



THE GROUPVINE

January 2004

A Publication of Central Intergroup of the Desert
Serving the Coachella Valley

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert

35-325 Date Palm Dr. Ste.134
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Open 9 am to 8 pm M-F
10am to 2pm Sat & Sun

West Valley (760) 324-4880

East Valley (760) 568-4004

Fax (760) 324-4851

Web Site: www.AAintheDesert.org

You can now e-mail the
manager of central office
at

manager@AAinthesdesert.org

Intergroup Meeting
1st Thursday at 7 PM

Board of Directors Meeting
4th Thursday at 6 PM

General Service District 9
1st Sunday at 6:30 PM

Fellowship Hall
45-940 Portola Ave.
Palm Desert

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3684
Palm Desert, CA
92261-3684

Hospitals & Institutions Last Wed. at 6:30 pm

Eisenhower Hospital
39-000 Bob Hope Dr.
Rancho Mirage

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 1843
Palm Desert, CA 92261

Other Addresses:
Mid Southern Calif. Area (MSCA)
P. O. Box 51446
Irvine, CA 92619-1446

The General Service Office
P. O. Box 459
Grand Central Station, NY 10163

What Happened, What It's Like Now Or..... To Set Matters Straight

Stan G.

To All AA members in District Nine,

Recently a bill board was placed on Dinah Shore Drive just east of the bridge, on the south side of the street, in Cathedral City. This billboard was designed and paid for by GSO District 9. It is attractive, informative, and contains the phone number for our Central Office. It originally contained our Website, WWW.aainthedesert.org. The Board of Directors of Central Intergroup thought that using the Website, might be construed as advertising or promotional, since it contains "AA".

We contacted New York, and received no definitive answer on this question. It was then decided by the Board to leave this question up to Intergroup. At the Intergroup meeting of November 6, 2003 a presentation was made by GSO. A discussion followed, for both sides. A motion was made and seconded to specifically exclude the use of the Website address on the billboard. A vote was taken from the Intergroup Representatives in attendance. The vote was 16 yeas, and 1 nay, motion carried.

This is not the normal process of Intergroup. The normal process would be for the question to come up at one monthly meeting, the issue taken back to the groups by the representatives to be discussed and direction given, and a vote by the representatives taken at the next monthly meeting.

Because of the short notice we had on this question, we had to do it this way. GSO wanted the billboard to be in place for the holidays. Eighteen days after the Intergroup vote the billboard appeared with the Website address. We at Central Office complained vigorously to GSO because of the group conscience taken by the Intergroup representatives. GSO complied with our request and removed the Website.

This is an example of AA in action and of the cooperation between service arms of it. If your meeting does not have an Intergroup representative or GSR, why not? That means you have no representation, no say so, on anything outside of your meeting, neither local, district, regional, or AA as a whole. If you want to be a part, do your part, be a representative for your group, or insist there be one. Offer your experience, strength, and hope. We'll Listen.



December 2003 BIRTHDAYS

(They've Kept Coming Back)



Malinda	1 Yr.	Birda C.	4 Yrs.	Paulette	26 Yrs.
Geoff M.	1 Yr.	Alexa I.	5 Yrs.	Una Y.	29 Yrs.
Nancy M.	1 Yr.	David M.	10 Yrs.	Vera B.	33 Yrs.
Peter L.	2 Yrs.	Debi M.	11 Yrs.	Tom S.	38 Yrs.
Diana	3 Yrs.	Tommy A.	11 Yrs.	Jean H.	45 Yrs.
Andy	4 Yrs.	Joannie	21 Yrs.		

Many A.A. members across the country are currently sharing their Anniversary Celebration with others by giving a dollar or two for each year of their sobriety to Central Office. This insures that the same help they received will be available to others. Start this year and make it an annual event. Individuals may give up to \$2,000 to A.A. in any one calendar year. It's not how much you give that's important. It's thinking of others on your AA anniversary

that makes it special. Some of us also make a birthday contribution for our friends, or our sponsor. If you would like to see your A.A. birthday in the GROUPVINE, just call us.

