

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@aaascv.org
Website: aaascv.org

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Your Third Legacy

By Judy F.

December 1950

"We, who are the older members of AA, bequeath to you who are younger, these three Legacies – the Twelve Steps of recovery, the Twelve Traditions, and now the general services of Alcoholics Anonymous. Two of these Legacies have long been in your keeping. By the Twelve Steps we have recovered from alcoholism;

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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

Holiday Message From Bill W.

December 1970

Gratitude is just about the finest attribute we can have, and how deeply we of AA realize this at Christmastime. Together, we count and ponder our blessings of life, of service, of love. In these distraught times, we have been enabled to find an always-increasing measure of peace within ourselves. Together with all here at AA's General Service Offices, Lois joins me in warmest greetings to each and all of you, and we share our confident faith that the year to come will be counted among the best that our Fellowship has ever known.

Bill W. December 1970 – printed in Box 459 Winter Issue 2012

Intergroup Representatives

Name	Meeting	Name	Meeting
Andrea G.	Women's Happy Hour, St. Stephen's	Judy F.	Intergroup, Central Office Manager
Bobby B.	Sunday Night Big Book Study, Recovery Room	Kathy B.	Intergroup Secretary
Brian O.	Men's Crosstalk, OLPH	Leslie M.	Daily Reflections, Stepping Stones
Doug W.	Intergroup Chair, Just for Today, Stepping Stones	Linda C.	Step Sisters 12&12, St. Stephen's
Greg A.	Rafters Group	Patty G.	Women's Bean Bag Toss, Stepping Stones, PI/CPC
Hailey W.	New Reflections, Christ Lutheran	Susie R.	Coyote Group & Magic Mountain Group Monday
Jennifer Y.	Santa Clarita Speakers Meeting, Stepping Stones	Tobiah N.	12&12 Discussion, Recovery Room, Outreach
Jenny M.	Magic Mountain Group, St. Stephen's	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

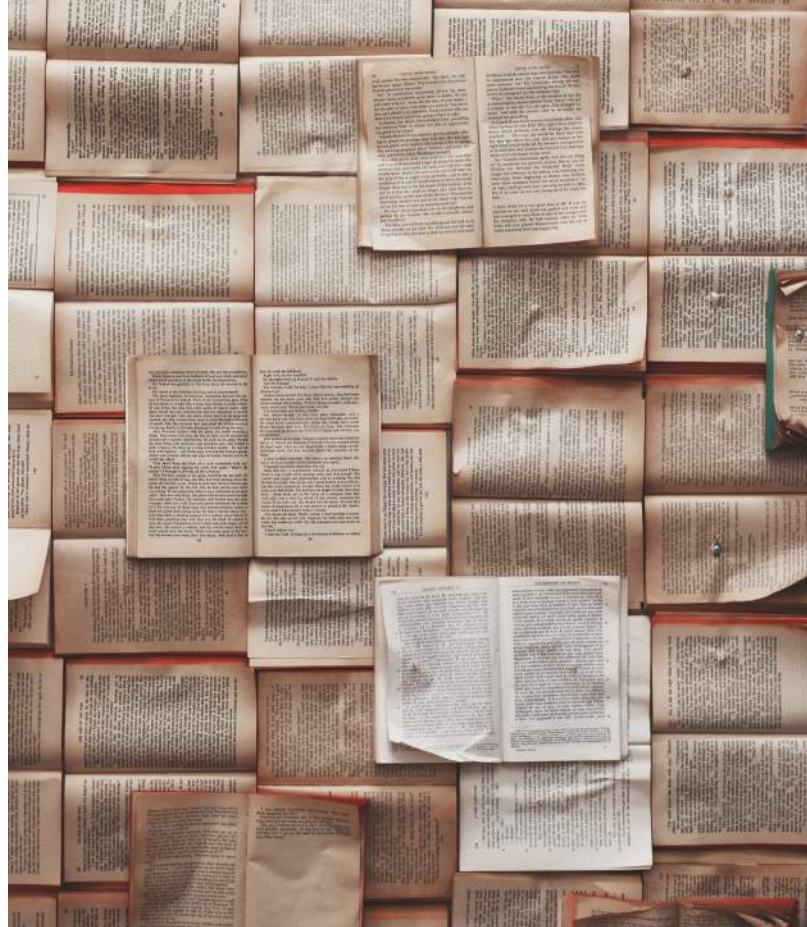
aa.org/meeting-guide-app

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

Your Central Office has 161 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

