



EVENTS

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

October 3rd - Cosmic Volleyball Tournament and Fundraiser: BBQ, drinks, Crazy Coffee; Speaker meeting 7:30 pm; Tournament starts at 8:45 pm; only \$5 per person per game (unless your team wins). Prizes for the winning team!! Paradise Keys, 2601 E. Paradise Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85032.

October 31 - Halloween Carnival: A bunch of tweakers wearing masks?! This cannot be missed! Bring the kids to this family friendly event. There will be food and drinks, activity booths, a costume contest and of course, an awesome speaker. 6:00pm - 10:00 pm, United Methodist Church, 8640 N. 19th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021

I HAVE COME TO KNOW GRACE

Born of 1950's mainstream morals, my life on the contrary did not grow and blossom into an idyllic final season of Ozzie and Harriet. My parents divorced when I was 7, and the effect of my fatherless life was substantial. I would forever pursue identity in all my intimate relationships without success. Fatherless.

The next thirty years would include yearlong journeys within the confines of rented rooms searching for something, anything that would prove more powerful than the dictates of my incarcerating thoughts. My selfishness would eventually manifest into rigid stone sleeping arrangements beneath an inner-city overpass. Drug addict.

In the last analysis of what my existence

had become, and contemplating a possible solution to my dilemma, I would come to know what had eluded my soul and my senses for so long. I would no longer vacillate between fear and escape. I would be reminded of those best intentions my parents had for the procurement of my happiness, with the hope they would actually be realized. I would once again enjoy the innocence of walking quietly along wooded footpaths, hand in hand with the determination of my love. The last and most important realization I have come to know, is that I have been forgiven. I have come to know what some people consider the greatest gift of life...
...I have come to know Grace.

THE PIPELINE

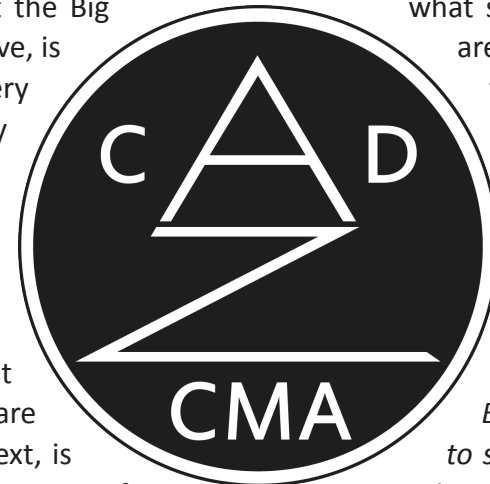
PAGE EIGHTY-THREE

CLEAR INDICATION OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others."

The Big Book of Alcoholic Anonymous is filled with many glorious promises, but none resonate in our minds so much as those found to begin on the bottom of page eighty-three. If you have been around long enough, you just may have them memorized. There are some wonderful features about the countless promises found throughout the Big Book. One purpose they serve, is to give those in early recovery some hope of the many blessings to come. If the reason for getting sober was just to stay sober, many of us would have walked away soon after. Another, equally important reason the promises are included into most of the text, is they can act as a clear indication of whether we are actively participating in an effective program of recovery. Simply, if the

promises aren't showing up in our lives, we might ask ourselves what actions we need to take in order to experience the full measure of our sobriety, and all life has to offer. Page eighty-three is no different. These are the ninth-step promises. They contain some intense language, and spell-out some major changes we should be experiencing in our lives. So, if we lack newfound feelings of freedom and happiness; if we don't understand what serenity means, and our lives are at unrest; if we're in constant fear over money, or if we regret the past and feel useless, it might serve us well to dust off the list of those we have harmed and "painstakingly" get busy!



Editor's Note: If you would like to share some wisdom about the 10th Step or Tradition for next month's issue, please submit your reflections to pipeline@cmaaz.org.

THE SASSY SPONSOR

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO SASSY@CMAAZ.ORG

Dear Sassy Sponsor,

I am on my ninth step and one of my harms is that I owe my ex-employer a large sum of money. I do not anticipate having funds anytime in the near future. What should I do?

- Broke and Broken

Dear B&B,

Oh, doll -- "I do not anticipate having funds anytime in the near future" -- you are singing the Sassy Sponsor song! I feel you. Life's expensive, isn't it? Landlords want to be paid, the state wants you to have a valid driver's license, and we can't shoplift hot dogs and Kool Aid anymore to get by. It makes coming up with the money to pay off these amends all the tougher.

Fret not -- you don't have to come up with all the money right now. But you do have to come up with something. How about 10 percent of the amount? Fifty bucks? Something. Go to your former employer with a small amount of money and state your intention to pay the remainder (remember the dude who hadn't kept up alimony to wife number one? "He... sent a small amount of money. He told her what he would try to do in the future" p. 79). Then pay it off. You can do this. Sassy knows you think you can't afford to, but dear one, you can't afford not to. Chin up, though; it's going to be fantastic!

- Sassy S.

MAKING AMENDS WHEREVER POSSIBLE

When we are ready to make amends, we need to understand it is more than an apology. The very definition of the word implies mending or repairing the damage we have caused others in our active addiction. Our words must be chosen carefully, because they can often cause more harm than good. It's important to remember when we ask another, "What can I do to make this right?," that we are prepared to back it up with actions as opposed to words. Do not be surprised to hear a response similar to what many of us have heard when making our first amends, "Just keep doing what you are doing and stay sober." There is a certain sense of relief that comes with this type of response, but it doesn't mean you got off easy. Make no mistake, recovery is work, which will require action on your part.

**LOOKING FOR A MEETING?
VISIT CMAAZ.ORG/CALENDAR**

**CELEBRATE
SERVICE**

NOT A CHORE BUT A BLESSING

"CMA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

It isn't uncommon for the role of GSR to be treated more as a chore than a blessing. Often those elected reluctantly attend the business meetings, and return bewildered by the emotionally charged atmosphere.

I was a member of a homegroup whose GSR returned one month to declare, "Those meetings are stupid!!" and refused to return. Not knowing any better, that group was unrepresented for nearly six months before a trusted servant visited with an invitation to participate again. We elected a new GSR and became reconnected with the fellowship as a whole.

The unity that comes from "being a part of", can't be overestimated. It is a core principle behind Tradition 1. However, the 9th Tradition is even more closely linked to Tradition 2 – for if the service bodies are directly responsible to those they serve, then we must

The 12th Step instructs us to put our principles into action by carrying the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. The CMA Service Structure provides opportunities for accomplishing this. Come to a committee meeting and find one that's right for you!!

ask, "By what authority do they act"? There is only one ultimate authority: a loving God, as expressed in our group conscience. And with that awareness we come to realize that carrying the homegroup consciousness to the next level of service is not a chore at all; but a sacred and blessed honor.

The service committees which report to that assembly - H&I, PI&O, Communications, E&F, Convention and 12 Step Experience – have been directed by the consciousness to perform functions which benefit CMA as a whole by serving their fellows as instructed by the 12th step. Are you starting to see a pattern? This service structure, so unnatural to us when we first arrive from the chaos of addiction, is a harmonious result of practicing spiritual principles in all our affairs.

These committees drive the support network behind the scenes and for those who answer the call to serve, they are a joyous doorway to another day clean and sober by carrying the message of CMA.

Hospitals & Institutions, 1st Tues., 7:00pm
Communications, 2nd Tues., 7:00pm
Public Info & Outreach, 4th Tues., 7:00pm
Jerry's Restaurant, 2323 E Thomas Rd
Events & Fundraising, 1st Wed., 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall, 12428 N 28th Dr