

GRATITUDE GAZETTE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE OF A.A. MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

SERVING: NEWHALL, CANYON COUNTRY, SAUGUS, CASTAIC, VALENCIA, VAL VERDE AND AGUA DULCE, AND ALL OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY



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

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 Seven

By Judy F.

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Tradition seven is about contributions and self-support. "This means that only A.A. members contribute financially to Alcoholics Anonymous – and even then, they are limited in the amount they can contribute. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that can divert us from our primary purpose – to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world."

Is your contribution helping to cover your meeting's rent, literature, and coffee, as well as supporting other local AA service agencies such as your local central office/intergroup, district, area, and General Service Office?

As I look back at the times I was a meeting secretary, I think how often I would glide over the announcement regarding the 7th tradition and assume we would collect enough when the baskets were

passed to cover our expenses, never really thinking what those expenses might be. I believe it's especially true if your meeting is part of a group of meetings or at a clubhouse, where they may not hold you responsible if rent wasn't met.

About six months ago, the GSB in New York informed Area 93 and District 7 (our local general service offices) that group/meeting and individual contributions were at an all-time low. We were no longer supporting New York's operating expenses, and they were going to have to take from the prudent reserve to cover expenses for the remainder of the year. Because of this financial crisis, should NY put aside the 7th tradition this one time and apply for a little boost from some government agency? Surprisingly, with word spreading through our local service agencies, groups/meetings and individuals stepped up and met the challenge of increasing contributions. Should it take a crisis for us to meet our financial responsibility to NY or other service agencies within your area?

Available from the General Service Office is a Traditions Checklist originally

Continued on page 3

Legacies for July

Step

7

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition

7

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Concept

7

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.

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

Sabrina R. 7/27/2022
Susie R. 7/2/2019
Bridget M. 7/14/2018
Leah R. 7/25/2014
Tanya H. 7/29/2013
Kelley H. 7/26/2013
Sue P. 7/6/1987
Molly K. 7/1/1979
Claudette 7/18/1976



News from New York

A.A. International Convention in 2025

As of May 1, 2024 A.A.W.S. Increased their prices on a number of pamphlets distributed. In efforts to best serve the Fellowship and demonstrate the utmost of fiduciary responsibility, A.A.W.S. can no longer continue to sell items of literature below cost. The adjusted list prices have been calculated to the current actual break-even levels plus 10%.

There was an election of a new Chair of the General Service Board (GSB), Scott H. Previously Scott served as the trustee-at-large/Canada from 2015-2019. He is the first Class B (A.A. member) chair to serve the GSB. Also from New York is communication that the Plain Language Big Book was passed by substantial unanimity at the 74 th General Service Conference held this past April. More news to come on anticipated availability.

Last-but-not-least from New York, is an update on A.A.'s finances. The response to the initial call for contributions last November continues to be strong. As it was stated, the solution to ensure our financial needs are met in the long term is embodied in Tradition Seven and the principle of participation. That is, it is important that contributions come from a larger representation of our groups and members and that they be more frequent and sustained. Therefore, from January to May 2024 contributions were received from 32,000 groups and members, which was an increase of a little over 4% of past years.

Upcoming Events

2024 SCV Convention Corner

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

Next Steering/Planning Meeting

July 14TH 11:00AM-1:00PM
Rafters

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

2025 A.A. International Convention

July 3RD – 6TH, 2025
Vancouver, Canada
www.aa.org/international-convention

64TH International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA)

The 64TH International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) will be held at the JW Marriott in downtown Austin, TX, July 4-7, 2024.

Stay up-to-date about the conference and upcoming outreach events at our website <https://the64thicypaa.org/>

Questions? Email outreach@icyhost.org

Indepen Dance

Santa Clarita Valley YPAA
Rafters Meeting Hall
July 13th, 2024
24307 Railroad Ave
Newhall, CA 91321,
Meeting 7 PM
Dance 8:30 PM

Suggested contribution of \$10
SCVYPAA.org

All Events

Visit aascv.org



Literature

aascv.org/shop

Literature is available at Central Office.

Newcomer Packet: Contains pamphlets of the following literature geared for the newcomer:

- 20 Questions
- A Newcomer Asks
- A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous
- This is A.A.
- Questions & Answers on Sponsorship
- Meeting Directory

Available at SCV Central Office **\$1.75**

Newcomer Packet for Women: Contains pamphlets of the following literature geared for the newcomer woman

- 20 Questions
- A.A. For the Woman
- A Newcomer Asks
- Frequently Asked Questions
- About A.A.
- Questions & Answers on Sponsorship
- Meeting Directory

Available at SCV Central Office **\$1.75**

Seventh Tradition – Continued from pg. 1

published in the AA Grapevine. One of the questions asked for tradition seven is – “Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can’t afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?”