Due to high demand, the **Plain Language Big Book** is temporarily out of stock (the first printing was 70,000 copies). An expedited second printing is in progress; we anticipate copies to be available soon. Also, in preparation for the second printing, the General Service Board noted revisions that better align with the 74 th General Service Conference's recommendation to move ahead with the printing of the book.

GSO has announced the new **A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service: 2024-2026 Edition** (BM-31), Revised and Updated is now available in digital format at aa.org. Printed copies will be available soon.

Literature orders placed with New York between December 28, 2024 and January 8, 2025 will be delayed by approximately seven (7) business days due to the physical inventory at GSO warehouses in Kansas and Quebec.

To view the 2025 Catalog of A.A. Literature and Other Items, [click here](#).

Legacies for December

Step 12 Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 12 Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Concept 12 The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Your Third Legacy

Continued from page 1

by the Twelve Traditions we are achieving a fine unity.

Being someday perishable, Dr. Bob and I now wish to deliver to the members of AA their Third Legacy. Since 1938 we and our friends have been holding it in trust. This legacy is the general Headquarters services of Alcoholics Anonymous – The Alcoholic Foundation, The AA Book, the AA Grapevine, and the AA General Office. These are the principal services which have enable our Society to function and to grow.

Acting on behalf of all, Dr. Bob and I ask that you – the members of AA – now assume guidance of these services and guard them well. The future growth, indeed the very survival, of Alcoholics Anonymous may one day depend on how prudently these arms of service are administered in years to come.”

According to Bill, “an AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer – ranging all the way

from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA’s General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our **Third Legacy.**”

As 2024 draws to a close and since this is our last printing of Santa Clarita Valley Central Office newsletter, Gratitude Gazette, for 2024 I wanted to express my gratitude for the opportunity to be of service to our local central office for this past year. I have learned so much about service opportunities that go beyond the AA meeting and how important it is for me to have an open mind to “AA being organized.” As Bill noted, “It began to dawn upon AA that group responsibility would have to reach much further than the meeting hall doorstep on Tuesday and Thursday nights only. Otherwise, the new man approaching our door might miss his chance, might lose his life. Slowly, most reluctantly, groups in densely populated areas saw they would have to form associations, open small offices, pay a few

Continued on page 8

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

Stephanie Q.	12/25/2022
Rick R.	12/10/2022
Amber R.	12/4/2022
Jill D.	12/10/2017
Sonia B.	12/7/2016
Teresa D.	12/13/2015
Valena S.	12/10/2012
Maggie L.	12/20/2010
Kirk G.	12/1/2010
Caryn B.	12/19/2005

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 A.A. 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 [AASCV.org](https://aascv.org) to contribute.

Upcoming Events

2025 A.A. International Convention

July 3RD – 6TH, 2025

Vancouver, Canada

aa.org/international-convention

61st International Women’s Conference (hybrid)

San Diego, Ca | January 30TH – February 2ND, 2025

Registration: In person, \$70.00

and on-line, \$15.00 [https://](https://internationalwomensconference.org/)

internationalwomensconference.org/

All Events

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



Literature

aascv.org/shop

Literature available at Central Office.

The long-awaited **Plain Language Big Book** is available at Central Office for \$12.05 (tax included). The Plain Language Big Book is a tool to help readers understand the book Alcoholics Anonymous, which was first published in 1939. This new book is designed so that the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery from alcoholism may be easily understood and accessible by all people who have a desire to stop drinking. The Plain Language Big Book has been written to present the original ideas and spiritual message of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. This new text is not intended to replace the Big Book.

