## **Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.**

321 No. Aviador Street. Suite # 115 Camarillo, CA. 93010

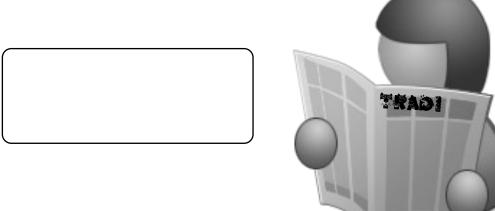
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## NOTE: Members in service positions qualify for a FREE Newsletter\*

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

321 No. Aviador 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!



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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. Aviador Street, Suite 115 Camarillo, Ca. 93010

24 Hour Telephones

(805) 389-1444 (800) 990-7550

Fax (805) 389-2912

vcaaco@verizon.net

## November's Gratitude Donations Help Carry The Message

Misty origins notwithstanding, Gratitude Month has, since the 1940s, been November and our shared thankfulness over the years has taken many forms and will continue to do so as our membership

The General Service Board began giving small gratitude dinners in the 1940s. These were precursors to the much larger Gratitude Luncheons that were orchestrated during the 1960s as a Public Information effort of G.S.O.

A.A. Traditions were the undeniable anchor of our new sober life. Bill W. thought when he wrote, "What then could be more appropriate than to set aside Thanksgiving week for discussion of the practical and spiritual values to be discovered in our Traditions?" The Traditions, he wrote in November 1949. "are a distillate of our experience of living and working annual pre-Thanksgiving on the Fellowship, were from together. They apply the spirit appeals to the groups for The New York Times, Mediof the Twelve recovery Steps funds to help support A.A.'s cal World News, McCall's to our group life and securi- worldwide services." ty." (The Language of the Heart, p.96)

The first sealed and approved, official recognition of A.A. "Gratitude Week" to be specifically designated to coincide with Thanksgiving week, dates back to 1956. That year, at the Sixth General Service Conference, delegates approved a motion to that effect, stipulating that "this action be noted in the

### November is Gratitude Donation Month!

For many decades now, we in the Fellowship have formally carved out from the calendar the month of November as a time to express our collective gratitude for our individual sobriety. Interestingly, no one is exactly sure why that month was originally chosen, though its connection with Thanksgiving seems obvious. A.A. co-founder, Bill W., thought for a while that his sobriety had begun in November, but later calculations established the date of his new beginnings as December 11.



Carrying the message, expressing gratitude, as well as many other news and pubwanting to make a gesture of lishing organizations. appreciation for the numerous published articles, books, and radio and TV interviews to A.A. that year, were what motivated a number of Gratitude Luncheons. These were held, always in November, during the 1960s at New York City's Roosevelt Hotel—where, incidentally,

members of the media who might care to have a drink were assured, in the invitation by General Service Board chairman (nonalcoholic) Dr. John I. Norris, that "cocktails will be served at 12:15 p.m. in the Library, and the luncheon will end promptly at 2:00 p.m. Well-attended functions. these luncheons drew a sizeable, wide-ranging representation from the media, and served a double purpose: to thank the writers and commentators who attended for their contributions to A.A. in the preceding year and to, in the words of a G.S.O. memo written at the time, "advance A.A.'s public relations by bringing editors, publishers, writers and broadcasters in personal contact sources of reliable information on the movement." A typical list of invitees to the 1965 luncheon, which had published articles and books Magazine, Macmillan Publishing Company. The Christian Science Monitor, and

Bill W. always addressed the gatherings, as did Dr. Norris, and, in addition to a question and answer period at the end of the proceedings, there was always plenty of A.A. literature available for the quests to take along.

continued page 2

### **Gratitude Donations**

### **Continued From Page 1**

In 1965, Bill sent an autographed copy of the newly-released A.A. Comes of Age to each guest.

Although those who came to the luncheons found them helpful and informative, the board thought they were too expensive a way to say thank you, when a letter from Bill, after an article or TV production was completed, would have been enough. Others voiced the opinion that more cooperation offered on articles or TV spots might have been more helpful. In any event, the luncheons were discontinued in 1968.

