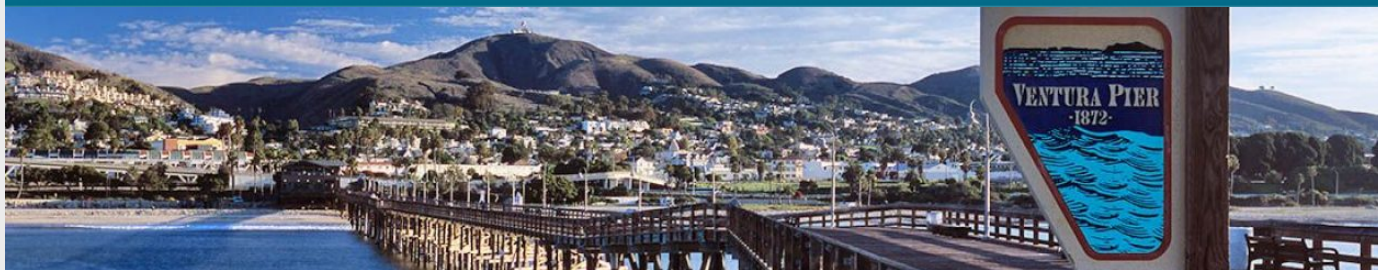


THE TRADITION

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>

The Seventh Tradition

Taken from the pamphlet - *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*.

We do have to be practical. A group can hardly hold its regular meetings on a street corner, and an empty basket won't fill a coffee urn. As soon as we become active in a group, we learn how many expenses are involved in making its meetings effective. Then our horizons broaden. What about that intergroup or central office so many of us called to ask for help? Phone companies don't give free service. Beyond our own locality, we learn about the A.A. General Service Office and the work it does for groups everywhere. A.A. activity is self-supporting at all levels, and in every case the responsibility comes right back to us, the individual members, for we *are* A.A.

Perhaps, especially when we are very new, our contributions clink, rather than rustle. The first members were in the same fix, and it seemed to them that A.A. would need more outside help than the modest gifts then coming in. Their plans required grand-scale philanthropy.

Steps, Traditions & Concepts

Step II

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Tradition II (short form)

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Concept II (short form)

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Call for Contributions!

The Tradition would love your AA related:

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

(Tradition Six hadn't evolved yet; Bill W. recalled a scheme for "a chain of hospitals.") But John D. Rockefeller Jr., an early friend said, "I am afraid that money will spoil this thing." A few A.A.'s had already reached the same conclusion; gradually, this minority became a majority as experience showed that members themselves *could* provide enough to finance A.A.'s proper aim.

In its simplest application, Tradition Seven is easily understood; when we hear about a new A.A. group being started with funds from a Federal antipoverty program, our quick reaction is "Somebody goofed!" But then we come to "borderline" cases: Groups put on a raffle for the benefit of their central office and invite the public to buy tickets; a hometown paper runs an ad for an A.A. dance and show. Both projects would be routine for any other society. For us, both mean that we've got the hand out again, asking nonmembers for money.

Often, of course, we don't have to ask. A.A. is now high on the worthy-cause list; G.S.O. and groups politely turn down many unsolicited gifts and bequests. In Tradition Seven, there's a note of realism: Handsome gifts may have strings attached. We even put a limit of \$5,000 on the amount *members* may leave to A.A. in their wills or contribute annually while living, so that none of us can buy influence in A.A., no matter how rich we are.

Money may pose a different problem if a group treasury grows too fat, beyond a prudent reserve. Squabbling over uses for the spare cash, groups have lost their unity and strayed from their purpose. But there's one simple solution that strengthens our unity and advances our purpose: Give the excess to A.A. activities and services....

