
THE FRIA FLYER

VOLUME LVIII

9794 W. Peoria Ave Suite #2 Peoria, Arizona 85345

December 2011



No Escape

Drinking for relief stops working for this bar-hopping mother of two

The first time I drank I liked it very much, so much that I'd do it again and again for the next 25 years. I started out drinking on the weekends, then sometimes during the week. I had two children and I stopped for a few years. But I resumed my drinking and fell in love with it all over again. I felt like I was finally finding my happiness in life. It made my problems seem less like problems. It made me feel stronger, more courageous. It even made me feel smarter than everyone else. Vodka was always there for me when I needed a pick-up or an escape. I always had time for drinking. It kept me sane. Other people just didn't understand that it was a release. The world they lived in must have been boring, not like the fun world I was living in, the real world.

About 10 years ago I started drinking heavily. I was drinking 12 hours at a time. Many days, by noon it was game on, and I was free again. I stayed out of trouble most of the time. I was always careful when I drove drunk, never speeding or doing something stupid like taking my eyes off the road. I was a safe drunk. My relationship with my boyfriend suffered a bit, but we had good times and tons of laughs, too. We saw lots of the open road together.

Eventually, after about six years of ups and downs, we parted ways. Then I was really free, free at last to drink and not have to deal with someone else's anger management issues. What a blessing in disguise. For three more years I sat in the bar and enjoyed playing head games with the guy sitting next to me. Who cared what his name was, who cared if he liked me or not? I was free.

(Continued on page 7)

Steps, Traditions & Concepts Of Alcoholics Anonymous

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept 12: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

NEWS FLASH!

THE AGUA FRIA INTERGROUP OFFICE HAS MOVED!

That's right! The AFI Office has moved to:
**9794 West Peoria Avenue Suite #2
Peoria, Arizona 85345**

"In the mall behind Chase Bank"

(Just east of the Loop 101).

Drop by and have a cup of coffee!

(See related story on page 3)

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Service Calendar

December 6th, 2011

District 806/807/808

AFI Office 7:00 PM

9794 W. Peoria Ave, #2 Peoria

December 6th, 2011

AFI Business Meeting

New Life Church 7:00 PM

8155 W Thunderbird Rd, Peoria

December 14th, 2011

Valleywide H&I

L.A.R.C. - Bill Wilson Hall 7:00 PM

2770 E Van Buren St, Phoenix

December 9th, 2011

District 802/803

St. Helen's Church 6:30 PM

5510 W Cholla St, Glendale

December 15th, 2011

AFI Steering

AFI Office 7:00 PM

9794 W. Peoria Ave, #2 Peoria

December 18th, 2011

AFI Unity Committee

AFI Office 4:00 PM

9794 W. Peoria Ave, #2 Peoria

December 27th, 2011

PI/CPC Committee

AFI Office 6:30 PM

9794 W. Peoria Ave, #2 Peoria

Alcoholics Anonymous "Responsibility Pledge"

*"I am responsible ...
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that, I am responsible."*

Reprinted from the Pamphlet P-1, This Is A.A., page 24,
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Visit the Agua Fria Intergroup Website!

www.aawestphoenix.org

The AGUA FRIA FLYER is now available on
the World-Wide-Web!

FIND MEETINGS,
CHECK OUT THE AFI BUSINESS,
AFI LINKS,

AFI NEWSLETTER, AND MORE!

TO ALL AGUA FRIA FLYER SUBSCRIBERS

Your subscriptions to the Agua Fria Flyer are due by
December 31st, 2011 to renew for the 2012 year.

Please note that the Flyer is now available for free
online to read and print at: www.aawestphoenix.org.

If you have any questions please
Call the AFI office at 623-937-7836.

AFI BIRTHDAY CLUB



AFI Office Monthly Volunteer Groups

December: New Beginnings

January: Midday Group

February: Lunch Bucket

Thank You For Your Service!

Don W.	12-05-69	42 years
Mike E.	12-21-87	24 years
Tom S.	12-25-68	43 years
Dave V.	12-25-83	28 years

Ima Miracle ?-?-?
(Wish your sponsee a Happy Birthday here!)
NERDBUTSOBER@HOTMAIL.COM

