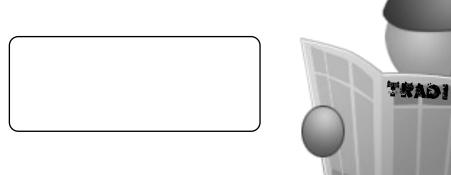
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**FEBRUARY 2016** Volume 36 — Issue 2

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.

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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. Aviador Street, Suite 115 Camarillo, Ca. 93010

24 Hour Telephones

(805) 389-1444 (800) 990-7550

Fax (805) 389-2912 E-Mail

vcaaco@verizon.net

# A Look Back — Bill W's View Of The AA Legacy

Editor's Note: The following was originally published in the March, 1971 Grapevine, just two months after the death of the AA cofounder His comments on the legacy still ring true in the AA Fellowship.

Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

Many of us, upon first seeing those words, asked ourselves the question "Can it be just that simple?" -- and then heard a voice inside us answer "Yes."

Bill's application of AA principles to ever-changing circumstances was another of his remarkable talents. Day in and day out, letters would arrive at his desk asking for his "last word" on a matter of AA policy. And, in answer after answer Bill would fall back upon the basic principles of AA's three Legacies, tempered by wisdom, humor, perspective, and regard for the feelings of others.

One warm example occurred in 1968 when a well-meaning AA wrote to Bill, in deep concern, about an influx of youthful hippies or flower children to local AA groups, along with their distinctive manner of dress, sexual mores, and other unorthodox behavior, including the use of drugs. The writer feared that this particular invasion might be "a very real threat to our wonderful, God-given program."

Bill's reply was typical of his use of AA principles to meet new challenges.

"Your letter about the hippie problem, so-called, was mighty interesting to me. I doubt that we need to be alarmed about this situation, because there have been precedents out of the past. All sorts of outfits have tried to move in on us, including

communists and heroin addicts, prohibitionists and do-gooders of other persuasions.

"Nearly all of these people, who happened to have an individual problem with alcohol, not only failed to change AA, but, in the long run, AA changed them. I have a number of them among my closest friends today, and they are among the best AA's I know."



"Nearly all of these people, who happened to have an individual problem with alcohol, not only failed to change AA, but, in the long run, AA changed them. I have a number of them among my closest friends today, and they are among the best AA's I know

"You also have some people who are not alcoholics, but are addicts of other kinds. A great many AAs have taken pity on these people, and have actually tried to make them full-fledged AA's. Of course, their identification with alcoholics is no good at all, and the groups themselves easily stop this practice in the normal course of AA affairs. "Thoughtful AA's, however, encourage these sponsors to bring addicts to open meetings, just as they would any other interested people. In the end, these addicts usually gravitate to other

forms of therapy. They are not received on the platform in open meetings unless they have an alcohol problem, and closed meetings are, of course, denied them. We know that we cannot do everything for everybody with an addiction problem.

"There has also occurred lately a new development centering upon hippies who have LSD or marijuana troubles -- not so much stronger stuff. Many of these kids appear to be alcoholics also, and they are flocking into AA, often with excellent results.

"Some weeks ago, there was a young people's convention of AAs. Shortly thereafter, four of these kids visited the office. saw one young gal prancing down the hall, hair flying, in a mini-skirt, wearing love beads and the works. I thought, 'Holy smoke, what now!' She told me she was the oldest member of the young people's group in her area -- age twenty-two! They had kids as young as sixteen. was curious and took the whole party out to lunch.

"Well, they were absolutely wonderful. They talked (and acted) just about as good a kind of AA as I've seen anywhere. I think all of them said they had had some kind of drug problem, but had kicked that, too. When they first came around, they had insisted on their own ideas of AA, but in the end they found AA plenty good enough as i was. Though they needed their own meetings, they found interest and inspiration in the meetings of much older folks as well."

"Perhaps, as younger people come into AA, we shall have to put up with some unconventional nonsense -- with patience and good humor, let's hope. But it should be well worth the attempt. And also, if various hippie addicts want to form their

Continued on page 2

# Candle Power - By Mike H

One of the things that impressed me during my first year was seeing a man take a cake for 22 years of sobriety. It was in a large room with about 500 people. He and the cake were at least 25 yards from me. The flame was a sight. I remember thinking that it looked like a blowtorch. That fiery illumination showed me what 22 years really was. A few months later I got my own first cake with exactly one candle on it. That was perfect because it represented just how much sobriety I had, no more no less. It was not belittled by someone else's candles.

