

LIFELINE

Salt Lake City Central Office Newsletter

June 2012

Step Six: An Enormous Opportunity

When I finished my first Step Five, I was eager to continue. After all I was nine months sober, and ready to work my way through Step Twelve and get the step process behind me. I asked my sponsor what I should be doing, and he reminded me with his slow Mississippi drawl to read Steps One through Five again to be sure I had done them to the best of my ability. After confirming that I thought I had, I asked him what I needed to do with Step Six. At this point I was reminded that at the end of the essay on Step Five in the Twelve and Twelve, it suggested that this *"brings us to a resting place"*.

If you are reading this you probably know that there's more to that sentence, but that's all I heard, so I proceeded to get comfortable in my mental "resting place".

Several months later I found myself becoming antsy, so I approached Bob and asked what I needed to do to move forward to and through Step Six. Like almost everything else I had imagined that early in the program, it was not what I thought it was.

First, he pointed out that in both the Big Book and the 12 and 12 the word "willingness" was used in the very beginning of the written discourses, and that willingness was the principle behind Step Six. Then he reminded me that I had uncovered some character "defects" when I wrote my Fourth and shared my Fifth. He further reminded me that I'd made a decision to have faith in Step Three, and I was going to have to lean on that faith again in this step.

Now I know that I've heard no truer words, for this step was going to ask me not only to *"aim for perfection"*, but as I was to read later in the steps, that *"nothing but persistent effort on this (and all the) step(s) would bring about the desired results"*. So my first lesson was that this step was not going to be a slam-dunk that I had thought it was going to be. After all, I didn't remember hearing much discussion on this step in the rooms.

So in order for me to "aim for perfection", I had to have some sort of vision or idea of what that meant to me. That

sounds simple enough, but it's really asking me to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up, and I had a lot of growing up to do. I had to determine who and what that person was. As importantly, I had to figure out what I was as a person. Hopefully those two characters would intersect, and they did. I found my answers in all the principles behind the steps, as well as in the Prayer of St Francis, found in the Eleventh Step essay in the 12 and 12.

I have come to realize how enormous an opportunity Step Six was (and is) for me. As much as abstinence changed my life, this is the step where I get to choose the values for my life, and what the man I want to be looks like and how he acts, and with that vision in my mind, and the rest of the Steps as tools, my value goals seem within my reach. I'm not the complicated person I once thought I was, I'm just a man who takes great joy in doing the next right thing and helping others if I can.

~ The New Yorker Group
48 W Market St , Salt Lake City
Fridays 6:40am

In this Issue

Step 6 : An Enormous Opportunity	Page 1
Board Members/Committee Chairs	Page 2
Groups Represented at May CO meeting.....	Page 2
7th Tradition addresses	Page 2
Birthdays/Group news	Page 3
From the Chair	Page 3
Tradition 6	Page 4
Concept VI	Page 5
A Long Way from Home.....	Page 6
Phone Coverage.....	Page 6
Your Central Office Committee updates	Page 7
June Recovery Word Search.....	Page 8
Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity	Page 8
Calendar of Events.....	Page 9
Financial Summary & Group Contributions	Page 10
Small World ~ Big Book.....	Page 11

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.* To submit articles, suggestions or contributions, contact Central Office of Salt Lake City:

Central Office of Salt Lake City, Inc.
80 West Louise Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
lifeline@saltlakeaa.org

Central Office Board of Trustees

board@saltlakeaa.org

Chair	Nick R.
Co-Chair	Christy R.
Secretary	Kent S.
Treasurer	Adam U.
Trustee at Large	Alan L.
Trustee at Large	Kimmi S.
Trustee at Large	Jeremy C.
Alternate Trustee at Large	Rich W.

