

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

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Volume 36 — Issue 10 **OCTOBER 2016**

# 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](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)

## PUTTING GRATITUDE FIRST - by RJ, El Cajon

*This article originally appeared in the  
November 2002 edition of The Tradition.*

I recently celebrated the twenty-second anniversary of my sobriety date. I haven't had a drink of alcohol since 1980. When I say this, I always add this fact: I didn't drink one day at a time, no matter what - and the days stacked up into years.

I am grateful for my long-term sobriety, but sometimes I get tired of maintaining it. After twenty-two years, meetings can get repetitious, and frankly, there are times I don't feel like going, sharing, or listening.

Then I remember my husband's experience. An active AA member, he quit going regularly to meetings at about twelve years sober when his outside life became more important. He eventually lost contact with the Fellowship, and within the next few years, his spiritual connection, the life-line of all sobriety, frayed and broke apart. Not surprisingly, after twenty-two years of sobriety, and with no spiritual defense, he picked up the first drink. Relief from daily living, which could no longer be found through his AA program and intimate contact with a Higher Power, could now be found in a bottle. But at what cost!

Although he genuinely tried several times to get off the booze and get back in the Fellowship, he couldn't make it. He either knew too much or he knew too little. He felt bewildered by what had happened, unable to grasp how he'd gotten stuck on the bottle again. He couldn't reconnect his spiritual lifeline, nor could he reestablish a sober way of life. I know he hated his drinking and himself for drinking, because he told me so.

After five years of watching a once vital man disintegrate solely due to alcohol, I legally separated from my husband, and my young son and I moved. I kept up the court-ordered visits for father and son until

dad's bloated body began to fall apart and urine/diarrhea stains on his trousers became commonplace. All visits stopped the day I discovered my husband and our little boy jaywalking across a busy five-lane highway. He had discovered a bar over there.

It took my husband twelve long, lonely years to die, the Hideous Four Horsemen his constant and only companions. Alcohol robbed him of all things dear to him, one by one, and then it claimed his life. Alcohol ruined my marriage and alcohol stole a father from a son. When we heard of his death, my son and I cried. No longer could we entertain the hope that one day he'd come back to us, sober and whole. My sorrow over his death was short-lived - I'd grieved over his loss years before.

Life hasn't been easy for me, yet I managed to stay sober throughout this drama, and the ensuing years, by attending meetings, working (and living) the Twelve Steps, using service, sponsors, and sponsoring, having a deepening gratitude for my own sobriety and, above all, depending on an ever-increasing awareness of my Higher Power. Spiritual progress. One day at a time.

My husband's story is a part of my story. Recalling his ordeal won't, in itself, keep me sober, but it helps to remember that ol' "cunning, baffling, and powerful" waits patiently out there for me to place sobriety last. Sharing this story may help another (like me) who might be tired of going, sharing, and listening, to get to a meeting.

I'm grateful to be celebrating twenty-two years of continuous sobriety, and today I feel willing to go to any length to stay sober. Alcohol kills. By the grace of God, alcohol won't kill me.

**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

☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW FREE SUBSCRIPTION Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Service Position \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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!*

**LATEST  
NEWS**  
+ Events  
+ Meetings  
+ Recovery  
+ Fellowship

**12 Monthly  
Updates  
Only \$5.  
Per Year**



## Q&amp;A from AA.org

**Q.** I've heard it said that Bill always wished he could change the beginning of 'How It Works' to read "Never have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path" (rather than "Rarely have we seen..."). Is this true?

**A.** No. A rumor has persisted for years that Bill wished he could have changed "rarely" to "never." But we know, through Bill's own words, that that is not the case. In a letter to Les V., dated May 25, 1961 Bill W. stated:

"...Concerning your comment about the use of the word 'rarely' in Chapter Five of the Big Book. My recollection is that we did give a considerable thought at the time of writing. I think the main reason for the use of 'rarely' was to avoid anything that would look like a claim for a 100 % result. Assuming of course that an alcoholic is willing enough and sane enough, there can be a perfect score on such character. But since willingness and sanity are such illusive and fluctuating values, we simply didn't like to be too positive. The medical profession could jump right down our throats...I do remember thinking about it a lot."

