

Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.  
321 No. Aviator Street, Suite # 115  
Camarillo, CA. 93010

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Volume 36 — Issue 12

**DECEMBER 2016**

# THE TRADITION

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.

**FIND THE ONE  
DUPLICATED  
SNOWFLAKE IN THIS  
ISSUE**

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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](http://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](mailto:vcaaco@verizon.net)

## A.A. Service Positions Require Dedication and Commitment—Ron B

From the time we come in to the A.A. Program to finally do something about our Alcoholism, we are told that participation and service are two of the best ways to jump start our own recovery. But seldom is it explained to new members just how important, service positions, at all levels, are to the groups and membership as a whole.

The maintenance and growth of our fellowship, as well as members knowing that scheduled meetings will always be open and set-up on time, is all of our responsibility.

A hot pot of coffee brewing, cups, spoons and condiments available, and a meeting leader and established format ready to go at starting time is of prime importance.

Our regular attendance at meetings continues to be one of the cornerstones of recovery for both newcomers and members with some birthday chips in their pocket.

The personal satisfaction one gets is a good indication of the strength of your commitment to A.A., for those who do it, there is no better feeling in the world than when your work is helping others to stay sober... What a rush! It's a very basic way, for members new and old, to give back what they have received in recovery.

### Some suggestions for being an effective Meeting Secretary:

— Upon taking over the responsibility as a meeting secretary, provide your name and telephone number to the Central Service Office and the landlord where the meeting rent is paid. Also, be familiar with the group's liability

insurance coverage and its cost, if it's required. Be familiar with the twelve traditions as they are the glue that bonds our fellowship.

- Keep up-to-date with the financial standing of the meeting. Make sure that you have the correct addresses for monthly donations to the Central Service Office, the two local districts and the General Service Office in New York. The local service office can provide this information.

— Get other members involved. Some suggestions for participation and efficiency are to elect a meeting treasurer, get volunteer meeting set-up and take down person(s), a refreshments person, a literature and supplies person and greeters. Some meetings have minimum sobriety requirements for these positions which are decided by a group conscience. Normally, the group treasurer will give a verbal weekly financial report to the group on the seventh tradition collection, money paid out and reserves, as it is the group's money. It's key to get people involved in service. It's good for their recovery and helps the meeting run smoothly.

— Hold a short, pre-scheduled monthly business meeting, usually at the end of a weekly meeting, to discuss the group's business and finances and to get any suggestions from the group's members. Be sure to put any changes that are proposed, up to a group conscience vote before implementing them.

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(continued on page 2)

**NOTE: Members in service positions qualify for a FREE Newsletter\***

## Mail Subscription Order Form

**The TRADITION**

☐ Yes! Enclosed is my \$5.00 check for 12 Monthly Mailed Issues

☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW FREE SUBSCRIPTION Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Service Position \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this subscription form to:  
**VENTURA COUNTY CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE**  
321 No. Aviator St. Suite 115, Camarillo, CA 93010

**\*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**



**...Service continued from page 1**

from the group's members. Be sure to put any changes that are proposed, up to a group conscience vote before implementing them.

— Make sure that the meeting has the Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book and AA recovery pamphlets available for members who need them. Hard bound books are sold at our cost, pamphlets are free.

— Since all of us have commitments and responsibilities outside of A.A., it's important that members with meeting commitments personally arrange for qualified fill-in coverage in advance, when they're unable to attend the meeting or will be late. Make sure that the meeting goes on as scheduled.

***Being of service in A.A. is certainly an important commitment, but as many newer and older members will attest, it is one of the most effective ways to "feel a part of the fellowship" and to move ahead in your recovery. Make it a point to find out the opportunities for you to serve at the meetings you attend. One of the best ways to change self-centered thinking is to be of service to others. Give it a try .... it works!***

**Making the Right Choice by Anonymous**

The first time I heard someone say that "death or insanity awaits the alcoholic who persists in drinking," I thought it was an overstatement. I had seen many alcoholics of advanced age who continued on their miserable way but somehow clung to life. I knew many others who, while somewhat dotty, did not go insane. But what I came to understand was that most of us who drank would surely aggravate whatever physical or emotional ailments we had, and shorten our lives.

