

December  
2023

Volume 23, Issue 12

# GRATITUDE GAZETTE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE OF AA

SERVING: NEWHALL, CANYON COUNTRY, SAUGUS, CASTAIC, VALENCIA, AND AQUA DULCE



## Meeting Schedule SCV Central Office

26951 Ruether Avenue, B4  
Santa Clarita, CA 91351  
Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
(661) 250-9922  
[info@aascv.org](mailto:info@aascv.org)  
[aascv.org](http://aascv.org)

## Contents

7th Tradition	3
A.A. General Service District 7	3
A.A. World Services	3
Announcement from G.S.O. of A.A.	4
Announcements	3
Birthday Board	2
Central California Area 93	3
District 7 - General Service	3
Grapevine News	4
Happy Holidays from Central Office	1
Hospitals & Institutions (H&I)	3
Literature	4
Looking for a Meeting?	4
Meeting Schedule	1
News from New York	2
SCV Central Office	3
SCV Central Office/Intergroup	3
Upcoming Events	2

## Happy Holidays from Central Office

As I put together the last Gratitude Gazette for 2023 I would like to thank everyone who has helped support the Santa Clarita Valley Central Office during our rocky financial times after coming back from the pandemic. By our Higher Power's Grace our doors remain open, the bills are paid and the coffee pot is on.

Our primary purpose was met all through 2023 and that was to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. With 1,207 Big Books sold and 617 12 & 12s we provided our local meetings with the things they needed to carry out Tradition 5. My heart is full. I have been blessed with the opportunity to sit in the most uncomfortable chair 3 days a week and welcome all who come through that

door. If you hear me share at meetings I always mention the gratitude I have for this service commitment. How appropriate that we are in the 12th month of the year and Step 12 is so prevalent in my life. I repeatedly have a spiritual awakening when I can answer the

phone and assist someone looking for a meeting or connect a newcomer with another member to make that all important 12 step call.

So from Central Office to all of you have a Happy and Safe Holiday!



SEE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM  
GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A.A.  
ON PAGE 4.

## Legacies for December

Step

12

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition

12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept

12

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.



## News from New York

*Grapevine Digital Subscription. Combines the Grapevine complete on-line access to the website, archive, and the App: [aagrapevine.org/store](http://aagrapevine.org/store)*

### More Reflections on Anonymity – Bill’s Last Message

“Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical. On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use AA for sick and selfish purposes.”

Let us always be mindful of the importance of personal anonymity at the public level.

### Birthday Board

Send your birthday to us!

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

Kirk G . . . . .	12/1/2010
Amber R . . . . .	12/4/2022
Sonia B. . . . .	12/7/2016
Jill D . . . . .	12/10/2017
Rick R . . . . .	12/10/2022
Valena S . . . . .	12/10/2012
Caryn B . . . . .	12/19/2005
Maggie L. . . . .	12/20/2010
Stephanie Q . . . . .	12/25/2022

## Upcoming Events

### Rafters Children’s Christmas Party

December 17, 2023  
2:00 – 4:30 PM  
Games, Crafts, Pinata, Snacks and Santa  
Make sure and sign your child up at the Rafters so Santa has a gift for them.

### 58th Inland Empire Alkathon

December 24th – 25th, 2023  
1st Mtg 12:00 PM Christmas Eve  
Closing Mtg 7:00 PM Christmas Day  
1729 E Baseline St  
San Bernardino

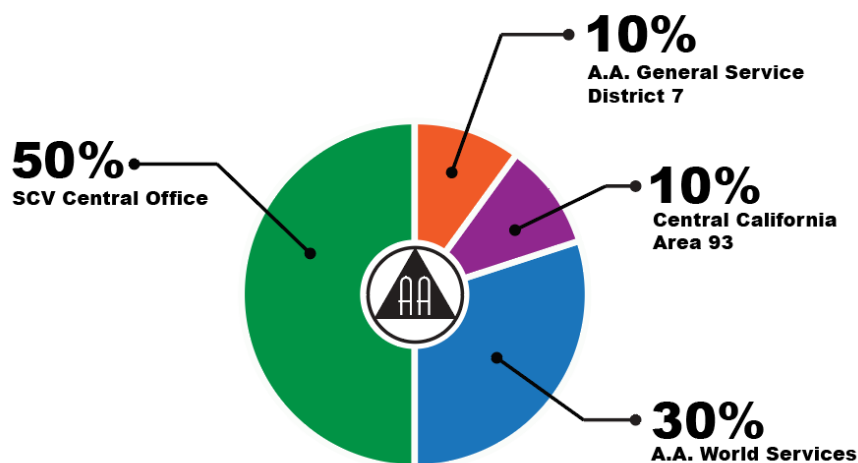
### New Year’s Zoom Alkathon

December 31st 1:00 PM –  
January 1st 8:59 PM  
ID: 789 7054 7193  
Password: 920284  
Hosted by Serenity Group Zoom

# 7th Tradition

## To A.A.W.S., District 7, Area 93, & Central Office

Financial Support for District 7, of Area 93, World Services and your Central Office is suggested for each meeting that participates in Tradition 7. When a meeting meets its rent and prudent reserve, the remaining contributions are suggested to support A.A.