Since then, the number of candles on those cakes has grown. Every 365 days one more is burning and I get to stand up and thank the program and the people that made it possible. Every year the cake is a little brighter than the one before and I hope it keeps going that way. Of course, the only way to bring that about is to continue not drinking one day at a time—work the program, work with newcomers and do all those things that are "suggested" that we hear all the time.

A few weeks ago, I was at a party to celebrate a good friends twentieth birthday. I was honored when his wife asked if I would like to help her in presenting him his cake. We had the big sheet cake between us as we went into the living/dining room. Someone had turned out the lights and suddenly that small raft of fire between us lit up the room. "...and darkness became light." The symbolism was perfect. My life was a thing of darkness and sobriety has put light into it. I want to go right on getting candles,

Continued From Pg. 1
Bill W's thoughts
On The
AA Legacy.

their own sort of fellowship along AA lines, by all means let us encourage them. We need deny them only the AA name, and assure them that the rest of our program is theirs for the taking and using -- any part or all of it.

"For these reasons, I feel hopeful

and not a bit scared by this trend. Of course, I'm no prophet. I may be mistaken, so please keep me posted. This is a highly interesting and perhaps significant development. I certainly do not think it ought to be fought. Instead, it ought to be encouraged in what we already know to be workable channels.

"In affection ... Bill"

© AA Grapevine, March, 1971

# for A.A. SERVICE

"Being In Service to A.A. At Any Level Can Be Your Best Sobriety Insurance"



A fellow who had a drinking problem which also lead to see ing weird animals under his bed each night after retiring went to seek help.

The shrink assured him that he could cure the malady, and stated that the fee would be \$1,000. Needless to say, the drunk never went back.

Several weeks later, they met on the street and the shrink asked him if he was still troubled. .... and the conversation went like this:

Drunk - "Hell No ...... and the professional cure I got only cost me a case of beer"

Shrink - "What professional would work for a case of beer?" Drunk - "My brother-in-law"

Shrink - "What branch of the professional field is he associated with?"

Drunk - "He's a carpenter, he sawed the legs off my bed"

A lady first time to AA was listening to a man and wife tell of their former problems with booze. The wife concluded by saying that the year before, thanks to the Man Upstairs, they had become the proud parents of their first child.

The new member, never having heard of God referred to that way, turned to the person next to her and whispered in horror, "Do all the people in AA make such shocking personal confessions?"

Brenda O'Malley is home making dinner, as usual, when Tim Finnegan arrives at her door.

'Brenda, may I come in?' he asks. 'I've somethin' to tell ya'. 'Of course you can come in, you're always welcome, Tim. But where's my husband?'

'That's what I'm here to be telling ya, Brenda. There was an accident down at the Guinness brewery'

'Oh, God no!' cries Brenda. 'Please don't tell me.'

'I must, Brenda. Your husband Shamus is dead and gone. I'm sorry.

Finally, she looked up at Tim. 'How did it happen,Tim?' 'It was terrible, Brenda. He fell into a vat of Guinness Stout, and drowned.'

'Oh my dear Jesus! But you must tell me true, Tim, did he at least go quickly?'

'Well, Brenda, no. In fact, he got out three times to pee.'

There was a group of AA members driving to a conference in a distant city. About halfway there, they stopped for a coffee break. The restaurant was near a botanical garden, and they decided to walk around there to stretch their legs before going on. As they admired the beautiful beds of flowers, a sweet little old women approached them and asked, "Are you members of the Wild Life Society?"

"No"ma'dam".. answered one. We used to be, but then we ined AA.

Fed up with her husband' coming home drunk every night, late one evening the wife drove her husband up the mountain to an overlook where they could see the local liquor factory in full swing below. Lights were flashing, machines were roaring, and trucks were pulling in and out.

"See!".... the wife said pointedly to her spouse. "They can make if faster than you can drink it"

"Yes!"... he replied, "But you have to admit, I've got 'em working nights to keep up".

