

FILING CABINET

Volume 31, Issue 3

March, 2021

SALT RIVER INTERGROUP

God Leaves the Door Open for Everyone No Need to Overthink This Issue

By Rick R.

The Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) program is open to anyone that has a desire to stop drinking. It makes no difference if you are an atheist, agnostic, Buddhists or a member of one of the vast number of religions in the world. All of us have the same opportunity to get well through the steps. They were fashioned that way to ensure that no alcoholic is left out. We embrace everyone that walks through that door. If step two had been written to say, "Came to believe that God", rather than, "a Power greater than ourselves." could restore me to sanity, I wonder if A.A. would have succeeded in the way that it has, especially when we consider the problems that the Oxford group had with this issue. I have seen people talking of religion, and others that were irritated with any talk of God, yet we still hold hands at the end of the meeting and say a prayer and everyone leaves the meeting feeling a little better. I personally know priests and ministers in the program, and they seem to adjust to the diversity of the landscape. I wish that it could be simpler for each person, but there are no two people that are identical in this matter. Speaking for myself, if I wanted to be freed from the deadly obsession of alcoholism, I had to trust the guidance of the two books that are suggested, and the leadership of the more experienced members of the group, to come to terms with a concept of a power greater than myself. I was the one in the 12&12 that "tried religion and had found it wanting". I also read that, "even the militant atheist got through the hoop with room to spare". I did not believe in the God of the religionist, in the same way, that I

thought, they did, but I did not think I was an atheist either. The Power Greater than myself option, was a good start for me. Something happened to me within minutes after arriving at my first introduction to three people, sitting on a bench in the front yard of a little house in Los Angeles, where they held their meetings, and the obsession to drink was gone, and I have not had, nor wanted, a drink since then. You might call that a miracle, and you might be right, depending on your definition of a miracle, but it came to me as a *profound Change of Perception* brought about by the Love, Understanding and Compassion I sensed as they welcomed me. These experiences were a great way for me to start, but NOW, WHAT ABOUT PRAYER? Who or what do I pray to? I heard about door-knobs and icons, the ocean, and other such things but that way of thinking did not set well with me. I did not want to be too glib about such an important matter. Then I noticed that, in step two, it did not say that I had to believe *in* anything, only that I had to believe *that* a power greater than myself, could restore me to sanity. The collective wisdom of the AA program and the people in it have been the framework for my faith in a higher power. The experience that I had in that front yard, fifty-one years ago, was all I needed to know to get on with the rest of the program. I pray to God every day to show me what to do and to give me the strength to do it and I still do not know for sure, who or what God is. I use the word God, only to describe the spiritual influence that A.A. has had on this drunk. I pray to God as I understand God, and he expresses himself in my consciousness, the only thing left for me to do is to separate the wheat from the chaff.



From Your Steering Committee

Tradition Three

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition Three comes from a spirit of inclusiveness. That means there are no barriers to AA members based on race, creed, nationality, gender, age, occupation, social standing, etc. Excluding anyone from being able to participate in AA could mean death for them. So, a person can be a member of AA if they decide they want to be a member. And they do that by having a desire to stop drinking. They can be a member even if they are still actively drinking but have a desire to stop. In fact, many members start their AA membership by attending while still having alcohol in their system.

Some AA groups cater to special populations which is not necessarily sanctioned by GSO. However, GSO does respect the group's autonomy to decide how the group should be run. Tradition Three is also where open versus closed meetings are defined. Closed meetings are reserved for those who identify a desire to stop drinking. Open meetings allow for anyone, including non-AA members, to be in attendance but tend to prefer that only AA members share during the meeting.

This tradition creates some controversy when it comes to members who identify with dual issues. Many groups are harsh when dealing with attendees who identify as "and a (fill in the blank)." Tradition Three is clear. As long as that individual has a desire to stop drinking, that person can be a member of AA.

Question: When someone turns up at an AA meeting needing information or help (even if he/she/they can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what they do for a living? Where they live? What their domestic arrangements are? Whether they have been to AA before? What their other problems are?

