

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



Meeting Schedule

Email: info@aascv.org
Website: aascv.org

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Tradition Three

By *Judy F.*

The Only Requirement for A.A. Membership Is a Desire to Stop Drinking

The Traditions of A.A. were first introduced by the founder Bill W., who wrote a series of essays for the Grapevine in April 1946. They were titled "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future" and formally adopted at A.A.'s first international convention in 1950. Wilson's book on the subject, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, was published in April 1953.

Can you imagine, 10 years the fellowship floundered with membership issues, financial issues, service issues and leadership issues until Bill offered up the

twelve traditions that laid the foundation to handle all of these and more.

The simplicity of the third tradition allows me to determine if I want to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I don't have to fill out any kind of membership form or go before any kind of board to be voted in. I can just go to a meeting and say I have a desire to stop drinking, and hallelujah, I just joined A.A.

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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

Intergroup Representatives

Name	Meeting
Andrea G.	Women's Happy Hour, St. Stephen's
Bobby B.	Sunday Night Big Book Study, Recovery Room
Brian O.	Men's Crosstalk, OLPH
Dena P.	Intergroup Secretary
Doug W.	Intergroup Chair, Just for Today, Stepping Stones
Greg A.	Rafters Group
Hailey W.	New Reflections, Christ Lutheran

Jennifer Y.	Santa Clarita Speakers Meeting, Stepping Stones
Jenny M.	Magic Mountain Group, St. Stephen's
Joseph N.	Speak to Us, Recovery Room
Judy F.	Intergroup, Central Office Manager
Kathy B.	Outreach
Leslie M.	Daily Reflections, Stepping Stones
Linda C.	Step Sisters 12&12, St. Stephen's
Patty G.	Women's Bean Bag Toss, Stepping Stones
Susie R.	Coyote Group & Magic Mountain Group Monday
Tobiah N.	12&12 Discussion, Recovery Room
Todd W.	Men's Stag, Recovery Room

How to Become a IGR

You can get involved by becoming an Intergroup Representative (IGR) for your meeting or group if they do not have one. An IGR should have at least one year of sobriety and be able to attend the monthly Intergroup meeting on the 4TH Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. You can also get involved by participating in one of the Intergroup committees.

If your meeting or group is not represented, you can take a group conscience to decide on representation, make a motion, and vote to have an IGR. You can then vote for a member to be your representative. The term is two years. A group may also elect an alternate IGR.

The Central Office can assist with questions and the process to help anyone interested in becoming involved in this service work. 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..

A.A. Meetings

aa.org/meeting-guide-app

Did you know your Central Office updates meetings in the SCV for the meeting guide app for your smartphone?

Your Central Office has 162 meetings in English and Spanish both in person and on-line listed. If you need to update or add your meeting information, please reach out to the Central Office.

To find upcoming meetings nearby or anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, use the Meeting Guide App. This app currently includes listings from 400 A.A. service entities, providing you with access to over 100,000 weekly meetings. The information is refreshed twice daily and is supported by A.A. World Services.



The Meeting Guide App is available for free from the Apple Store and Google Play Store. Look for the chair in the circle and download the app today.



News from New York

A.A. International Convention in 2025

2025 International Convention in Vancouver Online registration and housing opens on September 10, 2024. Check out the IC2025 [webpage](#) for updates.

If you plan on attending the international convention please be aware that there are official policies and procedures to cross the border into Canada, especially if you have a past DUI or criminal record. You may find further information on the FAQs web page at aa.org/international-convention-2025-faqs. Refer to "Traveling to Canada" and follow the link for more information.

The Plain Language Big Book A Tool for Reading Alcoholics

Anonymous will soon be released and available for sale November 1, 2024. It should be available at your local Central Office by the middle to end of November.

The Plain Language Big Book is published in accordance with Advisory Actions passed by substantial unanimity of the 74TH General Service Conference (GSC) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 2021, the 71ST GSC advised that this book be developed. Progress reports, then sample chapters were reviewed at the 72ND and 73RD GSCs. The final draft was reviewed and approved by substantial unanimity at the 74TH GSC, in April 2024. This process and outcome adopts this text as Conference Approved Literature.

2024 SCV Convention Corner

September 6TH, 2024 for the next Steering & Planning meeting for the SCV Convention. Purchase [tickets](#). The Convention is October 18-20TH. Marathon and Speaker meetings; Banquet and Spiritual breakfast.

