

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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The Home Group

by Judy F.

“Home groups are so very important to Alcoholics Anonymous. This is where people begin. This is where the spark of service work is first ignited. This is where the A.A. member begins to learn about the how of Alcoholics Anonymous. By selecting a home group, the newcomer begins to feel like he belongs somewhere. He begins to know people and let people know him. He feels safe in this meeting because he knows everyone’s story and where they came from. It is the home group where the A.A. member takes the first tiny step into making the support system of Alcoholics Anonymous work. This may be by just putting one dollar into the basket every week and knowing where it is going or by washing coffee cups. Hence, by getting a home group, the A.A. member accepts the responsibility of participating in the whole system, thereby keeping the wheels of A.A. rolling.”

I got sober at the Rafters when it was just six months into its infancy. There were just a few tables and chairs and a mixture of coffee cups and ashtrays that people donated from home, as well as, a couple of couches for the half-measures

room. This was my group, and this was my home. I can’t tell you how many cups and ashtrays I washed or how many times I cleaned the bathrooms. I wanted them to sparkle for that out-of-town speaker or the newcomer struggling up those stairs. Yes, this was my home.

For many years, I called the Rafters my home group. I graduated from washing coffee cups to making coffee to being the secretary of a meeting. I have been on the steering committee and was also chairperson of the group. As with any family, I fought with members and placed a lot of personalities before principles. Through it all, a number of those “family members” have stayed sober with me.

One day, I decided not to call Rafters my home anymore (they were not doing things the way I was used to), and I left. I started going to other meetings and even called a Saturday Women’s Meeting my home. It just wasn’t the same. I participated in the meetings but didn’t take any commitments, and sort of sat around the sidelines. My name tag at conventions always reads JUDY F – HOMELESS.

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

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Legacies for May

Step

5

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition

5

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept

5

Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.



News from New York

A.A. International Convention in 2025

For quarterly reports on what’s happening at GSO in New York go to aa.org and click on the Resources tab. Three different newsletters are available—**Box 459** is the quarterly newsletter for GSO; **About A.A. for professionals**; **Sharing From Behind the Walls** is excerpts from letters sent to GSO by people in custody for others involved in A.A. in correctional facilities.

Also available at aa.org is the Quarterly Report from GSO, which talks about the activities of the General Service Board, including A.A. World Services Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc.

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

Sandy C 5/25/2022
Shelly L 5/29/2021
Jessica A. 5/4/2013
Susan C 5/31/2007
Jennifer E 5/14/2000
Cathy L 5/26/1987

Upcoming Events

2024 SCV Convention Corner

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

Next Planning Meeting

May 5TH 12:00AM-1:00PM
Rafters

Come and see how you can be of service. The committee is always looking for volunteers.

Their next special event will be the **Women’s Day Luncheon on June 15th**. Women save the date – this is one of our favorite events of the year.

Area 93 Central California Assembly (CCA)

May 19TH
Area Assemblies are the primary General Service meetings of the Area’s groups and districts and are designed to conduct the service activities of the Area.

Veterans Memorial Building
209 Surf St, Morro Bay, CA 93442

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



Literature

aascv.org/shop

Literature is available at Central Office.

The Language of the Heart. In Grapevine, A.A.'s International journal, co-founder Bill W. recorded – and reflected on – A.A.'s history as it happened. Bill, a prolific writer, authored nearly 150 Grapevine articles, and virtually all of them appear here.

Pass It On. The story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world. Bill's character was complex and contradictory. Although we always tried to place him on a pedestal, he strove for genuine humility, declining honors and stressing the spiritual value of anonymity. The co-founder of A.A. was never a member of A.A. because we never allowed him to be. Ego-driven, he nevertheless always gave credit to others; to Ebby, to Dr. Bob, to Lois, as appropriate.

Come check out a couple of our new meditation books at Central Office:

A Walk In Dry Places – daily readings for personal and spiritual growth in recovery.

Night Light – book of nighttime meditations.

If You Want What We Have – sponsorship meditations.

Meetings

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 May issue of the Grapevine has a special section on “**How the Steps Changed My Life.**” In celebration of the release of the AA Grapevine's new book, **Our Twelve Steps**. This is a new book that has a brand-new collection of Step stories where AA members share their favorite experiences about how the Twelve Steps have helped change their lives.

Grapevine Digital Gift Certificate:

- Online access to both the Grapevine website and App
- A year of Grapevine Online
- 8-10 new online stories are added each month
- Access to the vast Story Archive 1944-present
- Audio Grapevine
- Grapevine Podcast
- Read or listen to every issue
- Keep track of your sobriety and spiritual practices
- Share AA stories and area events with friends
- Find meetings and connect to aa.org.