Central Office Standing Committees

Activities (activities@saltlakeaa.org)	Shar C.
Archives (archives@saltlakeaa.org)	Meg G.
Bylaws (bylaws@saltlakeaa.org)	Linda B.
Hotline Telephone (hotline@saltlakeaa.org)	Tim H.
Literature (literature@saltlakeaa.org)	Betsy M.
Newsletter (lifeline@saltlakeaa.org)	Doug R.
Outreach (outreach@saltlakeaa.org)	Wendy W.
Twelfth Step (12step@saltlakeaa.org)	Carl C.
Volunteer (volunteer@saltlakeaa.org)	Betty H.
Website (webservant@saltlakeaa.org)	Jonathan H.

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 list;
- 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.

Groups Represented at the May 2012 Central Office Representatives Meeting

10th Step Group	Living in Sobriety
A Vision for You	Midvale Lunch Bunch
A Way Out	Murray Group
An AA Group	Murray Holaday
Bountiful Men's	Nomatic Lunch Bunch
Came to Believe	Nutbuckets
Dog on the Roof	Off the Cuff
Early Friendship	PC Women's Reflection
Fall out Shelter	Primary Purpose
Garden Variety	Salt Lake Group
Grapevine	The Big Ugles
Happy Destiny	Thunderheart
Happy Group	Thur Round Table
Hot Topic	Tooele Beginners

7th Tradition Contribution Addresses

AA World Services

Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

<https://ctb.aaws.org/Login.aspx>

Central Office of Salt Lake City

80 West Louise Ave.

Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Area 69 Treasurer

PO Box 1422

Salt Lake City, UT 84110

<http://utahaa.org/contributions.php>

District 10 Treasurer

PO Box 57271

Murray, UT 84157

District 2 Treasurer

PO Box 615

Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Congrats to our Birthdays!

It works — it really does!

Came to Believe

Craig B.	30 Days
Rob V.	90 Days
Colleen V.	90 Days
Cory M.	90 Days
Calamity Kim	4 Years

Fresh Air Serenity Seekers

Tiffany	30 Days
Dallin	30 Days
Teresa	30 Days
Ashley	30 Days
Brandan	30 Days
Mandi	60 Days
Karen	60 Days
Todd	90 Days
Greg	6 Months

Brooklyn	9 Months
Beau	1 Year
Kimberly	18 Months
Velanie	3 Years
John	9 Years
Al C.	22 Years
Colleen	24 Years

CO Reps and GSR Please Note: The Salt Lake Central Office Board decided to allow any A.A. Group to print their A.A. related material at the Salt Lake Central Office. They ask a donation of 2 cents per copy or 3 cents for double sided. Please let your groups know that this is another service your Central Office can provide.

Salt Lake Central office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM - 4:00PM

From: The Chair in the Corner

What happened, where did the time go? In just a couple of days I will hopefully be attending Graduation Ceremony for my two sons. Nicholas graduates from Jordan High School and Christopher will graduate from Brighton High School. That means a couple of things right away. There will be much more noise around the house during the day and the refrigerator will run on empty more often.

On June 10, 2012 come join us for our first ever Central Office Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. Let's thank our great volunteers for all their help and dedication. The cost of admission will be a pot luck dish, drinks or a desert. Brats will be provided by Central Office. Show your support for these great giving members or better yet become one yourself.

June 16 will be the date of our next All Groups Meeting at Central Office. It all starts at 6 pm with pot luck dinner. At 7 pm the Basic Young People's will hold a panel discussion meeting with participation from those in attendance. The

food is always good, the meeting is better and the fellowship is phenomenal.

It also means that once again it's time for Founders month and Summer Kickoff Party. We will be having a yard sale so let's all start looking for the good stuff that we do not need or want anymore and start bringing it to central office so we can pass it on June 24, from 11am-5pm at Germania Park in Murray 5243 South Murray Parkway Ave. (1070 West). A good rule of thumb is if you haven't used it for a year you probably don't need it. If you haven't used it for two or more years you definitely don't need it and if you cannot get your car in your garage then a lot of it needs to go. Once again we will have games, 3 on 3 basketball, and volleyball, kids activities, FOOD, and opportunity drawings for great prizes. A speakers meeting will begin at 3:30. Lunch cost will be \$5.00. Come hungry, bring your stuff for the yard sale and get a team together. If you would like to help call Kimmi S. 801-231-1232,

From: The Chair, *continued*

Shar 801-400-8109, or Joel 801-577-6346. For pickup of large items call me Nick 801-664-1206.

