

# GRATITUDE GAZETTE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE OF AA

*Serving: Newhall, Canyon Country, Saugus, Castaic, Valencia and Aqua Dulce*



## CENTRAL OFFICE INFORMATION

26951 Ruether Avenue, B4  
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

Open Monday, Wednesday &  
Friday  
10:00am to 5:00pm

## CONTACT INFORMATION

(661) 250-9922

### EMAIL:

info@aascv.org

### SCVAA Website

[www.aascv.org](http://www.aascv.org)

For current SCV  
meeting schedules  
use this QR Code; it  
will bring you to our  
website.



## Remembering Joanne M

**By: Ben B**

Joanne became the first volunteer office manager at Central Office, and she remained in that position for over 9 years. She was the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Santa Clarita Valley. She went out of her way to meet people at the office even if outside of her regular hours. She always greeted everyone with a friendliness and grace. But she also had an inner strength that many years of sobriety brings to someone. She was a fine example of the program in every way. I am saddened to say Joanne M passed away on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Through this humble position at Central Office, Joanne touched the lives of literally hundreds and thousands of people looking for help, trying to find sobriety, or to find help for a family member. In countless special ways Joanne brought a spirit of kindness and loving compassion to people in the very darkest moments of their lives.

A series of events that could happen in one's life are sometimes so mysterious and miraculous all at the same time, that it "boggles the woggle!" For those of you that knew Joanne, little sayings like that are just the type of language flavoring or "word salad" that showed you how Joanne looked at the world. She viewed the universe with a sense of amusement and humor that only someone who has gone through tremendous grief, trauma and sorrow can do and still be sane, kind and generous, as she was. Because she knew that the universe was filled with mysterious, wondrous, glorious things. Despite how mankind may have treated her, she knew there were powers beyond our understanding that were good and full of Love and Light. A FORCE that could *actually* be counted on.

After nearly a full decade, Joanne's health started to wane. I was not as involved in the daily affairs of Central Office as I once used to be. From what I understand, Joanne made one of the toughest decisions of her life which was to stop being the office manager at Central Office. She absolutely loved it, but simply couldn't manage it physically any

longer. Joanne was such a vital part of AA in the Santa Clarita Valley. We all owe her an amazing debt of gratitude. The way we can repay that debt is by continuing to give it away for fun and for free, as it has always been done, passing it on, one link in the chain at a time.

I have received many gifts in sobriety. Material gifts. Physical sobriety. And spiritual gifts that defy all explanation. And my friendship with Joanne is one of those. Completely priceless. The entire experience of our friendship over the decades is something that I will cherish forever. It was one of my single greatest honors of my entire life to get to be there for her final days. Joanne is a hero to me. She is a true inspiration. She quietly helped so many. So many of us that don't even know or possibly even appreciate it at all.

I will be forever grateful for having Joanne in my life.

The Gazette would love your AA related :

- Stories, Writings
- History, Trivia
- News, Events

Email to: [info@aascv.org](mailto:info@aascv.org)



**Birthday Board**

**When is your AA Birthday?**

**Send us an email with info. We will post it during the month of your birthday.**

***STEPS AND TRADITIONS & CONCEPTS***

***LET'S HEAR FROM AN OLDTIMER***

**Step one**

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

My journey into AA began when the rehab facility sent me to my first meeting as part of their program.

**Tradition One**

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.

The speaker shared his “before” story. There he was talking about the very things I had desperately wanted to keep close to my vest. He shared his story which included his struggles before he got to AA. Along with many others I heard myself laughing at times because of the way he was telling his story. There came the identification.

**Concept One**

Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship

The “after” began with how the program of AA had changed his life. He was quick to say it isn't always easy but by not picking up a drink anything is possible.

Two things happened after I walked out of that meeting.

**One** - When I returned to the rehab that night I had, what I know today, was a spiritual awaking.

I surrendered to the fact that I am an alcoholic. With the surrender came the knowledge that I would never, ever successfully take a drink

again. To do that would again bring yet another bout of pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization the likes of which I had never known. My secrets and shame would again follow me everywhere I went no matter how much I drank or in what quantities.

**Two** - I surrendered and with that surrender came hope. There was and is a way out.

My life is unmanageable. At the beginning I knew that my life was unmanageable. I went to meetings nearly every day for the first year and then I started running into somebody that was getting in my way ... me.

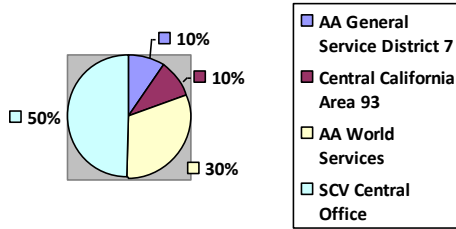
Marriages, divorces, death, health problems, are reminders that my life is still unmanageable after 48 years. But no matter what I just keep coming back, continue to work with newcomers, and to be of service. "Trust God, clean house and keep coming back".

Sue B – November 16,1974



# Districts, Area & Contacts

## SCV Central Office of AA



AA General Service District 7  
P.O. Box 599  
Acton, California 93510

Central California Area 93  
PMB # 140  
606 Alamo Pintado #3  
Solvang, California 93463

AA World Services  
P.O. Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, New York 10116

SCV Central Office  
26951 Reuther Ave., B-4  
Santa Clarita, California  
91351

### *SCV Convention News*

The SCVAA Convention will be October 20 - 22, 2023.

Location: Embassy Suites, 28508 Washington Place, Valencia, CA 91355

The next Planning Committee Meeting is Sunday, 2/5/23 @ Noon at Rafters  
24307 Railroad Ave., Newhall, CA 91321  
**Volunteers needed!** Stop by and learn how you can be of service.

### *H&I Corner*

Meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at St. Stephens Church 24901 Orchard Village Rd., Valencia CA  
6:30 PM new participants  
7:00 PM regular meeting

## *Monthly Service Meetings*

### *Central Office Intergroup*

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month at Central Office  
7pm – 8pm

Send a representative from your meeting; find out what is happening at your local Central Office and within the AA community of Santa Clarita Valley

### *District 7 General Service*

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Quartz Hill LaGrange  
41843 50<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Lancaster, California  
93536

### *Area 93 General Service Area Assembly*

Meets every 3 months

Location will be updated as information is available.

**Literature is available at Central Office that explains the various service offices and their functions**

Come in and ask for: *Circle of Love and Service*

*Twelve Concepts for World Service (Illustrated)*

*AA Service Manual*

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[info@aascv.org](mailto:info@aascv.org)

“For thousands of alcoholics yet to come, AA does have an answer. But there is one condition. We must, at all costs, preserve our essential unity; it must be made unbreakably secure. Without permanent unity there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. Hence our future depends upon the creation and observance of a sound group Tradition. First things will always need to be first: humility before success, and unity before fame.”

*AA Co-Founder, Bill W., October 1947, “Traditions Stressed in Memphis Talk”, The Language of the Heart*