Coachella Valley Central Office: 760.324.4880

30th Annual
**MAAD DOG
DAZE
2004**

Come Get Involved,
Be of Service, Have Fun
A Service Commitment

**FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING
BE A PART OF THE MAAD-
NESS**

**ABC Club
February 8, 2004**



**ST PATRICK'S
DAY DINNER**

**INITIAL
PLANNING
MEETING**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE
January 8, 2004, 8:00 PM**

Initial Planning Meeting
at Central Office
35-325 Date Palm
Suite 134
Cathedral City, Ca
Tel: 760.324-4880

For More Information-
Call FRAN G
760.288.4797

Pikes Peak: A Room With A View

We meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings on the fifth floor of St. Francis Hospital in downtown Colorado Springs. It's the Sunday Morning Speaker's Meeting.

As in other groups, you will find the regulars, the core members of the group you can count on seeing every Sunday. And, of course, you will also find the newcomer, the man in his first thirty days of sobriety, or the woman attending our meeting for the first time. The new faces mixing with the familiar keep the meeting fresh, a welcome change in the voices and stories that reflect our experience, strength, and hope.

However, there is one thing at this meeting that people do not see in many other groups: a view. Perched on the top floor of the hospital, the meeting room has two walls of floor-to-ceiling windows, looking out to the north over Colorado Springs and, in a picture-postcard panorama, west to the mountains. Looming behind the speaker each Sunday morning is Pikes Peak and the other mountains of the Rampart Range.

To get a full sense of the view, you definitely have to "keep comin' back." The view changes throughout the year. In the summer, the dark green of the pines on the foothills, the blue sky framing the mountains, and the simple skyline of Colorado Springs all provide a beautiful backdrop for our speaker. The summit of Pikes Peak is a radiant pink due to the granite that rises above the timberline.

But if you continue to attend the meeting, summer soon turns into fall. Slowly, the leaves on the trees around the city change to yellow and gold, while the groves of aspen trees along the foothills turn to gold among the green pines.

Then winter arrives. Sometimes its arrival is sudden, with a snowfall heralding the new season. Sometimes the change is gradual: temperatures drop; the skies over Pikes Peak turn grey; the snow just seems to evolve, until the summit is covered and the speaker sits before a winter scene.

Not too long after that, the weather starts to warm. The snow begins to fade from the summit, and the trees around town begin to bud.

As we progress through the year and through our sobriety, the view confirms one thing: change is inevitable. Early in sobriety, I heard someone say, "If you don't grow, you go"; our room with a view reminds me that to grow is to change. Change happens - sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly - all around us and to us. Change can be, and usually is, difficult, challenging, frightening, and exciting all at the same time, and it doesn't matter if the change is planned or sprung on us. But change is also natural, and the Sunday morning meeting gives us a clear view of that, too. When those newcomers come in and stick around for a while, we get to watch them change as well. A life of despair changes to a life of faith and hope. And, although we don't talk about it as much, it is a pleasure to watch changes and growth in some of the old-timers.

Their changes may not be as obvious as those that happen in early sobriety, but they happen. They are subtle, like the change from summer to fall. And we get to be a part of it, every Sunday morning.

Vincent P., Colorado Springs (reprinted w/permission of the Grapevine)

Desert Migration: Roadrunners Meeting on the Move

The Roadrunners group formerly of La Quinta has moved to a new meeting location at Southwest Community Church in Indian Wells. The group's Monday night topic-oriented discussion meeting still commences at the regular time of 7:30 P.M. and lasts until 8:45. Chips are still given and birthdays always celebrated with cakes. Many of the familiar faces of regular attendees are still there to be seen, but are now combined with a growing mix of new faces. For anyone wondering what had happened to the meeting that used to be at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in La Quinta or just simply looking for a solid Monday night meeting please proceed to our new meeting place located near the corner of Fred Waring Dr. and Washington Street. There will be signs with directions to the meeting room posted at the door making it easy for you to find. We invite you to join us.

The Roadrunner group, formerly the La Quinta Roadrunners held the very first regular A.A. meeting in La Quinta and originally met in the home of one of our members. It was there that many new recruits from recovery homes attended their very first outside meeting. Newcomers have always been warmly welcomed. One of the unique aspects of this first location was that during Fall and Winter meetings an unusually high number of people got up to head to the bathroom. The reason? There was a television left on in the back room and members would soon come back with the latest score of the Monday Night Football Game!