The question I identified was – “Is a group treasurer’s report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?” As with any service announcement made, everyone’s eyes glaze over, and you can almost hear their thoughts, “OMG, here she goes again.” Did you ever think about the added time your treasurer put in to prepare their report or the extra meeting your IGR or GSR had to sit through to bring you those service announcements?

So, the next time you are in a meeting and the basket is being passed for the 7TH tradition, think about our responsibilities as sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous. As an individual and as a group, are we meeting the obligations of supporting the offices that provide unlimited services to the alcoholic who still suffers?

Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

The July issue of the Grapevine is out and is their “Annual Prison Issue”. Members from inside and outside share powerful stories about getting and staying sober in prison.

Grapevine Digital Subscription. Get your digital subscription to the Grapevine and have access to the monthly A.A. magazine as well as archives of past editions dating back to 1944. There is now an audio version of the Grapevine Podcast. \$56.00 for a year subscription.

Grapevine Daily Quote:

“Simple gratitude compels us all to be mindful of the needs of others and to work in the ways and through the means developed by the AA movement to try to reach some of the millions of our fellow alcoholics who are still suffering in the hell from which we have escaped.” “How Autonomous Can You Be?” Paterson, NJ August 1960

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.

SCV Central Office Intergroup June Minutes

Recorded by **Dena P.** Secretary

Monday, June 24TH 2024

- Called to order by Jeff C. at 7PM
- Serenity Prayer
- Statement of Purpose read by Brian O.
- Introductions- 14 present
- Minutes accepted

Note The intergroup did not meet in may 2024 due the Memorial Day Holiday

Chairperson Report – Jeff C.

Stepping down as Chairperson. See new business for the election.

Treasurer's Report- Judy F.

- Statement of activity – May net revenue in the black \$5,592.94. Central Office received an anonymous donation of \$5,000.
- Workman comp was paid. Our accountant filed an extension for taxes. Liability is due \$600.
- A new printer has been purchased.
- We are no longer using PayPal for our retail sales. We are now using Sum Up.
- Currently we have 18 Faithful Fivers and 29 individual contributions that are over \$5.00.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Office Manager And Literature - Judy F.

Judy has provided a list of goods and prices that are sold in Central Office to have in our meetings.

A packet for **Seniors** who may think they have a drinking problem has been put together and available at the Senior Center.

There is also a packet for the **New Comer** and **New Comer for Women**. Cost is **\$1.75**.

Open Positions for Intergroup Are:

Chairperson filled 6/24, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Service. Would like to create a committee for Public Service to get out to health fairs, etc.

Literature is being handled by the office manager but Judy F. would like to have someone to place orders for other goods that people would like to see the Office carry.

Website- Dougie W.

Added an IGR corner page on the menu with a green check. This will help the IGR when making reports for your groups.

Added the statement "This website is made possible through the contributions of A.A. groups and A.A. members to the SCV

Central Office" on the website, other material and the printed meeting guide.

- There are 161 meetings in person and on-line in the SCV
- The newsletter, financial and event pages are current.

Website 8,300 more **visits** and 4,800 more **visitors** since the meeting in May and for a total of 38,806 **visits** and 15,060 **visitors** since the first of the year.

The most frequent pages this year are:

- AA meetings and Locations 20,360,
- Home page 10,009.
- 'The 89TH annual Founders Day celebration' one large spike on June 7TH the first day of the event in Ohio for 1,258 visits.
- Events and Announcements 1,073
- Meetings 384

Outreach Report – Kathy B.

Continuing to promote Central Office and encouraging meetings to elect an eligible person to attend our monthly Intergroup meetings.

Public Information

Open

Facilities - Judy F.

The office has been painted and has a new bookshelf. This has been zero cost to the Central Office, all was done with donations.

Old Business

None

New Business

Election of new intergroup chairperson. Intergroup members nominated Greg A., Dougie W. and Patty G. Group voted and Dougie was elected as new Intergroup Chairperson.

