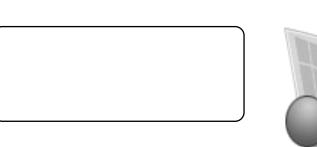
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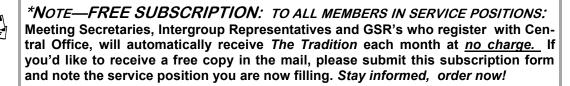
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Volume 35 — Issue 9 September 2015

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

**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

### The Informed Group Conscience - The Life Blood of the Group

There is no concept more tion and others positions on rity of a simple majority; sistently abused in practice suasion. by some. It is often used by Time is one of the essential that all matters of imsome to handle decisions ingredients of a sound, in-portance, time permitting, will some to handle decisions concerning administration of meetings, by others to determine expenditures for candy, cakes, medallions and chips and by still others. and chips, and by still others with a ribbon as quickly as called upon to make." The to mute an objectionable possible. The really valid very idea of the necessary speaker; reinforcing person- 'informed group conscience' plurality to carry a question is alities before principles!

The group conscience is normalize positions, to seek discussion so that important sometimes confused with and find the best middle decisions are given the the concept of the sense of ground acceptable to the weight they deserve as part the majority, or the resolu- largest number of people. A of the basic process. A decition of a simple problem well 50% plus one majority im- sion, for example, to open a within the purview of the proves with time as compro-closed meeting should not secretary of the meeting, or mise and accommodation be handled by a simple maof such insignificant import settles it and the plurality jority - the impact on dissentas warrants a nominal show becomes 66% in favor, or ing members violates their of hands. When is an in- even 75%. The wisdom that right to anonymity and this formed group conscience emanates from this process right should not be abrogatappropriate, and how should is obvious and the comfort ed without sufficient cause it be handled with respect level of all is self-evident. by the majority. We will The minority is heard and "sometimes have to decide,

'Informed' implies the broad sidered. bers of the group - not just a decisions be reached by dis- majority vote." position on the matter, but a cussion, vote, and, whenever The following list of actions position based on discus- possible, by substantial una- and/or situations represents sion. awareness. considera- nimity." Article 12 is frequent- typical requirements for decition, and careful thought. ly referred to as the AA Ser-sions encountered within a An 'informed' position gives vice Bill of Rights. minorities, group and/or meeting. There people time to think about however small. Through this are a variety of ways to hanthe question. It allows for warranty, we have "erected die different actions, dependdiscussion to broaden the a safeguard against any ing... understanding of the ques- hasty or overbearing autho- Continued on page 2

fundamental to Alcoholics the matter, and compromise and on the other hand we Anonymous than that of the to soften the edges and bring take notice of the rights and informed group conscience, members of the minority over the frequent wisdom of minor is there one more con- to the majority through per- norities, however small. This

principle further guarantees depends upon time to help itself discussed prior to open and deference?

First, let us examine the mum extent possible and the question, what the requireconcept. There is, in my final decision is supported by ments of substantial unanimopinion, a huge difference all, even when disagreed ity are going to be - whether between a 'group con- with by the minority, so long a two thirds, three quarters, science' and an 'informed as they have had the oppor- or even a greater majority, conscience' tunity to be heard and con- will be required to settle a particular question. Such an understanding of the subject The fourth warranty of Article advance agreement can, of under review by all mem- 12, states that "all important course, be had on a simple

### The Informed Group Conscience (continued)

upon the gravity or nature of the problem, the source of the requirement, and the specific need for administration and resolution. While a regular monthly business meeting might be appropriate for an item today, a subtle change or nuance might elevate the same matter to the need for an informed group conscience for resolution. Briefly, these avenues for resolution, and the domain of their general responsibility are:

- a. Business Meetings Handling of routine matters related to Group/Meeting. Meeting Administrative Matters dealt with such as reviewing expenditures, literature status, GSR/IGR reports, etc. Handling of special matters of a one -time nature, response to requests by Central Office, District, Area. Introduction of special items for consideration in immediate future. Election of Group Officers - Secretary. Treasurer, GSR, IGR, Grapevine Rep, etc. (If semiannual, election of officers might be staggered - Secretary elected at one meeting, Treasurer at next meeting so that terms overlap for continuity.
- b. Group Treasurer's Responsibilities -Normal duties associated with the Group Treasurer, maintaining adequate bookkeeping, paying rent, reimbursement for incidental expenses such as coffee, cookies, candy, insurance, etc. Reporting to Group regularly on the status of funds. Distributing funds to Central Office, GSO, Area, and District in accordance with Districts recommended percentages and Group policy as determined at Annual Meeting.
- c. Group GSR Responsibilities Attend GSR meetings monthly representing the Group, conveying to the group the substance of monthly GSR meetings. Attend assemblies as appropriate.
- d. Group IGR Responsibilities Attend monthly IGR meetings representing the group, conveying to the group business from this meeting with recommendations. Attending to IGR matters requiring group participation.
- e. Group Conscience Matters affecting the AA Group/ Meeting of a routine nature but not affecting the AA program implementation of the group, i.e., decision to extend a single meeting to accommodate special circumstances, or endorsement of a temporary officer such as secretary due to sudden illness or absence of permanent office holder.
- f. Informed Group Conscience Matters of significant importance or impact to the AA program and its implementation through the group.