## A.A. General Service District 7

P.O. Box 599  
Acton, California 93510  
(Check payable to: District 7, CCAA)

## Central California Area 93

PMB # 140  
606 Alamo Pintado #3  
Solvang, California 93463  
(Check payable to: CCAA, Area 93)

## A.A. World Services

P.O. Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, New York 10116  
(Check payable to: General Service Fund A.A. Please put Group # on check)

## SCV Central Office

26951 Reuther Ave B4  
Santa Clarita, CA 91351  
(Check payable to: SCV Central Office)

## Monthly Service Meetings

### SCV Central Office/ Intergroup

4th Monday of month  
Central Office 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.  
Send a representative from your meeting; find out what is happening at your local Central Office and within the A.A. community of Santa Clarita Valley.

### District 7 - General Service

2nd Monday of the month  
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
Quartz Hill La Grange  
41843 50th Street West  
Lancaster, California 93536  
Zoom ID: 830 4964 7466

### Hospitals & Institutions (H&I)

1st Thursday of the month  
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
St Stephens Church  
24901 Orchard Village  
Valencia, CA 91355

## Announcements

### WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

#### Carry the Message Project

Give a gift subscription of the Grapevine to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for sponsees, newcomers, or give aways at Group Celebrations. Can even be given to prisons.

Visit: [agrapevine.org/carry-the-message](http://agrapevine.org/carry-the-message).

Get your AA Friends to join in on a gift subscription to a newcomer.

THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL/12 CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE STUDY GROUP

TUESDAYS 7PM  
ZOOM

Zoom Code 858 2298 7088  
Password 53rv1c371

A.A. SERVICE MANUAL/12 CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE STUDY GROUP MEETING HOSTED BY DISTRICT 1, AREA 93

Meets Every Tuesday on Zoom 7-8 PM

Please join us as we sequentially read through The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, by Bill W. asking questions and discussing the material, in order to better understand what General Service is, how it works, and why it matters.

District 1  
Area 93  
(818) 256-0592  
[caso93@district1@aa.org](mailto:caso93@district1@aa.org)



## Grapevine News

[aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)

*Sign up for monthly newsletter and Daily Quote*

Current Issue Spotlight: This month's feature is "Remote Communities and Sober Holiday Stories." Members share hopeful stories about alcoholics having trouble reaching AA and the people who do Remote Community Service. Plus some wonderful sober holiday Stories

Happy Birthday Grapevine! In June 2024, The Grapevine turns the big 80!

Help us celebrate by sharing your very best memories with Grapevine. Why do you love Grapevine? Was there a story that once helped you? How did being a GV Representative help your sobriety? What did you learn? Share your best Grapevine memories! (Stories due by Dec 15, 2023)

Announcing: Grapevine Digital Subscription

Combines the Grapevine complete on-line access to the web-site, archive, and the App.

Visit the Grapevine Online Store

[aagrapevine.org/store](http://aagrapevine.org/store)

## Looking for a Meeting?

[aa.org/meeting-guide-app](http://aa.org/meeting-guide-app)

*Did you know there is a meeting guide app for your smartphone?*



Find upcoming meetings nearby or anywhere in the U.S. or Canada. The Meeting Guide App currently includes lists of 400 A.A. service entities directly to you. Over 100,000 weekly meetings are currently listed, and the information is refreshed twice daily. Supported by A.A. World Services. Is now available free from the Apple Store and Google Play Store. Look for the chair in the circle and download today.

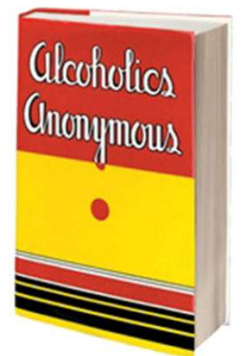
## Literature

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

*Literature is available at Central Office about the various service offices and their functions.*

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of Alcoholics Anonymous in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition. Special edition with red hardcover binding, the famous "circus cover" dust jacket and bulky paper (which was why it was initially called the Big Book).