Your Central Office has a Service workshop on October 19TH at 10:00 AM in the marathon room with information table at the convention.

Legacies for September

Step 9 Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others..

Tradition 9 AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept 9 Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Birthday Board

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

- Kelli H 9/22/2022
- Danielle K 9/16/2022
- Chris B. 9/21/2021
- George D 9/7/2021
- Tim W 9/15/2010
- Debbie R. 9/29/2004
- Kenn M 9/2/1993
- Kelly T 9/12/1992
- Clark R. 9/28/1966

It's a common tradition for A.A. members to make contributions to the A.A. Structures to celebrate their sobriety anniversaries, also known as AA birthdays. This is a way for members to give back to supported their journey to recovery.

Faithful Friends

Consider supporting your Central Office by giving monthly or one time. Visit [AAASCV.org](https://aaascv.org) to contribute.

Tradition Three

Continued from page 1

My interest in Tradition Three came about from an article I found in my research of the "first women in A.A." Sybil C., who got sober in 1941 when there were no traditions. Sybil stated that "it was at that time, 1941 when A.A. was in mortal danger of destroying itself, which is why we have traditions now." It was in this article that Sybil told the story of Irma L., a woman who got sober shortly after Sybil. Sybil not only became her sponsor but took her into her home because she had no home, no job, no car, nothing. "She watched A.A. help Irma get sober, get cleaned up, find her first job, and helped her get her first apartment in sobriety." After all of this, a self-appointed group of members sent Irma a letter stating that it had been decided that her attendance at group meetings was no longer desired and that "this action has been taken for reasons which should be most apparent to yourself." They gave her an opportunity to appear before the committee to appeal their decision. "If you do not wish to appear, the committee will consider the matter closed and her membership terminated." In this article, Sybil stated that Irma never came back to another meeting and died of alcoholism.

How many of us have, at one time or another, stood as the judge and jury of an individual's desire to get sober? Have you gossiped with friends about whether someone was going to make it or not?

One simple paragraph in the Third Tradition of the Twelve and Twelve (pg 141);

"The answer, now seen in Tradition Three, was simplicity itself. At last, the experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic's full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence and often to condemn him to endless misery. Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother."

Upcoming Events

2024 SCV Convention

October 18TH -20TH , 2024
Embassy Suites – Valencia
Registration for the convention is open on line. aaascvconvention.org

Next Convention Planning Meeting

September 6TH 11:00am-1:00pm

Rafters

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

Endless Summer, Vol. 2

Young People of AA
September 7TH Meeting 5 PM & Rave 7-11 PM
Pre-reg \$15 – suggested contribution
\$20 Belmont veterans memorial pier
15 39TH Pl. Long beach, CA 90803

Sexual Misconduct and Safety in A.A. Workshop

A Free Hybrid Workshop on Personal and Group Safety. Hosted by Area 93, District 7* Lunch will be Catered

Stepping Stones Alano Club

September 14, 2024 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

2025 A.A. International Convention

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

All Events

Visit <https://aaascv.org/events-and-announcements/>



Literature

aascv.org/shop

Literature is available at Central Office.

To be available at your local Central Office sometime in October, 2024 **Black in A.A. – Experience Strength and Hope:** This is a completely revised pamphlet (P-51). Will replace the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic”. With an illuminating new introduction and contemporary sharing by 12 A.A. members from the U.S. and Canada.

Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

The September issue of the Grapevine is out, and its featured section is “**Young & Sober.**” Members share about the joys and challenges of getting sober and active in A.A. in their teens, 20s, and 30s.

New in the Audio Project!

YPAA World Tour: Kickoff at the 64TH ICYPAA in Austin, TX. Look for new stories each month.

Latest Bestseller: Our Twelve Steps. All-new, up-to-date stories about the joys and challenges of working the program’s Twelve Steps of Recovery.

Making Amends

Grapevine will be looking for stories on **Making Amends.** Did you have an interesting Ninth Step experience to share? How did it go? Were there any surprises? Share your experience. Stories due September 15TH, 2024.

Grapevine Daily Quote

“Not only...could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel, and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual; their variety could be almost infinite.”

A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W. July 1953, *Language of the Heart*



Sexual Misconduct and Safety in A.A.