-							
2015 Year End Financial	Jan - Dec 15						
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
Birthdays	1,537.00						
Cash Over (Short)	2.34						
Gratitude	17,261.10						
Group 7th Tradition	54,348.35						
Inventory Sales	93,179.74						
Meeting Room Contribution	1,375.00						
Miscellaneous Contributions	11,376.96						
Newsletter Subscription	140.00						
Savings Interest	17.51						
Total Income	179,238.00						
Cost of Goods Sold	63,038.18						
Gross Profit	116,199.82						
Expense							
Computer	798.74						
Copier	2,633.71						
Credit Card Processing Fees	1,582.46						
Freight and Shipping Costs	368.90						
Government Filing Fees	60.00						
Insurance	1,207.00						
Legal and Professional Fees	500.00						
Maintenance and Repairs	639.62						
Office Supplies and Expense	3,952.02						
Payroll Expense							
Health Insurance	4,726.27						
Payroll Processing Fees	468.15						
Salaries Expense	57,273.60						
Salaries Tax Expense	<u>5,108.40</u>						
Total Payroll Expense	67,576.42						
Postage	432.70						
Rent & Triple Net	16,490.51						
Room Rent-Intergroup	360.00						
Seminars	480.36						
Telephone	5,000.36						
Travel	2,348.14						
Travel Expense-Auto	616.00						
Utilities	1,578.49						
WCI (State Fund)	546.23						
Total Expense	107,171.66						
Net Ordinary Income	9,028.16						
POS Inventory Adjustments	(238.13)						
Net Other Income	238.13						
	9,266.29						
•							

February 2016



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

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

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

# **Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly** (PRAASA)

March 4-6 **Spokane Convention Center** 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd Spokane, WA 99201 www.praasa.org

# **H&I Conference Fundraiser Speaker & Dinner**

March 12, 2016 5:00 - 7:00 PM First Christian Church 109 E. Wilshire Ave. Fullerton

# **Living Serene 2016**

March 24-27, 2016 Town & Country Resort San Diego www.sandiegospringroundup.com

# **Tri-State Round-Up**

May 19-22 Riverside Hotel Laughlin, NV Www.tristate-roundup.com

#### **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

# February 2016 Calendar

	Wed 3rd	6:00 pm	District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel Ventura
П	Thu 4th	7:00 pm	Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office
П	Fri 5th	6:00 pm	H& I Board Mtg @ Central Office
	Sun 7th	•	VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office
	Wed 10th	7:00 pm	Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck 321 N Aviador Suite 111, Camarillo
П	Sat 13th	10:00 am	Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office
	Tue 16th	7:00 pm	GSR District 28 Meeting @ King of Glory Lutheran Church 2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park
	Wed 17th	7:00 pm	Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg The Buck 321 N Aviador Ste 111 Camarillo

United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd Rm # 10, Simi Valley Sun 21st 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Thu 18th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting

Feb 22 Last day to submit items to the March Newsletter

# March 2016 Calendar

Wed 2nd	6:00 pm	District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel Ventura
Thu 3rd	7:00 pm	Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office
Fri 4th	6:00 pm	H& I Board Mtg @ Central Office
Sun 6th		VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office
Wed 9th	7:00 pm	Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck 321 N Aviador Suite 111, Camarillo
Sat 12th	10:00 am	Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office
Tue 15th	7:00 pm	GSR District 28 Meeting @ King of Glory Lutheran Church 2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park
Wed 16th	7:00 pm	Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg The Buck 321 N Aviador Ste 111 Camarillo
Thu 17th	7:00 pm	District 24 General Service Meeting United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd
Sun 20th	12:00 pm	Rm # 10, Simi Valley VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office
March 2	1 Last	day to submit items to the April Newsletter

# A Review of Tradition # 2

February 2016

"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."

- Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- 2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with the AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibilities?
- 3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
- 5. Although I have been sober for a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
- 6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

# Living Step # 2

# "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

The moment they read Step two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, "Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that are lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us won't believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you have us over the barrel, all right ... but where do we go from here.

Therefore, Step two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this Step. True humility and an open mind can lead us to faith, and every A.A. meeting is an assurance that God will restore us to sanity if we rightly relate ourselves to Him.

