

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

321 N. Aviator St., Ste 115
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10am - 6pm

Contact Info

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Website

<https://aaventuracounty.org>

Letter from the Editor

Greetings Readers!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well :) I have enjoyed putting these newsletters together over the past year-and-a-half or so. As with every commitment that I've had in A.A., I have learned a lot!

I have learned a lot from regularly attending the monthly IGR (Intergroup Representative) meeting. Which is the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm via zoom. IGRs from groups around the Ventura County area get together and discuss local A.A. business, share about events, ask questions, get answers, and vote on important decisions which affect our local A.A. as a whole.

If you are interested in checking out the IGR meeting, please reach out to the Ventura County Central office vcaaco@verizon.net

12, 12 & 12

Step 10

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Tradition 10 (short form)

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Concept 10(short form)

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

The Tradition needs your AA related:

Stories, Writings, Poems

Artwork, Jokes, Quips

History, Trivia

News, Events

If your home group doesn't have an IGR, well vote somebody in! Get your group connected!

I have learned a lot from perusing aa.org to find articles and A.A. history to include in this newsletter. For instance...

DID YOU KNOW THAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MAKES PRESS RELEASES??

I didn't! The most recent press release is on page 7 of this newsletter. You can view other press releases on the website - [HERE](#).

I've learned plenty of good, *and bad*, A.A. jokes from Googling, "AA jokes". Editing the newsletter has kept me in the big book by having to come up with new quotes each month. I have enjoyed racking my brain to remember all of those A.A. quips I've heard over the years. There are so many!

I know there is a wealth of A.A. experience, strength and hope, as well as countless A.A. jokes and quips out there amongst you all. Please don't hesitate to send some to Matthew via email

vcaaco@verison.net and he'll be sure to forward them to me to include in the newsletter.

As we head into the sobriety Bermuda Triangle - The holiday season! - I hope that you will be happy, joyous & free. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

- Joshua

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>

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

Let's stay
connected

If you have any A.A. related news, events or meeting updates, please contact Central Office:
805-389-1444, vcaaco@verizon.net

WELCOME TO THE

SCV Convention of AA with Al-Anon Participation

The Family Afterward
October 20-22, 2023

[PURCHASE E-TICKET](#)

[PRINT TICKET FORM](#)

The Family Afterward



Common Ground
2023 SCVAA Convention
October 20 - 22, 2023

Location



EVENT LOCATION

Google Maps: 28508 Westinghouse Place, Valencia, California 91355



HOTEL BOOKING

Embassy Suites by Hilton Valencia

Santa Clarita Convention !!
Oct 20th - 22nd



Event Page - [HERE](#)



ENTERTAINMENT

Comedian Bob Perkell

GREAT AA & AL ANON SPEAKERS

Pre-Registration * \$50
On-Site Registration * \$60
Early Registration Ends November 15th
Banquet & Entertainment * \$65
Sunday Breakfast * \$35

FUN ACTIVITIES

Pickleball * \$20 | Walk/Run * \$20 | Poker Run \$20
FREE Yoga and Daily Meditation!

WEEKEND BASKET RAFFLE WILL BE PULLED SATURDAY 3PM IN BILL & BOBS

Register & Book Your Room at lasvegasaroundup.org

PRAASA 2024

Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly

Save the Date!

March 1 - 3, 2024

San Francisco, California

All A.A.'s Welcome • With Al-Anon Participation
Spanish & ASL Interpretation Available

Event Page - [HERE](#)



District Page - [HERE](#)
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Event Page - [HERE](#)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!!

CENTRAL OFFICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are looking for volunteers to help clean the office.

Can your group, friends, sponsees... donate a little time?

- ✓ Vacuuming
- ✓ Mopping
- ✓ Windows and Mirrors
- ✓ Bathrooms...

The goal is to clean the office twice a month.

Groups/Individuals can signup for one or more 1-2 hour shifts on weekends or other times that would be convenient.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A SHIFT
CALL CENTRAL OFFICE
(805)389-1444



THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER PLEASE PASS THE BASKET A 2ND TIME BECAUSE

NOVEMBER IS GRATITUDE MONTH

For many decades now, we in the Fellowship, have formally carved out the month of November as a time to express our collective gratitude for our individual sobriety.

Central Office relies on Gratitude Month donations for a large portion of our annual operating expenses. Through your generous donations, we can continue to provide the much needed services to the alcoholics in our community.



Getting the word out about Gratitude Month becomes increasingly difficult, with the addition of online and hybrid meetings, so please help spread the word at all of the meetings you attend.

Donations are accepted by PayPal (directly from the homepage of our website aaventuracounty.org), Venmo (@VCAACO), mail or just drop it off at Central Office. Please be sure to include your meeting information and Gratitude in the comments, memo or in the optional note field on PayPal.

Donation envelopes can be picked up at Central office, if needed.

