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Camarillo, CA. 93010

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The TRADITION

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Service Position _____ Phone _____

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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



Volume 37 — Issue 6

JUNE 2017

THE TRADITION

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. Aviator Street,
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Camarillo, Ca. 93010

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vcaaco@verizon.net

It is with a heavy heart that I must pass along the news that Ron B., passed away after a prolonged illness. Ron was the long time editor of this newsletter and continued to work on it until his body would no longer allow him to do so. In his honor, I am republishing one of his stories, as it was printed, from June 2012.

THE CONVERSATION - Ron B., Camarillo

A conversation that has changed over a million lives took place in a tiny room of a cottage on a grand Akron, Ohio estate over seventy-seven years ago. It was the historic meeting of two men, Akron surgeon Dr. Bob S. and New York stockbroker Bill W., both severely troubled by their addiction to alcohol. The first meeting, which took place in the Gate Lodge at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens on May 12, 1935, set in motion what is known as Alcoholics Anonymous. That first meeting was arranged by Ms. Henrietta Seiberling who was an acquaintance of Dr. Bob and his wife Anne.

Of historical note, in recognition of the success of the AA Program in the recovery of alcoholics, the Gate Lodge opened to visitors in 2004. The house was occupied until 1999 by Irene Seiberling Harrison, who died then at the age of 108. After her passing, it was decided that the cottage would be restored and its place in A.A. history would be honored and opened to visitors. Thousands of visitors from around the world have visited the site as well as Dr. Bob's home to honor the alcohol recovery program which now numbers over one million members around the globe. It was Henrietta Seiberling who is credited with bringing together Dr. Bob and Bill W.

According to information in the Gate Lodge, Henrietta was active in the Oxford Group, a spiritual movement popular at the time, which stressed that "moral strength was the foundation to social justice and personal change would bring about social change." Through her activities with the Oxford group, Henrietta met Dr. Bob and his wife, Anne, and knew about the doctor's struggles with alcohol.

Meanwhile, Bill W. was in Akron working unsuccessfully on a business deal. He

had been sober for a few months, but the failure of the deal led him to seek help on the night of May 11, 1935. He felt if he could talk to another person struggling with alcohol addiction, he would be able to resist the temptation to visit the bar at the Mayflower Hotel in downtown Akron, where he was staying. From the hotel's church directory, he randomly selected the Rev. William Tunks to call, who gave Bill W. a list of 10 names of people who might know an alcoholic who would talk with him. None of the numbers led to any success until he dialed Henrietta Seiberling. Henrietta called the Smiths, but Bob was sleeping off his latest binge. Anne, asked if they could meet the next day, Mother's Day. Bill W. hung on and came to the Gate Lodge that day for dinner. Dr. Bob reluctantly arrived with Anne and their son, and after dinner, Dr. Bob and Bill W. retired to the small library of the Gate Lodge for what was intended to be a 15-minute conversation. They stayed there talking for five hours that night.

Today, the library is appointed with a small table and two chairs. Three recordings of Henrietta Seiberling, Dr. Bob and Bill W. can be played that talk about the events that transpired to help set the stage for AA, which became an international, spiritually oriented fellowship that helps its members stay sober and help other alcoholics do the same.

The Alcoholics Anonymous Society was founded about a month after the men's first meeting, on June 10, 1935 which is the first day of Dr. Bob's permanent sobriety. The historic meeting has spawned books, movies and even a play, "Bill W. and Dr. Bob."

SHAME ON ME - Pat O., Simi Valley

A few years ago a friend of mine called me and asked me to join him in doing a talk at Moorpark College. Seems he was active in a recovery house in Oxnard, and a professor who was teaching a class on alcohol and drugs had contacted him asking if he'd come and share for his class. He didn't want to do this alone, so he called me and asked if I'd join him.

I accepted and informed my son, who was a student at Moorpark College at the time, that I was going to split a talk for the alcohol and drug class, and was he taking that class. He informed me that he wasn't taking the class but he'd attend the talk anyway.

This was a new experience for both my co-speaker and I and we were a little nervous. The fact that we were representing Alcoholics Anonymous to people who may have never heard of us was a little intimidating. Getting ready to go into the lecture hall, my friend and I decided that he would go first and I would follow. My son showed up and took a seat a few rows from the front of the podium.

When my turn came to speak, I related how my drinking had caused troubles in the home and that it had even been a major factor in my divorce. Fortunately, my kids had survived the ordeal and were doing fine with their lives, that one was attending Moorpark College and the other one was at Cal State University Northridge.

During my talk I mentioned my son many times but was always careful not to point him out as being there. I was afraid that he might not want his "peers" to know that his father had been a drunk and he might be a little shameful of that. I had described some of the selfish behaviors I had when drinking, promises I had broken, birthdays I had missed, etc.

At the end of our talks we answered many questions on alcoholism that the students wanted to ask. They seemed quite interested in alcoholism and asked questions like how can you tell you're an alcoholic, to how to help a friend or parent get sober, to why do you still have to go to meetings?