Price \$29.99 <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-grapevine-digital-gift-certificate>

Grapevine Daily Quote – “*May we never forget that we live by the grace of God – on borrowed time.*”

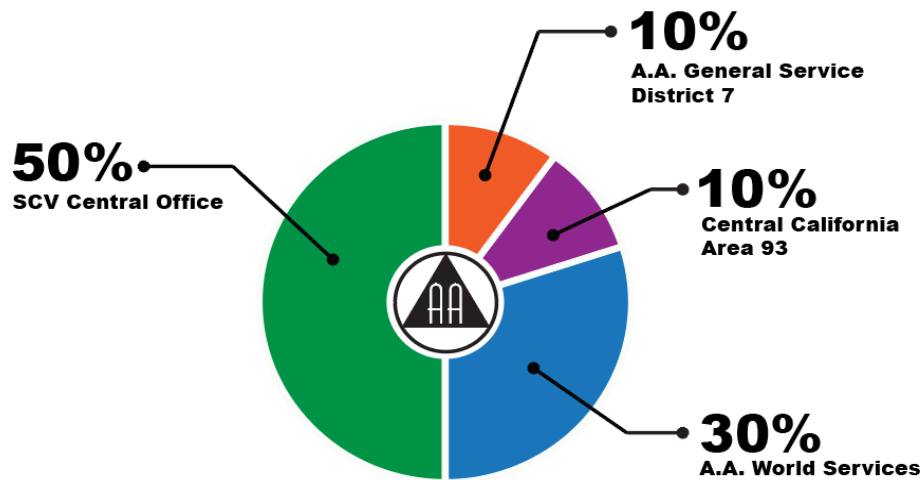
A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W., April 1948

From: *Tradition Five, The Language of the Heart*

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

Paradoxes

by *Dougie W.*

I love paradoxes— at one level it is a puzzle at another level wisdom, it may be a truth where I cannot see it, or at the first look it may appear to be false. In AA, the Big Book has many paradoxes. In the story that was in the Big Book from Second Edition.

The story of **The Professor And The Paradox**, we can see four paradoxes explained:

We SURRENDER TO WIN. On the face of it, surrendering certainly does not seem like winning. But it is in A.A. Only after we have come to the end of our rope, hit a stone wall in some aspect of our lives beyond which we can go no further; only when we hit “bottom” in despair and surrender, can we accomplish sobriety which we could never accomplish before. We must, and we do, surrender in order to win.

We GIVE AWAY TO KEEP IT. That seems absurd and untrue. How can you keep anything if you give it away? But in order to keep whatever it is we get in A.A., we must go about giving it away to others, for no fees or rewards of any kind. When we cannot afford to give away what we have received so freely in A.A., we had better get ready for our next “drunk.” It will happen every time. We’ve got to continue to give it away in order to keep it.

We SUFFER TO GET WELL. There is no way to escape the terrible suffering of remorse and regret and shame and embarrassment which starts us on the road to getting well from our affliction. There is no new way to shake out a hangover. It’s painful. And for us, necessarily so. I told this to a friend of mine as he sat weaving to and fro on the side of the bed, in terrible shape, about to die for some paraldehyde. I said, “Lost John”—that’s his nickname—“Lost John, you know you’re going to have to do a certain amount of shaking sooner or later.” “Well,” he said, “for God’s sake let’s make it later!” We suffer to get well.

We DIE TO LIVE. That is a beautiful paradox straight out of the Biblical idea of being “born again” or “in losing one’s life to find it.” When we work at our Twelve Steps, the old life of guzzling and fuzzy thinking, and all that goes with it, it gradually dies, and we acquire a different and a better way of life. As our shortcomings are removed, a little part of our life dies, and another part of our life lives. We in A.A. die to live.

To understand a paradox, we need to be open-minded and willing to see things from different perspectives. Let’s think about this: When does a circle and a triangle work together? Well, one answer is when it is a symbol of AA’s Recovery, Unity, and Service.

Now, let’s take those two dimensional shapes of the circle and the triangle and expand them into three dimensional shape, a cone appears. You know, like an ice cream cone. If you imagine that cone in your head or hold one in your hand, you’ll notice something interesting. Depending on how you look at it, it can seem like either a triangle from looking from the side or a looking from the top down on it, it is a circle. Isn’t that cool? Even something as simple as a cone can help us understand how two different things can actually be true.

So, embracing a fresh set of eyes can indeed lead us to moments of clarity, where what once appeared contradictory now harmonizes beautifully. It’s a reminder of the wonder and potential that lie in our capacity to see things from different angles.

And hey, let’s not forget about the ice cream for that cone! When you load up that cone with a few scoops, it’s like you’re getting a taste of heaven.



The Home Group - Continued from page 1

It wasn’t until recently that I realized the importance of that home group and the pride people take when they call it home and really take care of it. I had that aw-ha moment when I realized I call Central Office my home. I take pride in how it looks and invite people all the time to come to have a cup of coffee with me and talk about recovery and A.A.

I was overwhelmed with a feeling of gratitude that, unbeknownst to me, God directed me “home.”

Reference: **The Home Group: Heartbeat Of AA 30th Anniversary Edition** From AA Grapevine 2023 on important decisions that affect Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.