One can readily see from the above discussion that there are various levels of decision making within the Group/meeting. Not all matters need be, nor should be, presented to an 'informed group conscience'. That vehicle should be reserved for matters affecting the AA program and which affect the traditions of the program. Decisions should always be made at the lowest level possible, commensurate with the significance of the question at hand. We should avoid, at all costs, removing staples with a pneumatic hammer!









No! Because I have somewhere to be NEXT Wednesday





# 12 POINTS TO ENSURE OUR FUTURE "TRADITIONS 101 WORKSHOP"

WHO: PANEL OF 4 LONG-TIMERS (LISA P., KATY E., MIKE M., BRIAN W.)

WHAT: HISTORY AND EXPLANATION OF OUR 12 TRADITIONS

WHERE: VISION MEETING HALL (2667 N. MOORPARK RD. #105, THOUSAND OAKS)

WHEN: SEPT. 26TH 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

September 2015

HOW: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE FOLLOWED AF-TER EACH TRADITION

WHY: A DECLARATION OF UNITY: THIS WE OWE TO AA'S FUTURE; TO PLACE OUR COMMON WELFARE FIRST; TO KEEP OUR FELLOWSHIP UNITED. FOR ON AA UNITY DEPEND OUR LIVES, AND THE LIVES OF THOSE TO COME.



We encourage our Tradition readers to share their own experiences and recovery with other members with your personal story. Maybe something that's happened in recovery that may be helpful to others. Or an experience that happened that shows how the program has worked for you. It's an effective way to help other members who may be inspired by your story. Use your name in the "By line" or be anonymous, it's up to you. It's like one-to-one sharing in print, any time you want to read it. So start writing today, AND SHARE YOUR STORY!

E-MAIL Your recovery story to: VCAACO@VERIZON.NET



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

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

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

#### **Ventura County AA Convention** September 11-13

Westlake Village Hyatt VCAAC.org

**Breathe in Yosemite** September 18-20 **Family Camp at Yosemite** Email info@breathinyosemite.com

> **Traditions Workshop** Sept 26th 2-5 **Visions Meeting Hall**

#### Southern California AA Convention October 2-4

**Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa** Rancho Mirage (Palm Springs) www.aasocal.com

#### 40th Anniversary Fall Festival September 25-27

Harvey's Resort Lake Tahoe Www.laketahoefallfestival2015.com

#### 28th Annual Inland Empire Convention

November 6-8 **Double Tree** San Bernardino Www.ieaac.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

# September 2015 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

Fri 7th 6:00 pm H & I Board Mtg @ Central Office

Sat 8th 10:00 am Newsletter Stuff and Fold @ Central Office

Wed 9th 7:00 pm Inter-group Meeting @ The Buck 321 N Aviador Suite 111, Camarillo

Sun 13th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg Central Office 5.30 pm H & I Committee Mtg @ Central Office

Wed 16th 7:00 pm Gold Coast Districts General Service Mtg The Buck 321 N Aviador Ste 111 Camarillo

Tue 15th 7:00 pm GSR District 28 Meeting @ King of Glory Lutheran Church 2500 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Thu 17th 7:00 pm District 24 General Service Meeting United Methodist Church 2394 Erringer Rd Rm # 10, Simi Valley

Sun 27th 12:00 pm VCYPAA Committee Mtg @ Central Office

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

# October 2015 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

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 12th 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 22th 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

### Living Step #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.

"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 dent 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.

## Working With Those Who Don't Read, or Read Poorly



We Can't Assume That Every New Member Can Read and Understand the Big Book

The Big Book tells us in "Working with Others" to leave the new man our copy of the book to read and, the second time we see him, have him an-

swer the guery about whether he's willing to go to any lengths. But what if our person cannot read well or at all? I suggest that the serious twelfth stepper ask the newcomer directly: "How well do you read?" If the answer is "poorly" or "barely" it might be well to set up a schedule of get-togethers so that the twelfth stepper can read the book to the newcomer—at least the first 103 pages and selected appendices. In fact, if the newcomer has heard the entire set of directions for all Twelve Steps, he will be ahead of most people found in AA meeting rooms today. He will know that the directions need to be followed in

order to produce the specific spiritual awakening re-

quired for the kind of sobriety which includes the

Promises. The new person will also have a good idea at the point if he wants to hear the rest of the book.

