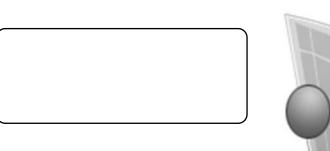
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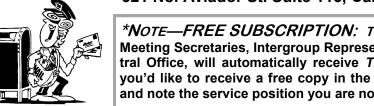
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*NOTE—FREE SUBSCRIPTION: TO ALL MEMBERS IN SERVICE POSITIONS: Meeting Secretaries, Intergroup Representatives and GSR's who register with Central Office, will automatically receive The Tradition each month at no charge. If you'd like to receive a free copy in the mail, please submit this subscription form and note the service position you are now filling. Stay informed, order now!

Non Profit Org.



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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

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24 Hour Telephones

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

Fax (805) 389-2912

vcaaco@verizon.net

FOR TODAY, IT'S NOT ABOUT ME by Scott W.

It was the evening of July 29th; I had a rather typical day at work, nothing out of the ordinary. I was exhausted and mentally drained from work that day. I spend my days trying to beautify homes for people that I usually do not know, but end up becoming lifelong friends with. I made a few phone calls to some other alcoholic friends and inquired about grabbing a bite before heading out to the speaker meeting in Westlake Village. So off we went to dinner and then to the meeting that I've been to a hundred times before. I have learned from my sponsor and other friends that I should never have expectations for meetings, or anything else in life for that matter. I had time to say hello to the usual cast of characters (i.e., my friends) beforehand and settled into my seat. Little did I know that what was about to take place would have a profound effect on me; once again altering my thinking, like only Alcoholics Anonymous can do for me. The 10-minute speaker was a gentleman from Santa Clarita. About three minutes into his pitch he began to tell my story. He talked about how his disease progressed to the point where he began to reach into the chest of his parents and rip their hearts out - something he thought he would never do. His message hit home immediately. A short time later his friend took the podium and began to tell his story. He spoke of the many difficult periods in his life and how through it all, the hand of AA was always there for him. My eyes began to well up and once again I was reminded of what Alcoholics Anonymous has done for me in my brief time here.

As I returned home that evening I noticed a crew of construction people working on the power poles near my house. As I pulled into my driveway. I noticed that the power was out at the intersection. I then realized that power was out on the entire street and the first thought that went through my head was how am I going to sleep without air conditioning? I went inside and lit a couple

of candles. I went to refrigerator and it dawned on me - I probably shouldn't open the doors because I don't know how much longer power will be out. I proceeded to go to bed. I woke up at 4:30 in the morning and the power was still out. I began to think about all of the food in the refrigerator that would spoil if I didn't have a plan to keep it cold.

My first plan was to go to Home Depot and buy a couple of large trash cans, fill them up with ice and throw all of my food into them. My alcoholic mind was beginning to take over. I thought about waking up a buddy of mine and borrowing his generator. I jumped in the car to head to my local Starbucks for my coffee and then start plan in motion. As I pulled out of the driveway, it hit me. I drove straight to the construction site and inquired about how many gentlemen were working on the poles. I then proceeded to Starbucks and grabbed a large quantity of coffee and creamer to take back to the construction site. Here were 8 men who could not be with their families all night, because their job was to make sure people throughout this town had power. The message that I heard just eight hours earlier from two complete strangers had quite the effect on me apparently. For today, it's not about me! The program of Alcoholics Anonymous has worked in ways that I could never have imagined. The fellowship and camaraderie I have found here is something I never want to relinquish. This program changes lives. Those two men that spoke that night may never know the effect that they had on me, but the message was loud and clear. We have indeed found a gift that we get to keep because we have the willingness to give it away....One Day at a Time!



Recovery Word Scramble Puzzle

bancael	 When we level our lives
hthale	 A goal in recovery other than abstinence
dnim	 Where your mental health resides
yodb	 The physical part of recovery we also need to take care of
prtiis	 Your higher power feeds this
snetncieba	 Not drinking or using drugs is called
usnocqneesce	 What happens if you use again
dnciaiotd	 The disease 6-10% of Americans struggle with
hrcnoci	 Addiction(blank) progressive and can be fatal.
ambangaeenul	 Our lives had become
nildea	 A defense mechanism we use to avoid dealing with problems
etnecacapc	 Once this happens, you can move forward in recovery
sski	 Abbreviation for Keep It Simple

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE <u>MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S STAG</u> IN SIMI VALLEY FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN CREATING THIS EDITION OF THE TRADITION

IF YOUR MEETING IS INTERESTED IN WORKING ON AN ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT CENTRAL OFFICE



SEPTEMBER 2016

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.

••••••

Two drunks go moose hunting deep in the Canadian wilderness. So deep they have to be flown in. After a week and successfully taking two moose, the pilot lands at the strip to pick them up. The pilot informs them that they'll have to leave one of the moose behind as it exceeds the plane's weight capacity. The drunks convince the pilot that the plane can handle it because after all, 'we took two with us last year!' So the pilot reluctantly agrees and off they go. The plane is struggling to gain altitude and crashes shortly after take off. Thankfully everyone survived. The pilot, dazed and confused looks around, and asks, 'where are we?' To which the one drunk replied, 'Oh, from the looks of it, we're only a 100 yards away from where we crashed last year.'

