

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

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Volume 37 — Issue 9 **SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.aaventuracounty.org)

Ventura County Central  
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[vcaaco@verizon.net](mailto:vcaaco@verizon.net)

## Recovering from Intellectualism - by Mike H.

I read an item by an AA who spoke of how her group differed from the norms of the Fellowship—at least as she saw them. One item was “It’s been said you don’t have to be afraid of using polysyllabic words.” I chuckled at that-so much was implied and so little was said.

I’ve never been afraid to use big words at meetings. There’s no reason for such fear. “Anonymity” is quite long and one of the most difficult words to pronounce in English. People who use it regularly won’t be intimidated by other big, long words. What I have learned is that simplicity of speech is more readily understood and I need my fellow alkies’ understanding of what I say.

On another level, simple direct speech is really more honest. I shared at a meeting once how I thought my wife was pulling my leg in telling me something. As I put it “Maybe ‘cause I do that to her.” The room roared with laughter and the fellow next to me clapped me on the shoulder and said “Now, that’s honesty”. I can’t imagine that laughter and comment taking place if I’d said “Perhaps I was merely projecting my own behavior onto her.” It would take too long to figure out what was said and the truth would be wrapped in a jacket of verbal pomposity.

Yes, I got here with quite a load of intellectualism. I remember sitting on a bar stool lecturing on the political and diplomatic ramifications of a border dispute between Russia and China. I got what I wanted, everybody around me was in awe, “Boy, he sure is smart.” Of course, it didn’t get me off that bar stool and the Russian and Chinese governments expressed no interest in my brilliant observations.

At one point, the regulars at that bar decided I must be an English professor at a local college. The man most possessed of

that notion was himself a published writer so I was very flattered. I simply dripped false humility when I said “No, I’m just a civil servant.”

All that braininess didn’t keep me from going to the same bar with a revolver to settle things with a man who antagonized me. Fortunately, nothing came of it. (This quick transition from high, lofty thoughts to the basest violence isn’t all that uncommon).

Not long ago a drunk invited me to discuss the meaning of life with him. He became very angry when I pointedly suggested that he would be better off discussing sobriety. He offered to bust me in the chops and otherwise rework my physique. I walked away from both the debate and the fight. Sobriety has given me the strength to do that.

All this great intellect never helped me in practical matters-professional, marital, financial or personal. Even in sobriety, I’ve hurt myself with it. Jobs have been the worst-I was always trying to figure out how to apply my wide knowledge and analytical thinking to the job. My employers preferred I do work assigned to me. When I worked For aerospace I wrote such good legal memoranda that the company lawyers wanted to see them. I could reduce reams of regulatory mish-mash to a few clear sentences and provide the reader with a guide to finding the salient points in long, verbose directives. My supervisors were happy to see the first one or two of these, but...

When I first came to the Program, I had a lot of trouble with the idea of spirituality. that I couldn’t grasp any of it. These were things beyond the limits of my vaunted logic and they scared me. I just kept coming back until I was comfortable

(continued page 3)

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

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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!*

**CONCEPT 9**

(Reprinted from the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated," pages 18-19 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

*Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures."

Due to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative. The G.S.R. is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole. Together the G.S.R.s are A.A.'s group conscience — and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area's candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. And as the G.S.R.s meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. "Who are the best qualified people?" should be the thought of all.

"No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception.

(continued page 3)



The new sobriety tests are tough.



When the tree you swerve to miss is actually your air freshener

**(Intellectualism continued)**

with it. I was over ten years sober before I could use the word "God" in my nightly prayers. A few years later I realized that my atheism/agnosticism was not the intellectuality I'd long believed it to be. It was an infantile, overblown sense of self-importance "If there's a God, it ought to be me. If it isn't me, there must not be a God." That was my atheism; my agnosticism was more gracious-it granted God the right to exist, but He wasn't getting any help from me.

Today, I'm content with a Higher Power whom I can't describe to you. It's enough to know that Someone out there is on my side. It's still fun to have a quick mind, fluency in language, a broad vocabulary and incredible recall. I love to play along with the toughest quiz programs on television. (I like to impress anyone who's around, and, yes, I've applied to be on a show. I learned that there are folks who can outdo me.)

When my high RPM thinker goes off-track and starts digging its own grave, I only have to remember George Orwell's words, "There are some ideas so preposterous that only an intellectual could believe them." That can deflate whatever grandiose notions I'm entertaining and bring me back to the simple program of living.

Ever looked at your ex  
and wondered



## The Humor Column

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

The husband was not home at his usual hour, and the wife was fuming, as the clock ticked later and later. Finally, about 3:00 AM she heard a noise at the front door, and as she stood at the top of the stairs, there was her husband, drunk as a skunk, trying to navigate the stairs. "Do you realize what time it is?" she asked. He answered, "Don't get excited. I'm late because I bought something for the house." Immediately her attitude changed, and as she ran down the stairs to meet him halfway, she asked, "What did you buy for the house, dear?" His answer was, "A round of drinks!"

.....

"Shay, buddy, what's a Breathalyzer?" asked one drunk to his friend at the next barstool. "Well, I'd have to say that it's a bag that tells you when you've drunk way too much," answered the equally wasted gent. "Ah hell, whaddya know? I've been married to one of those for years!"

.....

A man walks into a bar and orders a shot of whiskey then looks into his pocket. He does this over and over again. Finally, the bartender asks why he orders a shot of whiskey and afterwards look into his pocket. The man responded, "I have a picture of my wife in there and when she starts to look good then I'll go home."

