

GRATITUDE GAZETTE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE OF A.A.

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



Meeting Schedule

SCV Central Office

26951 Ruether Avenue, B-4
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
(661) 250-9922

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Tradition 2

by Judy F.

“For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

If it has been a while since you picked up the 12 & 12 and read any of the traditions, I highly recommend it. It has been repeated often that the traditions are to the Group what the steps are to the individual. My “lone wolf” attitude kept me in the dark about the importance of “the group and A.A. as a whole,” focusing only on the steps and how they pertained to me. Selfish, self-centered, is it not the root of the problem?

What an eye-opening I had at a meeting last week when we read the 2ND tradition and discussed the importance of it. Now, I digress because I had to go back to Tradition 1 – “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.” Tradition one defines what the Group is, and it’s our common welfare that comes first, not Judy’s but the Group’s. Our common welfare is personal recovery, which is then dependent on our unity. Unity is

being united or combined into one, as of the parts of a whole; hence, it’s OUR common welfare.

As we move to Tradition 2, it explains to us that there is but one ultimate authority, and it isn’t me or any one person in the meeting. The authority is a higher power that expresses itself in our group conscience. Since there is no one person in charge, decisions for the Group are determined by the Group’s conscience. Rotation of secretaries, treasurers, and

Continued on page 3

email: info@aascv.org
website: aascv.org

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE

As of February 1, 2024 we will no longer be utilizing PO Box 803063, Santa Clarita 91380.

Please use the following address for all mail for Central Office:

**26951 Ruether Ave, Ste B4;
Santa Clarita, CA 91351**

Legacies for March

Step

3

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

Tradition

3

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

Concept

3

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”



Birthday Board

We would love to acknowledge your sobriety date so help us keep our birthday info updated by emailing us at info@aascv.org

Aaron K.	3/5/2005
Aaron S.	3/11/2023
Anne Mc.	3/13/2022
Betty H.	3/2/2000
Cheryl L.	3/26/2022
Darren D.	3/5/2013
Isidro O.	3/17/2022
Julie G.	3/21/1983
Lori T.	3/27/1998

News from New York

A.A. International Convention in 2025

Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. A.A. members and their families and friends from around the globe attend the event. At the International Convention, people attend meetings, workshops, dances, and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90TH anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding. The International Convention will take place from July 3RD – 6TH, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and B.C. Place Stadium.

The Gratitude Gazette will be providing updated information when registration opens up for the international convention.



Literature

aascv.org/shop

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

PASS IT ON The story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world.

Full of first-person accounts and primary source material, this portrait of Bill W. recounts his journey from Vermont youth to Wall Street success story to hopeless drunk — until a series of remarkable events allowed him to stop drinking and to co-found Alcoholics Anonymous. We follow Bill through his tireless work for the Fellowship: the publishing of the Big Book, the development of the Twelve Traditions, and the formation of the General Service Conference. The closing chapters walk us through Bill's final years of challenge and change with 39 archival photographs.

PASS IT ON is available at the SCV Central Office

Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

Grapevine Digital Subscription. Combines the Grapevine complete on-line access to the website, archive, and the App:

The March issue of the Grapevine Newsletter will highlight “Spanish-speaking A.A. Members,” featuring translated stories from La Viña to illustrate the experience of our Spanish-speaking members.

Upcoming topics will include “Young and Sober!” and “Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC).”

You can now listen to “Prayer & Meditation” (audiobook)—visit aagrapevine.org/subscriptions for more information.

Grapevine Daily Quote— “Today, I have a clearer perspective on what my role as a sponsor is and isn't. It is to stay sober, be available to listen, share my thoughts, pray for others, and let them live their own lives. It is not to “fix” anyone, get them sober, make them happy, demand they conform, or make their decisions.”

— Berlin, CT September 2004, From: “What a Sponsor Is and Is Not,” A.A. Grapevine

Looking for a Meeting?

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.

Tradition 2—Continued from page 1

other service positions is practiced so no one person assumes that role as the authority.

The tradition then goes on to talk about leadership – “our leaders are but trusted servants.”

It is our “elder statesmen,” and even the “bleeding deacon” who become the real and permanent leaders in A.A. Theirs is the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge, and humble example that resolve a crisis.

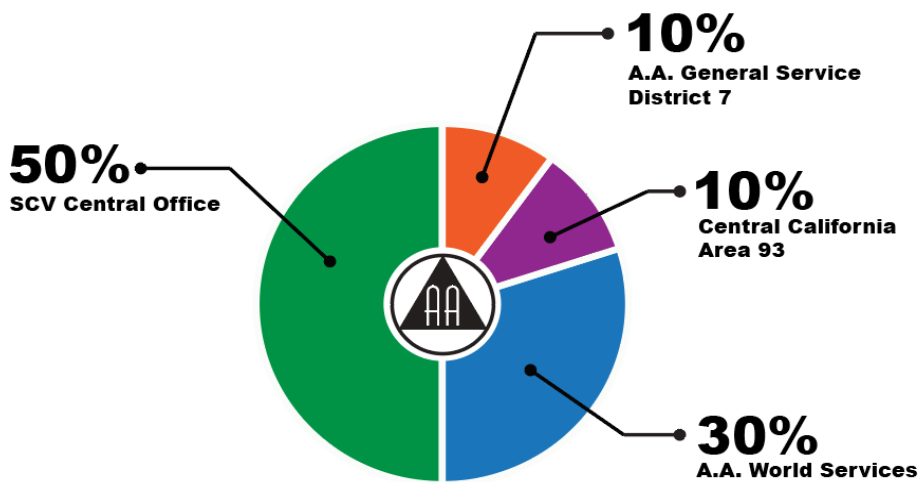
As I celebrated another year of sobriety, I had to ask myself if my opinion was getting quieter. Am I leading by example or still trying to ram my opinions and ideas down members' throats? Bill's story in Tradition 2 shows he still struggled with some grandiose ideas, but in the end, even he was obliged to conform to group opinion.