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AGUA FRIA INTERGROUP

A meeting was held on July 13, 1983 to form an Intergroup. Twenty eight groups showed interest and became the first groups to join. The first location was the Alano Club in Peoria at \$25.00 a month. The existing funds were \$355.00. In August of 1983 the meeting chaired by Lou S. voted to install phones and George G. was elected office manager. Finances were \$438.89. By the end of 1983, group contributions totaled \$1995.30 from 24 participating groups. A Welcome Wagon committee was formed in 1984 chaired by Chuck S. In March of 1984 the new office and intergroup faced their first problem. The fact they rented space in the Alano Club was questioned by some members and a letter requesting assistance was sent to the General Service Office in New York. By August of 1984, the Intergroup made a decision to move the office to 9132 W. Cactus. In July of 1984, the process of incorporating was begun and in August, Bill L. was elected chairman. The first anniversary was held in September at the Silver Wings building at Luke AFB. There is no record of where the Alcathon was held that year. The Intergroup and Central Office's second major problem came up in January of 1988. There was a difference of opinion or principles between the intergroup chairman and the Central Office manager. By the way, the January 1988 intergroup minutes were six pages long compared to the usual one or two pages. In January of 1990 the Intergroup moved its monthly meeting to the Maryvale Mall where they met until 1994. The anniversary in 1990 was at Goldwater High School. In August, Mary D. was elected chairman of the intergroup. The alcathon was held in the Holiday Inn on I-10 from 1990 through 1990. By January of 1991, the treasury was \$4077.03. In August of 1991, Lee S. was elected Chairman and the anniversary was held at the Happy Trails Resort. In 1992, Tommy D. was elected chairman and the anniversary was in Wickenburg. Tommy served two terms. In 1994, Ron W. was elected chairman and also served two terms. The anniversary in 1993, 94, and 95 was held at the Holiday Inn on I-17. The Thanksgiving Marathon the past few years has been at the Presbyterian Church at 6440 W. Indian School Road. In September 1992; Betty H. was hired as the office manager. In 1994, the office moved to 9164 North 43rd Avenue in Glendale, where the intergroup meetings are also held. Since this original history was written, the Thanksgiving Marathon has been held at the same location, and the Christmas Alcathon has now been moved to a hotel at I-17 and Cactus. The anniversary has been held at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. In June of 1997, Betty H. became ill and had to leave her position as Office Manager. The office was staffed by volunteers until January of 1998, when David B. was hired as Office Manager. On July 18, 1998, Betty passed away. David B. has since passed away. The Intergroup continued to grow. There are now approximately 105 registered groups. The Intergroup Speakers meeting had been moved to the meeting room next to the office. A monthly golf tournament has been added to the intergroup functions and was going well. Early on in 2006, for the very first time, we were snowed-out at the Camp-Out Fishing Derby, something that is not very common here in Phoenix. Then, in mid-2006, as happens from time to time, especially with us, there was a major difference of opinion (imagine that: A Difference Of Opinion Amongst A Large Room Full Of Alcoholics!) within the Intergroup and most of the board resigned and Joy N. finished out the term as Chairperson. Because of this, there was no anniversary; instead we had an Open House at the office for one week. We also moved the Intergroup Meeting back to Saint Raphael's, on 55th Ave. and Acoma. We started out 2007 with our "Annual New Year's Eve" party and had no snow for the camp-out. Although there were a few changes for "A Day In The Park", all our events were successful. We are all very grateful to all of the people who volunteer their services for our committees and events. In May, 2007, Ron W., our chairperson, became ill and was hospitalized. Unable to attend or continue to carry out the responsibilities of chairperson, he had to resign. We sadly lost Ron Aug. 2007. As vice-chair, Mike G. took over as chairperson. Mike E. was elected as the current office manager by unanimous vote by the groups in October 2011. As we begin our 28th year, we look forward to continued growth, and success in our primary purpose of carrying the message to the suffering alcoholic.

A good time was had by all. Thanks to our guest speakers Karen N. (Flagstaff) Formerly (New Hope, El Mirage) and Shorty T. (Happy Valley) Peoria. They had a bunch of recovering drunks laughing and crying. Costume winners were for the Funniest – Kelly G., Sexiest- Carrie H., and Scariest –Unknown. Our Karaoke was great. Special thanks to Dave H. for providing the Karaoke equipment. There were numerous crooners worthy of a stage appearance. Our white elephant BINGO was a HUGE Success. Even the guys were playing. They won anything from a framed work of art to a goofy hat with sunglasses. We had well over 150 people that attended this event. Our 50/50 was \$346.00. Lucky winners enjoyed over \$700.00 in prizes. The food was delicious and our dessert table was overflowing as usual. Thanks to our many volunteers that helped make this event a success. Without you it would not be possible. "Your" service work brought good times to many and reaffirmed that "WE are not a glum lot"
Pat L. and Kay F from The Aqua Fria Intergroup Board of Directors were there. Kay closed the 3PM meeting with the "Promises" and the "Lord's Prayer".

