

# GRATITUDE GAZETTE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE OF AA

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



## SCV CENTRAL OFFICE

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.



## DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE A VOICE?



*Excerpts of the following has been provided by the A.A. Service Manual 2021-2023 edition.*

### The “upside-down triangle.”

The typical structure of many organizations in the world today can be visualized as a triangle. The triangle narrows to a point at the top, where very few people hold “final authority” over everyone else in the organization. They decide what it will and will not do. The rest of the triangle – the foundation upon which the organization rests – often has little or no say.

General Service in A.A. flips the triangle on its head. The top of the triangle is now on the bottom – and the bottom is now on top. Final authority now resides in the foundation of the triangle. In general service, this means the groups of A.A. This type of organization is often referred to as the “upside-down triangle.”

**In this structure, the groups have final authority.** But how do the groups make their thoughts and wishes – their group conscience – known to the rest of the triangle? General service

is organized to do exactly this. Each section of the triangle has a role to play.

### **The meaning of “General Service”**

Today, there are approximately 2 million members of Alcoholics Anonymous, represented in 125,000 groups spread across approximately 180 countries. More than 40 million copies of our basic text *Alcoholics Anonymous* have been distributed in over 70 languages. Indeed, A.A. has come a long way since the May day in 1935 when our co-founders, Dr. Bob and Bill W., met for the very first time.

So how is it that A.A. has grown into the worldwide Fellowship that we see today? The answer is that many people have found sobriety through A.A.’s program of recovery. But there is another reason, too: **General Service.**

### **What it means to be a GSR (General Service Representative)**

For most A.A.’s membership in a home group is one of the keys to continuing sobriety. In a home group, they accept service responsibilities and learn to sustain connections with other recovering alcoholics. The home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure. While many A.A. members attend other groups as well, the home group is where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. As with all group conscience matters, each member has one vote.

The role of the general service representative, or GSR, is essential to the purpose of general service. Bill W. wrote: “The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services.”

The role of the GSR is essential to ensuring that groups can fulfill that responsibility. Only when a GSR keeps the group informed and communicates the group conscience can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible not only for bringing forward the group’s voice, but for taking back to the group actions that affect the Fellowship’s unity, health and growth.

Santa Clarita Valley A.A. is part of District 7 Area 93.

**We need a voice!!**

Our Fellowship needs representation. Very few of our members attend the GSR meetings.

Please bring this to the attention of your home group and ask about a GSR for your meeting.

**District 7 meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month from 6:30pm – 8:00pm at Quartz Hill LaGrange. Located at 41843 50<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA 93536.**

The next meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Gazette would love your AA related:

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

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



**Birthday Board**

- Betty H: 3/2/2000
- Darren Deldo: 3/5/2013
- Anne McCoy: 3/13/2022
- Isidro Ocampo: 3/17/2022
- Julie Galvin: 3/21/1983
- Lia Meshwork: 3/21/2020
- Adriana Barr: 3/23/2022
- Cheryl Leopold: 3/26/2022
- Lori T: 3/27/1998

Is it ever too late to get a sponsor?

No. An A.A. who has been in – or “around” the Fellowship for many years often finds that getting a good sponsor, talking frankly, and listening can make the whole program open up as it never did before. Most A.A.s feel that sponsorship is a vital part of their ongoing growth and progress in recovery, including persons who have long-term sobriety.

*Questions & Answers on Sponsorship  
AA General Service*



## The Gift of Desperation

by Viktoria T

*My name is Viktoria. I'm a chef living in Southern California, raising a beautiful little boy, and married to a wonderful man. My sobriety date is August 17th, 2022. My life has improved immensely since choosing sobriety, and I hope this can inspire anyone thinking about making the change to reach out for help and do so as well.*

For I will never be grateful for  
anything more  
Than the gift of desperation.

Though the bottom was deep and  
dark, it was the hole in which I  
needed to fall  
In order to breathe in the fresh air &  
feel the sunshine on my face.

It was the final unraveling of my  
self-sufficiency, the choice of  
fellowship and the love of my Higher  
Power over isolation & despair.

