
LIFELINE



Salt Lake City
Central Office
Newsletter

February 2007

Dr. Jack Norris was a chairman and trustee of A.A. for 27 years.

Dr. Jack Norris' talk at Memorial Services for Bill Wilson on Feb.14th, 1971

Our beloved Bill is dead. Even as I stand before you and say the words, I cannot really believe that it is true. In my heart I choose to believe that Bill is here with us at this very moment. And I somehow can almost hear him saying in that half-amused, half-embarrassed way of his, "Oh come on now Jack, do you really think all this fuss is necessary?"

Two weeks ago, at a meeting of your Board of Trustees, shortly after Bill's passing, there was a rather lively discussion about a matter involving the whole fellowship. When it had reached a certain level of intensity, I found myself waiting to hear Bill speak up, as he so often did and say those few words that would put everything in perspective. But he didn't speak. And it was then that I realized way down deep that we would never hear his voice again . . . that we could no longer count on the constant presence of his wisdom and strength. We could never again say, as we had so many times before, "Bill, what do you think?" And I at least, have not yet come to accept this completely.

Bill was no saint. He was an alcoholic and a man of stubborn will and purpose. How else could he have lived through the years of frustration, failure, and discouragement while the steps, the traditions, and the conferences were being hammered out on the anvil of hard experience with the first few groups? That he had the self-honesty, the clarity of vision to see the vital necessity for the Third Step, and turning one's life and will over to a Higher Power is just one part of our great good fortune that Bill lived. I have seen Bill's pride and I have seen his humility. And I have been present when people from far countries have met him for the first time and started to cry. And all Bill — that shy Vermonter — could do was stand there and look like he wanted to run from the room. No, Bill was no saint, although many of us wanted to make him into one. Knowing this, he was insistent that legends about him be kept to a minimum — that accurate records be kept so that future generations would know him as a man. He was a very human person — to me an exceptionally human person.

Bill's constant concern during almost all of the years that I knew him was that Alcoholics Anonymous should always be available for the suffering alcoholic--that the mistakes that led to the fading of previous movements to help alcoholics should be avoided. To me one measure of his greatness is the clarity of vision of the future in his determination to let go of us long before we were willing to let go of him.

Bill was a good sponsor,- the wise old timer determined to relinquish the role of founder because he knew that A.A. must, as he would say, come of age and take complete responsibility for itself. He had an abiding faith that our Fellowship not only could, but should run without him. Repeatedly, during the last few years, he has said in General Service Conference sessions "We have nothing to fear." Bill believed that the wisdom of A.A. came out of church basements and not from the pulpit; that it was directed from the groups to the Trustees rather than the other way around. He sometimes felt, when the Conference disagreed with him as it sometimes did, that its conscience needed to be better informed, but it was this way that we really shared experience and developed strength and confidence that the answers would work out.

Continued on page 5

**CENTRAL OFFICE
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Central Office is to provide the basic services listed, to include, but not limited to:

- To carry the A.A. message and help those individuals who suffer from alcoholism;
- to maintain a 24-hour Twelve-Step phone service;
- to answer phone inquiries as needed;
- to compile, update and print meeting lists;
- to maintain A.A.-approved literature for sale to members and the public;
- and to print and distribute a newsletter.

Specifically excluded shall be the operation of any club, clubhouse or drying-out place, and acts in violation of the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

**Suiting up and Showing Up
Groups Represented At the
Central Office Reps Meeting for:**

January 2007

SIMPLYBIG	NEWLIFE
HILLCREST	LIVINGINSOBRIETY
CITYATSEVEN	WENDOVERGROUP
CAMETOBELIEVE	APPLYINGTHEPRINCIPLES
ACCEPTANCEGROUP	WELCOMEHOME
COMEASYOUARE	SUGARHOUSEMEN'S
TOOELEBEGINNERS	EARLYFRIENDSHIP
HAPPYDESTINY	MIDVALELUNCH
HAPPYGROUP	SPIRITUALQUEST
VISIONFORYOU	YOUNGANDALIVE
10 th STEPGROUP	GRAPEVINE
WEDS.FIRESIDECHAT	ONESMALLSTEP
ANAAGROUP	BYP
NONONSENSE	BOGIRISH
BOUNTIFULCOMMUNITY	MAGNAFRIENDLYBUNCH
MURRAYGROUP	974GROUP
SERENITYVIEW	IT'SINTHEBOOK
HAPPYHOUR	SHARINGANDCARING
OFFTHECUFF	UNITYLUNCH
OLDFASHIONAA	HOLLADAYGROUP
BIGUGLIES	

Is Your Group Represented?