SRI Intergroup Meeting via Zoom March 9, 2021 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

Tradition Three Checklist

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

In my mind, do I prejudice some new AA members as losers?

Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?

Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?

Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?

Am I overimpressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?

When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?



Concept Three

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"

At a Home Group level, we all understand the notion and meaning of "Group Conscience", and a Loving God, being the Ultimate Authority....

But when we elect a GSR, DCM, or any delegate, in any service capacity, We must put our trust in them to interpret, and put our wishes into Action. They can Not effectively work within a larger arena, Committees, Panels and Conferences, unless they are granted the "Right of Decision". Without this right, they are merely messengers of a Micro managed extension of the "Group Conscience".

A good delegate is aware of the "pulse", if you will, of his or her H.G. on key matters. And must be trusted to decide, keeping these feelings in mind and heart, on matters that arise at Service Gatherings and Functions.

The delegate may choose to discuss it further within the Panel. Or take it to a Committee. He or She may "Phone A Friend", or take the matter back to the H.G. for final instruction. But often times, an immediate vote or Decision is needed. This delegate must have the support, trust and confidence of those represented, to go with their heart or gut feelings, to get things done in a timely, orderly fashion.

This is the essence of the "Right of Decision".... "Our Entire A.A. Program rests squarely upon the principle of Mutual Trust". We trust in God. We trust in A.A. And we trust each other.

Question from Checklist : Do we trust our Trusted Servants - GSR, DCM, Area Delegates, the Conference itself ? (taken from 2020 Filing Cabinet)

Concept Three Checklist

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staff, committees, and executives-with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?

Do we trust our trusted servants – G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the conference itself?

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**Salt River Intergroup
Business Meeting
9TH February, 2021**

Open Meeting with Serenity Prayer and Welcome and Mission Statement

Absent: Tradition and Tradition Checklist Reading – Megan

Concept Reading and Concept Checklist Reading – Marilyn

New Intergroup Reps – Kirk, Lone Mountain Big Book Study; Mark, Mon Night Step Tapped into Power; Clarisse, Pinnacle Peak Gang; Ron, Chapter 7 Group

Introduction to Pages 5-6 for information to and from Home Groups. Number of attendees – 50

Remarks and Announcements by the Chair – Quianna

Previous Month's Minutes – January 2021 . Page 7-8 of the IG packet. Motion to accept: Chuck Seconded: Ron. Unanimous acceptance.

General Service Liaison (Area) – Adrian - pg 9. Flyer. He is registered to attend PRAASA. He is still waiting to see how we can contribute the \$85.00 above the registration fee as agreed at last month's meeting.

Treasurer Report – James – pgs 10-12 of the IG packet.

Saturday Volunteers – Terry - none needed at this time.

7th Tradition – Self Support Card – Quianna

Central Office Report – Cyndee – pgs 3-4 of the IG packet.

Event Committee Liaison

2021 Anniversary – Holly, Paul, Megan – Currently no chair but there are a couple of suggestions and we will reach out to them.

2020 Summer Round Up – Quianna, Adrian, Robbin – Our previous attorney of record, who negotiated the contracts in 2020 and the new contracts for 2021 needs to be re-engaged for the needs of 2021. Robbin outlined the situation and the Steering Committee recommendation that SRI engage the attorney of record from 2020, Jason, to undertake any and all contract negotiation in 2021. Les R, the Summer Round Up Chair has been informed that this year's event will be virtual.

2021 SRI Alcothon – Terry, Paul, Marilyn – no report.

Old Business –

Fundraising Ad Hoc – so far SRI is holding up ok and the group is currently keeping an eye on it. The next opportunity will be the 2021 Anniversary and Holly will coordinate with the Chair of the Committee when one appears.