In addition, the following question and response were made at the 1970 General Service Conference, as part of the "Ask-It" Basket questions. Bill was, of course, still living at this time and was able to respond:

**Q.** Has Bill ever said, "If there was any change he would make in the Big Book, it would be to change the word 'rarely' to 'never' at the start of Chapter Five"?

**A.** "No, Bill said he had never considered this" (1970 General Service Conference Report, p. 31).

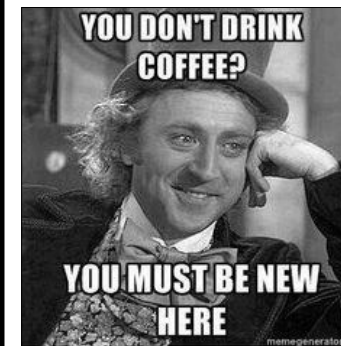
**Q.** Does G.S.O. have information about the history of my home group?

**A.** Often, G.S.O.'s Archives staff can provide detailed information about the origins and history of groups. Of course, the amount of available information we have about a group depends on the amount of information the group has sent to G.S.O. throughout the years. In addition, it is common for groups to organize meetings prior to contacting the G.S.O. But we can research group histories and usually find fascinating information. Contact the G.S.O. Archives for more information.

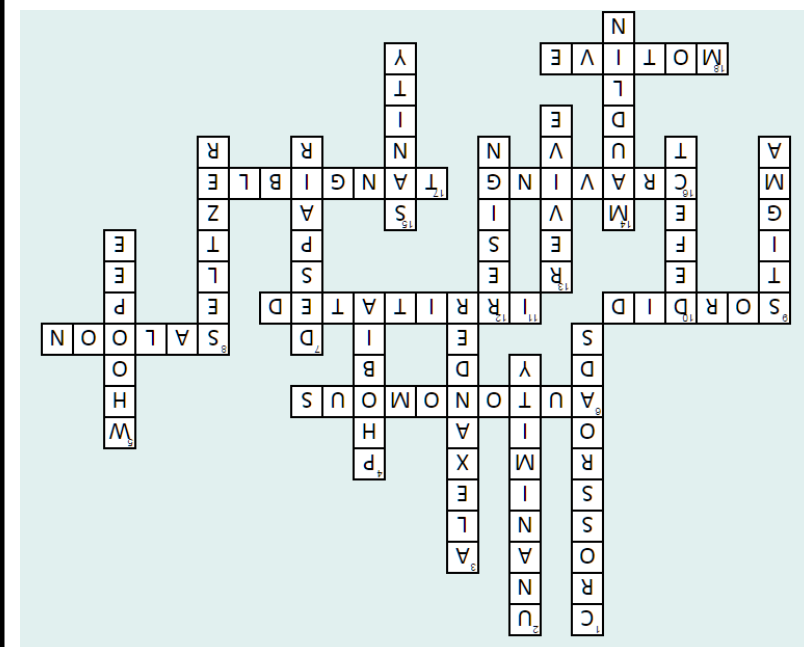
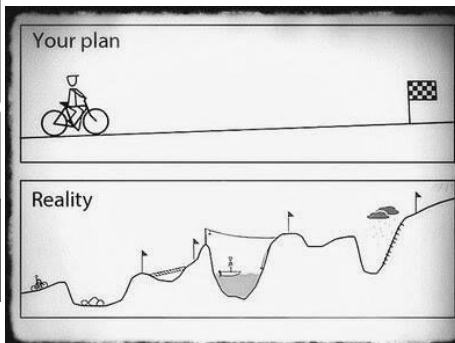
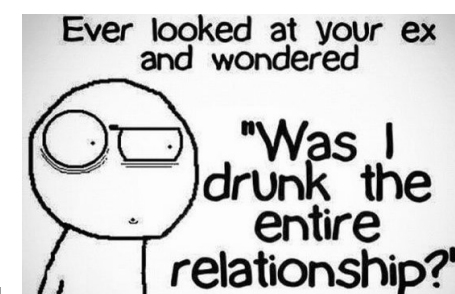


