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***NOTE—FREE SUBSCRIPTION: TO ALL MEMBERS IN SERVICE POSITIONS:**
Meeting Secretaries, Intergroup Representatives and GSR's who register with Central Office, will automatically receive *The Tradition* each month at no charge. If you'd like to receive a free copy in the mail, please submit this subscription form and note the service position you are now filling. *Stay informed, order now!*

LATEST
NEWS
+ Events
+ Meetings
+ Recovery
+ Fellowship

12 Monthly
Updates
Only **\$5.**
Per Year



Volume 35 — Issue 4 **April 2015**
The TRADITION
Ventura County's Central Service Area Monthly Newsletter

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Info Lines ..

Visit Our Website.
*Just want a meeting or
other A.A. information?*
Check out the expanded
Ventura County website.
www.aaventuracounty.org

Ventura County Central
Service Office Inc.
321 N. Aviator Street,
Suite 115
Camarillo, Ca. 93010

24 Hour Telephones

(805) 389-1444

(800) 990-7550

Fax (805) 389-2912

E-Mail

vcaaco@verizon.net

From the Bottom Up

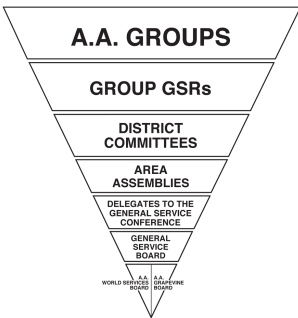
This morning, as I was reading the book Thank You for Sharing--Sixty Years of Letters to the AA Grapevine, I came across letters in a section regarding a story about the Lord's Prayer in AA meetings. As I read from letter to letter, each opinion voicing valid concerns and viewpoints from both sides of the issue, it occurred to me that there may be no better reason for AA members to learn the Traditions and our service structure, and how they allow us to operate, than this topic. It is virtually as old as our Fellowship itself, and returns as regularly as clockwork.

Personally, I have never felt the need to argue about whether or not the Lord's Prayer belongs in AA meetings, because I know that the Fourth Tradition tells me that "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." Therefore, I know it's the group's choice to recite this prayer and not some proclamation that came down from on high. But change in AA does not occur from the top down, and a letter to the General Service Office in New York is not a letter to the "powers that be." Besides, regardless of how much or how well we write, all GSO staff is going to do is reply that they support the group's autonomy and they leave the decision where it belongs, in the hands of the individual members. AA's service structure is inverted, and any changes in AA come from the Fellowship and from the groups themselves.

In other words, we can write all the letters we want, but if we don't like something that is going on in our AA meetings, regularly attending group business meetings is one way to begin changing it. Once in the business meeting, we begin to see how the group functions, how our Traditions work, and how the service structure ticks. Reading the pamphlet "The AA Group" will give a better idea about how everything meshes.

If we feel strongly about a topic, we can bring it up in the business meeting. A motion may or may not get passed. But one thing is for sure, we'll see where the power in AA rests: on the shoulders of each member who feels strongly about a topic and seeks to change or defend it. We'll also be less likely to be drawn into arguments about it again, too. Safe in the knowledge of how change really happens in AA, we might sit back, listen to the new person's impassioned pleas, and ask, "So, why don't you attend the business meeting next week if you feel that strongly about it?"

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE
(U.S. and Canada)



By Dave R - Manchester, NH
Reprinted with permission of the AA Grapevine

Send Us Your Story!

What it was like! What Happened! What it is like Now!

We encourage our Tradition readers to share their own experiences and recovery with other members with your personal 500 to 600 word story. Maybe something that's happened in recovery that may be helpful to others. Or an experience that happened that shows how the program has worked for you. It's an effective way to help other members who may be inspired by your story. Use your name in the byline or be anonymous, it's up to you. It's one-to-one sharing in print, any time you want to read it.

So start writing today
AND SHARE YOUR RECOVERY STORY!

E-MAIL Your recovery story to:
VCAACO@VERIZON.NET



The Humor Column "We're Not a Glum Lot"

After purchasing a brand new Corvette, a middle-aged California playboy stopped off at his favorite watering hole to show off his new convertible. After many hours of showing off the car and being toasted with drinks, he looked at his watch and realized it was nearly 2:00 AM and the bar would be closing. He finished off his last drink and staggered out to the parking lot.