In many cases, the local A.A. Central Service Office is the first place our new members contact when seeking help. The generous contributions of our members is what sustains the local office and provides for our rent, telephone services, staffing, printed materials and helps us serve as a central contact point for our members and our meeting groups. Thanks in advance for helping to support these services.

Reprinted with permission of AA World Services Inc.

DON'T BE ALARMED, MY DEAR - I'VE JOINED ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.



## DO YOU NEED SOMEWHERE TO HOLD A MEETING?

Did you know that Central Office rents out a meeting room? For weekly or one time availability please contact Central Office.



The car sped off the highway, went through the guard rail, rolled down a cliff, bounced off a tree and finally shuddered to a stop. A passing motorist, who had witnessed the entire accident, helped the miraculously unharmed driver out of the wreck. "Good lord, mister," he gasped, "Are you drunk?" "Of course," said the man, brushing the dirt from his suit. "What the hell do you think I am ... a stunt driver?"

A man comes in to the room and says to his wife, "I'm going to the pub. Get your coat on." The wife, overjoyed that he has included her in his activity replies, "Does that mean that you are taking me with you, darling?" The husband replies, "No - I'm turning the heating off."

This really drunk guy walks up to a parking meter and puts in a quarter. He stares at the needle that has stopped at 60 and exclaims, "I can't believe I lost 100 pounds!

A baby seal walks into a bar and sits down. "What can I get you?" asked the bartender. "Anything but a Canadian Club" replied the seal.

A businessman enters a tavern, sits down at the bar, and orders a double martini on the rocks. After he finishes the drink, he peeks inside his shirt pocket, then orders the bartender to prepare another double martini. After he finishes it, he again peeks inside his shirt pocket and orders the bartender to bring another double martini. The bartender says, "Look, buddy, I'll bring ya' martinis all night long - but you gotta tell me why you look inside your shirt pocket before you order a refill." The customer replies, "I'm peeking at a photo of my wife. When she starts to look good, I know it's time to go home."

A guy comes home three sheets to the wind and all three sheets ripping bad, Budweiser sloshing around in his belly like a keg adrift in a roiling sea. He sloshes through the door and is met by his wife, who is scowling, figuring he's been out jumping new bones. "Where the hell you been all night?" she demands. "At this fantastic new saloon," he says. "The Golden Saloon. Everything there is golden." "Bullshit! There's no such place!" Guy says, "Sure there is! Joint's got huge golden doors, a golden floor. Hell, even the urinal's gold!" The wife still doesn't believe his story, and the next day checks the phone book, finding a place across town called the Golden Saloon. She calls up the place to check her husband's story. "Is this the Golden Saloon?" she asks when the bartender answers the phone. "Yes, it is," bartender answers. "Do you have huge golden doors?" "Sure do." "Do you have golden floors?" "Most certainly do." "What about golden urinals?" There's a long pause, then the woman hears the bartender yelling, "Hey, Duke, I think I got a lead on the guy who pissed in vour saxophone."

# AAGRAPEVINE The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

October 2015

### Have you ever wanted to Share Your Story in the Grapevine

You'll learn how at the Writing Workshop November 7, 9:00-12:00

You will be provided:
Guidelines for writing
Help in editing
Paper and pencil
Yummy lunch
Some good laughs

You don't need to know how to write like a professional.
You do need a willingness and desire to share

Your story may be the one that helps a reader stay sober

Center for Spritiual Living, 101 S. Laurel, Ventura Hosted by District 13 Grapevine Committee

For information contact; Danny G 805-443-4031



Please join ou

District 28 Fall Workshop on Sat. October 31st, 2015

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 1 Church Road in Thousand Oaks

Coffee and snacks will be available at 830am, so come early and join us.

The workshop will start at 900am and end at 1200pm.

Featured presenters will be sharing their experiences with meditation, in physical, mental and spiritual capacities!

Suggest comfortable clothing..

Child care will be provided!

If you would like to be involved in assisting the workshop, please find a meeting GSR and let them know!

A \$5 donation at the door is very much appreciated, but is NOT mandatory ...do not feel obligated, instead feel grateful!

