

Conscious Contact

Prescott Area Intergroup: Serving Central Yavapai County
240 S. Montezuma St., Prescott, AZ 86303

Phone: (928) 445-8691 Website: www.prescottaa.org Email: prescottaa@prescottaa.org
Office Hours Mon - Fri: 10am-4pm Sat: 10am-2pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

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EDITORS NOTE: If you enjoy reading the articles, please consider submitting one also! We are always in need of a good story or article that you have read and that you would like to share. We just ask that you please keep it around 500 words, or less.

Please submit your contributions to the following email addresses: lauralee@verizon.net & prescottaa@prescottaa.org If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox, simply send a message to prescottaa@prescottaa.org. It's a great way to stay connected!

STEP NINE: Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

TRADITION NINE: A.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

CONCEPT NINE: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Intergroup News

Thanks to your amazing support, your Intergroup office is operating well! Sales and group donations were robust for August. We have a new volunteer, John J. who is taking care of the Friday a.m. shift—please welcome John to the team! We are also very excited to let you know the Intergroup Office is going to be painted, and the carpet is going to be replaced this month! As a result of the work taking place, **we are going to be closed September 15 – 17** (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) for this renovation—it's going to look great—please come by and visit us. If you have any questions, please contact us (928) 445-8691 or prescottaa@prescottaa.org

The Ninth Step is Freedom
By Greg S.

Steps One through Eight bring into stark relief the wrongs we have done others and ourselves. Just being sober is *not* enough; there is work to accomplish, if we are to improve. We can no longer afford to be “like the farmer who came up out of his cyclone cellar, . . . ‘Don’t see anything the matter here, Ma. Ain’t it grand the wind stopped blowin’?” (Big Book, p. 82) We are taking the fact-finding and fact-facing mission learned in the previous steps, and with humility as our guide, are preparing ourselves for going out in the world. “The spiritual life is not a theory. *We have to live it*” (BB, p. 83).

In Step Eight we made a list of those we have offended and have carefully considered the reasons why our apologies and amends are so necessary. Before we go out, we should get ready to employ three principles in our toolbox: “Good judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence—these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine” (12&12, p. 83). Although we began the amends process when we joined AA, at this juncture our sponsors come to our aid. They act as our tailor, crafting our suit one stitch at a time, ensuring the effectiveness in carrying out this step with the aforementioned principles. Our new characters are evolving, as we “begin to feel confident in our new way of life. . . that we are indeed changing for the better. . .” (12&12, p. 85).

As we progress through this step, we may well be tempted to forgo the more difficult and potentially humiliating amends. We may procrastinate, rationalizing that the time is not just right, “when in reality we may already have passed up many a fine chance to right a serious wrong. Let’s not talk prudence while practicing evasion” (12&12, p. 85). Driving this point home is the fact that when we entered this program, we made agreements under which we would take these steps to the best of our ability. We must remember that “it was agreed at the beginning *we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol*” (BB, p.76).

Of our own volition, we do not normally have the fortitude to go through this step successfully, being an order that we’d rather not go through. Nonetheless, we ask [God], “that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. . .we must not shrink at anything” (BB, p. 79).

We are taking our new character and putting it to work, living as amended men and women, taking the lead and righting the wrongs.

Each amend necessitates careful and thoughtful consideration of our fellows, without rancor. Most importantly we trust our God, who will remove fear from our effort (trust is the antidote for fear). Finally, “the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine” (12&12, p.87).

THE NINTH STEP, TRADITION, AND CONCEPT

The Ninth Step says, “Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.” Hopefully we have our list of people to make these amends to. In Step Eight we reviewed the list with our sponsor and decided on a course of action. Bill wrote “Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence----these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.”

It has been suggested that we divide who we will approach in some order as such; go to the people we want to make amends to first, such as family members we know are hoping for the best for us. After we have made some successful amends, we can try reaching out to people whom we are hesitant to approach. There might be some people we really don’t want to approach. As we progress in the Ninth Step those we previously thought we would not make amends to may not now seem so difficult to approach. Some of the last amends might take years. However, we agreed to go to any lengths for recovery. In The Big Book it says, “If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through.”

Tradition Nine says, “AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” There is a service structure in AA, but this structure has no power over local groups or individual members. Each group is autonomous in deciding what they do if it does not affect other groups or AA as a whole. We try to keep it simple. AA owns no property and tries to keep only a prudent reserve in its treasury. Our groups are autonomous of districts, areas, or the General Service Office. As members we try to follow the Traditions, so we have AA Unity, which is essential for the survival of our Fellowship. We have the General Service Office in New York to speak for AA at the public level and provide guidelines about our different services.