Announcements

- The 2025 International AA convention will be in Vancouver.
- The International Women's conference will be in San Diego beginning early next year
- The next event supporting the SCV Convention is the Spaghetti Dinner on August 10TH at 5PM at the Church of the Nazarene

Birthdays - June

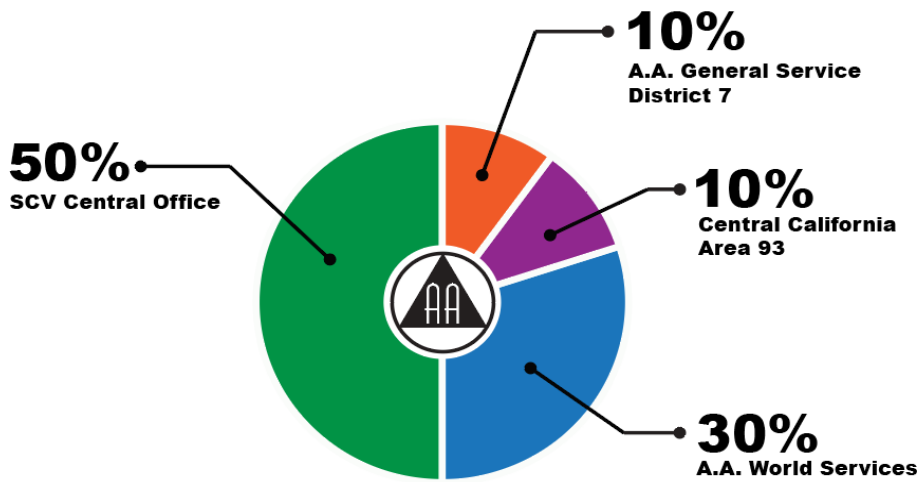
None

Meeting closed at 8pm with The Lord's Prayer.

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 all of the A.A. Service Structure.



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 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

IGR?



By *Dougie W.*

What is an IGR, and what? Another TLA (Three Letter Acronym)? Yes. It means an **InterGroup Representative**, shortened to IGR. It is a separate role from a GSR (General Service Representative).

Working with Your Local Central Office

The A.A. Service Manual, combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. (page 24), lays out the Intergroup/Central Offices concept.

“Traditionally, general service committees and intergroup/central offices perform different functions. Intergroup/central offices provide local services, while general service committees maintain the link between A.A. groups and the General Service Board by means of the Conference. These two autonomous but vital service structures coexist in many areas. All of A.A. benefits when intergroup/central offices and general service work together in mutual cooperation. **A.A. groups may elect a representative to their local intergroup/central office.** Many areas find that a liaison between the intergroup/central offices and the area committee is very helpful in maintaining good relations and communication. In some areas the liaison has a vote at the assembly; in others, a voice, but no vote.”

“More information on working together is available through G.S.O. and in the pamphlets “**The A.A. Group**” and “**Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix**,” as well as in the **Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices.**” (with excerpts found in Appendix S, page 160).

“*Intergroup/central offices are essentially A.A. service entities, directly responsible to those they serve,*” as described in Tradition Nine. *Local group representatives reflect the groups’ conscience in the service center operations. In most communities, an intergroup/central office committee or steering committee is set up*

to handle the administrative activities of the service office. The steering committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and deals with general policy and plans. Periodically, the steering committee reports to group representatives on intergroup/central office problems and accomplishments. It is extremely important to keep a two-way flow of information going between the intergroup/central office and groups.” (Page 162)

What is the responsibility of an Intergroup Representative?

When your Group desires to represent itself to the general service structure through group conscience, they may elect a GSR or an IGR or both. The IGR will respond to their Group’s conscience during the IGR meetings. The Santa Clarita Valley Central Office meets on the 4TH Monday of each month, starting at 7:00 PM.

What is the Role of an Intergroup Representative

What are the requirements to be an IGR, and what does it expect from me as a representative?

A Group elects the IGR. They then regularly attend the monthly Central Office Meeting. When attending the meeting, they bring any suggestions, comments, or opinions your Group may have regarding the Central Office. **Note:** this meeting is not a District or Area meeting, so those items of interest should be discussed with your GSR. The IGR or alternate (IGRA) will hear motions, discussions, and actions. Then, a vote is taken if a motion is seconded and the discussion is complete. The IGR votes for the Group’s conscience (not our personal opinions) and represents the Group in all matters concerning the SCV Central Office. You are the “point of contact” between the Central Office and your Group.

As the IGR, you are the link in the local A.A. chain connecting your A.A. group to those elected to maintain the operation of the Central Office. This allows the Intergroup to serve its members better — provided for in the 9TH Tradition, which states, “A.A. as such ought never to be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Each month, IGRs or alternates participate in the IGR meeting, which the officers and committee chairpersons attend. Each Group represented, Committee Chair or Officer (even if they are an IGR) has only one vote (one group, one vote.)

