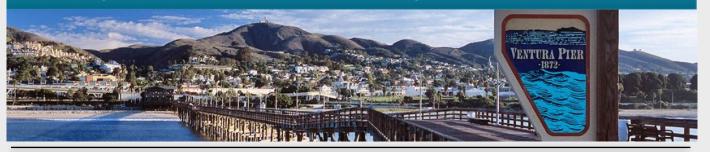
# THE TRADITION

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.



Serving: Agoura Hills, Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Camarillo, El Rio, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore

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E-mail vcaaco@verizon.net

#### Website

https://aaventuracounty.org

# **Sharing from Behind the Wall**

"My sobriety date is July 19, 2021. At the age of 13, I had my first drink with some older fellows. Of course, that was the day my life changed. I chased that same buzz for 25 years. It cost me my house, my car and my family. I am currently serving an 11-year sentence as a result of using drugs and alcohol. I never saw myself as an alcoholic because I was in denial. I got myself in trouble, and now I am sitting here sharing a room with 28 other men just like me. In October 2017 I got involved in the A.A. program. I thought the people were crazy, saying 'Easy does it. One day at a time.' Little did I know that once the seed was planted, it would change me forever. I went in and out of the program until I finally hit rock bottom. All alone, walking the streets, on the run, I called a man from the A.A.

program who had always had my back through thick and thin. He picked up my calls many times — no judgment for my wrongdoing or decisions. That is when my life

# Call for Contributions!

# The Tradition would love your AA related:

- Cover Stories
- Writings, Poems
- Jokes, AA Quips
- Artwork
- History/Trivia
- Experience, Strength& Hope
- Events, Updates

## Steps, Traditions & Concepts

#### Step 4

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

#### Tradition 4 (short form)

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. at a whole.

#### Concept 4 (short form)

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge. came together, and I decided to change. I am not going to say that it was easy, but with help from the A.A. program I have learned to cope with my problems One day at a time!" — Torryan H., Southeast Region

This is one story from the Spring 2022 edition of, *Sharing from Behind the Walls*. You can read the full edition - <u>Here</u> (Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

## Corrections Correspondence

# —a special kind of A.A. Service

I know how important our Twelfth Step work is and I enjoy writing to men who are locked up. It is one of the tools that I use to keep me sober. I myself found A.A. in prison almost 20 years ago. And it hasn't been necessary for me to return to prison since I was released.

—Outside Correspondent

We are in need of A.A. members on the "outside" to correspond with A.A. members in correctional facilities across the U.S. and Canada.

Having prison experience is not a prerequisite — sobriety in A.A. is. Inmates are more interested in learning how we got and stayed sober through A.A.'s Twelve Steps, rather than hearing about time we may have spent in prison.

Taken from the pamphlet, *Corrections Correspondence - a special kind of service*. View the full pamphlet - <u>Here</u> (Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

If you are interested in being of service in this special way, you can sign up - Here

# Districts, Area & AAWS Contacts

Ventura County Central Office serves the following Districts within Area 93

District (9 & 12) Gold Coast

P.O. Box 132

Camarillo, CA 93011

District 13

P.O. Box 166

Ventura, CA 93002

https://www.aad13.org

District 24

P.O. Box 843

Simi Valley, CA 93065

District 28

P.O. Box 3432

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Area 93

PMB #140

606 Alamo Pintado #3, Solvang, CA 93463

https://area93.org

\*Sign up for the Area 93 newsletter

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services(AAWS)

Member Services Line (212) 870-3023

General Service Office (GSO) Address:

P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

**Mail Donations to:** 

P.O. Box 2407

James A Farley Station

New York, NY 10116

https://www.aa.org

\*sign up for the G.S.O newsletter



If you have any A.A. related news, events or meeting updates that you would like to be included in *The Tradition*, please contact us at Central Office: 805-389-1444, vcaaco@verizon.net

# News, Events & Service Opportunities



# SERENITY BY THE SEA

Ventura County AA Roundup

## April 22 - 24 @ Ventura County Fairground

Sign up online - <a href="https://www.vcaaroundup.org">https://www.vcaaroundup.org</a>



Download the Flyer

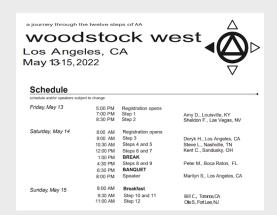


Download the Registration Form



Download the Golf Registration Form

WOODSTOCK WEST MAY 13 - 15TH



Visit the Event Webpage

SOCAL H&I CONFERENCE May 27 - 29TH



Visit the Event Webpage

A.A. DISTRICT 24 EVENT
MAY 28TH



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# **SERENITY BY THE SEA**

**VENTURA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** 

CONTACT CHRIS CHRISWACHNIUK@GMAIL.COM

#### HIGH DESERT CONVENTION June 3 - 5TH

# WOMAN TO WOMAN WORKSHOP WEEKEND JUNE 3 - 5TH



Visit the Event Webpage



Visit the Event Webpage

CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S

DAY IN AKRON, OH

JUNE 10 - 12TH



Visit the Event Webpage

A.A. DESERT POW WOW
JUNE 9 - 12TH



Visit the Event Webpage



### **NEW PODCAST - A.A.** Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour

Tune in to hear funny, poignant, and always inspiring "meeting after the meeting" conversation about getting sober and staying sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Free wherever you listen to podcast or at www.aagrapevine.org/podcast

### VC Central Office - Phone Coordinator Volunteer



Central office is looking for a volunteer phone coordinator. Contact Matthew at Central Office for more information.

#### Historic Documents on County Website COMING SOON!

The state of the s

Ventura County website will have a new section for historical documents.



# A.A.'s Beginning

(Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

A.A. began in 1935 in Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron surgeon. Both had been hopeless alcoholics.

Before their meeting, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group. This mostly nonalcoholic fellowship emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. The Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, led the Oxford Groups in the U.S. at that time.

Under this spiritual influence, and with the help of an old-time friend, Ebby T., Bill had gotten sober. Bill maintained his recovery by working with other alcoholics. Yet, before meeting Dr. Bob, none of these other alcoholics had actually recovered.

At the same time, Dr. Bob's Oxford Group membership in Akron had not helped him enough to achieve sobriety. When Dr. Bob and Bill finally met, the effect on the doctor was immediate. This time, he found himself face-to-face with a fellow sufferer who was succeeding.

Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions, and body. Bill learned this important fact from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York. Bill had often been a patient of Dr. Silkworth. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill's convincing ideas, Dr. Bob soon got sober, never to drink again. This sparked the founding of A.A.

Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital. One patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. These three men made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group (though the name Alcoholics Anonymous was not yet used.)

### A.A. Quip of the Month

"I'm not much, but I'm all I think about."



## A.A. Quote of the Month

"Selfishness - self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles." (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 62)

# Good Joke of the Month

A young boy is talking to his dad.

The boy says, "Dad when I grow up I want to be an alcoholic."

The boy's dad replies, "Well son, you can't do both."



### **BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Two peanuts walk into a bar.

One was a salted.



### Meetings, Meetings!

Check for weekly updates on local meetings https://aaventuracounty.org/meetings

#### **The Responsibility Statement**

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.

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