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GRATITUDE GAZETTE

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

SERVING: NEWHALL, CANYON COUNTRY, SAUGUS, CASTAIC, VALENCIA, AND AGUA 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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2024 General Service Conference

by Judy F.

How exciting is this.... the 74TH General Service Conference will be taking place in New York the week of April 13TH – the 20TH with participation by our elected Delegate from Area 93. The theme of this year’s conference is **Connecting With Love, Unity and Service.**

Some of the subjects that will be voted on by all the conference members are:

- Cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Viña (Spanish edition of the Grapevine)
- Explore the services provided by AA Grapevine and how they should be funded
- Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.
- Consider the continuation of the writing of the Plain Language Big Book

Have you ever wondered who determines the titles and content of our literature, or when the next edition of the Big Book will come out? Have you

ever sat in a meeting and considered the real scope of Alcoholics Anonymous and thought if you had an opinion how it would be heard?

With the formation of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1951 it provided a permanent connection needed between our society and its Trustees. The Conference represents the conscience of A.A. worldwide and to which our Trustees are directly accountable.

Continued on page 7

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 April

Step
4

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition
4

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole..

Concept
4

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.



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

Elma A.	4/1/2023
Kelly S.	4/5/2023
Viana R.	4/7/2022
Scott P.	4/3/2021
Heather S.	4/16/2021
Dougie W.	4/5/2015
Tiffany E.	4/4/2014
Mandy O.	4/27/2009
Tara P.	4/15/2007
Kathy B.	4/8/2006
Dena B.	4/3/1997
Jessica C.	4/10/1988
Lisa B.	4/9/1987

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.

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers A biography of Dr. Bob, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest. So far, among the majority of A.A. members, the Ohio surgeon has been less well known than his partner, Bill Wilson. He died in 1950, when A.A. was only 15 years old. But his influence on the whole A.A. program is permanent and profound.

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age Brief history of A.A.

More than half a century has gone by since A.A.'s historic 1955 Convention in St Louis, when the founding members passed onto the entire Fellowship the responsibility for the three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. This book takes A.A. members and interested friends on a quick tour of the Convention, traces the history and development of the Three Legacies, and looks at A.A. through the eyes of some early non-alcoholics who influenced the Fellowship's history.

A must read for the entire scope of A.A. and its history

Dr. Bob And The Good Oldtimers is available at Central Office along with **Pass It On** and **Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age**. Read about the history of AA – you will be amazed before you are half way through.

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.

Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

The April issue of the Grapevine has a special section on **Happy Birthday Big Book** – celebrating the Big Book's 85th anniversary. Members share their favorite memories and stories.

Upcoming topics include Remote Communities – do you live far from AA meetings? Are you a loner? Stationed far away? Do you have a language or cultural barrier? Are you homebound Do you use on-line meetings? Is it difficult to find AA meetings where you live? Tell us how you stay sober. Are you involved in Remote Community Service? Stories due June 15, 2024

Coming April 26th **Our Twelve Steps**. A brand-new collection of stories from AA members about the joys and challenges of working the program's Twelve Steps of recovery. Each chapter illuminates a different Step through the experiences of a wide variety of AA members. This volume features all new, up-to-date stories from the pages of the Grapevine. Great for sponsors and AA Step meetings. Available from AA Grapevine Store.

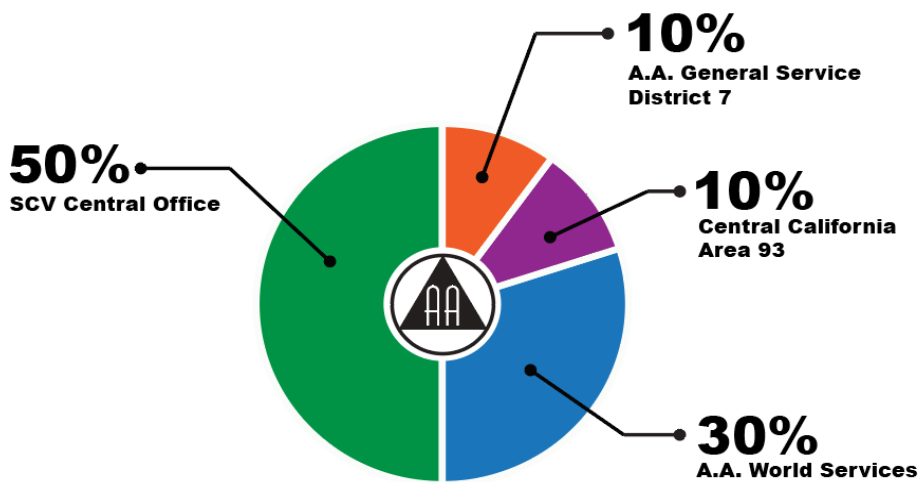
Grapevine Daily Quote – "I politely invited God to spend the day with me (like a visiting relative or friend), and instantly began a mental dialogue with God....I realized that in the process of introducing myself to God, I was getting a good look at who I really was."

