
ESSAY

October 1987

Post Office Box 300
Simi Valley, California 93062

L.A. CONVENTION HOTEL CHANGE

There's been a change from the Hacienda to the Viscount Hotel for the December 4, 5, 6 SA Convention in Los Angeles. When the Convention Committee saw that the Hacienda's remodeling would not be done in time as promised, they switched to the Viscount and were amazed to get such a first-class hotel at such a late date. It is closer to LAX, newer, has far better accommodations, is more comfortable and relaxing, with excellent facilities and service, and is within walking distance of the other world-class hotels at LAX. Seems like Someone's been looking out for us again.

The changes that may affect you are: 1) Where you make your hotel reservation, 2) Cost of the hotel; the Viscount is \$56/night, and 3) The plans are to have a Sunday final meeting and Banquest luncheon ending as late as 1:30 PM, instead of the Saturday evening banquet. If the change in room rates causes any financial hardship, please contact either Ted P. or Terry M., listed below. Thus, everyone counting on going to the convention at the old room rates will still be able to attend. The registration fee will remain as is, \$42 before Nov 1 and \$52 after.

See the new flyer and registrations forms included with this ESSAY. Be sure to send in the conference reg. form to Terry M. and the hotel reg. form directly to the Viscount Hotel and call their toll-free number for reservation. Say it's for the "12 Step Group." Call Terry M. at 818/784-4360 or Ted P. at 213/454-1516 for help on details.

All members who may want to attend are not on the ESSAY mail list. Please make every effort to pass this information on to all members in your area as soon as possible!

CALENDAR

October 16, 17, 18, 1987. German SA Convention near Stuttgart.

December 4,5,6, 1987. SA International Convention, Los Angeles, California. Theme: Sobriety. See first page and enclosed flyer and registration forms. Note change in hotel from Hacienda to Viscount.

April 15-17, 1988. SA and S-Anon Couples Retreat at Picture Rocks Retreat in Tucson, Arizona. Contact Burt S. in Tucson.

July 8,9,10, 1988. SA International Convention, Rochester, NY. Contact Dave G. 716/377-7096.

January 13,14,15, 1989. SA International Convention. City undetermined; open for bids in Los Angeles in December.

July 7,8,9, 1989. SA International Convention. City undetermined; open for bids in Los Angeles in December.

REMINDER

Groups wishing to bid for the conventions in January and July of 1989 come prepared to present your proposals in L.A. in December.

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ROCHESTER, N.Y. MARATHON. "I just can't wait to tell you and all the SA members what a wonderful Marathon meeting we had on August first. It was a joint session with S-Anon, Rochester, and two of the meetings were joint. God was with us to be sure. Everyone went away with something, and I am still feeling the serenity from all the wonderful sharing. It is so good to hear the addiction from the co-dependent side. For me it kind of puts a mirror up to myself to see my character defects by listening to the changes I caused in the life of another human being by my acting out and all the selfishness I practiced in order to do that. I am really grateful to Higher Power for the gift of this meeting, and I look forward to more of them. Thank you for all you are doing. Your work, too, is a blessing." D.G.

VANCOUVER, B.C. RETREAT. Jesse L. reports that the retreat, held September 11-13, was attended by some 30 persons, from Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, Bellingham, and Ottawa. Jesse notes, "There was not a single statement made in defense of the addiction. People want sobriety and are not defending the illness. There was an overwhelmingly positive attitude about sexual sobriety, its necessity and desirability. Also, there was a very close feeling of fellowship."

PHONE CALLS TO CENTRAL OFFICE. When calling Central Office, use the new 805/581-3343 number instead of the old 818/704-9854 number when possible. Both numbers reach CO, but there's a small extra charge when the 818 is used. That is because this was the number at the old location, and the Phone Company does automatic call forwarding on it to the new number—for a fee. The 818 number was known worldwide as the SA number, and still is, and it was decided to keep it available without adding a second phone line at greater expense. To have tried to change everything to the new number would have meant a lot of headaches and bruised egos.

