

Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.
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Camarillo, CA. 93010

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Volume 36 — Issue 5 **MAY 2016**

THE TRADITION

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.

Features ..

PAGE -1

- ♦ Cover Story
- ♦ Office Information

PAGE - 2

- ♦ The Humor Column

PAGE - 3

- ♦ Living Step #4
- ♦ A Review of Tradition #5

PAGE - 2

- ♦ The Grapevine Corner
- ♦ Word Search

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
Flyers Inside

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,
Suite 115
Camarillo, Ca. 93010

24 Hour Telephones
(805) 389-1444
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vcaaco@verizon.net

The Traditions and My Own Sobriety

Occasionally I've heard talk of how to apply The Traditions in our own lives. I've seldom heard of an answer, except in regard to the Seventh Tradition. It's easy to see how "self-supporting" applies to the individual as much as to the group. It is tougher to see how the others can be so applied.

I've learned that The Traditions provide the framework for my sobriety. By honoring them, I help to make my own sobriety possible. It wouldn't work if there weren't so many others doing the same thing. Those traditions and others' willingness to make realities of them create the safe place which I need to be sober. The place where I can come to learn how to deal with my problems in life instead of drinking over them. Yes. Self-supporting is important; it keeps The Fellowship from becoming beholden to any individual or group or from becoming involved in their agendas rather than sticking to our one primary purpose. But the others are equally necessary. Like the steps, the individual traditions cannot function in a vacuum. It's a package deal.

The Tenth Tradition (Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.) is a good example of one which I have to apply in my own life. The long form of this tradition emphasizes the avoidance of "outside controversial issues — particularly those of politics, alcohol reform and sectarian religion." If those are "outside issues," they are also potential internal issues that can act like fused dynamite on group unity and cooperation. I'm entitled to have my own opinions, of course, but I can no longer put my own opinion ahead of my sobriety. Some time ago I was discussing a political candidate with another member of A.A. We were not in a meeting or even

near one, but other members of A.A. were around. Suddenly, his ego decided to broadside mine — that happens frequently with those kinds of topics. It quickly tuned into a case of "Shout 'em down and let 'em know they messed with the wrong guy." I won that fight hands down because: 1) I was truly better informed on the issue, 2) I had the bigger mouth, and 3) My tongue was merciless, and he couldn't match it. Now, that was when he and I agreed on the candidate. I don't want to think what would have happened if we had disagreed.

So what had I gained when I "won" that shouting match? Zero, zip, zilch, nada. All I had done was antagonize a man who one day might help me with my sobriety. Fortunately, these things tend to blow over quickly between A.A. members and it did with us. In fact, that was the positive aspect of the whole thing. The two of us disagreed, but did not bear grudges over it. That experience was much more important than any opinion I may have spouted. Fortunately, our argument had no effect on the unity of The Fellowship, but the incident showed how the issue can become explosive. Our founders were wise to write the tenth tradition just the way it is.

In writing this, I've thought of instances where neutrality on the subjects of religion and alcohol reform has been equally personal in my sobriety. I could write about them also, but perhaps someone else has something they can contribute in those areas.

- Mike H., Ventura

*What's
Your Story!*

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

Mail Subscription Order Form

The TRADITION

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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!*



From the GSO Archives

Q. What are the origins of the Serenity Prayer?

A. It was debated for years who wrote the Serenity Prayer, and its origins are still somewhat murky, but it seems most likely to have been written by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, a well-known theologian who served for many years as Dean and Professor of Applied Christianity at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. G.S.O.'s Archives can provide more information about this prayer's historical origins upon request.

Alcoholics Anonymous became aware of the Serenity Prayer in 1941, when it was discovered printed in the New York Tribune newspaper. Ruth Hock, AA's first secretary and a non-alcoholic, was immediately taken with it. The headquarters staff thought of printing the prayer on a card to distribute to AA members.