## The Humor Column

### "We're Not a Glum Lot"



In a power outage, the first step is admitting you are powerless.




## 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





## MAJOR AA EVENTS Around America

### 32nd Annual Santa Barbara AA Convention Oct. 21-23

Elks Lodge of Santa Barbara  
[www.sbaaconvention.com](http://www.sbaaconvention.com)

### Santa Clarita Valley AA Convention Oct 21-23

Hyatt Regency Valencia  
[www.scvaaconvention.org/](http://www.scvaaconvention.org/)

### Seniors in Sobriety Conference November 3 - 6

Bahia Hotel San Diego  
[seniorsinsobriety.org/sis/](http://seniorsinsobriety.org/sis/)

### Yosemite Summit Conference Nov 18 - 20

<http://serenityyosemite.com/>

### 50th Annual Las Vegas Roundup Nov 24 - 27

Westgate Resort  
[www.lasvegasroundup.org/](http://www.lasvegasroundup.org/)

### 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)



## OCT 2016 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 9th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 9th 7:00 pm H&I Board Meeting @ Central Office

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

Oct 24th Last day to submit items to the November Newsletter



## NOV 2016 Calendar

Wed 2nd 6:00 pm District 13 GSR Meeting @ Ventura Center  
for Spiritual Living @ 101 S. Laurel, Ventura

Thu 3rd 7:00 pm Inter-group Board Meeting @ Central Office

Sun 6th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 6th 7:00 pm H&I Board Meeting @ Central Office

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

Nov 21st Last day to submit items to the December Newsletter

### A Review of Tradition # 10

*“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on  
outside issues; hence the A.A. name  
ought never be drawn into  
public controversy.”*

—Do I ever give the impression that there really is  
an “AA opinion” on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doc-  
tors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Al-  
cohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing  
marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?

—Can I honestly share my own personal experience  
concerning any of those without giving the impres-  
sion I am stating the “AA opinion”?

—What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradi-  
tion?  
Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?  
What would AA be without this Tradition? Where  
would I be?

—How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in  
my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