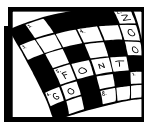
Getting into his new Vette, he put down the top to enjoy the warm summer air as he headed home. Taking off down the freeway, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through his hair. "Amazing" he thought as he flew down 101 pushing the pedal to the metal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw the highway patrol behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

I can get away from him - no problem thought the inebriated playboy nutcase as he floored it to 100mph, then 110, then 120mph. Suddenly, he thought, *What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!*, and he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the Trooper to catch up with him.

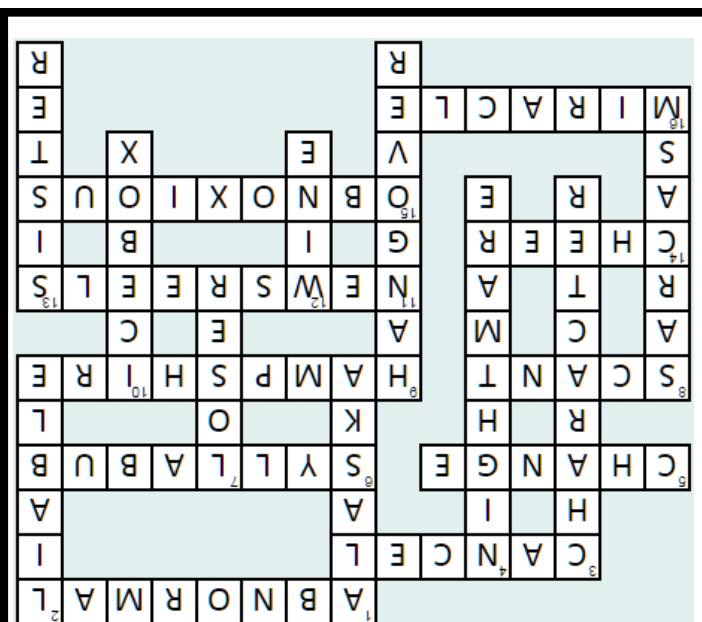
Pulling in behind him, the Trooper slowly walked up to the driver's side of the Corvette, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday and I have two days off. If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man, looking very seriously at the Trooper, said, "Officer, ten years ago, my wife ran off with a California State Trooper. When I saw the flashing lights behind me, I thought you were bringing her back.

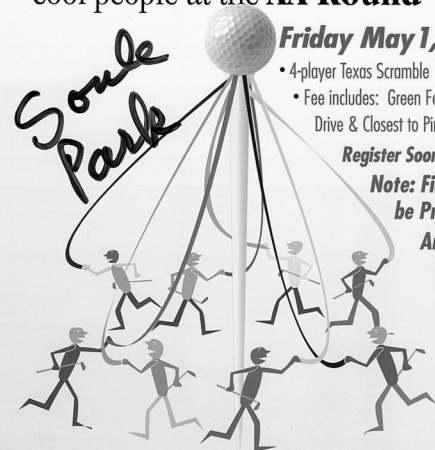
"I know that feeling. Have a good night, Sir," said the Trooper, and walked back to his patrol car, got in and drove away.



Crossword Puzzle ANSWER



On May 1st you *could* dance around a May pole...
Or ~ Have a REAL life and play golf with 139 other cool people at the **AA Round-Up Golf Tourney!**



Friday May 1, 2015 Shotgun Start 11AM SHARP!

- 4-player Texas Scramble • A Most Excellent Tri-Tip/Chicken BBQ
- Fee includes: Green Fees, Golf Cart, BBQ and Team Awards, Longest Drive & Closest to Pin Awards plus Tee Prizes & MORE!!

Register Soon! Entries MUST be Received BEFORE April 24, 2015

Note: Field Limited to 140 players. You Must be Pre-Paid to Play!

Arrive by: 10AM for 11AM start!

AVOID THE GATES OF INSANITY - PLAY GOLF!