The next C.O. Reps Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at Central Office
80 West Louise Ave. - (2860 So.)
Salt Lake City, UT - 84115

"Let us never be a closed corporation; let us never deny our experience, for whatever it may be worth, to the world around us. Let our individual members heed the call to every field of human endeavor. Let them carry the experience and spirit of A.A. into all these affairs, for whatever good they may accomplish. For not only has God saved us from alcoholism; the world has recieved us back into its citizenship."

A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 232-233

LIFELINE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

We welcome your correspondence and will publish your material, space permitting, if it meets editorial criteria. *Share your experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic.* For a free subscription or to submit articles, suggestions or contributions, contact Central Office of Salt Lake City:

CENTRAL OFFICE OF SALT LAKE CITY, INC.

80 West Louise Ave. (2860 So.)

Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

Central Office Board of Trustees(2006)

Chair	Jim G.
Co Chair	Ron L.
Secretary	Suzanne B.
Treasurer	Dave T.
Trustee at Large	Laurie C.
Trustee at Large	Joe M.

Central Office Staff & Volunteers

Central Office Manager	Ron K.
Employees	Sandy A.
	Jonnie S.
Lifeline Editors	Paul and Martia S.
Schedules	Marcia
Telephone Coordinator	Camille D.

To reduce our costs, Central Office would like to update our mailing list for the **LIFELINE**. If you have moved please contact C.O. at 484-7871
Thank you.

Please visit our website for meeting information.

www.saltlakeaa.org

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

**THESE ARE AA MEETINGS HELD IN
TREATMENT CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE
SALT LAKE VALLEY.**

THEY REALLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

VOA WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S CENTER; 697 W.

4170 S., Friday @ 7:00 pm.

HIGHLAND RIDGE; 175 W. 7200 S. Mon. @ 8:30

pm and Thurs. @ 8:45pm.

HIGHLANDERS; 8072 Highland Dr, Wed. @ 8:00

pm.

WHIPPER SNAPPERS; 5770 S. 1500 W., bldg. D,

Fri @ 5:30 pm.(Adolescents)

WOMEN'S BIG BOOK MEETING; 175 W. 7200 S.,

Mon. @ 7:00 pm.

ONE SMALL STEP; 5770 S. 1500 W., bldg. D,

Mon. @ 8:00 pm.

Upcoming Events

February 9th — 11th; **56TH GREELEY A.A. STAMPEDE 2007**,
Best Western Regency Hotel, Greeley, CO.

Contacts: Shelli R. @ 970.405.1904 or Mike R. @
970.356.9489

February 17th; **AREA 69 COMMITTEE MEETING**, Alano Club,
Roosevelt, UT.

Contacts: Nadine N. @ 435.724.4209 or the Alano Club @
435.722.2595

February 23rd — 25th; **10TH ANNIVERSARY DIXIE WINTERFEST**,
St George, UT.

Info: www.dixiewinterfest.org or Mike @ 435.229.6572

May 4th—6th; Seventh Annual Fellowship of the Spirit West
Conference,

Big Bear Lake, CA

register online @ www.fotswest.com. or call 301.379. 9456

May 25th—27th; **U.C.Y.P.A.A. UTAH VALLEY 2007**, Court-
yard Marriott, Provo, UT

Marriott's address and phone number are:

1600 N. Freedom Blvd.[200 West]; landline @ 801.373.2222

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES TO THE JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH SCHEDULE

The **Nomadic Lunch** group has moved back to the bowling alley at 2500 S. Main, Monday through
Friday @ 12:00 pm. This is an open meeting that got too cold in the park at 3800 S Main.

Sunlight of the Spirit, a group that met at 1999 W 5580 S., on Thursdays at 7:00pm, is now a
rotating location. Please feel free to contact Steve V. @ 661.5631 for info.

A new meeting, **Study the Steps**, is being held at 8074 S.1300 E. on Thursdays at 7:00pm.

This is an open meeting.