I know from personal experience working with new AAs who have mental illness, multiple sclerosis, dyslexia, and other conditions that produce reading disorders that they feel much more comfortable within AA groups if they know what's in the book rather than having it be forever a mystery to them. Those who are illiterate or semi-illiterate may be further handicapped by shame and an unwillingness to admit their shortcoming, but they also need a chance to be introduced to the Big Book.

Should these people be given less of an opportunity to recover than the rest of us when the solution is so simple?

AA Grapevine, March 2000. Re-printed with permission of GSO, NY



#### 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

Progressive nights.

Alcoholism is definitely a progressive disease. After a couple of drinks, alcohol became a social lubricant for me. I'd get the courage to smile and say something like, "Haven't we met somewhere before?"

Then, after a few more drinks, it became a social stimulant, and I might just say something like, "So, would you like to dance?"

Many more drinks later, it would begin to turn on me, and I'd become a social deviant. "Want to come up to my place?" I'd ask.

And after an entire night of drinking, I would become a downright social outcast, and finding myself saying things like, "What do you mean, "Get lost?"

### Heard at a meeting

"I swear to God I'm an atheist

## 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

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.

# Word Scramble Game

Related	Money
Facility	Property
Outside	Prestige
Enterprise	Divert
Lest	Primary
<b>Problems</b>	Purpose
	Facility Outside Enterprise Lest

# AA also appears 12 times in the puzzle. Can you find them all?

5	А	U	L	G	G	IVI	L	Y	٧V	<del>□</del>	K	G	N	J	ᅵᅵᅵ
Ε	W	Α	R	Ε	٧	Ε	N	F	Τ	N	Α	С	L	0	Н
Τ	D	0	Е	Ε	S	F	N	L	R	Α	J	M	U	S	J
0	U	S	J	Е	Т	R	D	Е	Т	Α	L	Е	R	J	Α
Р	W	Q	Т	G	U	I	0	N	0	Р	Е	I	D	S	Α
Α	Α	R	Υ	Е	Н	U	Н	D	M	С	Ν	I	С	0	Р
Р	W	Χ	F	R	Τ	Τ	Т	Н	N	С	Т	R	W	Α	G
R	R	S	Т	S	Е	L	Υ	Α	R	Е	Е	Р	Е	В	F
Е	U	0	I	R	D	0	N	Υ	D	Υ	R	U	Т	Α	U
S	I	D	В	0	Р	I	S	Q	Е	0	Р	R	Α	Н	I
Т	Е	D	W	L	F	Α	٧	Ν	Р	U	R	Р		R	U
I	Ε	Α	Α	W	Ε	Α	0	Ε	Υ	Α	I	0	0	Р	Α
G	С	W	F	Т	I	M	R	I	R	Α	S	S	0	F	Α
Е	G	S	R	Α	Υ	Т	S	I	J	Т	Е	Е	0	J	K
Q	Р	I	Α	U	Υ	R	Α	М	I	R	Р	Α	Α	L	Р
Α	Χ	Z	Е	W	M	Α	L	T	Υ	0	G	W	Н	F	М



# 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.

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

HAPPY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAY

September 2015

Tony K. - 29 Years Camarillo



Steven H.- 30 Years
Thousand Oaks

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

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

Name					
City					
Sobriety DateYears					
Voluntary Donation Amount \$					
Please mail to:					
Ventura County Central Service Office					
321 N. Aviador Street Suite 115					



Meeting Info	402	
Twelve Step Calls	67	
Other Twelve Steps Programs	38	
Activities	101	
Directions to Office	23	
Other Type Calls	<u>297</u>	
TOTAL	928	

# AATRIVIA QUESTION Of The Month

# Q

#### **SEPTEMBER QUESTION:**

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



#### **AUGUST ANSWER**

There are a few explanations floating around as to why the title of Dr. Paul's story was changed. One is that they simply did not want to have the word addict in the title. Another is that since "Acceptance is the answer..." is one of the most quoted sections they wanted Acceptance in the title.

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
Vice Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Member at large # 1
Member at large # 2
Member at large # 3
Martin F. Ventura
Wayne W. Ventura
Michelle P. Camarillo
Lynn S. Simi Valley
Jan K, Ventura
Vickie L. Camarillo
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.

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