

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

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oxnard, CA  
Permit # 208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

**Mail Subscription Order Form**



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 \_\_\_\_\_

LATEST NEWS  
+ Events  
+ Meetings  
+ Recovery  
+ Fellowship

12 Monthly Updates  
Only \$5.  
Per Year

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!*

Volume 37 — Issue 7    **JULY 2017**



# THE TRADITION

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.

**Features ..**

**PAGE - 1**

- ♦ Cover Story
- ♦ Office Information

**PAGE - 2**

- ♦ Cover Story Continued
- ♦ Humor
- ♦ Poet's Corner
- ♦ Puzzle Solution

**PAGE - 3**

- ♦ Living Step #7
- ♦ A Review of Tradition #7
- ♦ Concept 7

**PAGE - 4**

- ♦ The Grapevine Corner
- ♦ Crossword Puzzle

**PAGE - 5**

- ♦ A.A. Birthday Club
- ♦ Trivia Question Contest
- ♦ Call Log
- ♦ Staff and Contact Information

**PAGE - 6**

- ♦ Major Events Calendar
- ♦ Monthly Local Event Calendars

**PAGE - 7**

- ♦ Districts, Area & AAWS Contacts

**PAGE - 8**

- ♦ Subscription Order Form

Plus ....

**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)

**In Fellowship, Sober Camping With AA Women**

Kate M.

Reprinted from 2004, this year's campout is August 18-20 (see page 6 details)

As I pack my gear for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual "Women Who Care" camping trip this weekend at Leo Carrillo Beach, I am astounded that I'm even going, much less looking forward to it.

This will be my third year on the camping trip. Two years ago, I was five months sober and my sponsor suggested that I go. She had gone on every "Women Who Care" camping trip in her 13 years of sobriety, and she said it would be a good experience for me to bond with other sober women and their kids.

Sober camping did not sound like fun at all. In the past, camping had always been a really good excuse to drink: Beer in the afternoon on the lake, a bottle of wine during dinner, and lots of drinks around the campfire at night. No camping trip was complete without a cooler loaded with liquor.

So when I first saw the flyer for a sober women's camping trip, I threw it in the trash. Camping without booze was bad enough, but camping with a bunch of women sounded even worse. I was used to having a man around to do all the work—gathering wood, setting up the tent, making the fire—so I couldn't imagine how sober women could get the job done.

But I was a good sponsee and wanted what my sponsor had, which included long-term sobriety and great relationships with her kids, so I took her advice. I borrowed the old tent, sleeping bags and air mattress from my ex and headed off to Leo Carrillo beach for the weekend. I had never been camping on my own before.

I soon found out that I wasn't alone. I had about 40 sober women to help me out. At first, I didn't want their help. Being an alc-

oholic control freak, I wanted to prove that I could do everything by myself. I picked out a nice shady spot under a big oak tree and got to work setting up camp.

After wrestling the tent out of the bag, my kids and I spread it out on the dirt and started jamming the tent poles into all the little loops. Once we got the poles all the way in, the tent popped up and all we had to do was secure it to the ground with the stakes. Easy as 1-2-3, except the dirt was hard as rock. We tried shoving the stakes into the ground with our hands, our shoes, and even rocks, but they wouldn't go in.

Watching our struggle, a few women from the group came over with a hammer and offered to help. I accepted their help, and from then on things went smoothly. We got the tent set up, my kids met some of the other kids from the group, and we joined a table of other women for dinner.

I had brought a roast chicken and deli salad from Von's, but my camping neighbors were actually cooking hamburgers on a grill over the fire. I also noticed that they had a deluxe tent with separate rooms for the kids, and gear including flashlights and a toolbox. I wondered if this kind of camping proficiency was one of the promises I didn't know about.

Later that night, we had a meeting around a roaring campfire. The organizers had arranged for babysitters, so we could enjoy some serenity under the stars. We went around the circle and shared our experiences, and several of the women took cakes—from one year to seventeen years of sobriety. It was amazing to be sitting in such a beautiful, spiritual place with other sober women. I was beginning to relax and

*Continued on page 2*

Camping

(continued from page 1)

feel comfortable with the whole camping experience. The amazing thing was, I never even thought about drinking.