See the pamphlet - [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

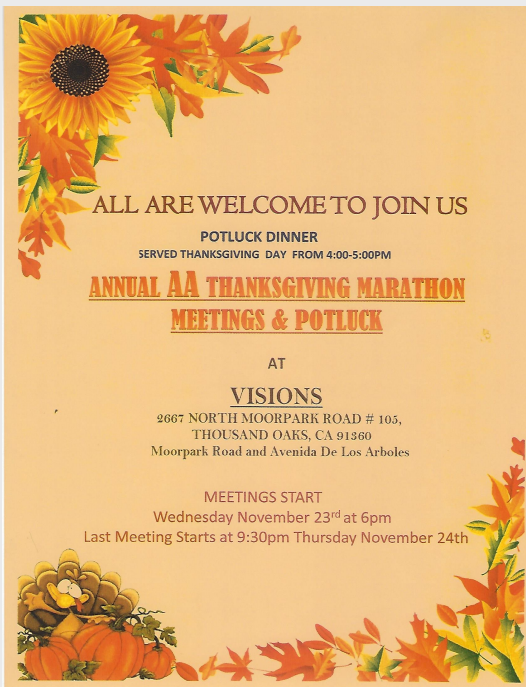
<https://www.aa.org>

*sign up for the G.S.O newsletter

News, Events & Service Opportunities

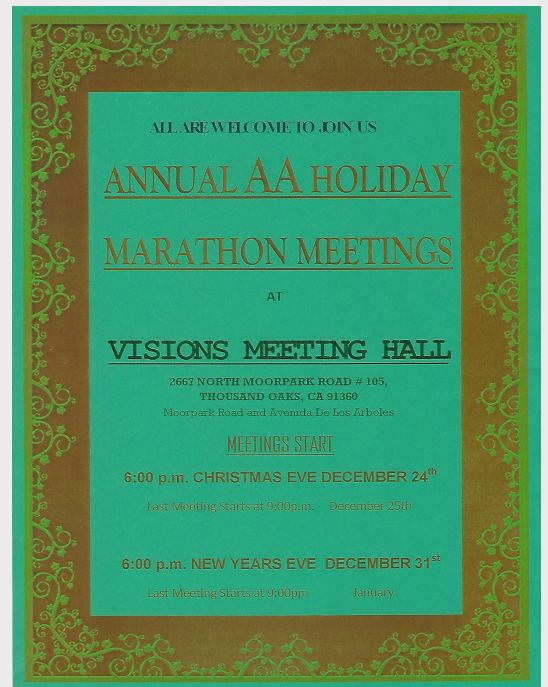
Let's stay
connected

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



Don't spend the
holidays alone!

COME
&
FELLOWSHIP



Open Phone Shifts

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

Wednesdays 9pm-9am 5th weeks

Thursdays 9pm-9am 1st week

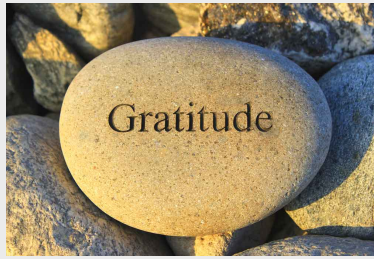
Fridays 9pm-9am 3rd and 5th weeks

Mon & Weds 6pm-9pm 5th week

VC Central Office Phone Coordinator

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





NOVEMBER IS GRATITUDE MONTH

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD

For many decades now, we in the Fellowship have formally carved out November as a time to express our collective gratitude for our individual sobriety. Interestingly, no one is exactly sure why that month was originally chosen, though its connection with Thanksgiving seems obvious. A.A. co-founder, Bill W. thought, for a while, that his sobriety had begun in November, but later calculations established the date of his new beginnings as December 11.

Please announce when passing the basket

We pass the basket a second time during the month of November in celebration of Gratitude Month. 100% of these donations go to the Ventura County Central Office to provide the much-needed services to the alcoholics in our community. Our Central does not hold fundraisers throughout the year, but rather we rely heavily on your generous Gratitude Month donations for a large portion of our operating expenses.

THANK YOU!

The Ventura County Intergroup Board of Directors

You don't need a special envelope, but if you would like one, please stop by Central Office. When making your donation please be sure to include the day, time, city and name of your meeting.

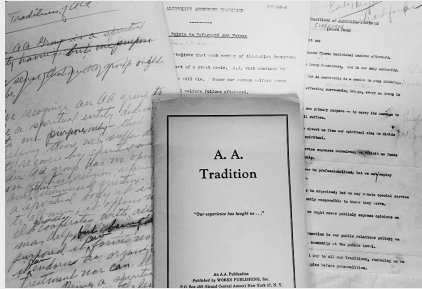
Individuals and groups can also make direct contributions with Venmo (@VCAACO), Paypal (Ventura County Central Service Office) or follow the link on our website aaventuracounty.org.

If you have any questions, please call us Central Office at (805)389-1444

Sincerely,

The Ventura County Intergroup Board of Directors.

A.A. History



The Beginnings of the Twelve Traditions

In April 1946, Bill W. wrote an article for the Grapevine entitled "Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition." This was an early presentation of what would become known as The Twelve Traditions. With his usual foresight, Bill realized that the growing organization needed more guidance. It was important to preserve A.A.'s unity and singleness of purpose during this growth.

Bill described these letters as a "welter of exciting and fearsome experience." They played a key role in helping him develop the Twelve Traditions.

The Grapevine published the Traditions one by one from December 1947 to November 1948. In 1950, the First International Convention in Cleveland adopted the Twelve Traditions.

The Traditions provided guidelines (not rules) that would help A.A. groups then and in the future. They addressed relationships with the outside world and within Alcoholics Anonymous itself.

Today, A.A. groups continue to use The Twelve Traditions to strive toward that group ideal of unity. The groups continue to carry the hope to still-suffering alcoholics around the world.

"I offer these suggestions neither as one man's dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past." - Bill W. Wrote in the 1946 Grapevine Article

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A.A. Quip of the Month

They cared more about my life
than my feelings.

A.A. Quote of the Month



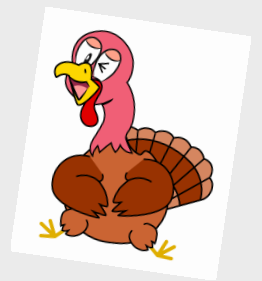
“We alcoholics are sensitive people.
It takes some of us a long time to
outgrow that serious handicap.”

(A.A., p. 125)



Good Joke of the Month

You Might Be an Alcoholic If...
You consider beer to be the *Breakfast of Champions*.



BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH

How many Al-Anons does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

None. They just detach and let it screw itself.



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

Subscribe now to have The Tradition delivered to your email inbox!
vcaaco@verizon.net to subscribe.