Form your own 4-player team or submit separate entries below. Call Tony K. at 805/443-7018 if you have questions. Make check payable to: Ventura Round-up or pay by Visa or Mastercard. Mail Completed Form to: Golf Registration, 340 Rosewood Ave. Suite "O," Camarillo, CA 93010

Team Captain and /or

Player 1 _____ phone _____ fee \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Player 2 _____ phone _____ fee \$ _____

Player 3 _____ phone _____ fee \$ _____

Player 4 _____ phone _____ fee \$ _____

Want to make a donation so the less fortunate may play? Write in the amount of your gift: \$ _____

Cost is \$68.00 per player: Total Fees Paid \$ _____

MC/Visa _____ exp _____

Signature _____ (Required for CC)



"Nobody gets a newbie into that zombie state quicker than Phil does when he reads to them from The Big Book"

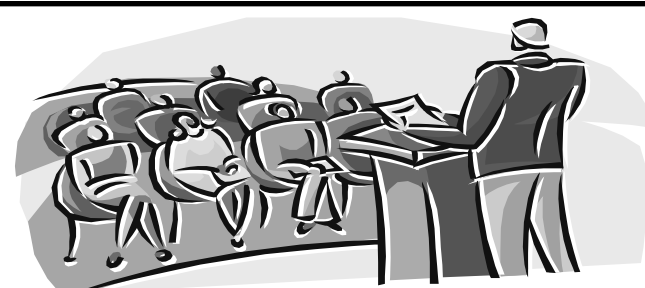
**DON'T ABUSE THE SLOGANS
AND SAYINGS. EXAMPLE #1**

Sorry baby. I can't promise you I'll ever call again, because I'm taking things *One day at a time.*



RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

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



Meetings!...Meetings!!!Meetings!!!



Districts, Area & AAWS CONTACTS

District 13
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 166
Ventura, CA 93002

Gold Coast Districts (9 & 12)

PLEASE NOT E NEW ADDRESS

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 132
Camarillo, Ca. 93011

District 24
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 843
Simi Valley, CA 93065

District 28
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3432
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Area 93
Mailing Address:
PMB #140
606 Alamo Pintado #3
Solvang, CA 93463

AAWS
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(212)870-3400



MAJOR AA EVENTS Around America

Hawaii Big Island Bash
April 24th - 26th
www.bigislandbash.com

**Serenity by the Sea
Golf Tourney**
May 1st
Soule Park
(see flyer page 2)

Serenity by the Sea
May 1-3
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
www.vcaaroundup.org

**31st Annual
Tri-State Round-Up**
May 14-17
Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino
Laughlin, Nevada
<http://www.tristate-roundup.com>

Woman to Woman
36th Workshop Weekend
May 29-31
Mount St. Mary's College
Womantowomanla.org

2015 International AA Convention
July 2-5, 2015
Atlanta Georgia
www.aa.org

The Ventura County Central Office
has listings and flyers of many other
AA related events in Southern
California and throughout the
United States.
Call 805-389-1444 or drop by to see us even if it's only for a
cup of coffee.
www.aaventuracounty.org



April 2015 Calendar

Wed 1st 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center
for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura

Thu 2nd 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office

Fri 3rd 6:00 pm H & I Board Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 12th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office
4 pm VCAA Convention Planning Mtg Central Office
5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Wed 8th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo

Sat 11th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Tue 21st 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @
King of Glory Lutheran Church
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Wed 15th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo

Thu 16th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd
Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Sun 26th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

April 24th Last day to submit items to the May Newsletter



May 2015 Calendar

Wed 6th 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center
for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura

Thu 7th 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office

Fri 1st 6:00 pm H & I Board Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 10th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office
4 pm VCAA Convention Planning Mtg Central Office
5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Wed 13th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo

Sat 9th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Tue 19th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @
King of Glory Lutheran Church
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Wed 20th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo

Thu 21st 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd
Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Sun 24th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

May 25th Last day to submit items to the June Newsletter

Tradition #4 Checklist

**Each group should be autonomous
except in matters affecting other
groups or AA as a whole.**

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Living Step # 4

When we decide that we want what other recovering members have found, and are ready to face our oversized egos, we become ready to start on our personal moral housecleaning. Step #4 is one of the action steps that can help set us free from the wreckage of our past which binds us to resentments, fear, envy and the thoughts that we can somehow escape the emotions of our past negative actions. In direct terms, Step #4 allows us to become ready to totally "come clean and face our past as it really is." The freedom that recovering members gain from meeting those old buried secrets head-on, in many cases is a life changing and a freeing experience as we then move on to step #5 and share our inventory with our Higher Power and our sponsor or another human being. Ask your God for guidance, work with your sponsor or a step study group and don't procrastinate. Step four can be emotionally challenging, but the results and the freedom we gain in God's time are often awesome.

