

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

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Volume 37 — Issue 1 **JANUARY 2017**

# THE TRADITION

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.

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**Throughout 2017 we will dedicating a portion of our newsletter to the Twelve Concepts of World Service.**

The following are excerpts from the AA Pamphlet The Twelve Concepts Illustrated (P-8)  
(Reprinted from *The Twelve Concepts Illustrated*, pages 1 and 2, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

### The Twelve Concepts for World Service

How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

This is a pamphlet about the Concepts; it is NOT the Concepts themselves. They are found in the book *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and should be read by every "trusted servant." As A.A. grew up, it began with the groups — first only a few, then hundreds and then thousands. Very early an Alcoholic Foundation, later renamed The General Service Board, was formed to be responsible for our affairs. And with Dr. Bob's death and Bill's facing up to his own mortality, a General Service Conference assumed the leadership which had fallen to the cofounders. Meanwhile, a tiny publishing operation and service office had grown in size and importance to the Fellowship, and a monthly journal, the A.A. Grapevine, was being published. Which of these entities was supposed to do what? Little wonder there was confusion! What was their relationship? Who was in charge? What were their responsibilities — and what were their rights? Bill W. himself sometimes took part in the pulling and hauling that took place, and so he saw the need to "reduce to writing" his concepts of the "why" of the whole structure, the lessons to be drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles. As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts III through V, IX and XII deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together. What follows in this pamphlet is an illustrated introduction to the Twelve Concepts. If it is answers or guidance you are seeking, go to the Concepts themselves. Throughout this pamphlet, wording from the Twelve Concepts themselves (subject to some editing for clarity) is indicated by quotation marks; the rest of the text is either descriptive or explanatory.

### CONCEPT 1

*Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the "ultimate responsibility and final authority for . . . world services" resides with the groups — rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.

In Concept I, Bill traces how this came to be. The first step in 1938 was "the creation of a trusteeship," first called the Alcoholic Foundation, renamed in 1954 the General Service Board. Why? To perform the services the groups could not do for themselves: e.g., uniform literature, uniform public information about A.A., helping new groups get started, sharing with them the experience of established groups, handling pleas for help, publishing a national magazine, and carrying the message in other languages and in other countries. A service office was formed to carry on these functions under the board's direction. Both the board and the office looked to the co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob, for policy leadership.

In the midst of the "exuberant success" of early A.A., Dr. Bob became fatally ill and Bill asked, "When Dr. Bob and I are gone, who would then advise the trustees and the office?" The answer, Bill felt, was to be found in the collective conscience of the A.A. groups. But how could the autonomous, widely scattered groups exercise such a responsibility?  
*(continued page 7)*

**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

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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!*

## 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,  
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Camarillo, Ca. 93010

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**(800) 990-7550**  
Fax (805) 389-2912  
E-Mail  
[vcaaco@verizon.net](mailto:vcaaco@verizon.net)

The Twelve Concepts of World Service (Long Form)

1. The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.
3. As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”
4. Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.
6. On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
7. The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the By-laws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.
8. The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees 2 directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.



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

Two guys walk into a bar. The third one ducks.  
.....  
A drunk man was in front of a judge. The judge says, ‘ Sir you’ve been brought here for drinking.’ The drunk says: ‘Okay, let’s get started.’  
.....  
A soccer ball walks into a bar. The bartender kicked him out.  
.....  
A magician walks down an alley and turns into a bar.  
  
A neutron walks into a bar and orders a beer. The bartender sets the beer down and says, "For you, no charge!"  
.....  
A guy walks into a bar and orders a whiskey. Just before he takes a sip of his whiskey, a guy runs in and says, "Bill, your house burnt down!" So he runs outside, but then he thinks, "I don't have a house," so he goes back into the bar and takes a sip of his whiskey. Another guy runs in and says, "Bill! Your dad died!" He runs out of the bar, gets on his horse and rides a little ways, but then thinks, "I don't have a dad," so he goes back into the bar and drinks almost all of his whiskey. Then another guy runs in and says, "Bill! You won the lottery!" So he runs out, gets on his horse and rides all the way to the bank, but then he thinks, "My name's not Bill."