Each group determines the qualifications (including length of sobriety) and service period for their IGR commitment. Experience shows that the elected group representatives can

function best when elected and attend A.A. meetings regularly. They are welcome to experience the next meeting to check out the meeting or in the company of the outgoing IGR and become better oriented and more knowledgeable regarding the Central Office business meeting and the duties of a group representative.

Each home group determines the length of service for the IGR. They are expected to commit to a two-year service commitment, but not longer. It may be shorter to align with your Group's spirit of rotation (Tradition 2.)

Things an IGR can Do to Become a Better, Trusted Servant of Your Group and A.A. as a Whole

- **Point of Contact** — You and your alternate (optional) will be the conduit between your Group and the Central Office to communicate any news, concerns, information, and ideas your home group may want to send.
- **Visit the Central Office** — Drop in, introduce yourself, and meet the office manager and others. The coffee pot is always on.
- **Attend Meetings Regularly** — The Central Office holds monthly meetings open to any A.A. member. This is an excellent opportunity to hear current discussions and voice your opinion, even if you don't have a vote. You can also consider giving ideas for A.A. events and listening to committee reports. Inviting other members of your Group is encouraged as a way of learning how else to carry A.A.'s sole purpose — "To carry the message to other alcoholics."
- **Know the A.A. Literature** — Knowing the A.A. literature and its contents is essential in knowing which literature to recommend to serve your Group better.
- **Help Keep A.A. Effective & Self-Supporting** — One of the most important ways an IGR can serve is to encourage the Group to regularly contribute to the operations of the Central Office and the value of the Office. This is imperative because the office cannot keep running smoothly when money is coming in sporadically. Inconsistent contributions work against the efficiency of carrying the message. Keep members aware, on every level, that A.A. is fully self-supporting through our contributions (Tradition 7). Be mindful of the Faithful Fiver, a practice encouraging A.A. members to donate \$5 or any monthly amount. See details on the website's home page.
- **Keep Your Meeting(s) Information Up-To-Date** — One benefit of the Central Office is they list all meetings in the Santa Clarita Valley. Verify with the office that your group or meetings are current: the meeting name, time, location, and day of the week. Check-in with the office at least annually to ensure the office's information mirrors your meeting information. The Central Office produces a paper meeting guide distributed with quarterly updates in the printed version; the

on-line updates are in real-time. **All meetings are listed in the A.A. Meeting Guide App.**

- **Inform Your Group Members** — Take a few moments at your meeting weekly or monthly to make any new announcements or create all content as an IGR report, at the meeting content is handed out at the IGR meeting. Quickly comment with interesting information: "Here is some important information to share from the Central Office..." It is better to be short with information. Offer a written report to share after the meeting or post it on the walls of your meeting.
- **Finances** — Become familiar with the Central Office finances. Keep members informed of the monthly balance sheet. Explain how the money is used to support various office and Committee activities. The finances are posted on the website each month.
- **Newsletter** — Encourage your group members to become avid readers of the "Gratitude Gazette." Provide the office manager with news and items of interest about your Group for possible publication. Write an article such as a member's experience with the A.A. program. Submit sobriety birthdays (one-year minimum) to be listed in the newsletter for their birthday month.
- **A.A. Events** — Announce and encourage members to participate in A.A. Events. The website lists many events from inside and outside the SCV area. Encourage others to attend the events and participate.
- **There is a Hot-line** — Did you know there is a 24-hour hot-line for those calling with a drinking problem? "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there."

The A.A. Service Manual, combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. ([BM-31](#))

A.A. Pamphlet: "The A.A. Group Where it all begins" ([P-16](#))

A.A. Pamphlet: *Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" ([E-3](#))

A.A. Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices ([MG-02](#))

2024 SCV Convention Corner

Save the date of August 10th, 2024 for the next special event for the SCV Convention.

It will be the spaghetti dinner to be held at Church of Nazarene on the Old Road.

Good Food, Good Fellowship, Live Auction, Speakers.

Mark Your Calendars and Make Plans to attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

July 3-6, 2025

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.

Please check the Convention webpage at aa.org/international-convention for more information, the latest news, and FAQs. As the Convention approaches, the page will be updated with registration information.

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. At the Convention, members and their families and friends from around the world attend meetings, workshops, dances, and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.

**Let's celebrate sobriety together
in Vancouver in 2025!**