The rest of the weekend was fantastic. We had another meeting on Saturday morning, then spent the day at Leo Carrillo Beach, exploring tide pools, picnicking and boogie-boarding. On Saturday night we had a group barbecue and another meeting around the bonfire. Sunday morning was the spiritual meeting, and when it was time to go I didn't want to leave. My kids asked if we were going to do it again, and I said you bet!

The next year, I came prepared. I bought a new tent, sleeping bags, air mattresses, a blow-up pump, an assortment of flashlights and a new hammer on sale at Big 5. We got to the camp site early and set up our tent, then cooked burgers and hotdogs over the fire, complete with smores for dessert.

As we were cleaning up, a car drove slowly by the camp site, then backed up. "Is this the women's campout?" a young woman asked, her kids peering out of the back windows. "This is it," we said. The woman parked her car and started unloading her gear. She seemed uncertain and hesitant. We helped her get the tent out of bag, lined up the poles and slid them into the tent loops. When it was time to drive the stakes into the ground, I got out my new hammer and offered it to her.

"Wow, you look like you've been doing this for a while," the newcomer said to me.

"Not too long. Believe me, it gets easier," I answered. And it does. With a little bit of willingness, the help of other alcoholics, and the tools of AA, sober camping—like sober living—becomes a joyful, natural way of life.

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

The husband was not home at his usual hour, and the wife was fuming, as the clock ticked later and later. Finally, about 3:00 AM she heard a noise at the front door, and as she stood at the top of the stairs, there was her husband, drunk as a skunk, trying to navigate the stairs. "Do you realize what time it is?" she asked. He answered, "Don't get excited. I'm late because I bought something for the house." Immediately her attitude changed, and as she ran down the stairs to meet him halfway, she asked, "What did you buy for the house, dear?" His answer was, "A round of drinks!"

Poets' Corner

Pushing Away

Dana M.

Pushing away from reality
I never seem to win
Instead I tend to miss my mark

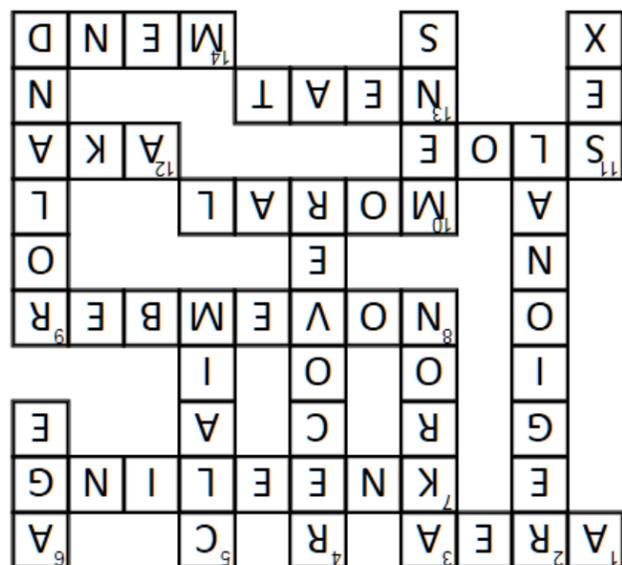
And pay with the ultimate sin
The sin of missing a life
That was lovingly given to me,
A life I couldn't enjoy

Due to my extreme sensitivity
Being the "center of the universe"
I get easily upset by "the you"
Frustration, fear and depression

Become my supporters and sole point of view
Acceptance, love and tolerance
Open-mindedness, faith and some trust
These must become my companions

Along with willingness, which is a must
Where do I get enough willingness
To stay sober just for today?
There is a common solution

Which is to pray and go to AA
The "we" gave me laughter and joy
Love and gratitude to name just a few
My freedom then became possible
Only with constant thought of "the you"



Support Your 39th Annual Ventura County AA Convention



Let's Play Some BINGO!!



SATURDAY, JULY 29TH 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Camarillo Community Center
1605 E. Burnley St.
Camarillo, CA 93010

Free Admission - Must be Over 18 to be Admitted

FOOD AND SOCIAL HOUR STARTS AT 5:00

Delicious Tri-tip sandwiches, Pizza, Hot Dogs, Salad, Cookies, Brownies, Cold Drinks, Water, Coffee and other goodies will be available.

Don't miss the best Raffle ever!!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FROM AA MEMBERS AND AA GROUPS FOR ITEMS TO BE RAFFLED DURING THE BINGO FUNDRAISER. WE NEED COMPLETED BASKETS OR INDIVIDUAL ITEMS WHICH WE WILL PLACE IN BASKETS. ANY SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED, EVEN JUST EMPTY BASKETS. We are requesting donations be submitted by July 1st.