I heard a friend say that he, too, had rejected those dire predictions when he was new to AA. But something occurred to him: "What if my insanity did not progress, and my health miraculously got no worse, even if I continued drinking? What if I could be sure only that the rest of my life would contain exactly the same level of emotional and physical misery that the last six months of my drinking had? I thought about that, and I certainly didn't want it. So I chose AA."

Thank God that I did. I've now been sober in the program for a number of years, have a sponsor, completed the twelve steps and have begun to enjoy "The promises" as described in the Big Book and my life is very full. The things that I value today bring contentment to my life.



## **The Humor Column**

### **"We're Not a Glum Lot"**

Jim the town drunkard was at his wit's end, he had no money to buy even the barest necessities for his family. It was right before going to sleep one night that Jim prayed the following emotional prayer: "Dear Lord, please, all I'm asking for is some food to put on the table, NOTHING else! The booze I'll buy myself."

Tom's wife was hosting a dinner party for some of her close friends, at their summer home. Moment's before the guests were scheduled to arrive, she asked Tom if he would be ever so gracious to walk a block down to the beach to pick up some fresh snails for the party. On his way to the beach he passed the local bar, and figured he'd stop in for a quick drink before heading down to the beach to search for the snails. One drink lead to the next, and before he knew it, it was 5:00 in the morning and he hadn't gotten his wife those snails. Quickly he hurried down to the beach, picked up a few snails, rushed home, and stumbled up the front steps, dropping the snails. At that moment, his wife angrily opened the door asking him where he had been and how he had ruined her party. Tom, looked towards the snails and said "C'mon you slow pokes! Just a few more steps and we're there!"

Harry was sick and tired of being constantly badgered by his wife Barbara for spending so much time at the bar. Hoping it would help matters, Harry invited Barbara along with him. "So what would you like?" Harry cordially asked, as she took her seat next to him. "Oh I don't know" Barbara replied, "I guess I'll take the same thing as you." "OK" said Harry to the bartender, "we'll take two Johnny Walker's on the rocks!" Barbara barely took a sip of the drink before she started gagging "Oh my gosh! Get me a cup of water! This stuff is horrible! How do you drink this garbage?" "See?" said Harry "and you think I come here just to have a good time?!"

The poor man was such a habitual drinker that even he was finally convinced that he was an alcoholic. At his family's urging he went to see a psychiatrist. After a lengthy consultation, the doctor sternly ordered that hereafter, every time the patient got drunk he was to report his transgression the very next day. A few days later the patient staggered into the psychiatrist's office. "I wanna report that I wash drunk last night," he mumbled. "For heaven's sake, man, you're drunk right now!" cried the doctor. "Yeah I know," said the patient, "but I'm gonna report this tomorrow."

## **The Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors**

### **Of the Ventura County Central Service Office Wish You**

# **A Happy and Joyful HOLIDAY SEASON!**



### **HOW HAS THE PROGRAM WORKED IN YOUR LIFE?**

The Tradition welcomes its readers to share their own experience, strength, and hope with us. Maybe something that's happened in recovery that may be worth sharing, or an experience that happened that shows how the program has worked for you. It's an effective way to help other members on the road to recovery.

E-MAIL TO:  
**VCAACO@VERIZON.NET**



## **Update Your Group**

- Is your meeting info up to date?
- Has anything changed?
- Is it still in the same place.?
- Is the date and time the same?
- Provide any changes to central office to assure the directory and Secretary lists' accuracy.

