

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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<https://aaventuracounty.org>

Alcoholics Anonymous

BY JACK ALEXANDER

Three men sat around the bed of an alcoholic patient in the psychopathic ward of Philadelphia General Hospital one afternoon a few weeks ago. The man in the bed, who was a complete stranger to them, had the drawn and slightly stupid look that inebriates get while being defogged after a bender. The only thing that was noteworthy about the callers, except for the obvious contrast between their well-groomed appearances and that of the patient, was the fact that each had been through the defogging process many times himself. They were members of Alcoholics Anonymous, a band of ex-problem drinkers who make an avocation of helping other alcoholics to beat the liquor habit.

The man in the bed was a mechanic. His visitors had been educated at Princeton, Yale and Pennsylvania and were, by occupation, a salesman, a lawyer and a publicity man. Less than a year before, one had been in shackles in the same ward. One of his companions had been what is known among alcoholics as a sanitarium commuter. He had moved from place to place, bedeviling the staffs of the country's leading institutions for the treatment of alcoholics.

Call for Contributions!

The Tradition would love your AA related:

- Stories, Writings
- Poems, Artwork
- Jokes, AA Quips
- History, Trivia
- News, Events

Steps, Traditions & Concepts

Step 9

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

Tradition 9 (short form)

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

Concept 9 (short form)

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

The other had spent twenty years of life, all outside institution walls making life miserable for himself, and his family and his employers, as well as sundry well-meaning relatives who had had the temerity to intervene.

The air of the ward was thick with the aroma of paraldehyde, an unpleasant cocktail smelling like a mixture of alcohol and ether which hospitals sometimes use to taper off the paralyzed drinker and soothe his squirming nerves. The visitors seemed oblivious of this and of the depressing atmosphere that clings to even the nicest of psychopathic wards. They smoked and talked with the patient for twenty minutes or so, then left their personal cards and departed. If the man in the bed felt that he would like to see one of them again, they told him, he had only to put in a telephone call.

They made it plain that if he actually wanted to stop drinking, they would leave their work or get up in the middle of the night to hurry to where he was. If he did not choose to call, that would be the end of it. The members of Alcoholics Anonymous do not pursue or coddle a malingering prospect, and they know the strange tricks of the alcoholic as a reformed swindler knows the art of bamboozling.

Herein lies much of the unique strength of a movement which, in the past six years, has brought recovery to around 2,000 men and women, a large percentage of whom had been considered medically hopeless. Doctors and clergymen, working separately or together, have always managed to salvage a few cases. In isolated instances, drinkers have found their own methods of quitting. But the inroads into alcoholism have been negligible, and it remains one of the great unsolved public-health enigmas.

This is just the beginning of this historic article.

You can read the article in its entirety - [HERE](#)

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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

Area 93

PMB #140
606 Alamo Pintado #3, Solvang, CA 93463

<https://area93.org>

*Sign up for the Area 93 newsletter

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

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

News, Events & Service Opportunities

**Let's stay
connected**

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

VC Central Office - Office Volunteer Shifts

Prerequisite - One year of sobriety. Duties include, but not limited to: answering phone, literature sales, organizing, stocking shelves.

Open Office Shifts

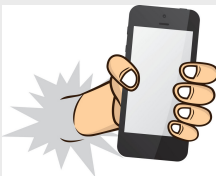
Thursdays 10am - 2pm

VC Central Office - Phone Coordinator Volunteer

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



It's for you!



Open Phone Shifts

Mondays 9pm-9am 4th and 5th weeks

Wednesdays 9pm-9am 5th weeks

Thursdays 9pm-9am 1st week

Fridays 9pm-9am 3rd and 5th weeks

Mon & Weds 6pm-9pm 5th week

Prerequisite - One year of sobriety and completion of the steps.

*exceptions made on a case-by-case basis

A.A. History



The Story Behind Jack Alexander's Article

On March 1, 1941, The Saturday Evening Post published "Alcoholics Anonymous: Freed Slaves of Drink, Now They Free Others." The article became a major turning point in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The story begins when the owner of The Saturday Evening Post, Judge Curtis Bok, learned of A.A. from two friends. He wanted the Post to tell the story of the organization. He called upon a well-known journalist of The Saturday Evening Post, Jack Alexander, to do so.

A.A. co-founder Bill W., eager to publicize the A.A. message, met with Alexander. He gave Alexander access to records and a tour of significant A.A. sights. He also set up interviews both with A.A. members and with nonalcoholic trustees of the General Service Board.

Following the release of the article, inquiries began to flood in. The small staff of the "A.A. Headquarters," the precursor to the General Service Office, was busy. On March 12, Ruth Hock, first nonalcoholic secretary of A.A., wrote to Dr. Bob, A.A. co-founder, to update him on events in New York. She said that the office had become swamped with 918 inquiries in 12 days as a direct response to the article. The offices of The Saturday Evening Post also received a large number of inquiries.

For more on the story behind the Jack Alexander article, to see the correspondences between Bill W. And Jack Alexander, and to learn about the followup article, "The Drunkard's Best Friend" visit the Alcoholics Anonymous Online Archives Exhibit - [HERE](#)

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A.A. Quip of the Month

Insanity is doing the same thing
over and over again expecting
different results.

A.A. Quote of the Month



“And we have ceased fighting
anything or anyone - even alcohol.
For by this time sanity will have
returned. ” (A.A., p. 84)

After the 9th Step!

Good Joke of the Month

Why did the accountant do so well in AA?

He was already a friend of bills.

BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH

An Irishman walks into an AA meeting.

Just kidding.



Meetings, 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*.

Oh Yes! IT'S
FREE

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vcaaco@verizon.net to subscribe.