Concept Nine says “Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.” We need to value the people in our service positions and choose the right person for each position. Sometimes this becomes difficult, as not all members want to serve on boards and positions in groups. However, as we move down the service triangle, more members are willing to serve. In some Area 03 positions, I have seen many people stand for offices and coordinator positions. We have the Third Legacy method in naming the Delegate and other officers in Area 03, where a necessary two-thirds vote is needed to be elected. Sometimes this can go to 5 or 6 votes and if nobody gets the vote the finalists’ names will be drawn from a hat. I thank our co-founder Bill Wilson for setting up our three legacies of recovery, service and unity.

Dan S. Prescott Valley, AZ. Member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Humbolt's Men's Book Study

On Thursday nights at 7:00 PM; located at 13000 Prescott Street, Humbolt, AZ, and for more than 30 years, the Men's stag book study meets at the Humbolt/Dewey Senior Center. This writer was once a member of this well-attended men's AA meeting. Unfortunately, due to Covid and rising prices at the pump, my meeting on Thursdays changed to meetings in Prescott.

Last Thursday I made the decision to once again attend the Humbolt meeting. Although some things had changed, much of it was just as I remembered. Starting promptly at 7:00 PM the meeting opened with Serenity Prayer. Going around the room, we all identified by our names and as alcoholics. Subsequently, chips were given and announcements were made, as well as reports from service members.

Reading from the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous, volunteers read on from the end of another reader's paragraph. At the end of the readings the group paused for approximately 20 minutes, and when the members returned to the meeting, the discussion turned to the evening's reading from the Big Book. It appeared that the members of this meeting were well informed about our book, and I appreciated several of the insights.

As with many other AA meetings, the members of the Humbolt's Men's Book Study were no different in welcoming new members and me as well. Experiencing the Thursday night Humbolt's Men's Book study has always been a pleasure, and this evening was no different.

(The following article is from Isaac B. – a recent addition to the Intergroup Service Board.)

My name is Isaac, and I'm an alcoholic!

I've had the privilege of serving AA in a few different ways, and one of my absolute favorites was as Area 03 Literature Coordinator. What this job mostly consisted of was hauling a carload's worth of AA literature all around the state to Roundups, Conventions, Assemblies, and other events. I also got the chance to help get AA literature to groups and organizations that needed it and couldn't easily order it themselves. I'd like to share a few stories from this time as Literature Coordinator:

First, in case you didn't know, our book Alcoholics Anonymous was translated a few years ago into the Navajo (Diné) language! A few things that made this translation particularly challenging are that Navajo is only a spoken language without a written format, and also that many of the phrases, terms, and ideas in the Big Book don't have any direct counterparts in the Navajo language and culture. The translated book is on a 14 CD audiobook set and includes the first 164 pages, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, and several selected stories.

Isaac B. – continued

In my time as Literature Coordinator, I was eager to find out if this translation was being used and if it was an effective tool to carry the message. I had the chance to speak with several folks from the Navajo Nation who told me that yes, they do use this translation, and that they had been to step study meetings that use this translation as part of their format. When asked if the translated ideas and words make sense and are useful, one bi-lingual member told me that in fact, the words in the Navajo translation are even more powerful than the English language version. He said it uses spiritual language and terms that had deep meanings, and that the book was beautifully translated. It still gives me goosebumps to think about!

Did you know that AA has literature available in Braille? As Literature Coordinator, I had been dragging around copies of the Big Book, 12 & 12, and a few pamphlets in Braille to all the events. They made for good conversation pieces at Roundups and Conventions, but I doubted I'd get the chance to get them to someone who needed them.

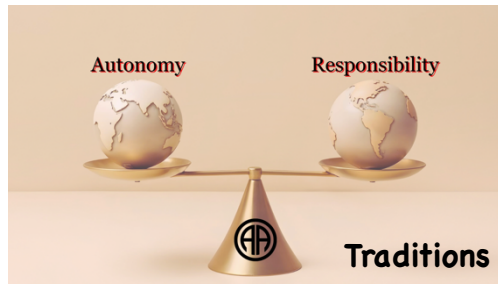
Well, out of the blue, I got a call from someone doing Corrections work in Yuma who knew someone in their AA group on the yard who was blind and could read Braille! After a short drive and a drug-deal type exchange of books in a truck stop parking lot, those Braille books were on their way to carry the AA message to someone who needed it!

Lastly, at an Arizona State Convention, I ran into a friend I hadn't seen in some time. While catching up, they told me their partner was working over in Tanzania and couldn't find any AA meetings or literature in the local Swahili language. They had spoken with numerous local people who wanted to attend AA, but the only meetings and literature were in English. Within a few days, we had a large order of Swahili AA literature being shipped around the world to them!

The AA message gets carried in many different ways, and our literature is an essential component of that! And I am so grateful for our General Service Office and AA World Services who are always working tirelessly to help even more folks experience our literature! New translations and formats of the Big Book and other publications are always in development.

