

# 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

## Office Info

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## Contact Info

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## Website

<https://aaventuracounty.org>

## Using the Serenity Prayer

On the walls of thousands of A.A. meeting rooms, in any of a variety of languages, this invocation can be seen:

*God grant me the serenity to accept  
the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And wisdom to know the difference.*

A.A. did not originate it. Versions of it seem to have been used for centuries in various faiths, and it is now widely current outside A.A., as well as within the Fellowship. Whether we belong to this church or that, whether we are humanists, agnostics, or atheists, most of us have found these words a wonderful guide in getting sober, staying sober, and enjoying our sobriety. Whether we see the Serenity Prayer as an actual prayer or just as a fervent wish, it offers a simple prescription for a healthy emotional life.

We've put one thing right at the head of the list among "the things we cannot change": our alcoholism. No matter what we do, we know that tomorrow we won't suddenly be nonalcoholic—any more than we'll be ten years younger or six inches taller.

## 12 Steps, 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts

### Step 1

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.

### Tradition 1 (short form)

Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

### Concept 1 (short form)

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

## Call for Contributions!

### The Tradition would love your AA related:

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

We couldn't change our alcoholism. But we didn't say meekly, "All right, I'm an alcoholic. Guess I'll just have to drink myself to death." There was something we *could* change. We didn't have to be drunk alcoholics. We could become sober alcoholics. Yes, that did take *courage*. And we needed a flash of *wisdom* to see that it was possible, that we could change ourselves.

For us, that was only the first, most obvious use for the Serenity Prayer. The further away we get from the last drink, the more beautiful and the more packed with meaning these few lines become. We can apply them to everyday situations, the kind we used to run away from, into the bottle.

By way of example: "I hate this job. Do I have to stick with it, or can I quit?" A little wisdom comes into play: "Well, if I do quit, the next few weeks or months may be rough, but if I have the guts to take it—the courage to change—I think I'll wind up in a better spot."

Or the answer may be: "Let's face it—this is no time for me to go job-hunting, not with a family to support. Besides, here I am six weeks sober, and my A.A. friends say I'd better not start making any drastic changes in my life just yet—better concentrate on not taking that first drink, and wait till I get my head straightened out. Okay, I can't change the job right now. But maybe I can change my own attitude. Let's see. How can I learn to accept the job serenely?"

That word "serenity" looked like an impossible goal when we first saw the prayer. In fact, if serenity meant apathy, bitter resignation, or impassive endurance, then we didn't even want to aim at it. But we found that serenity meant no such thing. When it comes to us now, it is more as plain recognition—a clear-eyed, realistic way of seeing the world, accompanied by inner peace and strength. Serenity is like a gyroscope that lets us keep our balance no matter what turbulence swirls around us. And that *is* a state of mind worth aiming for.

(Living Sober, p. 18-19)

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## Districts, Area & AAWS Contacts

Ventura County Central Office serves the following Districts within Area 93

### Gold Coast District

District 9: Oxnard, Point Mugu & Port Hueneme

District 12: Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark  
& Santa Paula

P.O. Box 132, Camarillo, CA 93011

### District 24

Simi Valley

P.O. Box 843

Simi Valley, CA 93065

### District 13

Meiners Oaks, Ojai & Ventura

P.O. Box 166, Ventura, CA 93003

<https://www.aad13.org>

### District 28

Agoura, Westlake Village,

Thousand Oaks, & Newbury Park

P.O. Box 3432,

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

### Area 93

606 Alamo Pintado #3,  
PMB #140

Solvang, CA 93463

<https://area93.org>

\*Sign up for the  
Area 93 newsletter

### Alcoholics Anonymous World

#### Services - AAWS

Member Services Line (212) 870-3023

P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

<https://www.aa.org>

# 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](tel:805-389-1444), [vcaaco@verizon.net](mailto:vcaaco@verizon.net)



BE A PART OF THE

Ventura County A.A. Convention

**VCAAC**

Planning Committee Meeting

**Contact Matthew (Chair)**  
**[ML\\_CHUCK@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:ML_CHUCK@HOTMAIL.COM)**

## 47th Annual San Fernando Valley A.A. Convention

January 27th - 29th

**Warner Center Marriott**

**Woodland Hills, CA**

For More Information and to Register,  
please visit the event website - [HERE](#)



Fundraiser to benefit the Pig Roast.

February 25th 6:30pm - 11:00pm

@ The Buck

321 N. Aviador St, Suite 111  
Camarillo, CA 93010





Add Your Name to the  
VC Central Office 12-Step List!!

## BE THERE FOR THE STILL SICK & SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC

Ventura County Central Office is creating a new list of names to contact when someone who is having a problem with alcohol calls. Be there to talk on the phone, go to a meeting, connect at a coffee shop, & share your experience strength and hope.

**This is a vital part of our recovery program.**

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.” (A.A. p. 89)

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Matthew @ (805) 389-1444 or vcaaco@verizon.net

## **Volunteers Needed for the Phone Line**

Volunteer for a once a month shift to answer the Ventura County Alcoholics Anonymous Phone Line. Calls are forwarded to your cell phone. Answer the phone from home, in-town, out-of-town, anywhere!

To Volunteer, Call the Office at 805-389-1444







# A.A. History

## History in the Making!

The article below is an excerpt from the Winter 2022 edition of the quarterly newsletter from the U.S./Canada General Service Office.

Read & Subscribe to the newsletter - [HERE](#)

(Reprinted with permission of AAWS Inc.)

First printed in 1939, Alcoholics Anonymous — known as the Big Book — has carried the A.A. message of recovery for 83 years. Translated into 72 languages, and counting, the Big Book continues to reach millions of people in approximately 180 countries, helping suffering alcoholics around the world.

With recent and ongoing supply chain disruptions that have resulted in printing and delivery delays of A.A. literature, the Publishing Department at GSO looked for ways to decrease the manufacturing time of hardcover books and reduce backorders. One solution is the new ‘jacketless’ Big Book, which will be available to order in 2023.

The new jacketless cover isn’t the only example of the Big Book adapting to supply challenges. A similar situation happened during the closing days of World War II when paper was in short supply and the U.S. government placed restrictions on the size and weight of books — not good news for a book nicknamed “the Big Book.”

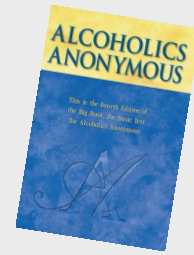
According to GSO Archivist Michelle Mirza [nonalcoholic]: “Bobbie B., secretary of the Alcoholic Foundation [the forerunner to the General Service Board] reached out to the War Production Board in D.C. several times, pleading for permission to continue to print more copies of the book by exceeding A.A.’s wartime allotment of five tons of paper.” Ultimately, what became the eighth printing of the Big Book, known as the “wartime edition,” featured reductions in paper weight as well as the book’s trim size, changes that kept the book in production at a critical time.

After the war, the Big Book got bigger again, but Bobbie had performed an important service to suffering alcoholics, especially those in uniform.

## A.A. Quip of the Month

Surrender to win!

## A.A. Quote of the Month



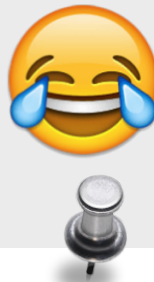
“These men were not drinking to escape; they were drinking to overcome a craving beyond their mental control.” (A.A., p. XXX)

### Good Joke of the Month

“A vodka please.”  
“Sir, this is McDonalds...”  
“Ok, a McVodka please.”

### BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH

There should be a 12-Step program  
for people who share too long...  
On-and-on anon



**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](mailto:vcaaco@verizon.net) to subscribe.