– Houston, TX October 1985 From: "Okay God..." *Spiritual Awakenings*

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

General Service Work

By *Dougie W.*

I have been sober for almost nine years. When I entered the rooms, they suggested I “work” the steps. I did. I got sober on April 5TH, 2015, and I was finished with my steps by July. I felt a relief I had never experienced before. I have spent many years working on the Steps. I have been through the Steps a total of five times. While in Portland, I did them every year. I knew the traditions were important, but how did I work with these traditions?

The steps are a process of learning to live with myself; the traditions are to teach me how to get along with you. I had to take part in Step 12, “Principles before personalities,” that our common welfare depended on unity (Tradition 1), and that my views on how I see the “solution” to a problem are a mix of Tradition 1 and Step 7. I can make suggestions and not demands. I remind myself to keep my pride out of the solution. I have to ask myself, is this feeding my ego? Do I need God’s help?

What I observe in the Rooms is often a mix; at times, I see Recovery and less of the practice of the Traditions. The focus of Recovery to the newcomer is vital, but not at the expense of the other sides of our beloved image of the circle and triangle.

The circle and triangle are symbols that were adopted in 1955 at the 20TH Anniversary International Convention in St. Louis. The circle and triangle were so commonly shared that A.A. removed the copyright to the symbol in 1995. Feel free to use it on our coffee cups and hoodies.

The circle represents an endless shape with no start or end, like our Recovery. It is always surrounding the triangle. The triangle is the three legacies — Recovery, Unity, and Service. Often, those words are placed next to each line of the three-sided triangle.

Recovery is at the base of the triangle and is the foundation; it holds up the other two lines of the triangle. Without Recovery, we lose it all, and it collapses. We get our Recovery from working the Steps, and it is exercised in the Fellowship of our meetings.

The Left line is the Unity of our Traditions. The Traditions define membership. Tradition 3, each Group is autonomous; Tradition 4, that the Group is organized around the group conscience; Tradition 2, self-supporting; Tradition 7.

Tradition 9 is organization. They may create service boards or committees directly responsible for those they serve. This is the A.A. structure that is between the members in a group meeting and the General Service Office in New York. This is the third side of the triangle.

Our triangle is a solid shape.

Tradition 9 is where Central Offices/Intergroups, Districts inside of Areas, and the Areas themselves. This is defined well in the A.A. Service Manual.

I am in District 7 of Area 93. There are 93 Areas in the U.S. and Canada. The 7TH Tradition is used at every A.A. meeting to support the meeting or at their Group level. A prudent reserve is kept, defined by the Group. We pay rent and other expenses to have a successful meeting; what is a meeting without coffee? When all the expenses are met, each Group should make contributions to their Central Office, District, Area, and GSO in New York.

Our Group or individual contributions are how A.A. is funded to make and update literature. For example, there are around 100 translations of the Big Book, going out to every part of the world.

At GSO, Areas and Districts are valued resources. When I started my journey into General Service, I was not aware of the value of the A.A. General Service structure, so I will list some values that contributed to my sobriety.

Central Offices/Intergroups

Contributions to your Central Office generate a simple list of benefits:

- A.A. Inquires. Answer calls at all hours to a struggling individual with a drinking problem and explain the benefits of attending A.A.
- Organize and list all meetings so anyone can find a meeting anywhere at any time.
- Chips and Tokens (cheaper than on-line stores)
- Literature (such as a Big Book), other books, and pamphlets are available to purchase individually or for a Group.
- Information on literature additions changes, plus knowledge of a wealth of information on available resources
- Information exchange, such as your events or workshops.
- Intergroup Representative (IGR) is your input into shaping how the Central Office serves A.A. locally.

Districts

Contributions to Districts is the first layer of General Service

work that supports the entire A.A. Service Structure. The District meeting is where your Group's conscience is expressed outside the Group, and a Group elects a GSR (General Service Representative) to carry your Group's voice and vote at the District and Area meetings. Districts assist in registering meetings with New York and help with the process of assigning a Group ID.

Contributions to Districts generates a simple list of benefits:

- Creates Workshops addressing local issues, such as Women's events, H&I, Traditions Workshops, etc..
- Assist Groups with understanding the General Service Structure.
- GSRs carry the message of information to the groups and vote on items affecting A.A. as a whole. This can be an important position in the A.A. General Service structure.
- DCM is the servant that organizes all incoming and outgoing information from N.Y., other Districts, and our Area. Informs other districts of our local Conventions, Events, and Workshops.

Areas

Contributions to the Area is the next layer, where all Districts and their GSOs in the Area meet to discuss issues facing their Groups and may create or facilitate committees to address those issues. The Area elects an Area Delegate every two years who represents the Area to A.A. in New York. All the Delegates meet in April to vote on issues that each Area submitted to the Conference. This April, the Conference will address 96 items in about a week's time.