I hope these stories encourage you to get involved in AA service! There is always so much exciting work to be done to carry AA forward into the future!

Thank you for letting me serve, Isaac B.



Those they Serve...

We don't need no stinkin' rules,
Rules we say were made for fools,
Now considering our past,
And the harms we amassed,
Perhaps we need a new set of tools.

We really need something to go by,
And that, we can not deny,
Stick with what's best,
And what's passed the real test,
And simple enough to abide by.

Whether an old timer or new,
The group conscience comes thru,
Not fake or glossy,
And never too bossy,
We might see a new point of view.

It's best to have rules that evolve,
There're always new issues to solve,
Best be quick on our feet,
And always upbeat,
Lest our program will simply dissolve,

If our ultimate goal is to preserve,
And provide the valve we deserve,
Our actions must stand,
With reasonableness, agreement - And
Be relevant to those that they serve.



FALL AA GRATITUDE PICNIC

Saturday, October 17th 2026

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Granite Creek Park

554 6th Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Hosted By: Prescott Valley Noon Meeting

Lunch 11:00 a.m. Speaker 12:30 p.m.

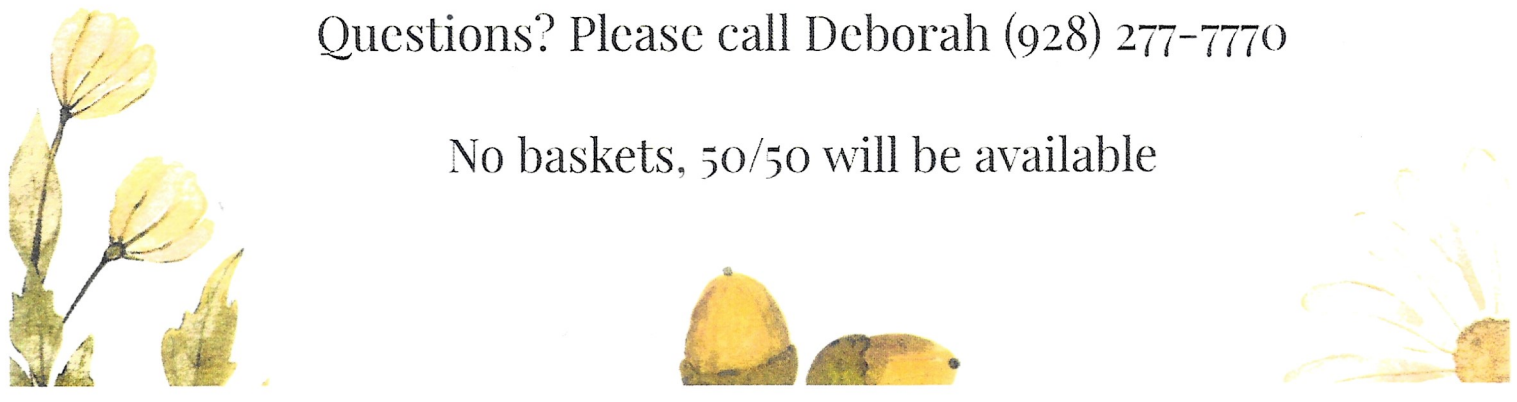
Set up starts at 9:30 am

Intergroup provides free
chicken, salads and water

Please, bring a side or dessert to share!

Questions? Please call Deborah (928) 277-7770

No baskets, 50/50 will be available



Arizona Area 03 2026 CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE

“Keep Coming Back To Stop Going Back”



The Arizona Area- 03 Corrections Conference fosters cooperation between Alcoholics Anonymous and the Corrections Professionals who administer the facilities. It is open to all who might be interested in carrying the AA message of recovery to the incarcerated alcoholic. *Your participation makes that possible!*

October 2 & October 3rd, 2026

LOVE OF CHRIST CHURCH – 1525 N Power RD Mesa, AZ 85205

Friday – 5:30p – 8:30p – Social Hour and Speaker Meeting

Saturday 9:00a – 4:00p (Doors open at 8:00a)

Registration \$30 (Social Hour (Fri) & Continental Breakfast & Lunch on Sat)

\$15 for a Coffee Cup if Desired

Name: _____

Registration \$30 each _____

Email: _____

Coffee Mug: \$15 each _____

Phone: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

**Make Checks Payable to Arizona Area Committee NOTE: Corrections Conference
Mail to: Corrections Conference Committee-PO BOX 50771 Mesa, AZ 85209**