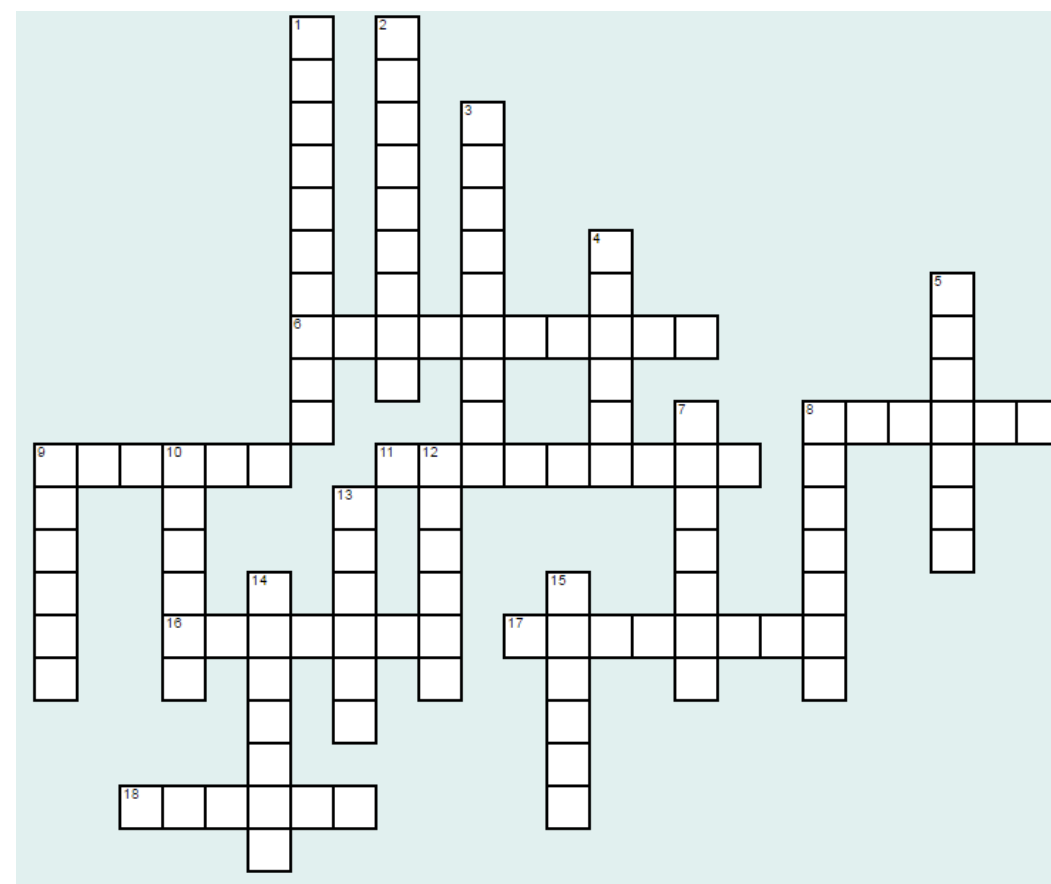
### Living Step # 10

*“Continued to take a personal inventory, and  
when we were wrong  
promptly admitted it.”*

As we work the first nine Steps, we prepare our-  
selves for the adventure of a new life. But when we  
approach Step Ten we commence to put our A.A.  
way of living to practical use, day by day, in fair  
weather or foul. Then comes the acid test: can we  
stay sober, keep in emotional balance, and live to  
good purpose under all conditions?

A continuous look at our assets and liabilities, and  
a real desire to learn and grow by this means, are  
necessities for us. We alcoholics have learned this  
the hard way. More experienced people, of  
course, in all times and places have practiced un-  
sparing self-survey and criticism. For the wise  
have always known that no one can make much of  
his life until self-searching becomes a regular hab-  
it, until he is able to admit and accept what he  
finds, and until he patiently and persistently tries to  
correct what is wrong.

### Recovery Crossword



- | Across                           | Down                    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 Independent                    | 1 Decisive point        |
| 8 Tavern                         | 2 Complete agreement    |
| 9 Morally degraded               | 3 Saturday Evening Post |
| 11 Feeling annoyed               | 4 Irrational fear       |
| 16 Intense or abnormal<br>desire | 5 Merrymaking           |
| 17 Touchable                     | 7 Lost hope             |
| 18 Driving force                 | 8 Soda water            |
|                                  | 9 Mark of shame         |
|                                  | 10 Imperfection         |
|                                  | 12 Quit                 |
|                                  | 13 Bring back           |
|                                  | 14 Overly emotional     |
|                                  | 15 Mentally sound       |



## GRAPEVINE CORNER The Meeting In Print

**By Michele B. of Newbury Park**

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

### 10. AS A BOON TO NEWCOMERS.

Many groups use the Grapevine as an important element in sponsorship programs. They encourage newcomers to read the magazine between meetings, discuss specific articles, ask questions about points they don't understand. (A number of groups make it a regular practice to give a Grapevine subscription to each newcomer.)

