniversary Expense		835.30
General Event Expense		174.29
Total Other Expense		1,009.59
Net Other Income		-214.59
Net Income		-5,132.37





First	Last In	Sober Date	Years
Red	K.	5/30/1964	56
Faye	C.	5/11/1968	52
Blackie	K.	5/10/1970	50
Bob	M.	5/5/1970	50
Eugene	M.	5/19/1972	48
David	J.	5/6/1975	45
Pat	B.	5/22/1976	44
Glenna	C.	5/14/1976	44
Lea	D.	5/27/1976	44
Joe	G.	5/21/1977	43
Willie	M.	5/11/1977	43
Bev	T.	5/15/1978	42
Dean	D.	5/15/1978	42
Mary	S.	5/27/1978	42
Daria Lynn	L.	5/6/1979	41
Marc	F.	5/19/1980	40
Don	B.	5/18/1980	40
Wally	C.	5/8/1981	39
Ardith	S.	5/17/1981	39
Marc	D.	5/4/1981	39
Wally	B.	5/21/1982	38

Fred	A.	5/9/1982	38
Keith	S.	5/5/1982	38
John	C.	5/12/1983	37
Kim	P.	5/20/1983	37
Bonnie	W.	5/8/1983	37
Ken	B.	5/14/1983	37
Pat	K.	5/28/1983	37
Vicky	O.	5/15/1984	36
Leslie	G.	5/3/1985	35
Jim	P.	5/4/1985	35
Alan	G.	5/11/1985	35
Stephen	O.	5/13/1987	33
Rob	K.	5/9/1987	33
Tom	F.	5/26/1987	33
Brooks	B.	5/1/1987	33
Jeanette	A.	5/5/1988	32
Gus	J.	5/1/1989	31
Lisa	G.	5/15/1989	31
Karan	T.	5/23/1991	29
George	M.	5/29/1992	28
Debbie	M.	5/20/1993	27
Michael	H.	5/25/1994	26

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Steering Committee Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Intergroup Meeting via Zoom 7pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Please check specific meetings for cancelations or postponements

SALT RIVER INTERGROUP

3215 E. Thunderbird Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Phone: 602-264-1341
website www.aaphoenix.org
email: info@sriphoenix.org

Group Name: _____
New Renew Change

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Annual Individual Newsletter Delivered via USPS Mailing = \$15.00

Annual Group Copies (5) Delivered at SRI Business Meeting = \$20.00