Hours when the Central Office can be reached by phone without leaving a message are normally Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 to 4.

MEMBER NEWS

C.R., Heiligenhaus, W. Germany. "I cannot thank the Lord enough! I ...received the grace of living with all my feelings through an attack of lust, where I thought it would kill me. It didn't, for I...brought it into the open [in the group]....I never imagined such a change being possible, God hearing my prayers so thoroughly!"

D.S., Athol Springs, NY. "I have been a member of SA for only three weeks but it seems to be the beginning of a new life and spiritual conversion for me....God bless you. God bless us. God bless the sex addicts still out there too."

T.G., Regina, Sask., Canada. "While I did some experimenting, I did come to a solid resolve that masturbation is acting out. My wife and I began to really enjoy a non-sexual friendship from early January till mid-April, when I moved back in with her and the kids. This reconciliation is really like life out of death because we had both come to accept the 'death' of our relationship, feeling that there was too much pain and failure and loss of trust to try again. However, solid hope and quality recovery have begun for me since Nov. and for us since January. It is comforting to have a program and lifestyle to help us. There is so much I'd like to share with you...."

D.R., Edwardsville, KS. "I just wanted to say that I appreciate the program very much. I am thankful that SA exists and that it existed when I came in on January 1 of this year. I have been sober since that time—isn't that something! SA helped me in the most vital aspect of my life where the AA program could not. I have been sober from alcohol since 1970. SA has done so much to resolve some secondary X-factors in my life: mood swings, resentments, manicness, inappropriate comments, anxiety. These were X-factors in that I was so often subject to them but totally perplexed as to my reaction at any given time. In a few words, my knee-jerk methods of coping are melting into an equanimity I have never known in half a century. How sweet it is...."

M.F., Detroit, MI. "....Yes, I think the price change of \$10.00 is a great value [for the SA book]....Enclosed is a contribution to SA Fellowship because I have enjoyed being on the mailing list and look forward to the possibility of flying out to LA in December for the Convention with another lady...from the SA group."

R.P., Maximiliansau, W. Germany. "I am now going to really work the Steps and I have found a life I never thought possible before. Love and peace are within me, and my life is becoming more and more beautiful and joyous. Thank you for sharing your experience, strength and hope and your recovery with us here in Germany....I am grateful that I am invited to the Los Angeles convention. I am planning to come. Please pass the best wishes to all friends in SA. We love you and may God give you growing sobriety. We often think of you and may God's grace be with you all the time."

DENIAL CORNER

We offer the following for what may be the first in a series of such vignettes SA members may wish to share.

"My first year in SA I would go into a liquor store, hold up a girlie magazine with one hand, let it fall open of itself, and then look at what it opened to. That way, it wasn't me that was doing it. And I was calling myself 'sober.'" V.M., Anaheim, CA

LONER MEMBERS

Contact with others in recovery is our lifeline. All "loner" SA members (those who want SA sobriety but are not able to attend existing groups) wishing to get in touch with other SA members, please provide your name and address (and phone number if you wish) to SA's new Loner Coordinator:

Elizabethann M.
P O Box 457
Boulder, MT 59632

THE "PHYSICAL FACTOR". "I've been in this program over three years and still wonder why I still don't feel entirely comfortable in a room full of men. Before becoming sexually sober, my obsession/compulsion included both heterosexual and homosexual urges. The former produced a great deal of guilt because of taking advantage of a younger sister and later in life taking advantage of women. The latter produced great emotional difficulties as well. Just the thought of having a homosexual leaning produced shame. Then there was the constant fear of falling into such a relationship against my own will. The self-degradation practiced in order to avoid an overt homosexual relationship with another man produced more shame and fear.

"Being quite normal physically, I assumed that the homosexual tendency was due to psychological causes, until reading the following on page xxiv of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

It did not satisfy us to be told that we could not control our drinking just because we were maladjusted to life, that we were in full flight from reality, or were outright mental defectives. These things were true to some extent, in fact, to a considerable extent with some of us. But we were sure that our bodies were sickened as well. In our belief, any picture of the alcoholic which leaves out this physical factor is incomplete.