A simple list of benefits:

- Gives a local voice/vote to New York
- Organizes information between districts
- Distributes information from other Areas, Districts, or Groups.
- Creates Workshops, Events, and other information for distribution.

Unplugged

When a meeting is unplugged from the Service Structure, they will be surprised when changes happen. For example, A.A. Grapevine owns the copyright to the A.A. Preamble; they made a change from "Men and Women" to "People," and then they asked the Conference to vote to accept the change

(Released June 2021) when the Preamble started showing up in meetings, it was a surprise for many. Why were they surprised? The short answer is that they were unplugged from the General Service structure. Rumors started flying, such as, "Why did they change my beloved Big Book?" It did not involve the Big Book, but having representation would have given correct information to the Group. Better yet, our vote for a yes or no to changes that may not align with our Group consciousness. Keep in mind your vote represents the consciousness of the Group, a vote in the District, and in the Area; each Area is doing the same thing with their groups and districts; when the Area Delegates meet in New York, each Area Delegate gets a vote, and if the motion passes (2/3 majority), it is adopted. This is seen as a painfully slow process, but all registered groups from all over the U.S. and Canada create the consciences of the entire A.A., which is not aligned to a region or local preferences.

At every level, the Delegate, Officers, and Committees change leadership to keep the position from being institutionalized. Allowing for new blood and ideas a chance or the ineffective to move out.

In Closing

Changes are necessary in A.A., such as becoming more inclusive. Alcoholics represent the entire culture. And A.A. needs to at least offer changes that will help those who still suffer. However, not all changes are beneficial.

If you feel strongly about what A.A. did for your sobriety, as I do, and you want to pay back a little of what you received for free, then maybe General Service Work is for you. Some are not comfortable with the General Service Work, and that is OK.

When I see the circle and triangle symbol, I have to remind myself if it is a decoration or a declaration.

By Bill W., February 1961

The Shape of Things to Come

... Just how, then, can A.A. go on changing for the better? Does this mean that we are to tinker with our basic principles? Should we try to amend our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? Here, the answer would seem to be "no." Those twenty-four principles have first liberated us, have then held us in unity, and have enabled us to function and grow as A.A. members and as a whole. Of course, the perfect truth is surely something better understood by God than by any of us. Nevertheless, we have come to believe that A.A.'s recovery Steps and Traditions do represent the approximate truths that we need for our particular purpose. The more we practice them, the more we like them. So, there is little doubt that A.A. princi-

General Service Work – Continued from page 6

ples continue to be advocated in the form they stand now.

So then, if our basics are so firmly fixed as all this, what is there left to change or to improve? The answer will immediately occur to us. While we need not alter our truths, we can surely improve their application to ourselves, to A.A. as a whole, and to our relationship with the world around us. We can constantly step up “the practice of these principles in all our affairs.”

As we now enter upon the next great phase of A.A.’s life, let us therefore re-dedicate ourselves to an ever greater responsibility for our general welfare. Let us continue to take our inventory as a fellowship, searching out our flaws and confessing them freely. Let us devote ourselves to the repair of all faulty relations that may exist, whether within or without.

And above all, let us remember that great legion who still suffer from alcoholism and who are still without hope. Let us, at any cost or sacrifice, so improve our communication with all these so that they may find what we have found — a new life of freedom under God.

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Conference – Continued from page 1

It was at the 20TH Anniversary Convention in 1955 that Bill turned over the full and permanent possession of the Three Legacies of A.A. inheritance – the Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. It was in this resolution that the **guardianship** of A.A.’s Twelve Traditions and full guidance and control of the World Service of our Society was turned over to the Trustees and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

So, from 1951 to 2024, our elected representatives have been our trusted servants, our voice, to discuss and vote on important decisions that affect Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

To Bill, this was a momentous occasion. A.A. turned a historic corner when the leadership fell upon a wider company than in the past. “ Bill asked that we give thanks to God for His goodness to us, for the way He has guided and prospered and used and enriched and developed this wonderful force in our time, and for all the promise A.A. holds out for uncounted thousands and perhaps millions in the future.”

You might ask how your voice or your group’s voice is heard. Your group must be registered and have a registered GSR with NY. Attend your District’s meeting on the 2ND Monday of the month to learn more about General Service work and the role it plays in A.A.’s future. Hopefully, you will come to understand and appreciate my opening statement concerning the 74TH General Service Conference. My voice will be heard!

Upcoming Events

2024 SCV Convention Corner

October 18TH -20TH , 2024
Embassy Suites – Valencia

Next Planning Meeting

April 7TH 11:00AM-12:00PM
Rafters

Chili Cook-off

April 20TH 1:00PM to 5:00PM
Jack Bones Equestrian Center – Castaic
Stay tuned for future announcements
Upcoming Events

Area 93 Pre-Conference Workshop

April 7TH 8:00AM – 4:00PM
AV College Cafeteria
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!

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