Recovery At Noon, another new meeting is being held in the back room of the Greek Market & Deli at
3205 S. State Street. It's an open meeting on Wednesdays at noon.

There's a correction about **A Way of Life**, listed as being held at 1560 E Vine Street. It's in the Cotton-
wood Presbyterian Church [side door] near that address. Call Jerry @ 493.4256 for info.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIRTHDAYS!



Improve the quality of your sobriety and get out of yourself! Central Office needs volunteers for service work. We need people for 12-Step calls, stuffing envelopes, answering the telephone, et cetera. If you are interested contact Central Office at 484-7871.



Dr. Jack Ritter . . . from page one.

And I know that this is possible. Bill has trained us for it beginning in St. Louis in 1955. For this was Bill's vision--to create a channel of communication within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that would make it possible for everyone to be here: from the individual through the group, to the delegates and to the Trustees, so that A.A. will always be here to extend a hand to the drunk who is at this very moment crying in the darkness of his night as he reaches out for help.

In closing, I want to say that it has been an honor for me to have had this opportunity to participate in giving thanks to God that Bill lived and was given the wisdom and strength and courage to make the world a better place for all of us. There are many more things I could say, but what can one say finally of a man's goodness and greatness? I cannot do it or say it for any of you--only for myself. He was the greatest and wisest man I ever knew. Above everything, he was a man. And I believe he left his goodness and greatness and wisdom and strength with us, for any of us to use in what measure we can. May God grant us the wisdom and strength to keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive, attractive, unencumbered by the egocentricities that can so easily spoil it.

via the Internet
Thanks for the contribution!

Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members, both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

We have no desire to convince anyone that there is only one way by which faith can be acquired. All of us, whatever our race, creed, or color, are children of a living Creator, with whom we may form a relationship upon simple and understanding terms as soon as we are willing and honest enough to try.

As Bill Sees It,
pages 316 and 175,
respectively

A sober father was raising his young son with the help of AA slogans and sayings.
If the boy was angry or agitated, his dad would say, "Easy Does It."
If the boy was sad or unhappy, his father would counsel, "Let Go and Let God."
This plan backfired one day when the boy asked to go to a toy store.

"Absolutely not!" said the father.

"Aw, c'mon Dad," said the boy. "Bring the body and the mind will follow."

Doug R., New York, New York
AA Grapevine, June 2004

Getting to Close to a Drunk

Would you believe it? Some drunk had the nerve to come to our A.A. meeting—yes, a real brown-baggin’ -whiskey-smelling drunk. I was surprised, shocked, and a little uneasy when he slipped into the chair next to me and placed his bag full of empties on the floor. Why this bothered me, I don’t know. We’re in the inner city and people show up drunk sometimes. What was I afraid of? Was this guy too drunk? ‘Too drunk.’ That was my denial telling me I was better than he was.

I was chairing that night and had picked the topic for discussion. “There but for the Grace of God.” But when the time came to announce it, I hesitated and blurted out “acceptance.”

My drunken friend listened quietly to the various stories and dialogues. Occasionally he would mumble something and people would react almost defiantly and look at him scoldingly to be quiet.

Being the chairperson, I was uncomfortable with what was happening. Should I tell the drunk to be quiet or have him removed? Why did this happen on my night, but didn’t he have a right to be here? Why wouldn’t he just be quiet?

Suddenly he stood up, waited for a break in the discussion, and asked if he could speak. His story unfolded, not much different from what I expected. He had just lost a good job, lost his family, been in and out of hospitals, and so forth. After this litany of despair, he looked out at the group as if to put himself up for an example and said. “Most of you young people don’t think this will ever happen to you. You think it’s funny that an old drunk like me can’t get sober. Well, just remember me when you hear, “There but for the Grace of God.”

He turned to me, sat down and remained solemn for the rest of the meeting. When I held his hand during the Lord’s Prayer, it was trembling— a sensation I remember all too well.

I think back on that and what a powerful message that drunk brought. Never have I been so close—sober— to another drunk. Never have I been so humbled.

Peter E, N.Y., reprinted from the Grapevine

“The most heated bit of letter-writing can be a wonderful safety valve—providing the wastebasket is somewhere nearby.

As Bill Sees It, pg 39

Rule 69
THIS PAGE IS
TEMPORARILY
OUT
OF
SERVICE
PLEASE CONTACT
CENTRAL OFFICE