After the class had concluded, we were standing outside and my son asked why I hadn't pointed him out when I was talking. (I almost had a couple of times.) I justified it by saying I was "protecting his anonymity" and that I didn't want him to feel "funny" cause I was one of the speakers at the class. He told me that he wanted everyone to know I was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and that he was proud of what I had accomplished. That there was no shame as far as he was concerned and that he loved me for what I am today, not for what I had been.

Shame on me! Here I was using my own shame in thinking that my son felt the same way toward me. How little did I know. I'll always be grateful for the lessons we learn "out of the mouths of babes", and that hopefully, since that time, I've healed in that area. Again, thank you Alcoholics Anonymous for giving me the opportunity to grow and learn as I continue to practice these principles and remembering its progress not perfection.



The Humor Column

"We're Not a Glum Lot"

Three drunks are walking in the woods and they came upon some tracks. The first says "i think these are deer tracks" ' the second says "no these they're badger tracks" the third says no these are fox tracks" sadly whilst arguing they were all killed by the train.....

Three people, one of whom was a codependent, were in line to be executed at the guillotine. The first person stuck his head in the hole, the rope was cut, and the blade fell, only to stop an inch above the person's neck. The executioners saw it as a sign from God and so decided to let the person go. The next person put his head in the hole, the rope was cut, and again, the blade stopped an inch above the person's neck. That person, too, was released. As the codependent walked up for his turn at the guillotine, he turned to the executioner and said: "You know...I think I know how to fix that."

A mangy looking guy goes into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender says, "No way, pal. I don't think you can pay for it." "You're right," the guy says, "I don't have any money, but if I show you something you haven't seen before will you give me a drink?"

"You have a deal my friend," says the bartender. The guy reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a hamster. He puts the hamster on the bar, it runs to the end of the bar, down the side of the bar, across the room, up the piano, onto the keyboard and starts playing Gershwin.

"You're right I haven't heard anything like that before," says the bartender. "The hamster is really gifted."

The guy downs the drink and asks the bartender for another. "Will that be cash or another miracle, pal?" asks the bartender. "Watch this," replies the guy. Again, he reaches into his coat and pulls out a frog. He puts the frog onto the bar, and the frog starts to sing. The frog has a marvelous voice and great pitch. A fine singer.

A stranger from the other end of the bar runs over to the guy and offers him \$300 for the frog. "It's a deal," says the guy. He takes the three hundred and gives the stranger the frog. The stranger runs out of the bar.

"Are you nuts?" asks the bartender. "You sold a singing frog for \$300? It could have been worth millions. You must be crazy."

"Not so," says the guy. "The hamster is a ventriloquist."

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.

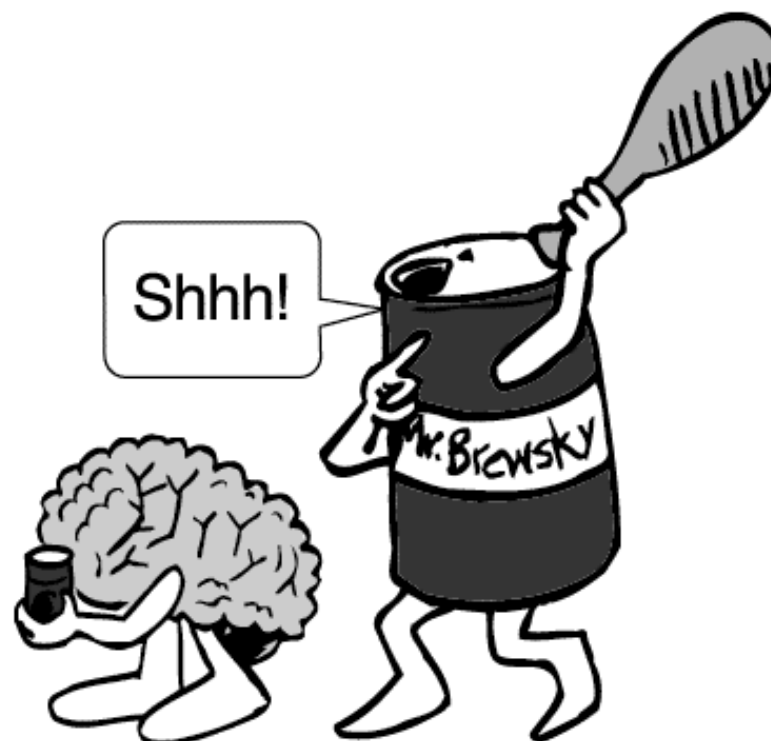
Don't miss the best Raffle ever!!

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 are subject to a 1099G Tax Form.