2020 Alcathon Wrap Up – Sandy S. – the vision for the Alcathon was a broad variety of meetings that would appeal to the membership. Meetings flowed smoothly. A meeting monitor was assigned to all meetings to assist in the event of technical difficulties though thankfully, very few occurred. The traditional Oldtimer's and Speaker's meetings took place. The 2nd chatline room was barely used. The 50/50 raffle software allowed the raffle to take place and not belongs to SRI to use in future events. 545 people attended. Documents that detail are all steps taken and costs thereof are in the Event binder at Central Office. Currently, oldtimers are only reached by snail mail and while this worked originally, it may be time to consider other options such as email, text and messages. The Chair respectfully suggests that Steering Committee undertake this discussion.

New Business – Vote for our current attorney, Jason, to undertake the negotiations for all events of 2021. **Chuck: move to retain Jason to renegotiate the 2021 events to 2022. Quentin seconded. Unanimous acceptance.**

SRI Standing Committee Report

Archives – Rosemary – apologies for absence. All information and souvenirs and items to do with AA in the Valley are gratefully received.

PI/CPC - Terry - Chuck posted to the chat the links for the CPC Roundtable meeting in March. Regular meeting of Agua Fria and SRI PI/CPC committee is on the fourth Tues of the month and the zoom details are on the website.

Meeting Update Committee – Holly – any changes to meeting status, please contact Central Office so we can give the correct information to the still suffering alcoholic.

Grapevine – Marilyn – This month's featured section is about Sponsorship as well as stories of hope around the COVID 19 crisis. Get your Grapevine from EPUB. One year = \$19.99 or \$28.97 for a physical copy.

ZONYPAA – Megan – Nothing to report. Next meeting in March.

H & I – Kimberley - Meeting 10th Feb. and the zoom info is on the website.

Birthdays: Rich – 34,

Motion to close: Dave. Kimberley seconded. We left.

Central Office Manager's Report

Hello everyone...

Presently all of the volunteer positions are filled. I am so grateful for the volunteers, THANK YOU!! We have some spots to answer the phones from your home; Sunday's 9a-12p, Saturday's 6p-11p, Friday's 6p-11p, 11p-6a, and Tuesday 6a-9a, 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. This commitment has a sobriety requirement of 1 year of continuous sobriety and have worked your 12 steps.


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

January Phone Stats

	This Month	Last Month	
Total Help Line Calls:	726	684	6.1%

January WEB Stats:

	This Month	Last Month	
Total Sessions:	15,395	15,442	0.3%

	This Month	Last Month
New Visitor	69.3%	71.5%
Returning Visitor	30.7%	28.5%

Sessions by Acquisition	This Month	Last Month
Organic Search:	57.1%	56.2%
Direct	41.3%	41.3%
Referral	1.2%	1.6%
Social	0.4%	1.0%

Sessions by Acquisition	This Month	Last Month
Organic Search:	57.1%	56.2%
Direct	41.3%	41.3%
Referral	1.2%	1.6%
Social	0.4%	1.0%



GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM

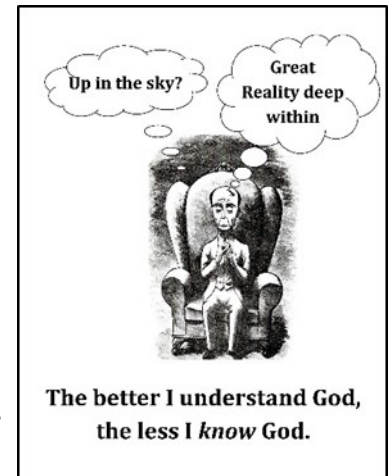
Very few of today's two-million-plus AA members claim to possess a satisfying scientific definition of God. However, there exists undeniable evidence that God's power has released countless of its members from alcoholic obsession.

Steps Three and Eleven contain the phrase, "***God, as we understood Him.***" When I was new, I found this insert both challenging and confusing; consequently, I soon found myself delving into books on theology, theosophy, Philosophy, and other mystical readings—but to no avail. I soon realized that I was no further along understanding God than when I started. Months of studying left me without any satisfying logical or scientific definition—what to do? After all, am I not supposed to "***understand God?***" If not, perhaps my sobriety would be in jeopardy! Confusing times!