Have you been to Central Office lately? If not you should come down and see what is going on. If you haven't been here for over 6 months you should be pleasantly surprised by what you find. Our volunteers are having a great time. Speaking of time if you have a couple of hours during the week please consider sharing it with our community by volunteering at Central Office. Openings are always available. It's almost like a meeting except we don't have a chairman. However we always have good coffee. Give it a shot, you might find it really to your liking.

Lastly I would like to welcome Karen our new Bookkeeper to Salt Lake AA Central Office. Karen will be a great addition to Central Office and everyone on the board is looking forward to working with her. Stop in and say hi. Karen just moved here from the CA area I believe, so she is new to Salt Lake as well.

Remember it's not my Central Office, it's our Central Office. Help us all take care of it.

Your Humble Servant,

Nick R.,
Chairman of the Board



Tradition 6

"An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Editorial by Bill W.
A.A. Grapevine, May 1948

The sixth of our 12 Points of A.A. Tradition is deemed so important that it states at length the relation of the A.A. movement to money and property.

Too detailed to print here, this Tradition declares in substance that the accumulation of money, property and the unwanted personal authority so often generated by material wealth comprise a cluster of serious hazards against which an A.A. group must ever be on guard.

Tradition 6 also enjoins the group never to go into business nor ever to lend the A.A. name or money credit to any "outside" enterprise, no matter how good. Strongly expressed is the opinion that even clubs should not bear the A.A. name; that they ought to be separately incorporated and managed by those individual A.A.s who need or want clubs enough to financially support them.

We would thus divide the spiritual from the material, confine the A.A. movement to its sole aim and insure (however wealthy as individuals we may become) that A.A. itself shall always remain poor. We dare not risk the distractions of corporate wealth. Years of experience have proven these principles beyond doubt. They have become certainties, absolute verities for us.

Thank God, we A.A.s have never yet been caught in the kind of religious or political disputes which embroil the world of today. But

we ought to face the fact that we have often quarreled violently about money, property and the administration thereof. Money, in quantity, has always been a baleful influence in group life. Let a well meaning donor present an A.A. group with a sizeable sum and we break loose. Nor does trouble abate until that group, as such, somehow disposes of its bank roll. This experience is practically universal. "But," say our friends, "isn't this a confession of weakness? Other organizations do a lot of good with money. Why not A.A.?"

Of course, we of A.A. would be the first to say that many a fine enterprise does a lot of good with a lot of money. To these efforts, money is usually primary; it is their life blood. But money is *not* the life blood of A.A. With us, it is very secondary. Even in small quantities, it is scarcely more than a necessary nuisance, something we wish we could do without entirely. Why is that so?

We explain this easily enough; we don't need money. The core of our A.A. procedure is "one alcoholic talking to another," whether that be sitting on a curbstone, in a home, or at a meeting. It's the message, not the place; it's the talk, not the alms. That does our work. Just places to meet and talk, that's about all A.A. needs. Beyond these, a few small offices, a few secretaries at their desks, a few dollars a piece a year, easily met by voluntary contributions. Trivial indeed, *our* expenses!

Nowadays, the A.A. group answers its well wishers saying, "Our expenses are trifling. As good earners, we can easily pay them. As we neither need nor want money, why risk its hazards? We'd rather stay poor. Thanks just the same!"