**CALL: 805-389-1444**



## **Districts, Area & AAWS CONTACTS**

### **District 13**

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

### **Gold Coast Districts (9 & 12)**

*PLEASE NOTE 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

### AA CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MARATHON MEETINGS & POTLUCK

**Visions Meeting Hall**  
2667 Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks  
Meetings start at 6:00PM  
Dec. 24 and Dec. 31  
Meetings end at 10:30PM  
Dec. 25 & Jan. 1  
**POTLUCK DINNER**  
Served 4:00-5:00PM  
Christmas Day

**The Buck**  
321 N. Aviator St, Camarillo  
Meetings start at Noon  
Dec. 24 and Dec. 31  
Meetings end at 11:59 PM  
Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

### UNDER THE SEA

New Year's Eve Speaker Meeting & Dance  
AA with Al-Anon Participation  
8:00PM Speaker Meeting / 10:00PM Dance  
Ventura County Fairgrounds, McBride Hall  
\$15/person or \$25/couple  
Register online at [www.VCAARoundUp.org](http://www.VCAARoundUp.org)

### 27th ANNUAL RIVER ROUNDUP

"From Chaos to Serenity"  
**January 19 - 22, 2017 ~ Laughlin, NV**  
Register online by Dec. 30 at: [www.rcco-aa.org](http://www.rcco-aa.org)  
Registration Chair: Debra; 928-542-9044

#### 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](http://www.aaventuracounty.org)



## DEC 2016 Calendar

Wed 7th 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center  
for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura

Thu 8th 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office

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

Sun 11th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5:30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 11th 7:00 pm H&I Board Meeting @ Central Office

Wed 14th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck  
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo

Sun 18th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Tue 20th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @  
**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

Wed 21st 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg  
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo

Thu 22nd 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting  
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd  
Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Dec 19th Last day to submit items to the January Newsletter



## JAN 2017 Calendar

Wed 4th 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center  
for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura

Thu 5th 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office

Sun 8th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5:30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 8th 7:00 pm H&I Board Meeting @ Central Office

Wed 11th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck  
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo

Sat 14th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Sun 15th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Tue 17th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @  
King of Glory Lutheran Church  
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Wed 18th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg  
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo

Thu 19th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting  
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd  
Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Sun 22nd 12:00pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Jan 23rd Last day to submit items to the February Newsletter

### A Review of Tradition # 12

*"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all  
our traditions, ever reminding us to place  
principles before personalities."*

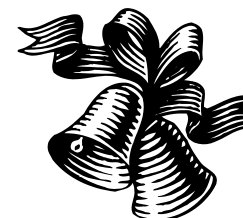
- Why is it good for me to place the common welfare of all A.A. members before individual welfare?
- Have I a personal responsibility in helping an A.A. group fulfill its primary purpose?
- Do I do all I can to support A.A. financially? When is the last time I gave away a Grapevine subscription?
- Should I keep my A.A. membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of A.A. so attractive that other drunks want it?
- What is the real importance of me among more than a million A.A.'s?

### Living Step # 12

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

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is the key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety. When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening.



Last Christmas was my eighth – and most joyful – sober holiday. Indeed, I have frequently thought in the months since then: How wonderfully creative God is! For I know that my life today is finer in every detail

than anything I could ever have constructed, had I been afforded the opportunity.

On Christmas morning, as I rode with the special lady in my life to a meeting, the traffic lights a half-acknowledged blur on the fringe of my consciousness (she was driving), my mind for some reason turned to those early, agonizing weeks when I sat at the tables of AA in anger, fear, and arrogance. During those first weeks a singular phrase echoed again and again, sometimes audibly through tears of self-pity, sometimes silently in stoic regret. "Why me?" cried the repeated chant. "Why me? Why me? Why me?"

Of course, there was no answer then. And, I thought with a smile, there was no need for an answer today.

We stopped at a light. On the cold morning sidewalk nearby, a sad man stumbled across the curb to seek the safety of an abandoned building. He was almost too weak to lift his paper bag to his blistered lips for another sip from the bottle it contained.

As I watched, my mind enumerated the fringe benefits I know today, in addition to the primary reward, sobriety.

The gift of awareness. Of comfort. Of an end to fear and insecurity. Of the "new freedom" and "new happiness" promised in the Big Book. Even the gift of love.

And as the total grew in my grateful heart, there came again into my mind – the phrase that had echoed so endlessly before: "Why me? Why me? Why me?"