But then, I came across a *watershed idea* from Bill W's Oxford mentor, Reverend Sam Shoemaker who wrote: "***Step Two is not theological; it is evidential!***" Of course, I could plainly see the evidence of God's work by simply observing numerous members around AA tables with many years sobriety; they all claimed that contact with God, or a "Higher Power," was keeping them sober. It was evidential! I had been barking up the wrong tree! I no longer need search for a logical definition of God, but I still needed to improve my conscious contact with God. Step Eleven convinced me that I could begin to **know** God through prayer and meditation—then there would be no need of a logical or scientific **understanding** of Him.

I have come to believe that I need to contact (**know**) God from my deep innermost self (heart) and not from my ever-inquiring alcoholic mind. I had been searching for God from the wrong place all along! After all, doesn't the Big Book speak of the "*Great Reality deep within?*" (p. 55). So, in conclusion, I restate the cartoon above: "***The better I understand God, the less I know God.***"

Bob S., Richmond, IN



The 78th Anniversary Celebration will be held virtually on May 15th. Committee meetings will be on Zoom at 5:00pm; March 10th, March 24th, April 14th, April 28th, and May 12th if needed.

To find out how you can help and the Zoom code contact Quentin at qpweber@yahoo.com.



Group Contributions

Group	Group Name	JAN	YTD
1900	12 AND 12 (CAREFREE)	60.00	60.00
2726	A NEW FREEDOM	50.00	50.00
5195	A NEW WOMEN'S MEETING	290.00	290.00
5097	BEFORE BREAKFAST CLUB	10.00	10.00
6106	BRUNCH BUNCH	284.90	284.90
5402	BYOCHAIR	100.00	100.00
1177	CAREFREE SPIRIT GROUP	121.00	121.00
1191	CAREFREE WAY OF LIFE	70.00	70.00
5409	FIRST STEP	110.00	110.00
5406	FORWARD IN RECOVERY	72.26	72.26
2110	FOUNTAIN HILLS GROUP, THE	120.00	120.00
6054	FRIENDS OF BILL W.	100.00	100.00
1097	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	153.50	153.50
5234	HAPPY ALCOHOLICS	66.50	66.50
6221	HAPPY VALLEY EAST	118.00	118.00
5290	HOW IT WORKS BIG BOOK STEP STUDY	314.29	314.29
5104	IN-BETWEENERS	100.00	100.00
6061	KNUCKLEHEADS	279.48	279.48
6142	LADIES' TEA PARTY	180.00	180.00

THANK YOU



Group contributions continue

1514	LET'S TALK ABOUT IT	299.40	299.40
5139	LIVING SOBER	100.00	100.00
5178	LONE MOUNTAIN BB STUDY	128.75	128.75
3114	LUNCH BUNCH (CROSSROADS)	167.00	167.00
1056	MEN'S CAREFREE SOBRIETY	137.25	137.25
1008	MONDAY MORNING LADIES STEP MEETING	40.00	40.00
5360	MY FRIENDS PROMISE	168.50	168.50
5286	NEW VISION GROUP	80.13	80.13
5085	NORTH MOUNTAIN STUDY GROUP	10.00	10.00
6214	ON AWAKENING	600.00	600.00
0007	OTHER 7TH TRADITION	20.00	20.00
2820	PINNACLE PEAK GANG	109.13	109.13
4066	QUIT-IN-TIME	708.26	708.26
5200	RAIN OR SHINE	25.00	25.00
6031	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY	350.41	350.41
2760	SPIRIT OF GOD	40.00	40.00
2819	STORIES AT SUNDOWN	20.00	20.00
1251	WE CHOSE LIFE	50.70	50.70
2803	WOMAN BY THE BOOK	360.00	360.00
5263	WORKS BEST WHEN READ	180.00	180.00
		6,194.46	6,194.46