Bill W.
Reprinted with permission The A.A. Grapevine, May, 1948

Concept VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principle responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The 6th Concept says that the General Service Conference has the authority and the responsibility for making decisions regarding matters affecting A.A. as a whole, but that they usually delegate to the General Service Board of Trustees the actual work of carrying out the directives of the Conference and the day to day operation of our world services. In doing this work the Trustees are given a great deal of authority.

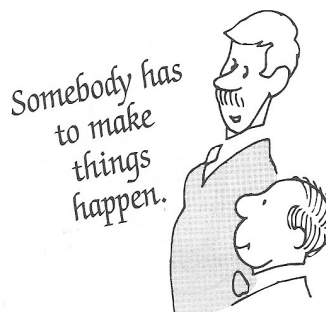
Why should our Trustees be given this wide latitude of judgment and action? The answer is that we AA's are holding them mainly responsible for all our service activities, including operation of the General Service Office, our book and literature publishing operation and the A.A. Grapevine, as well as the responsibility for investing our prudent reserve. In addition, they are responsible to a large extent for A.A.'s world-wide public relations.

While the Trustees always operate under close observation, guidance, and sometimes the direction of the Conference, they are given a very large amount of responsibility. They must, therefore, be granted a large amount of authority and leadership with which to discharge that responsibility.

So, who are these Trustees we have trusted with such authority? They fall into two categories: Seven are Class A Trustees and fourteen are Class B Trustees. To help people who are new to the service structure of AA to understand the two classifications members

of the service structure have sometimes referred to the trustees as Class A – Amateurs and Class B – Boozers. In other words Class A Trustees are non-alcoholics who volunteer to serve on our Board and Class B Trustees are recovering Alcoholics.

Class A Trustees, according to the Service Manual, "shall be persons who are not and have not been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and who express a profound faith in the recovery program upon which the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded".



Somebody has to make things happen.

These trustees are generally recommended to the Board as persons who have been friends of A.A. through cooperation with our fellowship. They include

members of professions such as medicine, law, clergy, finance, or any other field which may from time to time have occasion to work with alcoholics, and whose personal and/or professional expertise and dedication can be invaluable to our fellowship.

Class B Trustees are sober AA members who have been nominated through our General Service areas and usually are members who have been deeply involved in AA service. At the present time one of our Class B Trustees, Rod B., was nominated by the Utah Area.

All of these nominees, Class A and Class B, must be approved by the General Service Conference, and sign an agreement agreeing to be bound by the bylaws of the General Service Board. All of our trustees serve for a very limited term and are then replaced by new Trustees chosen by the same method. And all Trustees serve as volunteers. None of them is paid for the services they provide. Each serves as a 'labor of love' for Alcoholics Anonymous.

To all who serve, or have served, in this capacity we of Alcoholics Anonymous owe a great debt of gratitude.

Mickey H.
Past Delegate, Panel 49

*The LIFELINE archive is available at
saltlakeaa.org/lifeline-archive*

A Long Way Home

The first time I admitted to another human being, and probably to myself, that I was an alcoholic was to my then husband. We were at one of his friend's wedding and I had to stay in the car because I was so drunk and was having a meltdown. A couple of weeks before, I had spent five nights in jail after being arrested for a DUI. Our nine month old little girl was in the car with me when that happened. I don't remember much of that conversation in the car but I do remember finally bursting out between all the tears "I'm a drunk" and feeling a great sense of relief. That was the very beginning of a long struggle with recovery.

I had heard of AA but didn't know anything about it. So I looked it up on the internet but the words God and Higher Power scared me and even pissed me off. Instead, I chose to go to an outpatient program. Ironically, one of the first things I found out is that we were required to attend at least one AA meeting a week!

I completed the 32 week program and kept going to my AA meetings. I had come to actually like my 6:30 am meeting with who I used to call "the grumpy old men". But I was still a stubborn atheist and refused to work the program. I had been an elite athlete my whole life and had plenty of discipline and will power to stay sober. You can imagine how well that worked out! The next 5 years would be filled with periods of sobriety, periods of heavy drinking and lots and lots of lies. I hurt and deceived many people during those years, and created a lot of wreckage.