"Suddenly the awareness came that in addition to my emotional maladjustment there indeed might be a physical component. Being abused by older boys when still a young child introduced sexual eroticism to a maturing nervous system in a homosexual manner. Did that cause a lasting physical conditioning in a way that might not have developed otherwise?

"Isolation from God, from my real self, and from other people; emotional immaturity; and a general maladjustment to life repeatedly threatened to provoke the homosexual response compulsively as it did the heterosexual response. Thus, shame, guilt, and fear increased over the years. (Continued)

"The first move in dealing with any problem over which we are powerless seems to be acceptance. I now can accept the physical component of my sexual addiction. The second move is to 'bring it to the light' by sharing it with other members of the fellowship. After that I am in a position to begin using the Twelve Steps of our program on this as with any other specific problem." J.B., Monterey Park, CA

Group Contributions. Any groups that have been accidentally overlooked in the listing of group contributions (page 11), please accept the apologies of the Central Office. Often, no mention is made on a check or money order, and we try to guess the purpose. Our special apologies to the Portland group for our failing to acknowledge their continued support of the CO. We ask for patience and understanding from everyone. We are so appreciative of the increased support, we cannot express our full gratitude. Nan

NEW GROUPS

The following is a list of new groups since the July issue of ESSAY, in order of their forming:

Hermosa Beach, CA
Spartensburg, PA (Erie)
Spruce Pine, AL
Loganville, PA
Columbia, SC
Newport Beach, CA
Las Vegas, NV
Gooding, ID
Lancaster, CA
Wailuku, HI
Burlington, VT
Lexington, KY
Billings, MT
Arcata, CA
Argentina, South America
West Patterson, NJ

GROUP NEWS

Boulder, CO. "We are growing and need more books. This is wonderful, but also scary....We are thankful that you are there to send us literature and strength." P.R.

Wash., D.C. "The Monday evening meeting is well attended with an average of 20 to 30 people. Several in the group have over one year of sobriety. SA is doing well in the DC area, and all of us appreciate what you are doing for SA!" B.H.

Milwaukee, WI. [The check] is towards the deficit incurred at the headquarters. How is the lowering of the deficit coming? [Thanks to the response from the groups, we are again in the black and hope to buy a xerox machine or computer soon. See the financial report in this ESSAY. Ed.]....Also, I learned a 'twist' on the Serenity Prayer...'God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, courage to change the people I can, and wisdom to know that that person is me.'" B.E.

Berkeley, CA. "This donation is from the entire group. We are honored to send this. The mailing out of the donation list was an excellent idea, and a great motivator. It really helps us to put our donations, in relation to the fellowship at large, in proper perspective. God love ya!" R.G.

Nashville, TN. "We've been passing a second basket at all our meetings, and here are the results so far." J.P.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. "We have initiated translation of parts of the SA pamphlet into French together with a French-speaking Ottawa group member....Up to now the meetings have been bilingual (French and English), as all the members speak both languages...." J.C. [The SA manual is currently translated into German and Icelandic. A start has been made on a Spanish translation. Ed.]

Great Falls, MT. "I wanted you to know about our new meeting that started on 9/15/87. We had three people attend...." R.T.

Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Wichita. "Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Wichita SA had an all-day get-together on July 25 in Perry, OK. There were about 30 present including a few S-Anons. There are tentative plans to have another one in the Spring...." B.C.

"I came away with the living proof of how working a 12-Step program can bring us the spiritual awakening necessary for God's healing....The conference made me feel very grateful for SA and the 12 Steps and a commitment to recovery and service in our fellowship." J.M.

Rochester, NY. "We will begin meeting in planning for the July 1988 convention with a business meeting after our Monday night regular meeting. It is very exciting to contemplate this privilege which Higher Power has bestowed on us. Certainly, your prayers will be needed." D.G.