On June 12, 1941, Ruth wrote Henry S., a Washington, D.C.-based AA member and printer by profession, saying:

"One of the boys up here got a clipping from a local newspaper which is so very much to the point and so much to their liking, that they have asked me to find out from you what it would cost to set it up on a small card, something like a visiting card, which can be carried in a wallet... here it is...would appreciate it if you would let me know right away."

Henry answered back immediately and enthusiastically:

"...Your cards are on the way and my congratulations to the man who discovered that in the paper. I can't recall any sentence that packs quite the wallop that that does and during the day shown it to the A.A.'s that dropped in and in each case have been asked for copies. I sent you 500 copies in as much as you didn't say how many you wanted. If you need any more, let me know. Incidentally, I am only a heel when I'm drunk, I hope, so naturally there could be no charge for anything of this nature."

Ruth responded again on June 17, and wrote:

"Your generous response to my request for the little cards is certainly much appreciated by us all up here. Glad so many of you down there liked it too, for it backs me up in my feeling that it really has 'something.'"



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

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- *Listening to your sniveling without constant reference to the Big Book or Steps!
- *Co-signing your excuses and rationalizations!
- *Work only the Steps you want, in the order you choose!
- *Learn the secret of giving it away before you even have it!
- *Why "walk the walk" when you can just "talk the talk?"
- *Remember, it's better to look good than to feel good!
- *Why save your ass at the cost of losing your face?

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.....

Recipe for making a mountain out of a molehill

Start with a generous portion of negative thinking.
Add a small problem and some self-centered fear.
Stir in a few worse case scenarios.
Beat continuously so you have no time to think anything through.
Stew for hours

1st QTR P&L vs Projections

	Jan - Mar 16	Projection
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Birthdays	440.00	375.00
Cash Over (Short)	0.99	
Gratitude	1,236.85	1,000.00
Group 7th Tradition	16,957.40	14,250.00
Inventory Sales	24,242.05	23,250.00
Meeting Room Contribution	110.00	240.00
Miscellaneous Contributions	66.00	100.00
Newsletter Subscription	40.00	37.50
Savings Interest	3.79	4.50
Total Income	43,097.08	39,257.00
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold	16,626.97	15,750.00
Total COGS	16,626.97	15,750.00
Gross Profit	26,470.11	23,507.00
Expense		
Bank Fees	22.00	
Copier	733.98	675.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	393.11	403.00
Freight and Shipping Costs	39.00	100.00
Government Filing Fees	174.64	
Maintenance and Repairs	97.98	240.00
Office Supplies and Expense	953.37	1,002.00
Payroll Expense		
Health Insurance	1,247.94	1,247.94
Salaries Expense	14,215.36	13,668.52
Salaries Tax Expense	2,112.56	2,019.92
Total Payroll Expense	17,575.86	16,936.38
Postage	134.23	120.00
Rent & Triple Net	4,358.91	4,360.00
Room Rent-Intergroup	180.00	90.00
Telephone	1,091.01	1,251.00
Travel Expense-Auto	115.22	150.00
Utilities	288.83	305.00
WCI (State Fund)	144.75	144.75
Total Expense	26,302.89	25,777.13
Net Ordinary Income	167.22	(2,270.13)
POS Inventory Adjustments	140.87	
Net Other Income	(140.87)	
Net Income	26.35	(2,270.13)



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**
**District 28 Workshop
People, Places and Things Mentioned in the
First 164 Pages of the Big Book**

May 14

9:00am - Noon

St Patrick's Episcopal Church
1 Church Rd. Thousand Oaks 91362

32nd Tri-State Round-Up

May 19-22

Riverside Hotel, Laughlin NV
www.tristate-roundup.com

37th Women to Women Workshop

June 3-5

Mount St. Mary College, LA
www.womantowomanla.org

Desert Pow-Wow

June 9-11

Indian Wells, CA
www.desertpowwow.com

Grapevine Writing Workshop

June 18th

9:00am - 1:00pm

St Patrick's Episcopal Church
1 Church Rd. Thousand Oaks 91362

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

MAY 2016 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

Fri 6th 6:00 pm H&I Board Mtg @ Central Office

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

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 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