Registration online: <https://www.area03.org/Committees/Corrections>

Further Questions? correctionsregistration@area03.org

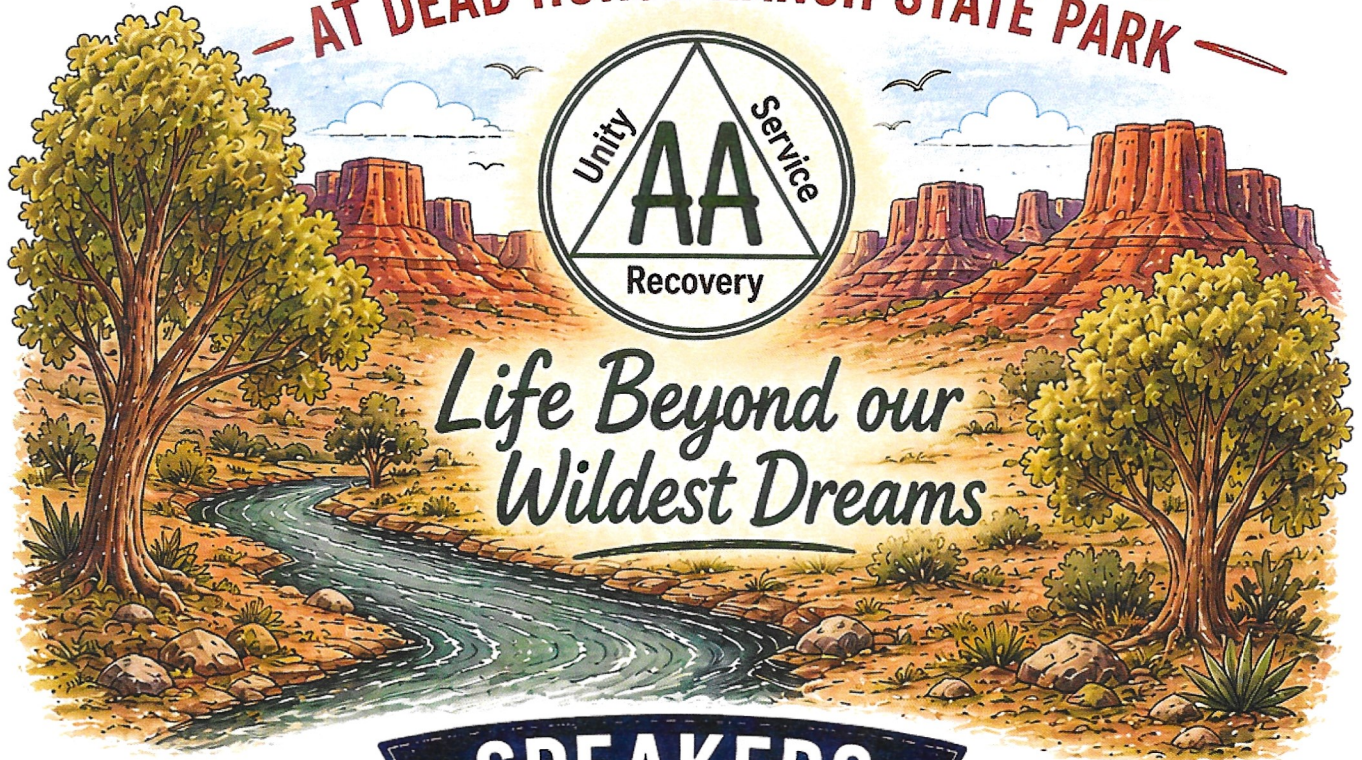
Treatment Facilities Committee Annual Potluck

- **Sunday, September 13, 2026, 2pm until 5pm, Safe Harbor, 520 W. Delano in Prescott.**
- Please bring your favorite entrée or dessert. If you can't bring anything please come as you are; there will be plenty of food and fellowship!
- Looking for a weekly or bi-weekly commitment taking meetings into Treatment Facilities?
- There are plenty of opportunities available for service! **For more information call Victor V. 928-899-5279.**



Verde Valley Roundup 2026

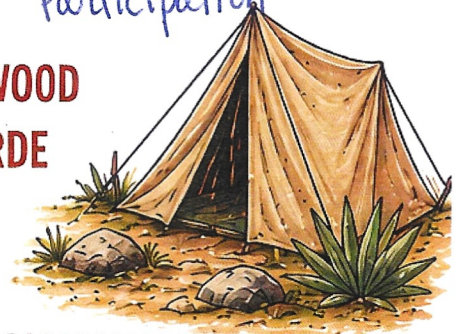
— AT DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK —



★ SPEAKERS ★

- ☜ JOE C - SAN DIEGO
- ☜ BARBARA D - COTTONWOOD
- ☜ ANDREW N - CAMP VERDE
- ☜ MIKE A - TENNESSEE
- ☜ BEKI P - TEXAS

Alanon
Participation



OCTOBER 23-25, 2026

★
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!

VerdeValleyRoundUp.org