Three guys were sitting in a biker bar. A man came in, already drunk, sat down at the bar and ordered a drink. The man looked around and saw the 3 men sitting at a corner table. He got up, staggered to the table, leaned over, looked the biggest one in the face and said, "I went by your grandma's house and I saw her in the hallway, buck naked. Man, she is fine!" The biker looked at him and didn't say a word. His buddies were confused, because he was a bad ass, and would fight at he drop of a hat. The drunk leaned on the table again and said, "I got it on with your grandma and she is good, the best I ever had!" The biker still said nothing. His buddies were starting to get mad. The drunk leaned on the table again and said, "I'll tell you something else boy, your grandma liked it!" The biker stood up, took the drunk by the shoulder and said, "Damn it, Grandpa, you're drunk! Go home!"  
.....  
While proudly showing off his new apartment to friends late one night, the drunk led the way to his bedroom where there was a big brass gong. "What's that big brass gong for?" one of the guests asked. "Why, that's the talking clock" the man replied. "How does it work?" "Watch", the man said, giving it an ear-shattering pound with a hammer. Suddenly, someone on the other side of the wall screamed, "For f's sake, you wanker, it's 2am in the morning!!"

The Twelve Concepts of World Service (continued)

9. 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 A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.
11. While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.
12. General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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Concept 1 (continued)

Over great resistance by trustees and members devoted to the status quo, Bill managed to “sell” the idea of calling an A.A. General Service Conference (see Concept II), and eleven years later Bill was able to declare, “The results of the Conference have exceeded our highest expectations.” This Concept is rooted in Tradition Two, which states: “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.” The principles of Tradition Two are crystal-clear, Bill asserts: “The A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.” The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it “a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work . . . .”



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

### 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)

### San Fernando Valley AA Convention

**January 27-29**

**Warner Center Marriott Woodland Hills**

**21850 Oxnard St.**

<http://www.sfvaaconvention.org/>



### Santa Paula Pig Roast Fundraiser

*Valentine's*

### Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo

*Saturday, February 11, 2017*

*6:00 pm - 9:30 pm*

\$20 Per Person or

\$35 for Couples Includes

### Spaghetti Dinner & 5 Bingo Cards

\$10 for Kids 13 -18

Additional BINGO cards for \$3

Ventura County of Education Office

**5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo**

VCOE is NOT affiliated with this event

### 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)



## 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		



## FEB 2017 Calendar

Wed 8th	6:00 pm	District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura
Thu 9th	7:00 pm	Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office
Sat 11th	10:00 am	Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office
Sun 12th	12:00 pm	VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office
	5:30 pm	H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office
Sun 12th	7:00 pm	H&I Board Meeting @ Central Office
Wed 15th	7:00 pm	Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck 321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo
Sun 19th	12:00 pm	VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office
Tue 21st	7:00 pm	GSR District 28 Meeting @ King of Glory Lutheran Church 2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park
Wed 22nd	7:00 pm	Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo
Thu 23rd	7:00 pm	District 24 General Service Meeting United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd Rm # 10, Simi Valley
Sun 26th	12:00pm	VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office
Feb 20th Last day to submit items to the March Newsletter		

## A Review of Tradition # 1

***Our Common welfare should come first;  
Personal recovery depends upon AA unity.***

1. Am I in my group, a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me? The bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of the fellowship?

## Living Step # 1

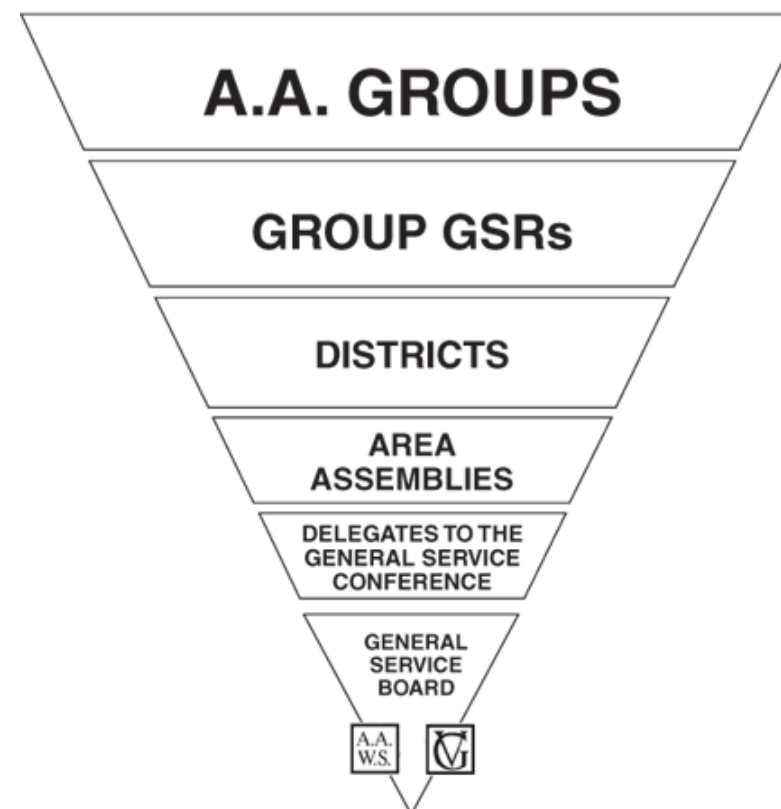
***"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."***