The meeting then moved to a location upstairs in a historic old desert building across from and South of the La Quinta Community Park. It was there that the group was informed that we would be very welcome to move to the brand new Catholic Church which was then just finishing construction. Unfortunately over the years our long, happy association with them has drawn to an end since the church has now grown to such a point that it needs all the meeting rooms for its own parishioners. Providentially and coincidentally as so often happens in our beloved Fellowship, Southwest Community Church had just thrown open their doors in a big way to welcome A.A. meetings. The Roadrunners look forward to having many wonderful meetings there and hope that you join us to share, listen and grow.

NEW MEETINGS & MEETING CHANGES

Primary Purpose La Quinta

[Location Change]

Saturday 8:00 AM Discussion
Francis Hack Park
77-865 Avenida Montezuma, La Quinta

Roadrunners [Location Change]

Monday 7:30 PM Discussion
Southwest Community Church
77701 Fred Warring Dr, Indian Wells

Cathedral City [Discontinued]

Wednesday 7:00 PM Presbyterian Church
38088 Chuperosa, Cancelled.

Daily Reprieve [Name Change]

Formerly Earlybird Sunrise Celebrators
Monday Through Saturday at 5:30 AM
Fellowship Hall, Palm Desert

Kis - Desert Hot Springs [Discontinued]

8:00 AM Wed. & Thurs.
Meetings Discontinued

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Central Office Activity

December, 2003

Meeting Info	423
12 Step Calls	16
Visitors	128
Lit. Sales	105
Al-Anon	13
Other 12 Step	23
Misc. / NA	118
Business	153
Answering Service	
12 Step	8
Meetings Info	53
Other	3
TOTAL	1,043

**Thanks to all who are of service. It
makes a difference.**

VOLUNTEERS – Central Office

Thanks for your service in September

Allan S.	Dick P.	Randy H.
Bill L.	Don P.	Ron D.
Brenda F.	Jim D.	Ron N.
Brian J.	Lisa E.	Sari H.
Bob Burns	Leslie H.	Steve P.
Bob Boyle	Nancy E.	Therese
Chuck M.	Paul A.	Tom C.
Cindy G.	Peggy M.	
Dallas E.	Phillip F.	

**Guidelines
for Publication of Articles**

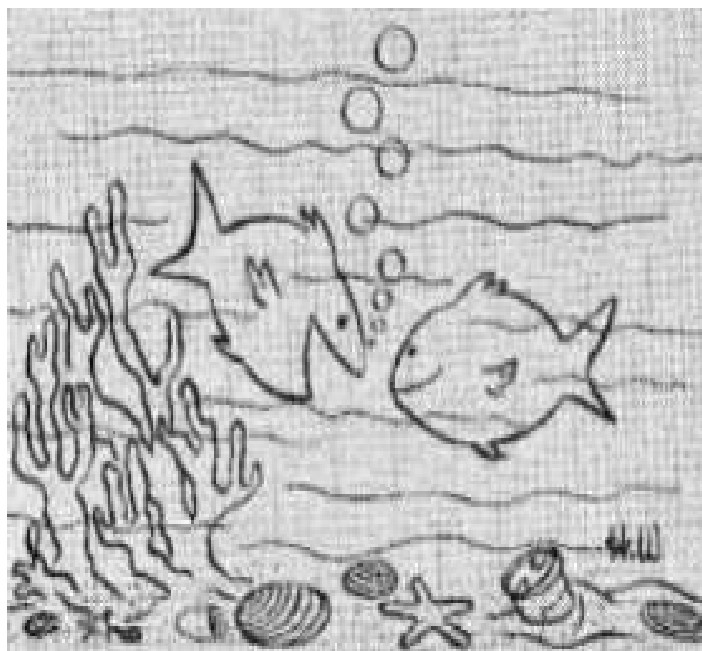
Articles must be received by the 15th of the month for
consideration of publication in the
following month's issue.

Please submit your material for the GroupVine to:

Central Intergroup Office of the Desert

35-325 Date Palm Drive, Suite 134, Cathedral City, CA
92234

Or email to: gveditor@aainthedesert.org



**"My sponsor told me to live in the solution, not
the problem."**