After the birth of my twins, I was back on the bottle and heading towards a complete state of self-destruction. I separated from my husband and the kids went to stay with their grandparents in a different state. I was devastated and I literally drowned my sorrows. I became a complete slave to alco-

hol and it was going to take me to some very dark places, places I would have never imagined I'd go. Alcohol took all my judgment away and led me to a bad relationship, to drugs, prostitution, troubles with the law, the loss of my kids and everything else that I had, including my dignity and self-respect. That's when I came crawling back to the rooms of AA, alone, scared and oh so paranoid! But something had changed in me and I was now certain that there was a Higher Power, a God, and that although He was definitively showing me what tough love was, He was behind me 100%.

I dove into the AA program; I found a sponsor, started working the steps and got involved in service work. I even got a job at the Fellowship Hall. Those were still some pretty dark days though. I didn't necessarily want to stay sober, I just knew I had to.

After a while, the clouds started to dissipate and I couldn't deny that I was actually feeling pretty good and was even happy for the first time in my life. Even more astonishing, I (yes me) had friends, real friends! People who understood me, cared about me and for whom I cared about deeply as well. So I dove even deeper in the program. I introduced new things into my recovery such as meditation, Church, exercise and AA's sister fellowships.

Today, I have just over 7 months and I love my sober life. Even with the hurts, the drama, the disappointments and the frustrations that sometimes come my way, I would not trade this gift for any drink or drug. And I am grateful for every bit of my past because it led me to where I'm at today; home.

V. L. ~ Salt Lake City

Available times to volunteer for answering the Central Office Phone line

Tuesday - Every Tuesday midnight to 10:00 AM, 10:00 PM to midnight

Wednesday Every Wednesday midnight to 10:00 AM

Thursday - Every Thursday midnight to 10:00 AM, Second Thursday 10:00 PM to midnight

Friday - Every Friday midnight to 10:00 AM, First and fourth Fridays 10:00 PM to midnight, Second Friday 6:00 PM to Midnight

Saturday - First Saturday 2:00 PM to midnight, Second Saturday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Third Saturday 6:00 PM to midnight, Fourth Saturday 2:00 PM to midnight

Volunteer to answer phones individually, or get your whole group together and throw a party.

Times continue to open up, so if you don't see a convenient time check back next month.

The overnight shifts don't get many calls, so you can usually still get a good nights rest.

Tim H.

E-mail hotline@saltlakeaa.org to volunteer

www.saltlakeaa.org/phones

Salt Lake CO Bookkeeper

The Salt Lake Central Office Board of Directors is happy to announce they have hired a part time bookkeeper for central office. Ms Karen S. has taken over the bookkeeping duties for the Central Office as of May 8th 2012.

Karen comes to us with the following qualifications and talents. She is very familiar with QuickBooks and has had a lot of operational experience as an office manager. She has an Associates degree in Computer Programming from Santa Rosa College as well as an Associate Degree in Fine Arts from Santa Fe Community College. She has a Certificate of Chinese History and Language from Nanking University in Nanking China, and is certified in Sai shakti Healing and Teachings from Penukonda Ashram, India. She also is a Doctor of Oriental Medicine which she obtained at the International Institute of Chinese Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We are excited to have Karen join us at Central Office for several reasons. One, she has the experience we need to manage our finances and accurately report them to our community. Two, she is committed. Three, she is really cool! Please stop by and say hello if you get the chance.

Outreach Committee Report

The Outreach committee met on the 4th Tuesday, May 22. Kim, Jeff and myself were present.

Jeff is our newest Outreach member. He's very excited to be going out to meetings he doesn't normally attend to make sure each group is aware of the Central Office and has the latest news. Kim is back from her travels and is also eager to get back out to those meetings.