Burlington, VT. "Thank you for your help and support. We are getting a group formed here in Burlington, Vermont. Thank God! He has put people from AA in my path and—guess what?—they are loners in SA. There is no coincidence. There is a Higher Power for us all!" T.C.

Dayton, OH. "We now have 3 meetings in the Dayton area....There is a new meeting in the Kettering area. Oh, how recovery has been growing in the Dayton area. We have five people with sobriety over one year. Miracles do occur!" E.W.

Cleveland, OH. "This money was collected at our Wednesday evening Cleveland SA meeting and represents our sincere effort to assist you with our financial support. We want the doors of SA to always be open." P.P.

Denver, CO. "We, the Denver SA group, are growing in both numbers and sobriety...." P.H.

BEHIND THE WALL

Lansing, KS. "Just an update on our group at the Medium Security Facility of the Kansas State Penitentiary [begun in May]. We have averaged 17 persons per meeting after two months, with a high of 22. We experienced normal rough edges at the start but seem to be getting comfortably into a routine now, and our last few meetings have been most active and profitable....Of course, learning to work around the circumstances of institutional living is trying, but we are coping well." W.B.

"Greetings! I am an inmate in the Kansas State Penitentiary. Last week, for the first time, I attended an SA meeting. Never having attended an AA or any other such meeting, I found the meeting not only interesting, but also something that I feel I need....I was surprised to hear of sexaholism, but now that I'm starting to look at things in that light, things are beginning to make more sense." A.E.

Camp LeJeune, NC. "Our group here is set up now in a fashion after the AA model. We only have one or two of us who can identify with being addicts, and this facility will not allow one or two people to meet. But we have hopes for the future...." A.L.

Arkansas Department of Corrections, Pine Bluff. "We have just completed our second meeting and elected our officers, plus we have started our study program of the "White Book" and have found that this program is what we have been searching for. This information gives us the tools that we need to help ourselves toward sexual sobriety and recovery....[And in a later letter:] Thank you for the support and help that you and the SA organization have given us in helping us get a program started within ADC. We pray that through the will of God and SA we can obtain total sobriety and recovery and use what we learned through SA to help others on to sobriety and recovery." R.B.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS (Since July ESSAY) (Per Bozeman vote)

Apple Valley, MN	76.00	Lomita, CA	32.00
Appleton, WI	23.00	Long Beach, CA	370.00
Baldwinsville, NY	4.00	Long Island, NY	100.00
Baltimore, MD	35.00	Milwaukee, WI	456.46
Berkeley, CA	100.00	Minneapolis, MN	48.25
Boulder, CO	84.05	Nashville, TN	95.00
Bozeman, MT	13.00	Neenah, WI	20.00
Camarillo, CA	219.00	Northridge, CA	267.35
Cambridge, MA	15.30	Oklahoma City, OK	55.00
Chicago, IL	330.00	Olympia, WA	75.00
Cleveland	140.00	Phoenix, AZ	10.00
Clifton Springs, NY	34.25	Portland, OR	15.00
Denver, CO	67.00	Riverside, CA	30.59
Detroit, MI	126.66	Rochester, NY	85.00
D.C.	470.00	St. Louis, MO	120.00
Fairfield, CT	25.00	Seattle, WA	276.80
Gooding, ID	50.00	Tulsa, OK	76.00
Inglewood, CA	56.76	Tucson, AZ	10.00
Irvine, CA	20.00	Vancouver, B.C.	16.06
Kansas City, MO	76.00	West Los Angeles	400.00
Laurel MD	20.00	Groups total	4543.53

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is the financial report for SA
for the third quarter of 1987:

Revenue

Literature sales	9,717.89
Individual donations	1,148.02
Group donations	4,543.53

Total Receipts	15,409.44
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Expenditures

Salaries	3,827.50
Rent	600.00
Printing	7,820.98
Phone	910.75
Supplies	250.17
Misc.	2,415.14

Total Expenditures	16,617.69
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Deficit	1,208.25
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Total revenue year-to-date	40,024.
Total expenditures year-to-date	34,638.
Net surplus to date	5386.