Take an Anonymous Survey
deadline 9/7/2024

A Free Hybrid Workshop on Personal and Group Safety
Presented by Area 93, District 7*
Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Stepping Stones Alano Club
24508 Lyons Avenue
Santa Clarita, California 91321

Lunch will be Catered

Panelist
Table Discussions
Anonymous Digital Ask-It
Survey Results
Optional Zoom Participation

Meeting ID: 898 7252 1082
Passcode: 199072

* District 7 is composed of two valleys: to the north is the **Antelope Valley**, and to the south is **Santa Clarita Valley** (Aclon, Agua Dulce, Cal City, Canyon Country, Lake Hughes, Lake Los Angeles, Lancaster, Littlerock, Newhall, Palmdale, Pearblossom, Pinon Hills, Quartz Hill, Rosemond, Santa Clarita, Saugus, Stevenson Ranch, Val Verde, and Valencia)

SCV Central Office Intergroup Minutes

Recorded by Dena P., Secretary

Monday, August 26TH 2024

- Called to order by Doug W. at 7 PM
- Serenity Prayer
- Statement of Purpose read by Todd W.
- Introductions, 16 IGRs present
- July Minutes accepted

Chairperson Report – Doug W

Going forward, the Intergroup “By-Laws” will now be called Intergroup Policies and Procedures. The non-profit By-Laws are a standalone document. Elections will be in September to fill open positions and termed out positions.

We need writers for our Gratitude Gazette.

Tobiah N. gave a Pamphlet report on “**The A.A. Member— Medications and Other Drugs**” (P-11). Hailey W. will be present a pamphlet of her choosing at the September meeting.

Treasurer’s Report- Judy

At end of month, the Central Office is In the red, due to timing of some expenses. Sales tax has been paid.

Group and meeting contributions have been corrected from the last report.

Group/meeting contributions for July are \$1,850.90. Individual contributions are \$1,078.05.

- 17 monthly contributions @\$5.00 each
- 17 monthly contributions @\$10.00
- 11 monthly contributions @\$20.00
- Two monthly contributions @\$25.00
- Three monthly contributions @\$30.00
- Two monthly contributions @\$100.00

Report accepted

Office Manager And Literature

Judy attended an ICOAA (Office Managers) conference in Las Vegas. Attended workshops with great ideas to bring back to the SCV. There were a couple of unexpected expenses. The group voted and approved to pay Judy half the expense, which comes to \$154.50.

Gratitude month is November which groups and meetings can participate in.

Inquiries/Website- Doug W.

Removal of a one Rafters meeting. Wednesday 8:00pm, in July was reinstated.

Continue to update the IGR corner page for reporting. Additional improvements in SEO (Search Engine Optimization) was ongoing. Trying to rank higher in results over rehabs.

The SCV website lists 162 meetings with the current newsletter and financial pages.

Visitor stats show 15,060 visitors in July and 24,229 in August. The most frequented pages are: AA meetings and locations, the Homepage, and events and announcements.

Outreach Report – Kathy B.

Public Information – Open

Facilities

Old Business

Our bank is California Bank of Commerce. It was discussed at last month’s meeting to look into putting our money in an improved interest-earning account. Judy F. will continue to research. At this point, there isn’t anything that works for us.

Renewed liability insurance at the price of \$720, an increase from last year’s \$664. The group voted to renew.

New Business

Doug W. attended the conference in Las Vegas. Group voted and agreed to pay the cost of registration only which is \$159. All other travel expenses, he would cover.

Announcements

The October SCV Convention needs people for the raffle ticket commitment.