# **Good Third Step Stuff - By Dottie**

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him. But later on when I met Him, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that He was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable it was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead. He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to

Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to

trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure, and when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand. I gained love, peace, acceptance and joy; gifts to take on my journey, My God's and mine. And we were off again He said, "Give the gifts away. They're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I and still our burden I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but he knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten, scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion.

And when I'm sure I just can't do it anymore. He just smiles and says... "Pedal."



"I told him back in '68. 'Frank, if you leave AA, you are gonna die'. It took forty-one years, but I finally proved my point."



# By Michele B. of Newbury Park

## **FEBRUARY 2016**

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

## IT IS AN IDEAL GIFT

For a member or friend, few gifts could be more appropriate or helpful than a subscription to the monthly AA Grapevine magazine.

As a gift, the Grapevine is a continuing reminder of your thoughtfulness, a continuing source of pleasure and inspiration to the recipient.

## At Wit's End

A newcomer was sitting in the back of the room before the meeting began, leafing frantically through the pages of the Big Book. An oldtimer noticed her activity and asked, "What are you looking for?" "Loopholes," the newcomer replied.

I just loved the idea of joining Alcoholics Anonymous. I thought the "Alcoholics" part meant they drank, and the "Anonymous" part meant that they didn't tell anyone about it.

**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!



# **Recovery Word** Search Puzzle

Ç	ĵ	R	Т	Ε	D	Е	F	Q	S	U	G	D	G	M	Y
G	;	X	H	R	S	I	D	M	D	E	T	A	L	E	R
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F	I	W	0	A	N	L	R	E	S	E	Y	E	N	0	M
Z	:	G	N	U	В	E	S	P	V	Т	S	G	W	P	I
F	,	С	T	0	P	0	L	E	R	S	υ	Х	G	E	R
E	3	P	R	0	P	E	R	T	Y	E	С	0	Т	N	P
P	1	P	0	R	Y	P	Q	A	Y	L	T	P	P	D	F
I		Y	U	J	Т	W	R	T	W	N	С	N	N	0	P
I		P	G	Т	I	M	A	E	K	D	I	٧	E	R	Т
X		E	Н	W	L	L	E	F	S	N	L	0	С	S	V
٧	7	0	T	В	I	J	D	F	K	Т	0	Y	V	E	W
Ç	ò	S	Q	G	С	I	J	٧	0	В	I	R	V	A	Н
E	3	W	R	I	A	F	0	В	Y	K	E	G	A	U	Y
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**GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE FINANCE** LEND

RELATED **FACILITY OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE DIVERT** LEST **PROBLEMS** 

**MONEY PROPERTY PRESTIGE PRIMARY** PURPOSE



# **RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION**

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.

# AABIRTHDAY 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.

# **January & Previous AA Birthdays**

### **HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY**

February 2016

Robin S - 10 Ventura

**Dick M - 10** Ventura

Marv R - 28 Simi Valley

John G - 45 Lexington, KY

**Keep On Sharing Your Recovery From Alcoholism With** Other Alcoholics Who Still Suffer.

# **Birthday Club Listing For:**

City Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_ Years ■ Voluntary Donation Amount \$

> Please mail to: **Ventura County Central Service Office**

321 N. Aviador Street, Suite 115 Camarillo, CA 93010



Meeting Info	512
Twelve Step Calls	52
Other Twelve Steps Programs	24
Activities	32
Directions to Office	15
Other Type Calls	<u>486</u>
TOTAL	1121

# AATRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

# **FEBRUARY QUESTION:**

In Bill's story, who was Bill's friend in Montreal and what company did he work for?

### JANUARY ANSWER:

To whom did Sue Smith sell Dr. Bob's Big Book and metal coffee pot to?



Dr. David Lewis, Director of Alcohol and Addition Studies at Brown University, purchased the Big Book and coffee pot.

Congratulations to Steven H. of Winnetka for submitting the correct answer.

Answers will be published the following month. Mail your answer to: Ventura County Central Service Office Inc., 321 N. Aviador 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 Jan K. Ventura Secretary Mike B. Simi Valley Treasurer Member at large #1 Joe N. Member at large # 2 Craig S Member at large # 3

#### **SPECIAL PAID WORKERS**

Matthew C., Dick M.

## **OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:**

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

# **Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.**

321 N. Aviador 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**