FOR QUESTIONS, AND TO DONATE ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT:
MARY M. - FUNDRAISING CHAIR 805 404-1496 or email marymyersphotography@mac.com
SUSIE C. - FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIR 818 523-4095



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**



Antelope Valley 44th Annual Round Up

June 23-25
UAV Lancaster
<http://avcentraloffice.org/events/>

Ventura County Central Office Volunteer Appreciation Day

With Hand Tiles
June 25, 2017
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Ventura County Central Office

District 28 4th of July Picnic

July 4th
Conejo Community Park (Dover/Hendrix)
Picnic - 11:30 - 2:00
Meeting 2:30 - 3:30

16th Annual Tehachapi Mountain Roundup

July 7-9
www.tehachapiroundup.org

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

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



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

Sun 11h 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office

5:30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 11th 3:30 pm VCAAC Committee Mtg @ The Buck

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

Sat 17th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Tue 20th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @
King of Glory Lutheran Church
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

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

Sun 25th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

June 19th Last day to submit items to the July Newsletter



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

A Review of Tradition # 6

“An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

- Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital ?
- Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
- Are all the officers and members of our local clubs for AAs familiar with “Guidelines on Clubs” (which is available free from GSO)?
- Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor’s advisory committee on alcoholism?
- Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and a card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?
- Does your group adhere to Tradition six?

Living Step # 6

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

After sharing all of our guilt and resentments at step five, we now move on to step six. This is where we now humble ourselves to God and sincerely ask him to remove our defects of character. Also, to continue to give us the strength to stay sober and the ability to live a life that reflects honesty, caring and the will to improve our personal character.

By being willing to clean house, we are opening the door for God to guide our lives, one day at a time, through prayer and meditation, so that we don’t repeat the errors of our past.

Many of us have been apprehensive about the results of taking this step, wondering if this action will work for us as it has for many thousands of Alcoholics in recovery. If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions of the past, but it is up to us to be willing to work for progress. Remember that we seek progress, not perfection. Recovery in AA is a journey in life and not a destination.

(See Pg. 63 “Twelve steps & twelve traditions”)

CONCEPT 6

(Reprinted from the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated,” pages 10-11 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

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.

We have seen that the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” for A.A.’s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. Again, it is helpful if you are familiar with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the trustees must have.

The trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. (which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office) and of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for A.A.’s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They are A.A.’s “bankers,” overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.’s substantial Reserve Fund. (Read the text of Concept XI for a more detailed account of their functions.)

Bill makes the point that although “our objective is always a spiritual one,” nevertheless our world service is a “large business operation.” “Indeed,” he says, “our whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, at the annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a ‘holding company.’ And this holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two ‘subsidiaries’ (A.A.W.S and the A.A. Grapevine) which carry on the . . . services.

“This very real analogy makes it . . . clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the . . . affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

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

6. IT'S A TWELFTH STEP COMPANION.

Let the Grapevine help you give a newcomer a picture of AA as it really is – a wonderfully human Fellowship of more than a million men and women all over the world, united in the one common purpose of staying sober and helping others to achieve sobriety.

AT WIT'S END

A colorful night

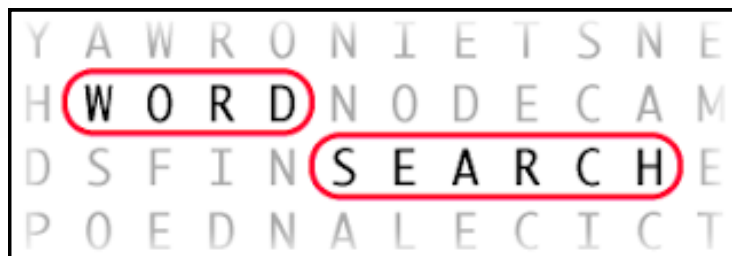
I took my 92 year old dad to the mall the other day to buy some new shoes.

We decided to get a bite at the food court. I noted that my dad kept staring at a teenager next to him with spiked hairs in many colors: green, orange, red and blue. The boy kept looking back. When he'd had enough, the teen sarcastically asked my dad, "What's the matter, old man, never done anything wild in your life?"

I quickly swallowed my food. I knew my dad would have a good comeback. With a straight face he looked at the boy and said, "Oh, I got really drunk one night and made out with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my offspring."

Heard at a meeting

"As a newcomer, I sounded like I could do for God what God couldn't do for himself."



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

Meeting	Thinking	Results	House
Service	Inventory	Tradition	Review
Recovery	Action	Sharing	Progress
Adjust	Means	Clean	Surrender

Find the following words in the puzzle below
Plus ... How many "AA's" can you find???

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!!



AA BIRTHDAY CLUB Celebrate Sobriety

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

May & Previous AA Birthdays

HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

Don B. - 10 Years
Camarillo



Carol F - 22 Years
Thousand Oaks

Judith S. - 40 years
Oxnard



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	254
Twelve Step Calls	22
Other Twelve Steps Programs	21
Activities	32
Directions to Office	13
Other Type Calls	116
TOTAL	458

AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

JUNE QUESTION:

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

MAY ANSWER:

On page 43 of the Big Book, there is a mention of a staff member at a world renowned hospital, who was that staff member?

Dr. Percy Polick was the staff member.

A Congratulations to Michele B. of Newbury Park 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.

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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

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!*