7th Tradition

Jar Passed

Birthdays-for August

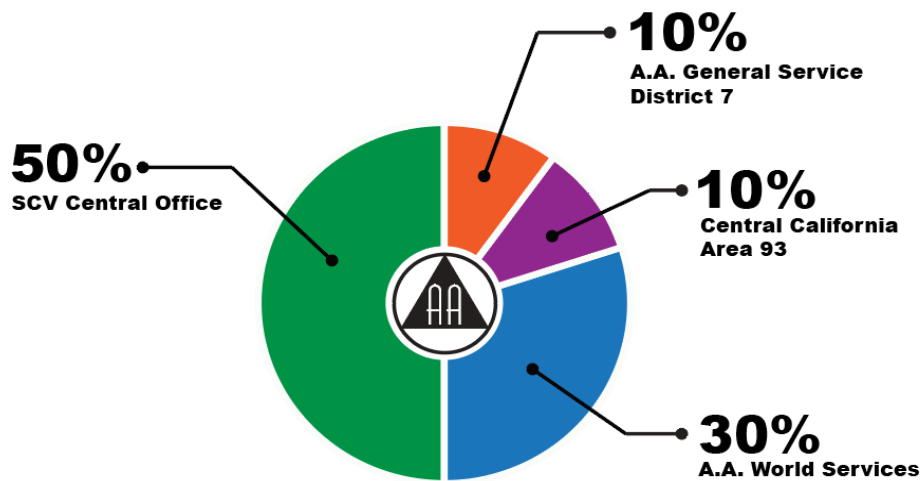
No Birthdays

The meeting closed at 8:30 PM with the reading of “I AM RESPONSIBLE.”

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.



Monthly Service Meetings

SCV Central Office/Intergroup

4TH Monday of the month
Central Office 7:00 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
St. Stephens Church
24901 Orchard Village
Valencia, CA 91355

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)

Group IDs

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**

Privacy Tip on the Venmo App

Many A.A. members use Venmo to make contributions. Follow these instructions to set your transactions to private.

1. Open the Venmo app on your mobile device.
2. Go to the lower right-hand corner and click "Me," then the "Gear" icon on the upper right-hand corner.
3. Choose "Privacy" under the Settings options.
4. Change the Default Privacy Setting:
 - Under the "Default Privacy Setting" section, tap on it and

select "Private". This will ensure that all future transactions are private by default.

5. Set Past Transactions to Private:

- Scroll down to the "Past Transactions" section.
- Tap on "Change All to Private" to update the visibility of all your past transactions to private.

By setting your transactions to private, only you and the person you're paying or receiving money from will be able to see the details of the transaction.

Supporting the Value of the Central Office

By Doug W.

As a trusted servant to the Central Office for some time, I often encounter the question: “What do they do, and why should I support them?” I firmly believe in the Central Office’s value to A.A. members and those struggling with alcoholism. Operating on a lean budget, the Central Office continues to support those in need and carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers (Tradition 5). That’s why I support them with my time and resources. The Central Office provides immense value, though you may not be fully aware of their services.

Frequently Asked Questions About Santa Clarita Valley Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

Q: What is the Central Office?

A: The SCV Central Office is a service hub dedicated to helping newcomers find Alcoholics Anonymous and acting as a trusted servant to A.A. members and groups.

Q: Do Central Offices or Intergroups follow A.A. Traditions?

A: Yes, they do. Tradition 9 states: “A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” This tradition allows for the creation of Central Offices and Intergroups as service entities.

Q: How is it operated?

A: The Central Office is run by a “special worker,” typically an Office Manager, who handles day-to-day activities and supports 12-step work. Intergroup representatives (IGRs) oversee and guide operations. The organization consists of three elected board members and more than 16 IGRs who form eight committees.

Q: Who pays for it?

A: The Central Office is funded through A.A. Groups 7TH Tradition contributions, individual A.A. members’ donations, and the sale of literature from A.A. World Services, Inc., the AA Grapevine, and other relevant publications.

Q: Does my group have a voice in Central Office affairs?

A: Yes, each A.A. group should have an Intergroup Representative (IGR). This representative informs their home group about the Intergroup/Central Office and available local service opportunities.

Q: My Home Group already has a GSR. Do we still need an Intergroup representative?

A: Yes. While the GSR represents your group at the General Service District 7 and General Service Area 93 Assembly, including the annual General Service Conference, an Intergroup representative serves a different purpose at the local level.

Q: We have our own meeting place. Why do we need Intergroup’s help?

A: Intergroup’s phone and email services help newcomers find your meeting location, date, and time. The Central Office acts as a crucial link, connecting interested individuals to all A.A. Groups in the Santa Clarita Valley area.

Q: How can my A.A. Group be of Service?

A: Your group can contribute in several ways:

1. Ensure your group has a voice at the monthly Intergroup meeting.
2. Help members learn about existing services that “carry the message.”
3. Make sure your group treasurer and secretary understand how to distribute the 7TH Tradition funds after meeting group obligations.
4. Remember your primary purpose: helping alcoholics get and stay sober. Every contribution helps, regardless of your group’s size.

Q: Can I purchase literature more cheaply from big online stores?