I sat in that meeting on tradition two and thanked God for all my learning experiences concerning this tradition. I thanked him for the times I felt like I was the only person suitable for a certain position, only to have the group conscience go with someone else. I thanked him for the times I stomped out of business meetings because something didn't go my way. So, I ask myself once again, is my opinion quieter, and do I believe a loving God expresses himself through me as his trusted servant? In my morning meditation, I ask how I can be of service to him and the people around me – I love being one of his trusted servants today and that I don't have to govern.

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, CA 93510
(Check payable to: District 7, CCAA)

Central California Area 93

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

A.A. World Services

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

SCV Central Office

26951 Reuther Ave B-4
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
(Check payable to: SCV Central Office)
When making contributions to A.A.W.S., Area 93, Districts, Central Offices it is important to add your: **Group/Meeting Information:**

- **A.A.W.S. Group Number**
- **Meeting/Group Name**
- **Location**
- **Day(s) of your meeting and start time**

Monthly Service Meetings

SCV Central Office/ Intergroup

4TH Monday of the month

Central Office 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
26951 Reuther Ave B-4
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

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, CA 93536

Zoom ID: 830 4964 7466

Hospitals & Institutions (H&I)

1ST Thursday of the month

6:30 PM Orientation
Business Meeting 7:00 PM–8:00 PM
St. Stephens Church
24901 Orchard Village
Valencia, CA 91355

Tradition Three is on Eligibility

by *Dougie W.*

Tradition Three: **The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

When we identify as an Alcoholic, in a meeting, we state, "I am (using my first name), and, 'I am an alcoholic.'" We can be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous if we are making an effort to stop drinking. You determine that you are an alcoholic, not a friend, co-worker, boss, partner, or the legal system. There are five cases in the Big Book where you can decide for yourself if you really identify as an alcoholic. Read the entire Doctor's Opinion, focus on Roman numeral page xxx.

When you say you are a member of A.A., then no one can refuse you access to the rooms. Some meetings may have type restrictions, such as gender, but all meetings fall into two types, Open and Closed. An Open meeting is open to anyone to attend (only alcoholics share) and Closed, where you must identify as an Alcoholic to attend. That is it. For example, old folks can go to Young People meetings. Felons can attend meetings, a constant relapser, and moms with small children. Each group can decide how inclusive they are, such as allowing children to attend. Children cannot attend a closed meeting because they are not alcoholics.

If the "vibe" of the meeting is making you uncomfortable for any reason, choose another meeting. In the Santa Clarita Valley there are 165 meetings to choose from. Meetings can be in-person and on-line. Find your tribe.

Every member of A.A. has some thoughts on whether you qualify to be a member. They will be violating Tradition 3 if that view becomes the Group's Conscience. Every member is on a journey from being very sick, physically, emotionally, and spiri-

tually, to getting well. Often, strong personalities are expressed. We should try to stay in Step 12, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. Look for the similarities instead of the differences.

When, I first came into the rooms, I often thought of the Groucho Marx joke. "I could never belong to an organization that would have me as member." If you consider yourself, a weirdo, shy, awkward, a loner, a hot mess, you are always welcome in the rooms.

Tradition Three: **The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new A.A. members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my A.A. group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at A.A. needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to A.A. before? What his other problems are?

From SM F-131 Guide is some insights and thing we should review personally. Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc. (SM F-131) Reprinted with permission.

Upcoming Events

Area 93 Pre-Conference Workshop

April 7TH, 8 AM -4 PM

Your Voice Matters

- Your Group decides on an issue
- Your GSR votes at the Assembly
- Our Delegate votes our collective conscience at the conference

AV College Cafeteria (SCT) Building-
Parking Lot D2

3041 W Ave K, Lancaster, CA 93536

Anyone can attend-GSR's Vote!

[Link](#)

38TH Annual Sunshine of the Spirit

May 31ST-June 2ND, 2024

Courtyard Marriott

9619 Mariposa Rd, Hesperia, CA 92345

[Link](#)

High Desert Convention

June 6TH-9TH, 2024

A.A. Desert Roundup

Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa

44400 Indian Wells Ln, Indian Wells, CA

92210

[Link](#)

2025 A.A. International Convention

July 3RD-6TH, 2025

Vancouver, Canada

www.aa.org/international-convention

All Events

Visit aascv.org