The choice of sobriety over suicide.

The choice of inner work,  
Instead of numbing with external  
forces

We are meant to feel,  
Both the sadness & the  
overwhelming joy that life brings.

For this, I will be forever grateful.  
To see life everyday through new  
lenses.

To experience life, truly,  
Instead of slowly unraveling  
internally,  
Day by day.

Thank you, desperation.  
For you, I am forever grateful.

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**THE RRMP**

ONLINE CREATIVE ARTS MAGAZINE FOR  
SOBER PEOPLE



## SCV Convention News

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

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

Convention Planning Meeting & Alanon Planning Meeting:

Sunday, **April 2, 2023** @ **Rafters** 24307 Railroad Ave., Newhall, 91321

**Planning Meeting: 11:00 -12:00 PM**

**Al-Anon Planning: 12:00-1:00 PM**

## Hospitals & Institutions (H & I)

Meeting is on the **1st Thursday of the month** at St. Stephens Church  
24901 Orchard Village Rd., Valencia CA

**6:30 pm** new participants; **7:00pm** regular meeting

## Special Events

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual So. California H & I Conference**

**May 5, 6 & 7**

Holiday Inn: 14299 Firestone Blvd., La Mirada, CA

**SCV Convention Fundraiser**

**Chili Cook Off & Movie Under the Stars**

**Featuring the movie "Bill W"**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

Jack Bones Equestrian Center 26983 Tapia Cyn Rd Castaic 91384

***New Speaker Meeting 8:00pm***

Happy Campers, Lake Piru

**Third Saturday of the month from March thru October**

Directions: 5 North to 126 West (towards Fillmore).

Exit Lake Piru. Turn right on Center St., right on Main St.,

Follow to the Guard Gate. Go to the day use area.

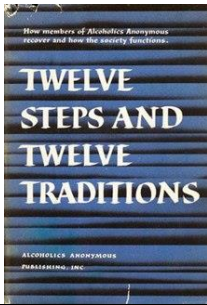
***New Woman's Stag – 12 & 12 Book Study***

Sundays @ 5:00pm @ Stepping Stones

24508 Lyons Ave.

Newhall, 91321

**STEPS, TRADITIONS & CONCEPTS**



“From the very first time I stepped into this room and joined this circle of chairs, I felt a powerful spirit. Each time I return here I feel this spirit and the beginning of a wonderful feeling of peace.”

*A.A. Grapevine Daily Quote  
September, 2019*

**Step Three**

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him.*

**Tradition Three**

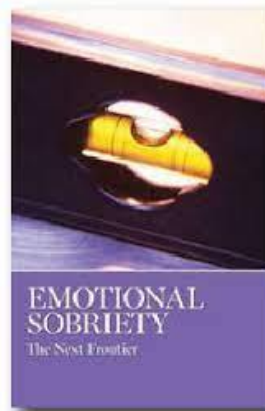
The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

**Concept Three**

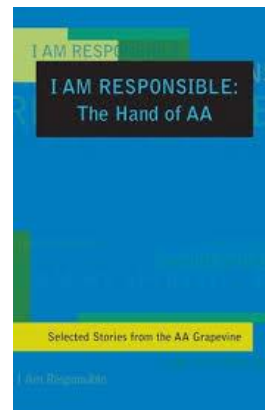
**Trusted Servants Have a “Right of Decision”**

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus ensuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

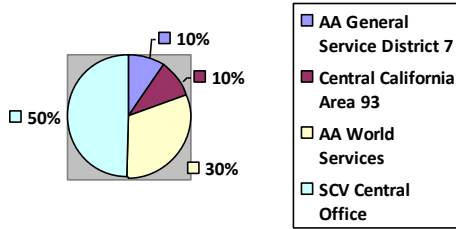
*Taken from The A.A. Service Manual 2021-2023*



**Visit SCV Central Office  
We have books & much more!**



# Districts, Area & Contacts



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 B4  
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

## 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***

2nd 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)



## Gratitude Should Go Forward

“Gratitude should go forward rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you.”

*As Bill Sees It (book)*

*Writings of A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W.*