May 23rd Last day to submit items to the June Newsletter


JUNE 2016 Calendar

Wed 1st 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center
for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel Ventura

Thu 2nd 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office

Fri 3rd 6:00 pm H&I Board Mtg @ Central Office

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

Wed 8th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo

Sat 11th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Tue 14th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @
King of Glory Lutheran Church
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Wed 15th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo

Thu 16th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd
Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Sun 19th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

June 20th Last day to submit items to the July Newsletter

A Review of Tradition # 5

*Each group has but one primary purpose
— to carry its message to the alcoholic
who still suffers.*

- Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
- Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
- Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
- Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
- Do I help my group in every way I can, to fulfill our primary purpose?
- Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Living Step # 5

*"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to
another human being the exact
nature of our wrongs."*

All of AA's Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires...they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few of the Steps are harder to take than Step five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to the alcoholic's longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one

Our AA experience has taught us we can not live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step four over our past lives, it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember. If we have come to know how wrong thinking and actions have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living alone with those tormenting ghosts of the past becomes more urgent than ever.

Step five gives us the opportunity to share the dark secrets of our past and move on in our recovery.



MEETING INFO

**Does your meeting give chips or
celebrate birthdays?
Let Central office know so we can
include it in the directory!!**



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

5. IT'S A FORUM

Want to broadcast an idea or let off steam or even view with alarm? Only the Grapevine can give you a platform as broad as the movement itself where you and your fellow members can exchange stories, view-points and interpretations of the recovery program.

AT WIT'S END

Legal Briefs

A drunk called an attorney and asked, "Is it true they're suing the cigarette companies because people got cancer?"

"Yes, that's true," said the lawyer.

The drunk then asked, "And people are suing fast food restaurants for clogging their arteries with burgers and fries, is that true Mr. Lawyer?"

"Sure is," he replied, "but why do you ask?"

"Because," he said, "I'm thinking maybe I can sue the beer companies for all the scary people I've been waking up with!"

Always on deck

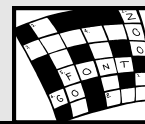
A recovering alcoholic and a normie went on a cruise. The second day at sea the normal guy was watching his friend as he looked for something in the ship's newsletter, which lists the activities for the day. Finally he had to ask. What was his friend looking for?

The recovering alcoholic said he was looking for where Bill W's friends were meeting that day.

The normal guy said, 'I sure would like to meet this Bill W. guy. He's been on every cruise I have been on.'

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

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

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ALTRUISTIC	LOFTY	SPONSOR
BARLEYCORN	OATH	TERROR
DEFECT	PITIFUL	UNIQUE
DIVINE	REPRIEVE	WILL

Definition of Sober - Son Of a Bitch Everything's Real



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 with your Birthday information. *Member's birthdays submitted will be published in this section the following month.*

Join the winners and celebrate your recovery.

April & Previous AA Birthdays

HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

A Family Affair
Destry S. - 30
Bonny S. 34
Bob S. 34

Jan K - 45
Carol F - 21



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

Birthday Club Listing For:

Name _____

City _____

Sobriety Date _____ Years _____

Voluntary Donation Amount \$ _____

Please mail to:

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



CENTRAL OFFICE

Phone Call Activity

Meeting Info	420
Twelve Step Calls	35
Other Twelve Steps Programs	26
Activities	30
Directions to Office	21
Other Type Calls	498
TOTAL	1030



AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

MAY QUESTION:

Who was the minister's son and atheist who asked himself 'Who are you to say there is no God?'

APRIL ANSWER:

In the chapter *We Agnostics* who is the Celebrated American statesman who said "Let look at the record."?

Alfred E. Smith, Governor of New York

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

SPECIAL PAID WORKERS

Matthew C., Dick M.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:

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

Website: www.aaventuracounty.org

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday 9:30 am - 6 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 2 pm

CLOSED SUNDAY