I am Responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere
reaches out for helpI want the hand of AA to be there,
And for that,

. . . I Am Responsible



THANK YOU

Salt River Intergroup, Inc.			
Balance Sheet			
As of January 31, 2021			
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
	General Fund		25,932.55
	Prudent Reserve Fund		40,033.16
	Total Checking/Savings		65,965.71
	Other Current Assets		25,701.39
	Total Current Assets		91,667.10
	Fixed Assets		15,538.20
TOTAL ASSETS			107,205.30
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
	Funds Balance		107,800.52
	Net Income		-595.22
	Total Equity		107,205.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			107,205.30

Salt River Intergroup, Inc.			
Profit & Loss			
January 2021			
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
	Contributions		6,780.46
	Store Income		5,057.05
	Non Store Income		0.34
	Total Income		11,837.85
	Cost of Goods Sold		3,042.15
	Gross Profit		8,795.70
Expense			
	Ordinary Expenses		3,644.04
	Employee Expenses		5,746.88
	Total Expense		9,390.92
	Net Ordinary Income		-595.22
Net Income			-595.22

Please update your meetings with Central Office. It's important so can we provide current information to the Alcoholic who asks for help!!

Email changes to:
Info@sriphoenix.org or
suspend@aaphoenix.org





First	Last	Sober Date	Years
Al	L.	3/17/1963	58
Gar & Irene	D.	3/9/1964	57
Kate	B.	3/21/1966	55
Horst	N.	3/1/1970	51
Roxanna	C.	3/12/1971	50
Silvia	S.	3/29/1975	46
John	D.	3/1/1975	46
John	P.	3/18/1975	46
Dyan	B.	3/9/1976	45
Jerry	P.	3/1/1976	45
Tony	P.	3/5/1976	45
Donna	R.	3/1/1976	45
Patricia	T.	3/5/1976	45
Larry	R.	3/17/1976	45
Bob	C.	3/1/1977	44
Jack	J.	3/7/1977	44
Dave	S.	3/27/1978	43
Jan	H.	3/1/1979	42
Marcia L.	S.	3/31/1979	42
Bill	A.	3/18/1979	42
Tom	J.	3/23/1979	42
Blair	P.	3/13/1980	41
Caroline	M.	3/31/1980	41
Corrine	Y.	3/15/1981	40
Nancy	B.	3/3/1981	40
Larry	M.	3/30/1981	40

Bob	D.	3/31/1982	39
Jim	R.	3/16/1982	39
Joe	O.	3/26/1982	39
Susan	R.	3/1/1983	38
Kevin	O.	3/2/1983	38
Bill	K.	3/21/1983	38
Don		3/18/1983	38
Theresa	D.	3/31/1983	38
Diane	D.	3/2/1984	37
Linda	A.	3/21/1984	37
Judi	N.	3/18/1984	37
Gypzy	H.	3/12/1984	37
Ilene	K.	3/12/1984	37
Mike	R.	3/28/1984	37
Steve	A.	3/24/1984	37
Mike	B.	3/4/1986	35
David	S.	3/9/1986	35
Robbin	B.	3/10/1986	35
Milton	F.	3/30/1987	34
Sandra	M.	3/15/1987	34
Dean	L.	3/26/1989	32
Dick	B.	3/2/1989	32
Carole	S.	3/15/1990	31
Patrick	M.	3/23/1990	31
Julie	W.	3/9/1991	30
Julie	P.	3/18/1991	30
Tracy	N.	3/17/1992	29

We are currently updating our Old Timers data base. Please email any changes to info@sriphoenix.org. If you have 25+ years and would like to be added please email your sobriety date, address, phone number and email address to info@sriphoenix.org or call Cyndee at Central Office 602-264-1374.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Steering Com- mittee Mgt via Zoom	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Intergroup Mgt @ 7pm via Zoom	10 H&I meeting via Zoom 7pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 PI CPC Mgt via Zoom 7pm	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