# Districts, Area & AAWS CONTACTS

District 13
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 166
Ventura, CA 93002

## **Gold Coast Districts (9 & 12)**

PLEASE NOT E NEW ADDRÈSS
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

### As Bill Sees It Camarillo Meeting 32nd Anniversary Potluck & Speaker Meeting

October 17, 2015 9:30-11:00 2280 Antonio Ave, Camarillo

#### **Halloween Dance**

Hosted by Santa Paula Pig Roast October 17, 2015 7:00-10:30

The Buck 321 N. Aviador St. #111, Camarillo

### 8th Annual Brotherhood Run & Campout

October 23-25, 2015 For details see Brotherhoodanonymous.com

**Meditation Workshop Presented by District 28** October 31st, 2015 see flyer on page 7

### 28th Annual Inland Empire Convention

November 6-8 **Double Tree** San Bernardino www.ieaac.org

### **Grapevine Writing Workshop**

Presented by District 13 **November 7, 2015** see page 7 for flyer

### Area 93 2015 LONGTIMERS Event

November 8 - 1PM Wilkinson Senior Center 8956 VanAlden Ave., Northridge, CA Doors open 11:30, Lunch at 12:15

### 49th Annual Las Vegas Roundup November 26 - 29

Westgate Resort and Casino Las Vegas 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



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

Fri 9th 6:00 pm H & I Board Mtg @ Central Office

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

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

Sun 18th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office 5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Wed 21st 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg The Buck 321 N Aviador Ste 111 Camarillo

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

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

Thu 23rd 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Oct 23rd Last day to submit items to the Nov Newsletter

## November 2015 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

Sat 7th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Wed 11th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck 321 N Aviador Suite 111, Camarillo

Sun 15th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office 5.30 pm H & I 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 Aviador 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

Nov 23rd Last day to submit items to the Dec Newsletter

### A Review of Tradition #10

October 2015

"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? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijua-

—Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?

na? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?

—What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition? 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 ourselves 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 unsparing 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 habit, until he is able to admit and accept what he finds, and until he patiently and persistently tries to correct what is wrong.

### PLEASE HEAR WHAT I AM NOT SAYING - by Anonymous This article was first published in our Jan 1974 newsletter and it is reprinted as it originally appeared.

Don't be fooled by me; don't be fooled by the face I wear. For I wear a thousand masks, masks that I am afraid to take off and none of them is me. Pretending is an ing, what I would like to be able to say, what for survival I art that's second nature with me but don't be fooled, for God's sake, don't be fooled. I give the impression that I am secure, that all is sunny and unruffled with me, within as well as out, that confidence is my name and coolness is my game; that the water's calm and I 'm in command, and that I need no one. But don't believe me. Please.

My surface may seem smooth, but my surface is my mask. Beneath this lies no complacence. Beneath dwells the real me in confusion, in fear and alone. But I hide this. I don't want anyone to know it. I panic at the thought of my cause you really care, my heart begins to grow wings, weakness and fear of being exposed. That is why I frantically create a mask to hide behind, a nonchalant, sophisticated façade to help me pretend, to shield me from the glance that knows. But such a glance is precisely my salvation. My only salvation and I know it. That is if it's followed by acceptance, if it is followed by love. It is the only choose to. Please choose to. You alone can break down thing that will assure me of what I can't assure myself, that the wall behind which I tremble; you alone can remove my I am worth something.

But I do not tell you this, I do not dare. I'm afraid to. I'm afraid your glance will not be followed by acceptance and love. I'm afraid you'll think less of me, that you will laugh at me and your laugh will kill me. I'm afraid that deep down I'm nothing, that I'm no good, and that you will see this and reject me. SO I play my game, my desperate game, with my façade of assurance without a trembling child within.

I idly chatter to you in suave tones of surface talk. I tell you everything that is really nothing and nothing of what's everything of what's crying within me. So when I'm going

through my routine do not be fooled by what I am saying. Please listen carefully and try to hear what I am not sayneed to say but I can't say.

I dislike hiding. Honestly! I dislike the superficial game I'm playing, the phony game. I would really like to be genuine, spontaneous and me but you've got to help me. You've got to hold out your hand, even when that is that last thing I seem to want. Only you can wipe away from my eyes the blank stare of breathing death. Only you can call me into aliveness. Each time you are kind and gentle and encouraging, each time you try to understand bevery small wings, very feeble wings but wings. With your sensitivity and sympathy, and your power of understanding, you can breathe life into me. I want you to know that.