Group Secretary Handbook - I know this is a repeat from our November Gratitude Gazette but I felt it was worth repeating the availability of the great new handbook. With the new year fast approaching, meetings will be electing new secretaries for their group - what better way to prepare them for their new responsibilities than to introduce them to the **Group Secretary Handbook**. Everything you would want them to know in a few pages - from the various service positions needed to the importance of the 7th tradition.

VANCOUVER 2025
Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur

THE TOP 5 LIST

What do I need to know to attend the International Convention in 2025?

- Where will the 2025 International Convention be held?
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- What are the dates of the 2025 International Convention?
July 3 - 6, 2025.
- When can I register and reserve housing?
September 2024.
- How much is the registration fee?
When registration opens in September of 2024, it will cost \$160.00 (USD) per person. A few months leading up to the convention, the price will increase to \$185.00 (USD), where it will remain that price for those registering on site when the convention begins.
- I have a criminal history, is it possible to get across the Canadian Border?
Yes, but each member must do the footwork to understand your individual circumstances. You can find resources to help at: AA.org/international-convention-2025-faqs

Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

This month's featured section is "Remote Communities & Sober Holidays," with helpful stories by members who have a difficult time reaching AA and members who help them through service. Also included are some wonderful Sober Holiday stories. Read: **Best Holiday Ever; How I Made It Through The Holidays; Confessions Of A Sober Loner** - and more. Subscribe to the AA Grapevine for great reading in 2025.

AA Grapevine's 2025 Calendar & Pocket Planner Available! Visit us at www.aagrapevine.org/store and order yours today.

Grapevine Daily Quote

August 5, 2024

"Many ask 'What is anonymity?' and 'What is humility?' To me, they are almost the same thing. They are devoid of prestige; they demand nothing; they don't ask to be 'right'; they simply suggest that the icy egocentric elements in all of us retire into the background and that we wear the warm cloak of anonymity and humility and therefore, spirituality."

"The Quest for Spirituality," Walnut Creek, CA March 2000, Voices of Long-Term Sobriety

SCV Central Office Intergroup Minutes

Recorded by Douglas W., Chairperson

Monday, November 25, 2024

- Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM by Doug W.
- Opening Prayer: Serenity Prayer (All)
- Statement of Purpose: Read by Susie R.
- Motion to Accept Minutes: Motion by Susie R., seconded by Judy F. Minutes accepted.

Chairperson's Report – Doug W.

- Urged members to contribute stories for the newsletter.
- January's Literature Share most likely Leslie M., (on vacation)

Literature Share – Hailey W.

- Shared insights on GSO's F-228 pamphlet on Group Safety, highlighting the importance of having a process in place to address disruptive or predatory behavior.
- A mention of the availability of the District 7 Safety Workshop presentation (September) at area93district7.org.
- Noted that a statement in the Gratitude Gazette (7th Tradition page) on Venmo privacy settings.

Treasurer's Report – Judy F.

- Monthly Revenue/Expenses: -\$1,187.17 (in the red).
- Individual Contributions: \$1,573 (up).
- Group Contributions: \$207 (down).
- Checking Account Balance: \$10,154.
- Prudent Reserve: \$16,140.69.
- Taxes: 2023 taxes filed and accepted by the state and federal government (pro bono by CPA). Next year's filing may cost approximately \$1,500.
- Gratitude Month Contributions (as of 11/25): \$1,240.
- Motion to Accept Report: Motion by Susie R., seconded by Patty G. Report accepted.

Office Manager and Literature – Judy F.

- Gratitude Month: November focus.
- Plain Language Big Book: Now in stock. Noted changes issued for the second printing (GSO update 11/24).
- Intergroup Contribution Discussion: Considering donating a percentage of Gratitude Month funds to GSO in New York. Decision tabled until after Gratitude Month.
- Visit to Henry Mayo's BHU (Behavioral Health Unit):
 - Judy F. and Doug W. met with Ashley, the director, to discuss cooperation (non-affiliation with professional communities).
 - Central Office provided books and pamphlets for staff. H&I provided five softcover Big Books and QR literature cards for the patient library.