.....

A man was walking through a rather seedy section of town, when a bum walked up to him and asked the man for two dollars. The man asked, "Will you buy booze?" The bum replied, "No." Then the man asked, "Will you gamble it away?" The bum said, "No." Then the man asked the bum, "Will you come home with me so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn't drink or gamble?"

.....

2 Scientists walk into a bar, the bartender asks what they'll have. The first one says he'll have H<sub>2</sub>O. The second one said he'll have H<sub>2</sub>O too. The second one died.

.....

Two guys are sitting on a bar stool. One starts to insult the other one. He screams, "I slept with your mother!" The bar gets quiet as everyone listens to see what the other weasel will do. The first again yells, "I SLEPT WITH YOUR MOTHER!" The other says, "Go home dad you're drunk."



## 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

**National AA Archives Workshop**  
Sept 29-Oct 1  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
[aanationalarchivesworkshop.com/2017/index.htm](http://aanationalarchivesworkshop.com/2017/index.htm)

**43rd Woman To Woman Conference**  
Sept 29-Oct 1  
[womantowomansandiego.com](http://womantowomansandiego.com)

**Southern California AA Convention**  
Sept 29-Oct 1  
Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa  
71333 Dinah Shore Drive  
Rancho Mirage  
[www.aasocal.com](http://www.aasocal.com)

**Central Coast AA Roundup**  
Sept 29-Oct 1  
Veteran's Memorial Building  
313 W. Tunnell St.  
Santa Maria  
[www.centralcoastroundup.org](http://www.centralcoastroundup.org)

**Lake Tahoe Fall AA Festival**  
Oct 6-8  
Hannah Harveys Lake Tahoe  
Hwy 50  
Stateline Nevada  
[laketahoevalleyfestival.org](http://laketahoevalleyfestival.org)

**District 24 Presents:  
JEOPAARDY**  
Carrying the Message Through  
General Service  
Oct 21  
Shepard of the Valley Lutheran Church  
4191 Cochran St.  
Simi Valley

**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)



## SEPT 2017 Calendar

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

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

Sun 10th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office  
5:30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Sun 10th 3:30 pm VCAAC Committee Mtg @ The Buck

Wed 13th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck  
321 N Aviator Suite 111, Camarillo

Sat 16th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Tue 19th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @  
King of Glory Lutheran Church  
2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Wed 20th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg  
The Buck 321 N Aviator Ste 111 Camarillo

Thu 21st 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting  
United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd  
Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Sept. 21st Last day to submit items to the Oct Newsletter



## OCT 2017 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

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

Sun 8th 3:30 pm VCAAC Committee Mtg @ The Buck

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

Oct. 23rd Last day to submit items to the Nov. 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?
- ♦ Does my home group fill volunteer positions such as refreshments, setup. Literature etc.

### 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 instance, and have tried to possess 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.

*(Concept 9 continued)*

Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

"A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help him with his job.

"Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source."

"Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility. "Another qualification for leadership is 'give and take,' the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction . . . We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's convictions about an issue until it is settled. "Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, 'Act for us, but do not boss us.'"

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous always to be there. And for that; I am Responsible.**



## 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 limited.

At Wit's End

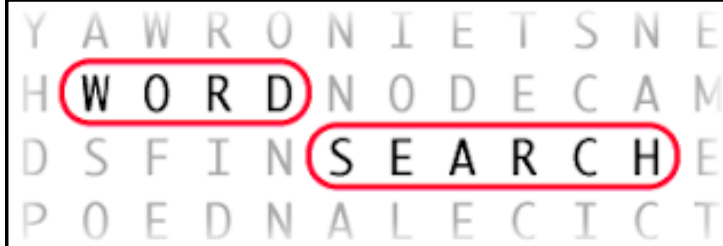
#### Crystal clear

When I was drinking I was in denial about everything. And what I wasn't in denial about, I was deluded over. Here's the difference between denial and delusion: Denial is when you tell yourself, "There's nothing wrong with my relationship, it is all good," when actually your relationship is very dysfunctional. Delusion is when you tell yourself, "There's nothing wrong with my relationship, it's all good"...and you're no longer in one.

#### First things first

To-do-list:

1. Make a list of things to do..
2. Complete the list.
3. Review the list.
4. Revise the list so there's nothing to do.
5. Wait a while to make another to-do-list



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

ACCEPT	EMOTIONS	MIND
ASYLUMS	ENTIRE	PEACE
ATTITUDES	IDEAS	PHENOMENA
BEHAVIOR	ILL	SELF
DRUNK	INSANITY	SPIRITUAL



## 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!*



## 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.

#### August & Previous AA Birthdays

#### HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

#### CONGRATULATIONS!



Yuriko - 7  
Mary R. - 31  
Charlotte H. - 35



#### 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	251
Twelve Step Calls	24
Other Twelve Steps Programs	30
Activities	78
Directions to Office	17
Other Type Calls	219
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>619</b>



## AA TRIVIA QUESTION

### Of The Month

#### SEPTEMBER QUESTION:

Q

What tattoos did Dr. Bob have?

#### AUGUST ANSWER:

A

Page 136 -- 1st paragraph -- "one member who spent much of his life in the world of big business" - who was that member?

Hank Parkhust

Congratulations to Michele B. and Steve H. 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, Rick, Steve F., Ron. G., Eric N., Hiroshi

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Office Hours:  
Monday thru Friday 9:30 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 2 pm  
CLOSED SUNDAY