\*VCAAC is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. We will provide receipts upon request. \*Any Single BINGO or RAFFLE winnings valuing over \$599 us subject to a 1099G Tax Form.

FOR QUESTIONS, AND TO DONATE ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT: MARY M. - FUNDRAISING CHAIR 805 404-1495 or email marymyersphotography@mac.com SUSIE C. - FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIR 818 523-4095

COME JOIN VCAAC @ STERLING HILLS GOLF COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

SHOTGUN STARTS 9AM SHARP!

- 4-player Texas Scramble

- Coffee and Donuts upon arrival
- Incredible Raffle Prizes

CHECK OUT WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Green Fee, Cart, Range Balls, Cart Lunch
- BBQ and Team Awards
- 50/50 For Longest Drive and Putting Contest Awards

NOTE: Register Soon! All entries MUST be received BEFORE Sept. 4, 2016 ARRIVE NO LATER THEN 8AM FOR 9AM START!!



I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous always to be there.

And for that; I am Responsible.

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**

**Ventura County AA Convention  
Bingo Fundraiser**

July 29th  
5:00 PM  
Camarillo Community Center  
1605 E. Burnley St

**Santa Paula Pig Roast Campout**

July 28th -30th, 2017  
Lake Casitas

**Women's Sober Campout**

August 18-20  
Leo Carrillo Beach  
Contact: michellebuck76@hotmail.com

**San Luis Obispo 50th  
Annual Convention**

August 25-26  
Veterans Memorial Building  
801 Grand Ave  
district22convention.org

**Ventura County AA Convention**

September 8-10  
Westlake Hyatt  
vcaac.org

**Seniors in Sobriety  
International Conference**

September 14-17  
Airtel Plaza Hotel  
Van Nuys

**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

 **JULY 2017 Calendar**

- Wed 5th 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura
- Thu 6th 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office
- Sun 9h 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5:30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office
- Sun 9th 3:30 pm VCAAC Committee Mtg @ The Buck
- Wed 12th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck  
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo
- Sat 15th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office
- Tue 18th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @ King of Glory Lutheran Church  
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park
- Wed 19th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg  
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo
- Thu 20th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting  
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd Rm # 10, Simi Valley
- Sun 23rd 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office
- July 17th Last day to submit items to the Aug Newsletter

 **AUGUST 2017 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
- Sun 6th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5:30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office
- Sun 6th 3:30 pm VCAAC Committee Mtg @ The Buck
- Wed 9th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck  
321 N Aviator 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 Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo
- Thu 17th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting  
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd Rm # 10, Simi Valley
- Sun 20th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office
- August 21st Last day to submit items to the Sept. Newsletter

**A Review of Tradition # 7**

**“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”**

1. Honesty now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies?
3. If GSO runs out of funds, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business?

How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under for charity received?

**Living Step # 7**

**“Humbly Asked Him To Remove Our Shortcomings.”**

Now that we have completed step six, we are ready to move on to step seven where we strive for a foundation of humility in our life. We do this by admitting our shortcomings and asking our God to remove them. Making humility one of the key actions in our recovery is a main element in moving forward in our new sober life. The self centeredness in the alcoholic's life needs to be dealt with if we are to proceed with a life of living in the present, without resentments, envy or misgivings about the past. Most of us are born with a drive and need to achieve personal goals, property and acclaim, but our program tells us that striving to be the center of the universe and in managing results, will be a stumbling block in our recovery. As our reading points out, "our crippling handicap had been a lack of humility." By asking our Higher Power to remove our shortcomings, we have taken a big step towards putting humility in our life and opening our heart to God's infinite power as part of daily living.

(See Pg. 70 "Twelve steps & twelve traditions")

**CONCEPT 7**

(Reprinted from the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated," pages 14 -15 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

**The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws 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.**

This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and "balance of powers" between the Conference and the General Service Board. "This . . . may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object." On the one hand, "the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

"Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members"; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. "Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need."

The Conference "recommends" — though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation — but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees "simply refrain from using their legal right to say 'no' when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say 'yes.'"

"If . . . the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the trustees . . . will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority . . . neither will be seriously tempted to make a 'rubber stamp' out of the other . . . In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule."