Available at Central Office \$9.00



## Announcement from G.S.O. of A.A.

November 10, 2023

Dear A.A. Friends:

As a Fellowship, we celebrate and recognize November as Gratitude Month. This is a time when we A.A.s reflect on the many gifts and blessings sobriety has given us. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous encompasses many facets: our

home groups, sponsorship, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Fellowship among each other, service on many levels, and many more. As the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO), I'm grateful to see firsthand the many services GSO provides that support the spiritual purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers. These services assist the many facets of the A.A. program.

With the spirit of Gratitude Month in mind, I write today to share with you the difficult news related to the current financial health of Alcoholics Anonymous and the potential continued challenges ahead as we strive to fulfill our spiritual

Continued on next page

purpose. I hope this letter will be met with understanding, and that the honesty and sincerity in my heart are apparent throughout. The last four years have been very challenging for A.A. in many respects. This began with the worldwide shutdown in early 2020 due to the pandemic, which immediately forced nearly all A.A. groups to close their physical doors and either stop meeting altogether or find other means of gathering. This was followed by a slow return of groups meeting in person, an economy filled with uncertainty, and a workplace that changed in many ways. During this time, GSO and our Boards, like other organizations and businesses, were forced to change dramatically. We quickly transitioned to working 100% virtual to continue serving the Fellowship.

The office, along with the A.A. World Services (AAWS) and General Service Boards (GSB), have worked hard to manage our finances through these last four years with the hope that many of the challenges we faced would subside and return to pre-pandemic conditions.

It is apparent now that the financial challenges we face cannot continue to be met with the deferral of essential projects and office development that are necessary to carry out Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference and support the vital services GSO provides.

Our tradition of self-support has always been vital to the health and future of the Fellowship and been our main source of income. However, there has always been a need for additional support from the sale of our literature. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, the initial impact on our revenue was significant, with a steep decrease in contributions. Income from sales of A.A. literature was also significantly reduced as sales came to an almost complete halt. The Fellowship responded with tremendous generosity, resulting in contributions reaching record levels. That continued in 2021, and contributions in 2022 nearly matched the 2021 level. This year to date, we are on pace to reach similar levels to the last three years. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and heartwarming.

Unfortunately, literature profits have not rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels. In addition to the slow return of sales, inflation has resulted in substantial increases in the cost to produce and distribute literature. Conscious of the challenges facing groups and members, the AAWS board held literature prices steady for as long as possible until earlier this year, when it became apparent the costs to produce and distribute were not going to return to pre-pandemic levels. Despite increased contributions after the pandemic, the loss in literature revenue has left our total revenue short by approximately \$1,000,000 compared with pre-pandemic times.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on virtually all our expenses. Of note are increased costs related to meet-

ings, events, and travel, which are a key necessity to support the Regional Forums, board meetings, and the General Service Conference. However, we have managed to reduce total operating expenses to an average of \$15,768,000 compared with pre-pandemic levels of \$16,258,000. Reducing total expenses below pre-pandemic levels truly illustrates the diligence the office and the boards applied to the budget and operations to offset losses.

Because of the significant decline in literature sales and revenue and the large cash outlay needed to continue printing and distributing our literature, we have also experienced a very tight cash position. Our reforecast budget for this year estimates a loss of \$997,000, after depreciation and the GSB support of La Viña.

The office and all three boards have worked diligently to address these financial challenges. A systematic and dedicated approach to budgeting has been developed over recent years and

allows for the most informed group conscience possible. Throughout, budget managers and the AAWS Board work together to find the most effective ways to prioritize and execute services, maximizing the use of each A.A. dollar. In addition to the annual budget process, a reforecast is done midyear to adapt to the direction brought forth by the April General Service Conference and other factors impacting original estimates.

As difficult as this letter is to write, I'm hopeful and optimistic for A.A.'s future. Together we can overcome the challenges we're facing. We need your help to continue to adjust to and plan for the reality of current economic conditions and changes in our Fellowship. As members we often say that when A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. This is one of those times. Your generosity has sustained us through very difficult times in the past. If your group is able, in the spirit of Gratitude Month, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board. You can make a contribution through [aa.org](http://aa.org) or by mail. Make your check payable to the General Service Board to:

**General Service Office**  
**P.O. Box 2407**  
**James A. Farley Station**  
**New York, NY 10116-2407**

Moving forward, more frequent, and incremental contributions would be much appreciated as the office incurs many of its expenses during certain parts of the year. In particular, many of our more significant expenses are incurred from January to May, due to planning, preparation, and operation of the General Service Conference each April.

Bob W.

General Manager, GSO

---

***Our tradition of self-support  
has always been vital to the  
health and future of the  
Fellowship***

---