I want you to know how important you are to me, how you can be the creator of the person that is me if you mask. You alone can release me from my shadow-world of panic and uncertainty, from my lonely world. Do not pass me by. Please do not pass me by.

It will not be easy for you. A long conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls. The nearer you approach me, the blinder I strike back. I fight against the very thing I cry out for. But I am told that love is stronger than the walls and in this lies my hope. Please try to beat down those walls with firm hands, but gentle hands; for a child is very sensitive.

Who am I, you may wonder. I am someone you know very well...for I am YOU.

# GRAPEVINE CORNER The Meeting In Print

### By Michele B. of Newbury Park

### Grapevine Corner 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.)

### Let me Explain

OFFICER: Sir, do you know how fast you were driving? AA GUY: I'm awfully sorry, officer, I was in a hurry. You see, I'm late for my meeting...

OFFICER: Have you been drinking?

AA GUY: Drinking? Me? Well, I have been drinking, but not now, not anymore,

OFFICER: Don't try and get funny with me.

AA GUY: But officer, you don't understand. You see. I'm an

OFFICER: Oh I understand all right... and I don't care what Automobile Association you're with. So tell me. When did you have your last drink?

AA GUY: Oh, you mean, when is my anniversary birthday? OFFICER: Listen buddy, I don't give a darn about your birthday. Quit playing games. Now tell me, where were you heading when I pulled you over? ... To a bar? AA GUY: No. I don't go to bars. You see...

OFFICER: So you drink and get drunk at home. Right? AA GUY: No, I don't get drunk at home or in bars. Can I explain?

OFFICER: Listen, I'll ask the questions here. Where were you heading so fast?

AA GUY: You won't believe me.

OFFICER: Try me...but it better be good.

AA GUY: I was going to an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting. OFFICER: That does it! Stay right there while I run a check on you. I think I might need to call in for backup!

**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 by sharing the stories of A.A.

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

M T R II S T F D X A

STEPS **GRAPEVINE TRUSTED** PRAYER PRESTIGE AMENDS PROPERTY **BELIEVE DENIAL** 

**FELLOWSHIP DECIDED MEDITATION** 

**EVENTS SERVANTS** WISDOM KNOW

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W	0	В	Q	N	M	T	N	M	L	S	R
Z	W	Α	Α	D	Ε	Ν	I	Α	L	Р	Т
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## **RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION**

am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA 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.

### **September & Previous AA Birthdays**

### **HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY**

Link - 59 "Last Call" Paul - 39 Charlotte H. - 33 Louise J - 27 Allyson A. - 1



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

### **Birthday Club Listing For:**

City Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_ Years ■ Voluntary Donation Amount \$

> Please mail to: **Ventura County Central Service Office** 321 N. Aviador Street, Suite 115 Camarillo, CA 93010

Meeting Info	453
Twelve Step Calls	53
Other Twelve Steps Programs	41
Activities	97
Directions to Office	35
Other Type Calls	<u>401</u>
TOTAL	1,080

## AA TRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month



The Ventura County Central Service Office Inc. Monthly Newsletter

### **OCTOBER QUESTION:**

Who replaced Ruth Hock as the secretary in New York's AA office?



### SEPTEMBER ANSWER

In 1938 who lent Bill and Hank \$1000 to help with the creation of the Big Book?

Fitz M's sister Agnes lent them the money.

Answers will be published the following month. Mail your answer to: Ventura County Central Service Office Inc., 321 N. Aviador 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 Martin F. Ventura Vice Chairperson Wavne W. Ventura Secretary Michelle P. Camarillo Lynn S. Simi Valley Treasurer Member at large #1 Jan K, Ventura Member at large # 2 Vickie L. Camarillo Member at large # 3 Scott W. Simi Valley

#### **SPECIAL PAID WORKERS**

Matthew C., Dick M.

### **OFFICE VOLUNTEER STAFF:**

Don B., Robert S., Peter M., Mike A., Mary H., Dora E., Azusa S., Claudia P., Dale S., Malia S., Robin S.

### **Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.**

321 N. Aviador 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**