**GRAPEVINE CORNER**  
*The Meeting In Print*

By Michele B. of Newbury Park

7. AS AN AID TO PRODUCTIVE CLOSED MEETINGS Groups throughout the world are using Grapevine articles as the basic theme of "closed meetings with a plan." With the Grapevine, members are better-prepared for such meetings, able to contribute more constructively to group discussions on a given topic.

At Wit's End.

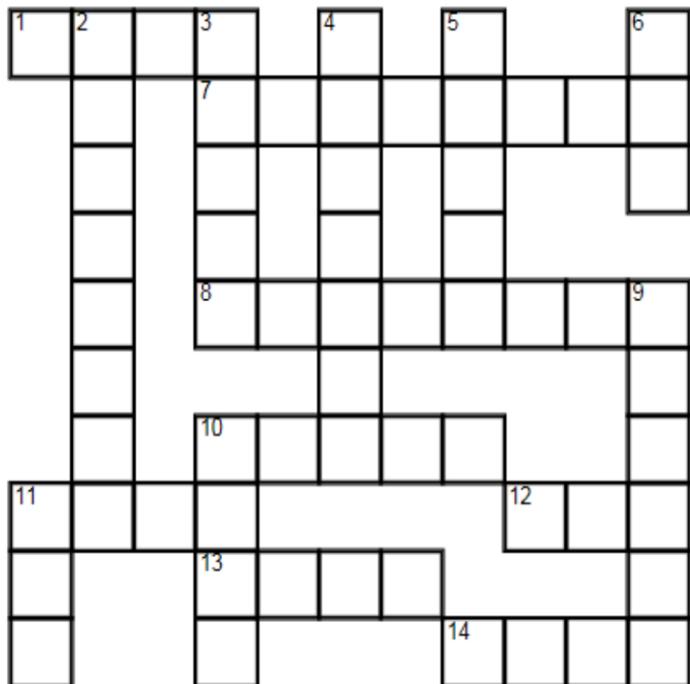
**Impossible dream**

A 6-year-old boy tells his sober father: "When I grow up, I want to be an alcoholic." The father thinks about it, then replies, "I'm sorry son. You can't do both."

**Tipsy heist**

A tipsy bank robber goes up to a teller's counter and says, "Give me all your money ...or your geography! The teller, looking confused, asks, "Didn't you mean to say... or you're history?" "Don't change the subject!" the robber replies.

**Crossword Puzzle**  
*Recovery Word Puzzle*

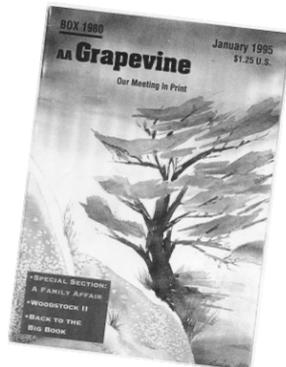


ACROSS	DOWN
1 Delegate's Region	2 ___ Trustee
7 Praying Position	3 AA's Birthplace
8 Gratitude Month	4 Those who do Not ___
10 Ethical	5 We ___ spiritual progress
11 ___ Gin Fizz	6 Number of years
12 Alias	9 ___ Hazard
13 Without Ice	10 ___ Stag
14 Heal	11 To sum up about ___

Crossword solution on page 2

**The Meeting in Print**

**Recycle Your Copies of The Grapevine**



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!

**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.**

**June & Previous AA Birthdays**

HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

**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	267
Twelve Step Calls	17
Other Twelve Steps Programs	24
Activities	57
Directions to Office	22
Other Type Calls	211
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>598</b>

**AA TRIVIA QUESTION**  
*Of The Month*

**JULY QUESTION:**

Okay here is an easy one:

What was Jim the Car Salesman's real name?

**JUNE ANSWER:**

Bill D. is referred to as AA number 3, but who was Bill and Bob's first unsuccessful prospect?

Eddie Riley was their first prospect.

Congratulations to Dave B. of Rowland Heights, CA 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. Ventura
Member at large # 2	Michelle C.
Member at large # 3	Michelle B. Thousand Oaks

**SPECIAL PAID WORKERS**

Matthew C., Dick M.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:**

Don B., Sonya, Peter M., Mike A., Azusa S., Sam, Linzy R, Steve F., Ron. G., Eric N., Hiroshi

**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