Thank you very much, your donations are needed and greatly appreciated.
Ventura County Intergroup Board of Directors

321 N. Aviator St. #115, Camarillo, CA 93010 AAVENTURACOUNTY.ORG (805)389-1444



Speaker CD and Tape Project



Central office has been donated a large collection of speaker tapes (yes actual tapes!) and CDs. Looking for volunteers to listen to speakers and write a brief synopsis. Once completed we will look into digitizing.

If you're able to be of service, call Central office @ 805-389-1444



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

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

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

It's for you!



Alcoholics
Anonymous®
www.aa.org

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Contact: Public Information Desk
pressinfo@aa.org
(212) 870-3119

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attn: Reporters, editors, and producers

Understanding Alcoholics Anonymous and Spirituality

A.A. welcomes anyone seeking help for a drinking problem and is not aligned with any religious tradition or beliefs.

(NEW YORK, August 15, 2023)

Since the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) in 1935, members of all faiths, beliefs, and traditions have found common ground in and benefited from the A.A. program of recovery. The A.A. fellowship has grown and expanded around the world, reaching people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and religious traditions who have found help and hope in the A.A. spiritual program as embodied in its Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

It is a common misconception that Alcoholics Anonymous is a religious-based or Christian organization, but that is not the case. In fact, a fundamental principle of A.A. is that the Fellowship is not affiliated with any religion, nor is it allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution. As stated in the A.A. Preamble, which is read at most local A.A. meetings, “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. ... Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.” Thus, A.A. members need not hold any sort of religious or A.A.-defined spiritual beliefs to find help for their drinking. Each person determines their own pathway in their recovery from alcoholism.

At A.A. meetings, spiritual themes are often highlighted in members’ personal sharing, or in readings at meetings from the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*—commonly called “The Big Book.” But while there may be references to “God” and “higher power” in A.A. literature and at meetings, the essence of the A.A. program is one alcoholic helping another. Members find they can get and stay sober when they look for a power greater than themselves for help, which is part of the A.A. program, whether that be a god, spiritual principles, nature, or the fellowship itself.

There is complete freedom for each person to determine these matters.

As stated in the A.A. pamphlet “[The ‘God’ Word: Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.](#)”:

There is room in A.A. for people of all shades of belief and non-belief. Many members believe in some sort of god, and we have members who come from and practice all sorts of religions, but many are also atheist or agnostic. It’s important to

Contact: Public Information Desk pressinfo@aa.org

(212) 870-3119

remember that A.A. is not a religious organization; we have a simple idea that there is a power greater than us as individuals. What we all have in common is that the program helps us find an inner strength that we were previously unaware of — where we differ is in how we identify the source.

More information about this topic and A.A. is available at aa.org. In addition to “[The ‘God’ Word](#)” pamphlet, A.A. literature also includes the pamphlet “[Many Paths to Spirituality](#)” as well as the chapter “We Agnostics” in the Big Book.

To find a local A.A. meeting, contact a local A.A. office or visit aa.org/meeting-guide-app to learn about the Meeting Guide app and how to download. The app can be used to search for various types of meetings.

Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, Alcoholics Anonymous is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives and has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone who reaches out for help with a drinking problem.

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CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!!

Ventura County Intergroup's monthly newsletter is asking for your contribution.

Yes, you! We would love to publish your writings about:

- ◆ Your Story: Experience, Strength, & Hope in Recovery.
- ◆ One of the 12-Steps, 12-Traditions, or 12-Concepts.
- ◆ How your sponsor or sponsee contributes to your recovery.
- ◆ What it was like attending your first A.A. meeting.
- ◆ Your experience at an A.A. event: Round-up, Convention, NYE Dance, etc.
- ◆ A service commitment, your home group, first sober holiday, favorite line in the Big Book, and any other recovery related writing.

Suggestion for Main Article length: 400 - 600 words; *can be longer

Suggestion for Smaller Articles: 200 - 300 words

The Tradition is sent out via email to a list of subscribers, mainly people in A.A. in Ventura County, and published on the website, <https://aaventuracounty.org/>

****We also love jokes, quips, poems, artwork, trivia, event info, meeting updates, and A.A. history!!**

Send in Your Contributions Now!

Email: vcaaco@verizon.net Phone: 805-389-1444

A.A. Quip of the Month

Rule 69 - Don't take yourself too seriously.

A.A. Quote of the Month

“Once we have taken this step [5th Step], withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye.” (A.A. p. 74)

Good Joke of the Month

An optimist sees a partly filled glass and says it's half full.

A pessimist sees a partly filled glass and says it's half empty.

An alcoholic sees a partly filled glass and says,

“Hey, are you going to finish that?”



BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH

My A.A. sponsor told me to stay away from places I used to drink.

I just sold my car.



Meetings, Meetings, Meetings!

Check for weekly updates on local meetings - [HERE](#)

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.