The June meeting schedule is done, be sure to check that your meeting is listed correctly. If not, fill out a meeting change form, found at the front desk, and leave it with a volunteer, or fill out the form available on the website.

Check the list of meetings still to be visited, put your name by a meeting you might like to visit, and see me for a Group Contact Sheet. There are still 70 meetings we need to contact, 70 opportunities to help the groups become more effective at helping drunks.

The All Groups meeting is going great. There were 37 people here on the third Saturday, May 19, to share fellowship and great food (god bless whoever made the fried chicken), then the Grapevine Group led us in sharing our experience strength and hope about Sponsorship. This Saturday, June 16th, the Basic Young People's group will lead, then the Midvale Lunch Bunch in July, the 11th Step Meditation in August, the 5:15 Happy Hour in September and the Early Friendship Group in October. Get your group to host, it's a great way to build unity. Mark your calendar for the 3rd Saturday of every month to come see why

we're booked so far in advance, this is a great way to fellowship and get a really good meeting in as well.

We hope you find the work of the Outreach Committee helpful and effective, please consider joining us on the fourth Tuesday in June, the 26th, at 6:00pm here at the Central Office.

Wendy W.

Outreach Committee Chair

Activities Committee Report

Our Activities Committee has been working on the Founder's Day Summer Kick-Off Party on June 24th, 2012 at Germania Park in Murray. Everyone on the committee has signed up to run specific activities at the party including Redneck Shuffle Board, 3 v 3 Basketball, Volleyball, Food Prep. /Cooking and the Extreme Yard Sale. Kimmi has set up a speaker for Founder's Day that afternoon at 3:30pm. We are very excited for the party and hope you are too. Please spread the word to all of your groups, we have flyers for the party and flyers for the Extreme Yard Sale donations.

Recently, two committee members had to step down due to changing schedules and we are looking for a couple of excited AA members to fill their spots. If you are in need of service, then we are in need of you. If you have any questions or want to sign up for the committee, please contact Shar C. at 801-400-8109.

Shar C.

Activities Committee Chair

Archives Committee Report

Over the years the Salt Lake Central Office has acquired various types of AA literature, documents and more. The newly formed Archive Committee will begin meeting this month to sift through all of the treasures from the past decades that were recently uncovered with the volunteer takeover. We were thrilled to find out we had entire collections of Grapevines dating back to the 1963, but even more so with the recent donation of the mags going into the early 50's. The committee plans to sort through the items this month, begin to catalog and decide which of the finds to display on the allocated wall space in the literature room.

Anyone with archival experience or passion is encouraged to join our little committee. We will begin meeting the third Sunday of every month at the Central Office. Please feel free to email me with your interest, suggestion or additional item donations at megmgriggs@gmail.com

Meg G.

Archives Committee Chair

June Recovery Word Search

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

WORD LIST

amends	openness
big	progress
book	promises
desire	serenity
fellowship	simple
freedom	sobriety
higher	sponsor
power	steps
honesty	surrender
hope	willingness

Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity

Bob P. (1917-2008) was General Manager of the General Service Office from 1974 to 1984, and then served as Senior Advisor to the G.S.O. from 1985 until his retirement. His story is in the Big Book as "AA Taught Him to Handle Sobriety," 3rd edit. (1976) pp. 554-561, 4th edit. (2001) pp. 553-559

During the 1986 General Service Conference, Bob gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk to the conference at the closing brunch on Saturday morning, April 26. It was an especially significant occasion, because he knew that he was going to retire early the next year, and that this would be his last General Service Conference. The following excerpts are taken from that farewell speech, as published in the Conference's final report: *The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1986* (Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, April 20-26, 1986), *Final Report*.

This is my 18th General Service Conference -- the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the 1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, "I thank you for your lives." For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my thoughts about A.A.'s future. I have no truck with those bleeding deacons who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual -- by *far* -- than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous [July 1960] Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of treatment centers or professionals in the field, or non-Conference-approved literature, or young people, or the dually-addicted, or even the "druggies" trying to come to our closed meetings. If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these *and any other* problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.