Step #4 requires that we put our pen to paper as suggested in the Big Book of AA, on pg. 64.

◆ Poets' Corner ◆

Vortex
By
Timothy E

Like our galaxy
A winding whirlpool
Will run thick
With the colors
Poured into it
Spokes in a wheel
Cling to the center
And hold it tight
We are not alone
We are not victims
Longing for the greater
good
The ever so illusive
Somewhere out there
Somewhere in all of us

Such a magic
At our fingertips
If we would only
Hold out a hand
To give help
And welcome change
To be fearless
Having learned
To take risks
To know ourselves
To find protection
And peace
Alive and well
In the eye of the storm

End of the Day
By Anonymous

One hour - two hours...
Just make it to
the end of the day.

One day – two days...
Just make it to
the end of the day.

One week – two weeks...
Just make it to
the end of the day.

One month – two months...
Just make it to
the end of the day.

One year – two years...
Just make it to
the end of the day.

For the rest of your life...
Just make it to
the end of the day.

GRAPEVINE CORNER The Meeting In Print

By Michele B. of Newbury Park

Twelve ways to use the AA Grapevine to strengthen and insure your sobriety.

4. IT IS YOUR PERSONAL REPORTER.

How is AA developing in prisons and hospitals? What is the General Service Conference and what does it mean to the individual member? How about AA overseas?

The Grapevine brings worldwide AA to your living room, keeps you up-to- date all the time.

At Wit's End

Heard at a meeting:

I came into AA with back problems. My wife was on my back. The judge was on my back. And my employer was on my back!

Keep coming Back

The AA Big Book is like a cook book – you can read it all day and starve. You have to take the action

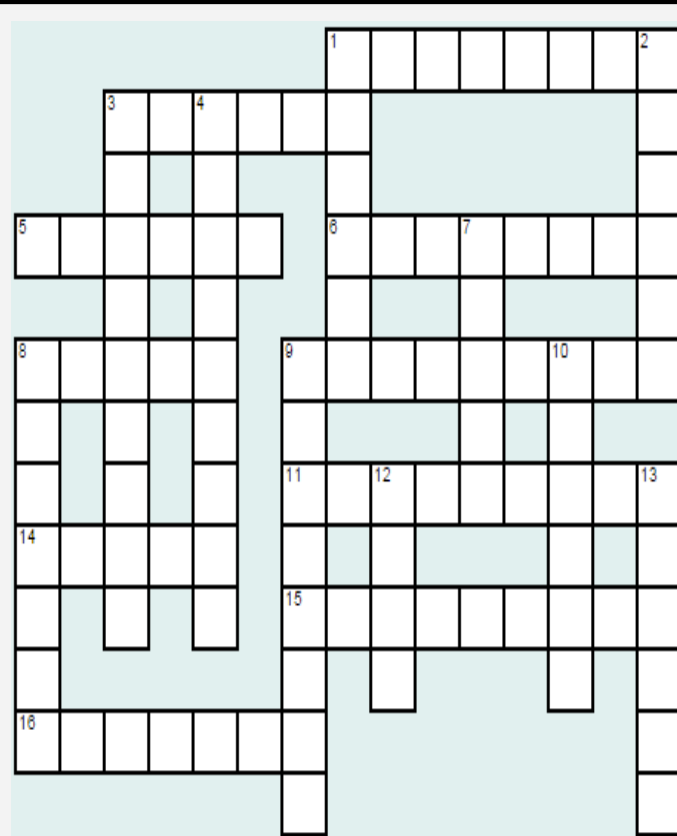
The dry drunk's 8th. Step: made a list of all the people we have harmed and asked God to remove them.

Recycle Your Copies of The Grapevine Magazine



The Grapevine is timeless! Articles written ten or twenty years ago are still fresh and inspiring. Central Office provides a box for collecting back issues of The Grapevine. These issues are picked up by H & I and re-circulated in institutions and jails. So . . .before discarding your back issues, bring them in for use by another recovering alcoholic! **Recycle and help spread recovery by sharing the stories of A.A.**

Crossword Puzzle Recovery Word Puzzle



ACROSS

1 ...of every ____ drinker

3 Make invalid for use

5 Once a psychic ____ has occurred.

6 Cream based drink curdled with wine or spirits

8 ...this is a ____ chance of success

9 Here lies a ____ Grenadier

11 ____ of lunar flight

14 Shout of joy

15 Highly objectionable or offensive

16 What is this but a ____ of healing

DOWN

1 AA Area 2

2 ...we are ____ to drink if we are afraid

3 ____ defects occurred.

