



**Annual Alcoholics Anonymous  
Convention with Al-Anon  
Participation**

May 1st & 2nd 2015

Saint George's Episcopal Church  
23802 Avenida De La Carlota  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

## Welcome

---

On behalf of the committee, welcome to **Miracles Happen 2015 A.A. Convention with AI-Anon Participation**. We invite you to attend Workshop Meetings, Marathon Meetings and Speaker Meetings during this year's convention. We extend our deep appreciation to each committee member and the many volunteers for their time and service during this year. Open your hearts and minds to hear the music of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This year, Miracles Happen celebrates its twenty-ninth year of recovery, fellowship and carrying the message to members of the LGBTQ Community. We are glad you are all here. We are also at the end of era as Miracles Happen is coming to a close. Those who have participated in many Miracles Happen conventions have many memories and much fondness for the opportunities of fellowship and recovery.

If this is your first time at Miracles Happen, thank you for joining us. We hope you take advantage of our new location, St George's Episcopal Church. We are glad to be here. Please join in any of the meetings and fellowship activities, but also take a moment to rest: Easy Does It. Meet friends, make new friends, and remember: *We Are Not a Glum Lot*.

If there is anything we can do to make your experience here at Miracles Happen more enjoyable, please be sure to ask any committee member for assistance. We hope you have a chance to learn something new and enjoy the fellowship.

In love and service - **The 2015 Miracles Happen Board**

## A.A. Preamble

---

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

## Table of Contents

---

Page 2 .....	Welcome
Page 3 .....	AA Preamble & Table of Contents
Page 4 .....	The Twelve Traditions
Page 5 .....	General Information
Page 9 .....	Friday Convention Schedule
Page 10 .....	A.A. & AI-Anon Workshop Schedule
Page 11 .....	A.A. & AI-Anon Marathon Meeting Schedule
Page 12 .....	Saturday Convention Schedule
Page 14 .....	History
Page 16 .....	The Twelve Steps
Page 17 .....	Memoriam
Page 18 .....	Miracle Happen 2014 Board & Committees
Page 19 .....	Notes

## The Twelve Traditions

---

1. Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
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.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, we need always maintain personal anonymity at the levels of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

## General Information

---

### Registration

Your badge is your admission to most Miracle Happen events. Please wear your badge at all times; it is your entry to workshops and most of the convention activities.

### Registration Hours:

Friday	6:00 PM - 7:15 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday	2:00 PM - 7:30 PM

### Hospitality

Located in Bourne Hall on the west side of the hall. Tables and chairs available in Bourne Hall and also outside on the north side of St George's.

Registration, A.A., Al-Anon literature, commemoratives are located in lobby at west end of Bourne Hall.

## General Information

---

### Cell Phones

If you need to use your cell phone, please step outside to make your call. Out of courtesy to the speakers, leaders, and attendees, please refrain from text messaging and using camera phones during all meetings.

### Conduct

Please act appropriately and remember we all represent A.A. We are guests at St George's Episcopal Church. Please be respectful of other patrons who may not be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### Anonymity

There may be some here who are unfamiliar with our tradition of personal anonymity at the public level: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films" thus we respectfully ask that A.A. Speaker and Members not be photographed, videotaped or identified by full name in any form or broadcast reports of our meetings. The assurance of anonymity is essential to our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. Also, our tradition of anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities.

### After Hours

Please help us in keeping the noise level down, especially after 10:00 PM. Adherence to the smoking policy of St George's Church is critical. No smoking within 100 feet of any doorway. Please smoke in designated areas only.

## General Information

---

### Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the many volunteers who helped us with this convention and with fundraisers throughout the year. Your contributions of time, talents, and skills helped us so much. Thank you for your support.

We would like to also thank  
**Saint George's Episcopal Church**  
for accommodating us throughout the year!

We gratefully acknowledge and thank  
**David P. & Royal Printing** in New Jersey for their generous donation of printing this program for the 8th year in a row.

***Most of all, thank you for attending  
Miracles Happen 2015. We hope you enjoy  
your time with us.***

## A.A. & Al-Anon Convention Schedule

---

**Friday, May 1, 2015**

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM      **Registration & Hospitality Opens**

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM      **A.A. Friday Night  
Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker: Elizabeth S.**  
From: San Francisco, CA

**Location: Bourne Hall**

9:15 PM - 9:45 PM      **Ice Cream Social  
Location: Bourne Hall**

9:45 PM - 10:30 PM      **Entertainment**  
Directed by: Jim S.  
**Location: Bourne Hall**