At Wit's End

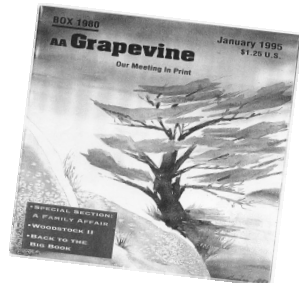
Faith-based drinking

The other night our meeting topic was, "Came to believe." One member shared that he had no problem with believing, He explained, "Countless times I remember saying I believe I'll have another beer,"

Heard at meetings:

Patience was the topic.  
One member said, "Oh, I have plenty of that!...mainly because I've never used any of it.

## Recycle Your Copies of The Grapevine Magazine



The Grapevine is timeless! Articles written ten or twenty years ago are still fresh and inspiring. Central Office provides a box for collecting back issues of The Grapevine. These issues are picked up by H & I and re-circulated in institutions and jails. So . . .before discarding your back issues, bring them in for use by another recovering alcoholic! *Recycle and help spread recovery!*

## Q&A from AA.org

### Q. Was Bill nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize?

**A.** Bill was never nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1960 an individual from the New York area wrote to Bill concerning the possibility of a Nobel Prize. Bill responded that he would be delighted if overtures were made, but the award would have to cite Alcoholics Anonymous and not himself. Bill made it clear that the prize money could not be accepted because A.A. does not accept funds from any person or entity outside Alcoholics Anonymous. In addition, of course, there was the issue of Bill maintaining his anonymity, which would not have been possible with such a public award.

A proposal to nominate Alcoholics Anonymous for the Nobel Prize was presented in early 1986. After careful consideration and deliberation, the General Service Board of A.A. stated that the monetary prize without question would be declined. Beyond that, it was felt that, and in keeping with our Tenth Tradition, which enjoins us to venture no opinions on outside issues, no further comments were necessary.

While Bill was still alive, he declined several honors, among them an offer by Yale University of the degree of Doctor of Laws. In 1976, after his death, Norwich University wanted to award Bill a posthumous degree of Doctor of the Humanities. The degree, however, was declined by his late wife, Lois.

### Q. What is the story behind the Herbert Spencer quote in Appendix II of the Big Book?

**A.** The Herbert Spencer quote first appeared in the First Edition, First Printing of the Big Book (1939), on page 380, at the beginning of the story "An Artist's Concept." The quote was included with this story throughout all 16 printings of the First Edition, from 1939 through 1955. That story was dropped when the Second Edition of the Big Book was published in 1955 – and the Spencer quote was dropped with it. The Spencer quote does not appear in the Second Edition/First Printing (1955) or the Second Edition/Second Printing (1957). However, the quote was added to the Third Printing of the Second Edition in 1959, at the end of Appendix II, where it still appears today.

We have been unable to locate the source for this quote in any work by Spencer, who published an enormous amount on a great variety of topics. The quote is attributed to Spencer on page 650 of *The Great Quotations*, compiled by George Seldes and published in 1961. More recently, one scholar conducted a considerable amount of research into the origin of the quote and concluded that it derives from a Christian apologetic work by the 18th Century British theologian William Paley. We can neither confirm nor refute this finding, but share it here as an additional resource.

## 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.**

### October & Previous AA Birthdays

#### HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

Link – 60  
"Last Call" Paul - 40  
Charlotte H. - 34  
Yuriko B. - 6  
Allyson A. - 2



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	405
Twelve Step Calls	26
Other Twelve Steps Programs	32
Activities	17
Directions to Office	12
Other Type Calls	397
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>889</b>

## AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

### OCTOBER QUESTION:

**In April of 2002 what sentence was removed from the Big Book's Foreword to the Fourth Edition?**

### SEPTEMBER ANSWER:

*Since nobody submitted the correct answer to the September Trivia Question, it will remain until someone correctly answers it.*

*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., Sonya, Peter M., Mike A., Azusa S., Dale S., Robin S., Steve F., Ron. G., Eric N.

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321 N. Aviator Street, Suite 115  
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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