If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer: the growing *rigidity* -- the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions; pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e.,

"banning books"; laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. One of his favorite sayings was, "Every group has the right to be wrong." He was maddeningly tolerant of his critics, and he had absolute faith that faults in A.A. were self-correcting.

And I believe this, too, so in the final analysis we're not going to fall apart. We won't falter or fail. At the 1970 International Convention in Miami, I was in the audience on that Sunday morning when Bill made his brief last public appearance. He was too ill to take his

scheduled part in any other convention event, but now, unannounced, on Sunday morning, he was wheeled up from the back of the stage in a wheelchair, attached with tubes to an oxygen tank. Wearing a ridiculous bright-orange, host committee blazer, he heaved his angular body to his feet and grasped the podium -- and all pandemonium broke loose. I thought the thunderous applause and cheering would never stop, tears streaming down every cheek. Finally, in a firm voice, like his old self, Bill spoke a few gracious sentences about the huge crowd, the outpouring of love, and the many overseas members there, ending (as I remember) with these words: "As I look over this crowd, I know that Alcoholics Anonymous will live a thousand years -- if it is God's will."

Calendar of Events

June

Second Annual Kick-Off Party, June 9, 2012, Germania Park in Murray;
Central Office Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, June 10, 2012, 12:00 Noon, at Central Office;
Area 69 Bridging the Gap Workshop, hosted by District 11, June 16, 2012;
All Groups Meeting hosted by Basic Young People's Group, June 16, 2012, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., at Central Office;
Traditions Workshop, June 16, 2012, 9 am to 5 pm, The Prospector Lodge, Park City, Utah, contact Laurie C at 435-640-6471 or laurie.cummins@ gmail.com;
University of Utah School on Alcoholism, June 17-22, 2012, hosted District 2, U of U Campus;
Founder's Month & Summer Kickoff Party, June 24, 2012, 11 am to 5 pm, Germania Park, 5243 South Murray Parkway Avenue, Murray, Utah;
Serenity Seeker's Summer Party, June 24, 2012, 11 am to 6 pm, Murray Park Pavilion #5, meats provided, bring potluck side dish.

July

30th Annual Great OutDoors (GOD) Campout, July 13-15, 2012, Defa's Ranch, contact Andy B at 801-891-5388 or greatoutdoorscampout@ yahoo.com for info;
All Groups Meeting hosted by Midvale Lunch Bunch, July 21, 2012, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., at Central Office.

August

Maple Grove Campout, August 10-12, 2012, Maple Grove Campground, Scipio, Utah, contact Ralph or Patsy at 801-597-0267 or 801-598-0732;
Area 69 Pre-Assembly Workshop, hosted by District 8, Vernal, Utah, August 18-19, 2012;
All Groups Meeting hosted by 11th Step Meditation, August 18, 2012, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., at Central Office.

September

Pacific Regional Forum, Fairbanks, Alaska, September 14-16, 2012;
All Groups Meeting hosted by 5:15 Happy Hour, September 15, 2012, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., at Central Office;
Area 69 Fall Elections Assembly, District 6, Richfield, Utah, September 21-23, 2012.

Central Office Salt Lake City
Financial Summary April, 2012

Income Statement

Revenue

Group Donations	\$ 2,513.09
St. Patrick's Day	\$ 50.00
Literature Sales	\$ 3,339.55
Awards & Misc Sales	\$ 1,535.75
Total Revenue:	\$ 7,438.39

Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 2,654.47
Gross Profit	\$ 4,783.92

Operating Expenses	\$ 2,050.15
--------------------	-------------

Net Income:	\$ 2,733.77
--------------------	--------------------

Balance Sheet

Assets

Bank - Investment Accounts	
Prudent Reserve - Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Prudent Reserve - Savings	\$ 5,966.92
Operating Capital	\$ 5,504.23
Petty Cash	\$ 41.41
Total	\$ 31,512.56