**If you missed this one..... maybe next year.
We all had a BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOtiful time.**

Agua Fria Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes
November 1st, 2011

Pat opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the Serenity Prayer.

The 12 Traditions were read by Nicole H.

New AFI Groups: None

New AFI Representative: Patty S.- Winners Circle

Introduction of Steering Committee Members: Cheryl, Jessica, Pat, Roger, Jackie, Gary, Mike, Dave & Kay.

Approval of the October AFI Business Meeting. Shirley motioned to accept the minutes with corrections and Randy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7th Tradition was collected. \$53.00

Roll Call: 30 AFI Representatives in attendance

Office Manager's Report: Mike E. gave a written and verbal report (refer to the attached)

Chairman's Report: Pat L. reported that the total revenue from the AFI Anniversary Dinner was \$954.72. He has not contacted EVI or SRI about creating a valley wide calander.

Vice-Chairman's Report: Kay reported that the Christmas decorations have been picked up and the committee is on track. PICPC coordinator will be giving a presentation on Anonymity and the digital age on December 6th at the Intergroup Business meeting. Thanksgiving committee is doing well. Pat has accepted the liaison position for the New Years Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Roger gave a written and verbal reports (refer to the attached reports). The totals were not on the written report. We have \$12,122 in savings, \$6,029.72 in checking, and \$2,725 in the special events account. Taxes have not been done yet but an extension was filed and it will get done by 3 month deadline. It was motioned and seconded to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Area Liaison: Shirley M. gave a written report. (See attached)

H& I Liaison: Jenny B. reported that they will be having elections for all positions at next meeting. Please see calendar. They still have institutions that need assistance. More information available online or at the Intergroup Office.

Steering Committee: Pat L. reported that 2 sets of steering committee minutes were included tonight. There will be a steering committee meeting after this meeting. One member of the steering committee is having health problems so he may appoint someone to fill this position.

Committee Reports:

a. Telephone- Mike E. reported that the telephone schedule is updated for November and all time slots are filled but a few need to be confirmed. If anyone is interested in participating, please fill out a phone volunteer form to be on the substitute list. A database was created but it will not be public.

b. Newsletter- Dave T. apologized to Down Under group for the date mix up and it will be corrected. Need people to donate articles please. Going smoothly.

c. Unity- Kelli reported that in the spirit of unity, on November 5th the SRI is in need of volunteers with trucks to help them move. On November 10th the Unity Committee will work with PICPC to fill in for them at a High school in Avondale. On April 17th from 12 to 8:30 pm the Happy Valley Group is hosting Serenity Under the Stars event. They have asked Unity to reach out to other groups in the Valley to host meetings at the event. We need help reaching out for this new event.

d. PI/CPC-Nicole reported about the upcoming Fair at the High school in Avondale mentioned earlier. Legal Corrections Chair is still open and we are looking for someone who is familiar with the judicial system. They are meeting at the SRI office now.

e. Web Site- Randy S. reported that the committee needs flyers to be given to them and if you do not want your personal information on the website please create a special flyer for him. They met with Steering committee this month so they did not have a meeting. All personal emails and phone numbers have been removed from the website. Next meeting is November 19th at 9 am. There has been a 40% increase in number of visitors on the website.

f. AFI Office Financial Relocation Ad hoc Committee-Jon G. reported that option #2 was not in good financial shape with tax liens. Found a new location at 99th ave Peoria that meets the guidelines and if we move forward a fair lease will be worked out. \$808.17 a month for 3 years. All other options fell through and the 3rd option was outside the guidelines to build out. This new location is available now, clean, has 2 temporary walls that can be removed, wheelchair accessible, has room for storage, and extra insulation.

Events

- a. AFI Anniversary- Pat reported that they have not had their post meeting on the vent. It will be after the next steering committee meeting.
- b. Thanksgiving- Louise reported that the final flyers are out so please pass them out at home groups. Everything is going well. They will be having meetings on Nov 12 and 19th at 11am at Crossroads west. They are happy to have more support and are looking for donations and raffle prizes.
- c. Christmas-Donna reported that they put out 3 different flyers. The first one is about the next meeting on November 5th at 11 am at Crossroads West. The second one is for people who want to volunteer. The third flyer is the event flyer. They need a treasurer and there are 3 meeting slots open (3am, 4am, and 7am)
- d. New Year's Eve- Kellie reported that they have been very busy and are completely on track. The event name is "Suit Up and Show Up." The event will be dressy with meal served on nice china. Will be at same location, All Saint of the Desert Church. Dinner will be prime rib. There will be a skit, speaker, dessert, raffle, karaoke and games. Tickets are now on sale for \$25.00. They need volunteers for cooking, set up and take down. Bill is the Publicity chair and will be in charge of ticket sales. They need 7 or 8 people for the skit. Bill reported that more flyers will be at office and he can also get them to those who want them. Tickets will be passed out after this meeting.
- e. AFI Family Campout and Fishing Derby- The event is scheduled for April 20, 21 & 22nd 2012. Cheryl reported that she is going to have the first meeting on December 11th and will have flyers at next AFI business meeting. Bill volunteered to fill the vacant co-chair position because previous co-chair resigned.
- f. Day in the Park- Mark C. reported that they are locked in for March 31st 2012. Their next meeting will be on November 6th at 8:15pm at Crossroads West.