4. Dr. Bob's ____

7 Not a winner

8 Cutting often ironic remark to express contempt

9 Horrible feeling the next morning

10 Old fashion freezer

12 Red or white

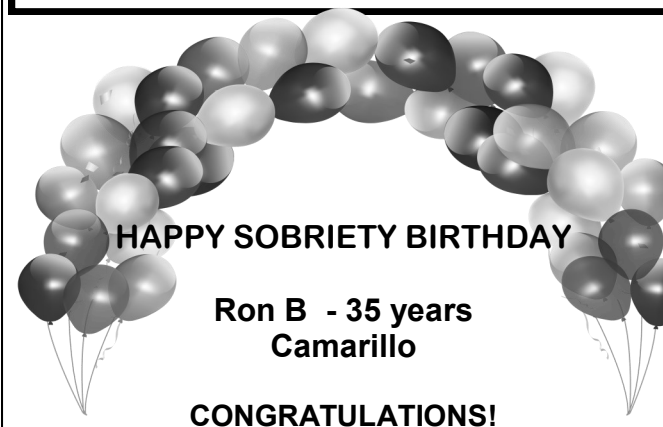
13 ____ Ignatia

Answer on page 2

AA BIRTHDAY CLUB Celebrate Sobriety

CELEBRATE YOUR AA BIRTHDAY HERE!
Celebrate your annual sobriety anniversary with us. To participate in this tradition, just send in the form provided in this column or submit it to vcaaco@verizon.net with your Birthday information. *Member's birthdays submitted will be published in this section the following month.*
Join the winners and celebrate your recovery.

April and Previous AA Birthdays



Birthday Club Listing For:

Name _____

City _____

Sobriety Date _____ Years _____

Voluntary Donation Amount \$ _____

Please mail to:
Ventura County Central Service Office

CENTRAL OFFICE Phone Call Activity

Meeting Info	340
Twelve Step Calls	71
Other Twelve Steps Programs	50
Activities	15
Directions to Office	43
Other Type Calls	362
TOTAL	881

AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

APRIL QUESTION:

Q In 1939 what Cleveland newspaper carried a series of articles on AA?

A **MARCH ANSWER:**
Why was the story *Lone Endeavor* removed from the Big Book after the First Edition First Printing?

Pat C. the source of the story had accepted an invitation to come to New York by bus from LA.. When he arrived in New York the man fitting his description did not come out of the bus. The welcoming party asked the driver if he had a man of the description on the bus. He said "He is sleeping it off under the back seat," So the story was removed.

Congratulations to Steve H. and Michele B. for submitting the correct answer.

*Answers will be published the following month. Mail your answer to:
Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.,
321 N. Aviator Street, Suite 115, Camarillo, Ca. 93010.
The correct answer will win a free one-year subscription to this publication. If the winner already has a subscription, a gift subscription will be awarded to another member — winner's choice.*

NEWSLETTER STUFF-N-FOLD GROUP

Friends of Bill W., Paul H, Rosalie, Don, Allison, Linda, Bill C, Jessie, Eddie and Visitors

INTERGROUP BOARD:

Chairperson	Martin F. Oxnard
Vice Chairperson	Wayne W. Ventura
Secretary	
Treasurer	Lynn S. Simi Valley
Member at large # 1	Jan K. Ventura
Member at large # 2	Vickie L. Camarillo
Member at large # 3	Scott W. Simi Valley

SPECIAL PAID WORKERS

Matthew C., Dick M.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Don B., Robert S., Peter M., Robin S., Dora E., Linda T., Azusa S., Mary H., Eric K., Dale S., Dan M., Malia S.

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321 N. Aviator Street, Suite 115
Camarillo, Ca. 93010
24 Hour Telephones
(805) 389-1444 - (800) 990-7550 Fax (805) 389-2912
E-Mail vcaaco@verizon.net
Website: www.aaventuracounty.org
Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday 9:30 am - 6 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2 pm
CLOSED SUNDAY