## 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

12. As a source of regional and worldwide A.A. history.

The new "What We Were Like" section of archival material presents fragments of local, regional, and general A.A. history, and offers an exciting anecdotal glimpse into our Fellowship's rich heritage of experience.

### At Wit's End

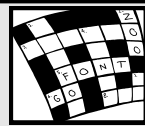
#### Holiday Drink

In June of 1972, after only two years of sobriety, I had to make a business trip from Winnipeg to Kansas City. When the flight attendant rolled her booze wagon down the aisle of the plane, she looked at me and asked "Sir, would you like something from the bar?" My answer? "No thanks, I've got to be home for Christmas!" True story!

#### Hug a bug

At my home group one day, a woman who had often snubbed me went out of her way to give me a big hug before the meeting. I was surprised by her gesture and wondered what had initiated her change of heart. I got my answer at the end of the meeting. The chairperson got up with some final words. "Group, your suggestion for next week," he instructed, "is the same as last week. I want you to go out there and hug somebody you just can't stand."

**THE GRAPEVINE WISHES YOU  
ALL HAPPY SOBER  
HOLIDAY SEASON**



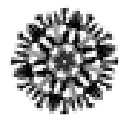
Recovery Word  
Search Puzzle

T	S	B	S	E	A	A	D	A	V	I	T	A	L
S	A	A	R	T	B	H	L	D	C	A	N	P	B
S	E	B	T	A	N	D	S	H	N	M	T	N	E
I	P	E	S	K	I	M	O	E	S	A	E	I	D
E	A	B	S	T	A	I	N	R	R	L	D	I	E
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A	E	S	R	B	N	N	S	F	K	D	O	E	I
Y	L	U	I	A	T	T	E	L	R	Y	U	S	L
A	B	A	A	E	P	S	I	N	O	L	S	T	M
S	M	D	R	E	S	E	N	T	C	D	U	E	E
Y	U	F	L	E	S	I	V	B	N	E	E	V	N
L	H	N	O	I	T	E	E	I	T	L	O	D	T
U	O	S	R	E	D	N	O	P	N	P	U	A	S
M	B	E	V	E	I	R	P	E	R	E	T	M	I

MALADY  
ABSTINENCE  
GRAPEVINE  
ABSTAIN  
HUMBLE

BEDEVILMENTS  
SELF  
LEST  
TEDIOUS  
ASYLUM

REPRIEVE  
ADHERE  
CORKER  
RESENT  
ESKIMO



## RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

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



## 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](mailto: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.**

### November & Previous AA Birthdays

HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY



Keep On Sharing Your Recovery

From

Alcoholism With

Other Alcoholics Who Still Suffer.

CONGRATULATIONS!



### Birthday Club Listing For:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

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



## CENTRAL OFFICE Phone Call Activity

Meeting Info	420
Twelve Step Calls	31
Other Twelve Steps Programs	27
Activities	52
Directions to Office	16
Other Type Calls	<u>273</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>819</b>



## AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

Q

**DECEMBER QUESTION:**



What did Bill C, the man who committed suicide in Bill & Lois's house, steal from them?

**NOVEMBER ANSWER:**

Since only Doug M. provided the correct answer, the question will remain out there for another month.  
**GOOD LUCK.**

A



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 and Visitors

#### INTERGROUP BOARD:

Chairperson	Wayne W. Ventura
Vice Chairperson	Scott W. Simi Valley
Secretary	Jan K. Ventura
Treasurer	Mike B. Simi Valley
Member at large # 1	Joe N.
Member at large # 2	Craig S
Member at large # 3	Michelle C.

#### SPECIAL PAID WORKERS

Matthew C., Dick M.



#### OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Don B., Sonya, Peter M., Mike A., Azusa S., Dale S., Robin S., Steve F., Ron. G., Eric N.

**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](mailto:vcaaco@verizon.net)

Website: [www.aaventuracounty.org](http://www.aaventuracounty.org)

**Office Hours:**

Monday thru Friday 9:30 am - 6 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 2 pm

CLOSED SUNDAY