A neutron at a bar

A neutron walks into a bar. "I'd like a beer" he says. The bartender promptly serves up a beer. "How much will that be?" asks the neutron. "For you?" replies the bartender, "no charge

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Charles Dickens walks into a bar and orders a Martini. The bartender says "Olive or Twist?"

.

Walking into his favorite bar, Mike said to the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one. I just had another fight with the little woman." "Oh, yeah?" said Fred. "And how did this one end?" "When it was over," Mike replied, "she came to me on her hands and knees." "Really? Now that's a switch! What did she say?" She said, "Come out from under that bed, you little chickens##t."

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

A drunk driver gets pulled over by a cop. The cop says "Hey pal How much have you had to drink tonight?" The guy says "Well...I've had 6 double rums and 4 beers." The cop says "Get out of the car, I'm gonna do a breathalyzer on you!" The drunk says "What's the matter? you don't believe me???"

AA faker: "Since joining AA 3 years ago, I have not found it necessary to take a drink"

Newcomer: "Liar, I saw you not 2 weeks ago at Joe's bar

and grill drunk as a skunk"

AA faker: "Yeah, but it wasn't necessary"



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

Kern River Valley Soberfest Campout Sept 16-18

MORE INFO Lynnette (760)223-1559 krvsoberfestcampout@gmail.com

65th Annual Southern California

AA Convention Sept 23-25 San Diego

http://www.aasocal.com

2nd Annual Historical AA Presentation Sept 24

Oxnard Performing Arts Center MORE INFO area93archives@gmail.com

Women to Women

Sept 30 - Oct 2 Sand Diego http://www.womantowomansandiego.com

DCYPAA'S 2nd Annual Endless Summer

Oct 8th **Palm Springs** http://www.dcypaa.com/

32nd Annual Santa Barbara

AA Convention Oct. 21-23 **Elks Lodge of Santa Barbara** http://www.sbaaconvention.com

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

SEPT 2016 Calendar

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 11th 5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 11th 7:00 pm H& I Board Meeting @ Central Office

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

Sept 23rd Last day to submit items to the October Newsletter

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 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 Aviador 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 Aviador 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

A Review of Tradition #9

"AA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

- Do I still try to boss things in AA?
- Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
- Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program — even if no one makes me do so — with a sense of personal responsibility?
- Do I exercise humility and patience in any AA service position I take?
- Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in my AA service position?
- Do I understand why every AA group doesn't need a constitution and bylaws?
- Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully — and profit thereby — when the time comes?

Living Step #9

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence-these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.

After we have made the list of people we have harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instancé, and have tried to posses's ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

* Poets' Corner *

May I look to your sky and gaze in awe The greatness that that is you I almost saw May I swim in your oceans blue The deeper I dive always looking for you May I place my feet on your sacred ground Walk as I must to find you around Awaken in me for my soul feels lost Always yearning for our paths to again cross Will you be my guide when the light inside dims I have finally found you from our place within The joy I feel in my heart now Full realization of my gifts and the know how That gift is love and I give it unto you For love opens the heart and focuses the view You were always there my vision was a skewed You were always here as I clouded the view The vision of Me, of You, of Us Always and forever IN GOD WE TRUST

Marc 2012

"I can"

If you think you are beaten, you are; If you think you dare not, you don't; If you'd like to win, but think you can't, It's almost a cinch you won't. If you think you'll lose, you're lost, For out in the world we find Success begins with a person's faith; It's all in the state of mind. Life's battles don't always go To the stronger or faster hand; They go to the one who trusts in Life And always thinks, "I can."

Recovery Haiku

My sponsor got mad After I did a no-show. He had every right.

Recovery Haiku

Seven A.M. start Read "There is a solution" Early but Awesome

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

9. AS AN ALLY IN "INSTITUTIONAL" AA.

Is your group one of the many that is sponsoring (or plans to sponsor) a prison or hospital group? Your gifts of Grapevines will be deeply appreciated by men and women whose contacts with "outside" AA are lim-

At Wit's End

Heard at a meeting

"AA is the only organization where you come in as a big shoot and work your way up to servant."

Heard in court.

A drunk named Joe showed up at a hearing for failure to pay child support. When it was his turn, he walked up to the judge and made this appeal: "Your honor I am in AA.

Judge: "Oh really? So what's the first Step?"

Joe: "I don't know."

Judge: "What's the Second Step?"

Joe: "Uh, I don't know." Judge: "Step One?"

Joe: "Hmm...something about my life is unmanagea-

Judge: "You're right about that. A hundred and eighty

days!" True story.

> **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!











RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

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 CLU Celebrate Sobriet

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.

AA Birthdays

HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER 2016

STEVEN H - 31 **Thousand Oaks**

TONY K - 30 Camarillo

PEGIS - 24 Camarillo

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 \$

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

Please mail to:



Meeting Info	431	
Twelve Step Calls	23	
Other Twelve Steps Progran	ns 19	
Activities	30	
Directions to Office	21	
Other Type Calls	<u>384</u>	
TOTAL	908	

AATRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month



SEPTEMBER QUESTION:

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

AUGUST ANSWER:



What is the origin of "Faith without work is

The quote comes from James 2:14-26

Congratulations to Melinda P., Michele B. and Danny G. for submitting the correct answer.

Answers will be published the following month. Mail your answer

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 subscrip-

NEWSLETTER STUFF-N-FOLD GROUP

Friends of Bill W., Paul H, Rosalie, Don, Allison, Linda, Bill C, **Jessie and Visitors**

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