Other Current Assets

Miscellaneous	\$ 284.14
Inventory	\$ 9,056.93
Undeposited Funds	\$ 16,133.56
	\$ 25,474.63

Total Assets	\$ 56,987.19
---------------------	---------------------

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ (611.94)
Payroll & Other	\$ 913.74
Equity	\$ 7.60
Retained Earnings	\$ 51,697.18
Net Income	\$ 4,980.61
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 56,987.19

Contributions April 2012

974 Group	160.82
11th Step Meeting Bountiful	30.00
Basic Young Peoples	222.00
Thunder Heart AA	40.00
Contributions Income	30.00
Closed Meeting of Alcoholics	186.00
Draper Group	90.00
Highland Group	15.00
Eye Opener	25.00
Magna Friendly Bunch	50.00
Grub Lunch Bunch	55.00
Newsletter	10.00
Park City Group	150.00
Stonewall Group	106.00
Eye Opener	25.00
South Valley Lunch	150.00
SLCYPAA	14.00
DNS Group	220.00
South Davis AA	40.00
Sugarhouse	62.00
Park City Men's Group	300.00
Contributions Income	125.00
Cottonwood Group	179.47
Midvale Lunch	100.00
Speak Easy Women	127.20
	<u>2513.09</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,513.09</u>

Editor's Note: Now that we have a bookkeeper we will be more consistent in producing the Financial Summary and the Group Contributions.

I have asked if we can get the monthly contributions as well as the year to date totals.

Small World ~ Big Book

In the early 1990s a newcomer was looking at the AA literature catalog and saw the Big Book being sold in foreign languages.

"Wow!", he thought, "We should get those for our Central Office." Into Central Office he marched and stated to Arlene (our Central Office Saint/Manager), "Let's buy all the languages and stock them in our Central Office."

Arlene sighed and responded that, "they may not sell and they would have to be carried on the Central Office inventory."

Within two or three years the same man returned to ask the same question again. The answer remained the same, "they may not sell and they would be carried on the Central Office inventory."

Each few years this persistent/stubborn alcoholic would return and try again.

In 2007 he headed down to ask Ron, the Central Office Manager the same question. The alcoholic thought, "They will never buy these books and this is a waste of time." The thought came, "Why don't I buy the books and donate them to Central Office for display?" It won't cost them a dime and will never need to be counted on the inventory.

Off he drove to see if Ron would go along with a donation. Through some dialog Ron agreed. The only thing that is required is if the Central Office sells a book they will replace it. The alcoholic started buying the books a few at a time. One day driving to Central Office he thought, "You selfish SOB. Why don't you let AA join in?"

Thus began the project of buying Big Books around the world. AA members stepped forward to offer pennies and dollars and much much more. The list of names of the languages were put on the wall of a local club and members stepped forward to donate or buy a book that had sentimentally touched their hearts. The books were ordered and a couple six book cases were offered to display the books. As the books came in they were added to the collection.

Now the stubborn one wanted more. "Let's build a display and put it on the wall." This was stopped at that time.

New management of 2012 was receptive to allowing a display. Again the 'Carry the Message can' came out and AAs were asked to support the display idea. The members stepped up and raised over \$600.00 the first month.

Now the display has been started. If you have not been to Central Office please go and look.



Central Office of Salt Lake City, Inc.

80 West Louise Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115-3514

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 1970

If you would like to receive the LIFELINE through the mail please fill out this form and send it to the Salt Lake Central Office, 80 West Louise Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. Your donation is appreciated!

You may also sign up to have the LIFELINE e-mailed to you on the Salt Lake Central Office website at saltlakeaa.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount donated: ☐ \$3.00 ☐ \$5.00 ☐ \$10.00 ☐ Other _____