***No A.A. or Al-Anon Workshops or  
Marathon Meetings Today***

## A.A. & Al-Anon Workshop Schedule

---

**Saturday, May 2, 2015**

**Location: Bourne Hall**

9:30 - 10:30 AM • **A.A.**  
Rarely Have We Seen A Person Fail

10:30 - 11:30 AM • **A.A.**  
Thoroughly Followed Our Path

10:30 - 11:30 AM • **Al-Anon**

2:45 - 3:45 PM • **A.A.**  
Completely Give Themselves To This Simple Program

2:45 - 3:45 PM • **Al-Anon**

4:00 - 5:00 PM • **A.A.**  
Remember That We Deal With Alcohol

4:00 - 5:00 PM • **A.A.**  
Half Measures Aailed Us Nothing

## A.A. & Al-Anon Marathon Meetings

---

**Saturday, May 2, 2015**

**Location: Bourne Hall**

9:30 - 10:30 AM AA

10:30 - 11:30 AM AL-Anon

2:45 - 3:45 PM AA

4:00 - 5:00 PM AL-Anon



## A.A. & Al Anon Convention Schedule

---

**Saturday, May 2, 2015**

**Location: Bourne Hall**

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

**A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting**

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

**Lunch - Hospitality Area / Outside**  
\$5 Donation  
Or, lunch on your own.

## A.A. & AI Anon Convention Schedule

---

**Saturday, May 2, 2015**

**Location: Bourne Hall**

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

**Dinner Buffet**

Location: Hospitality Area/Outside  
\$25 Donation  
Or, dinner on your own

7:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Miracles Happen Slide Show**

Location: Bourne Hall

8:15 PM - 10:00 PM

**A.A. Saturday Speaker Meeting**

Announcements &  
Sobriety Countdown

Leader:

Chapter 5

Chapter 3

12 Traditions

**Speaker: Paul J.**

From: West Hollywood, CA

Promises

Closing Prayer

**Location: Bourne Hall**

## History

---

*Miracles Happen* is the product of the spirit of fellowship touched by other Alcoholics Anonymous fellowships. This spirit inspired a small few one day in the San Francisco airport. In the mid 1980s a group of sober alcoholics from Orange County attended the Living Sober conference held in San Francisco. It had been a powerful conference for all of them. While awaiting their return flight at the airport, they discussed the incredible stimulation and evocative feelings the conference had inspired in all of them. A thought occurred to them in that moment: "Why not have a gay A.A. conference in Orange County?"

One member exclaimed, "Why not?" All present shared that sentiment. The group offered a prayer and, once home, proceeded to create the first Orange County gathering of sober alcoholics. The conference was modeled on other A.A. conferences. Phone calls were placed among the community to gather together the *Miracles Happen* board and committee members. They all called their sponsors and sponsees, then proceeded to carry the message to friends and fellow alcoholics.

They began meeting at a member's home eight months before the first conference. They had no money, but donated \$1 each time they met. The name of the convention, *Miracles Happen*, was unanimously chosen by the first few involved in the establishment of the Orange County conference. These pioneers undertook major roles in this endeavor. Without these people, no miracles were going to happen! Most of these participants are still sober today.

Along with a theme, they needed a logo. A simple black, white, and orange logo was chosen. After the first conference, it

## History

---

was decided that all future logos would carry two colors of the designers choice, the color orange representing Orange County, and a wave to represent the beautiful coast that we are blessed to be so near.

The committee selected the lovely Ben Brown Resort in Laguna Beach for the first conference. This location was chosen because of its safety and warmth. Nestled in Aliso Canyon, its serene atmosphere provided the perfect environment for a spiritual experience.

The conference was held without a hitch. The registration charge was \$5 per attendee and, of course, no one was turned away for lack of funds. The efforts and donations by the members of our fellowship were inspiring. There was a popcorn machine, sandwiches, chips, cakes, muffins, and all the coffee you could drink. There were marathon meetings that were full all the time. People even got up in the middle of the night to attend. Newcomers and old-timers alike were laughing, talking, and sharing with one another to create a feeling of community.

There was a magical quality about the first *Miracles Happen* conference. A few were inspired by the events of another fellowship, and with faith, determination, and action, they created the beginning of what we have continued to celebrate in Orange County today. *Miracles Happen* continues, each time different and each time with its own unique magic.

## History

---

It is with appreciation for all who have contributed so greatly to 29 years of Miracles Happen, that we look back as the end comes. This is our final Miracles Happen convention and we have been blessed. May we all follow in the spirit of the fellowship and see for ourselves that:

# Miracles Do Indeed Happen!



## The Twelve Steps

---

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principals in all our affairs.

## In Memoriam

---

Over the past year, we have lost a few friends. Some served as members of Miracles Happen board committees and were beloved members of our fellowship. We remember them in this program with loving thoughts. They will be missed.

**Kevin P. & Andrew B.**



## Miracles Happen 2015 Board & Committees

---

**Chair:** Mary S.  
**Secretary:** Jennifer R.  
**Treasurer:** Jeff C.  
**2014 Chair:** Dan S.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Co-chair</u>
Al Anon	Jerry.	Tim D.
Archives	Jim W.	
Banner / Graphics	Mike P.	
Catering	Andrew S.	
Commemoratives	Tim L.	
Entertainment	Jim S.	
Fund-raising	Michael S.	
Hospitality & Greeting	Zeke C.	Bobby E.
Program	Jeff C.	
Raffle	Dan S.	Tim D.
Registration	Denny C.	Ethan T.
Speakers	Collin W.	Don K.
Website	Mike P.	Jim M.
Workshops	Dan S.	Ethan T.

## Notes:

---