Old Business:

- a. Office Relocation: Pat reported that all three first choices sent back to the groups fell through. The voting made it clear that the groups want us to relocate to the area outlined by the office relocation ad hoc committee. We have settled on a new location based on the guidelines voted on previously. He asked should we take this new location back to the groups or vote on it tonight. Pat read concept 3 on Right of Decision. Randy S. motioned to exercise the Right of Decision and Eric seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Randy motioned to move forward with the new location. Lisa K. seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Everyone voted to allow the Board of Directors to pursue and sign a lease at this new location. Substantial Unanimity was acquired. The website will be kept updated throughout this process.

New Business:

- a. Telephone Committee Chair vacancy: Pat reported that Linda felt too much pressure and resigned from her position. Debbie stepped up and offered to fill the position. She has been sober since Dec 7th 1997; her home group is Breath of Fresh Air and would like to be of service. Pat appointed her and she was confirmed through the end of February unanimously. We all need to help keep calendar filled and phones answered.
- b. Upcoming Elections: The positions in the upcoming election will take effect on March 1st. Those interested please stand at next meeting and must be at Jan and Feb intergroup business meetings. Please take the overviews back to home groups.

Office Volunteers:

Nov.- Living Sober Dec.- New Beginnings Jan.- Midday Group

Feb- Lunch Bucket

Announcements:

- a. Kay will give a 10 minute orientation after the business meeting for new AFI Representatives
- b. Please help clean up and put the tables & chairs back

Shirley motioned to close the meeting and Jenny seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 8:40pm the Responsibility Declaration.

AFI BULLITIN BOARD

SAVE THE DATE!

22ND ANNUAL RIVER ROUNDUP

We are Not a Glum Lot

January 12-15, 2012

Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort

Laughlin, NV

2011 AGUA FRIA CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

A Traditional AA Christmas

Volunteers needed. Contact: AFI Office

7th INTERNATIONAL SENIORS IN SOBRIETY 2012

March 14-17, 2012

Hilton Garden Inn

Yuma, AZ

MEETING UP-DATES

MEETING MOVED **Stepping Stones** St. John The Baptist Episcopal Church (Parish Hall) 4102 W. Union Hills Dr, Glendale, AZ Friday @ 8:00 PM

NEW MEETING **Those That Came Before** 7523 N 35th Ave Phoenix, AZ Crossroads West Speaker/Participation Sundays @ 9:00 AM

MEETING CLOSED **Crossroads Continues To Heaven** 7532 N 35th Ave, Phoenix. Crossroads West Sunday @ 8:30 AM.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Alternate volunteers are needed to be available when someone can't make his or her shift to help answer phones and do office tasks. Give back what was freely given to you!
Call 623-937-7836 ask for the office manager Mike

Pot Lucks!!

December 3rd - 1st Saturday

"Glendale Appreciation Group"

First United Methodist Church

7102 N. 58th Drive Glendale, AZ

6PM - 8PM

December 17th - 3rd Saturday

"Happy Valley Group"

NEW LOCATION

All Saints of the Desert Church

9502 W. Hutton Dr.

Sun City, AZ 85351

6PM - Speaker Follows

December 24th - 4th Saturday

"Downunder Group"

First Evangelic Church

918 S. Litchfield Road Goodyear, AZ

5PM - 8PM

(Continued from page 1).

Now I was drinking on the weekends and once or twice during the week. I had to go out; I'd go stir crazy sitting in the house. I was still going to work. I only missed one or two days of work a year because of drinking. I went to work still drunk and hid behind my computer screen until I finally managed to work my calculator and answer the phone. I did it all over again in another couple of days. Sometimes I didn't even wait that long. I managed, but going to work with a hangover was hard. I had a lot less energy. On weekends, I didn't want to leave the house during the day. I didn't like daylight. I dreaded interaction with people in general, unless I was at the bar. I had to drink to be able to interact with people.



9794 W. Peoria Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345



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