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us. No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now become the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

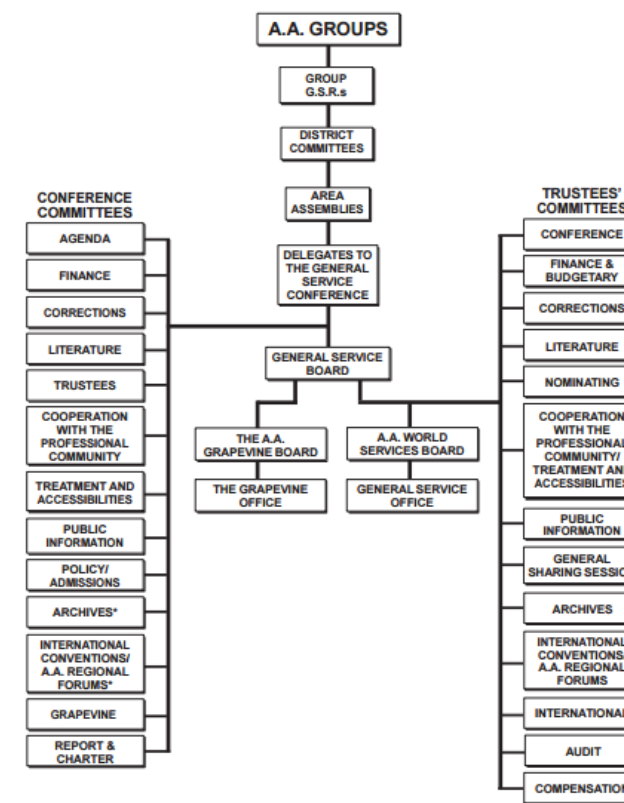
***But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.***

Service Material from the General Service Office

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



## The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



\*Secondary committee.





## GRAPEVINE CORNER

### The Meeting In Print

By Michele B. of Newbury Park

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

#### IT'S A MEETING IN PRINT.

The Grapevine is the ideal solution for the member who cannot get to meetings regularly, or who would like the benefits of MORE meetings. Compact easy to read, each month the magazine captures the essence of the "best" meeting you could hope to attend.

#### AT WIT'S END

##### The parking God.

An alcoholic was late for his court appearance and he was circling the courthouse, desperately looking for a parking spot. Finally, out of desperation he looked up and said, "God please let me found a spot to park and I swear I'll never drink again!" Right then someone pulled out right in front of him, and he happily parked. The guy got out of his car and looked up and said, "Never mind, I found one myself."

##### Tonight's speaker

One Saturday night, an AA speaker got up to tell his story... "I graduated from Harvard law School," he told the crowd, "I was appointed Ambassador to China, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for my diplomacy and then the Pulitzer Prize for my book."

There were two old timers in the back row and one leaned over and said to the other, "By golly, now we got somebody," Then the speaker continued, "...then I joined AA and my sponsor told me to quit telling lies."

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 The Concepts



APPEAL	DECISION	RIGHT
BOARD	FINAL	SERVICE
BYLAWS	GROUP	STAFF
CHARTER	LEADERSHIP	STRUCTURE
CONCEPTS	PARTICIPATION	TRUSTEES
CONFERENCE	PETITION	WHOLE



## 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.**

#### December & Previous AA Birthdays

##### HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

Wylene Mc. - 13 Years  
Oxnard

Louise J - 28  
Thousand Oaks

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	460
Twelve Step Calls	27
Other Twelve Steps Programs	31
Activities	130
Directions to Office	16
Other Type Calls	<u>237</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>901</b>



## AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

Q

#### JANUARY QUESTION:

In what year and why did A.A.W.S. stop using the Circle and Triangle on literature?

#### DECEMBER ANSWER:

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

He stole clothes.

**Congratulations to Doug M. and Steve H. 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 and Visitors

#### INTERGROUP BOARD:

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

#### SPECIAL PAID WORKERS

Matthew C., Dick M.

#### OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Don B., Sonya, Peter M., Mike A., Azusa S., Dale S., Sam, Linzy R, 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