A: Not usually. Online resellers of A.A. Literature buy from the same source as the Central Office (A.A.W.S.), but they mark up prices significantly for profit. Additionally, there are shipping costs. The Central Office, in contrast, makes very little profit from literature sales.

Q: What vital services does your Central Office provide?

A: The Central Office offers the following essential services to all A.A. Groups, members, and those seeking help:

- 24-hour phone answering
- Information distribution and A.A. meeting location details via calls and emails
- 12-Step call list maintenance
- A.A. literature sales
- A.A. coins and tokens sales
- A.A. Grapevine publications sales
- Website with up-to-date online and in-person meeting

- information and events
- Special event information
- Printed in-person meeting directories
- Monthly “Gratitude Gazette” newsletter
- Public information services
- Cooperation with the professional community

Self-Supporting

Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. – **Tradition 7**

All A.A. Groups & A.A. Individuals making contributions to the Central Office is to help “carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”–**Tradition 5**

AA Group Participation

In addition to group expenses, all service levels require funds to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

“Every AA wants to make sure of his survival from alcoholism and his own spiritual well-being afterward. This is just as it should be. He also wants to do what he can for the survival and well-being of his fellow alcoholics. Therefore he is bound to have a vital interest in the permanence and well-being of AA itself.”

“In his AA group, every good member feels deeply about this. He knows, once the miracle of sobriety has been received, that Providence expects all of us to work and to grow—to do our part in maintaining our blessings in full force. A perpetual miracle—with no effort or responsibility on our part—simply isn’t in the cards. We all understand that the price of both personal and group survival is willingness and sacrifice, vigilance and work.”

Bill W., The Language of the Heart: Bill W.’s Grapevine Writings (p. 166).

Individual Participation

Individual A.A. members’ contributions are vital in carrying the A.A. message. The Central Office’s revenue comes from various sources, including individual contributions, Faithful Friends donations, A.A. Birthday contributions, and memorials for deceased A.A. members.

“When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and

evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.”

Bill W., The Language of the Heart: Bill W.’s Grapevine Writings (p. 221).

Every Intergroup service is designed to facilitate 12th-step work. Your “Faithful Friend” personal contributions are crucial in supporting these vital services. You can start with a monthly contribution of \$5.00 or more. As of the 2024 General Service Conference, individual A.A. member contributions are now capped at \$7,500 per member per year—an increase from the previous limit.


Contributions are tax-deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1), and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Outside donations will not be accepted.

I hope you recognize the value of supporting your Central Office and consider becoming a contributor.

FAITHFUL

FRIENDS




Contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley Central Office

Faithful Friends are A.A. members who donate **five dollars or more** each month to support the Santa Clarita Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. Contributions help the office share the message of **hope and recovery with alcoholics who are still struggling**. The Central Office provides:

- 24/7 support for those seeking help, sober alcoholics, and the general public
- Publishes A.A. in-person meeting schedules
- Maintains an updated website: aassv.org
- Sells A.A. literature and Tokens
- Publishes the monthly Gratitude Gazette Newsletter
- Works closely with Area 93 Assembly, Hospital and Institutions, and GSO in NY.

Yes ! I wish to participate as a Faithful Friend! Scan the QR or visit aascv.org (PayPal or Debit Cards) No PayPal account needed.



On the next page, you will find a QR coded literature document. Small Groups or Online meetings can use it to share with members.

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P-36 Is A.A. for me?

P-1 This is A.A.
An introduction to the A.A. recovery program

P-83 ACCESS TO A.A. MEMBERS SHARE ON OVERCOMING BARRIERS

P-13 Do you think you're different?

P-2 Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.

P-5 Women in A.A.

P-4 Young People in A.A.

P-32 LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.

P-16 The A.A. Group ...where it all begins

P-15 Questions & Answers on Sponsorship

F-4 "Where do I go from here?"

P-18 Inside A.A. Understanding the Fellowship and its Services

P-42 A Brief Guide to A.A.

P-84 Many Paths to Spirituality

P-33 It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell

P-90 Hispanic Women in A.A.

B-28 A.A. for the Older Alcoholic —Never too late

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P-35 Problems other than alcohol

P-87 A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues —and their sponsors

P-86 The "God" Word

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P-17 A.A. Tradition How It Developed

P-49 Bridging the GAP

P-51 A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic

On a mobile device scan the QR code or click on the QR code in the PDF.