Inquiries/Website – Doug W.

- Website updated with a new button on the homepage for Gratitude Gazette articles (2024).

Outreach Report – Tobiah N.

- Not present

Public Information – Patty G.

- No Report

Facilities – Judy F.

- The Central Office is decorated for the Holidays.

Old Business

- Bank Account Issue: No changes made yet due to challenges with cash deposits when switching to a digital banking platform.

New Business

- Computer Upgrade: Proposal to purchase a Dell laptop for \$602 (supports Windows 11) from TechSoup to replace the office desktop. TechSoup provides Office 365 for \$1 per user/month. Motion passed (motion and seconder not specified).

Announcements

Judy F. explained the 24/7 hotline process:

- Central Office handles calls on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- On those days after-hours calls forward to Judy's phone until 9:00 PM, after which Jeff C. manages calls for the remainder of the week and times.

Basket

- Passed jar

Birthdays – November

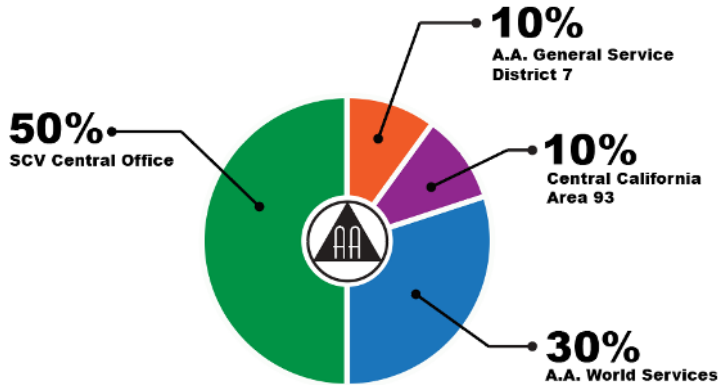
- Patty G. (November 15): 12 years of sobriety! 🎉

Meeting closed at 7:45 pm with "I AM RESPONSIBLE" Pledge

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 it 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

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:
5. Under the "Default Privacy Setting" section, tap on it and

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

6. 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.

AA's Tradition 12 and Step 12: The Spiritual Foundation

By Doug W.

Tradition Twelve, with its emphasis on anonymity, embodies all previous traditions. The Twelve Traditions apply the spiritual principles of the Steps to our group interactions and relationships with society.

Tradition 12 - The Long Form

"And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all."

When you think about it, anonymity is a spiritual practice and sacrifice in training ourselves to put our egos aside. It's like when we step back from wanting the spotlight whether it is in a meeting or at the national level and instead focus on what's good for everyone in A.A. — that practice keeps the Fellowship functioning well. Staying anonymous helps us remember that A.A.'s ideas and principles matter way more.

From The A.A. Group ... where it all begins (P-16)

What is the purpose of anonymity in A.A.? Why is it often referred to as the greatest single protection the Fellowship has to assure its continued existence and growth?

At the level of press, television, radio, film and the Internet, anonymity stresses the equality in A.A. of all its members. It puts the brake on our easily inflatable egos, our misplaced conviction that violating our anonymity will help someone, and our desire for personal recognition or control. Most importantly, the Anonymity Tradition reminds us that it is the A.A. message, not the messenger, that counts.

At the personal level, anonymity assures privacy for all members, a safeguard often of special significance to newcomers who may hesitate to seek help in A.A. if they have any reason to believe their alcoholism may be exposed publicly.

In theory, the anonymity principle seems clear, but putting it into effect is not always easy. Following are some general guidelines culled from A.A. group experience that may be helpful.

Reprinted from (From The A.A. Group ... where it all begins (P-16), Page 8), with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (B-2)

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice.

... The promoter instinct in us might be our undoing. ...

... At this altitude (press, radio, films, and television), anonymity— 100 percent anonymity— was the only possible answer. Here, principles would have to come before personalities, without exception.

... As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

Reprinted from (The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (B-2), Pages 184 and 187), with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Step 12 - Having Had a Spiritual Awakening

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Step 12 is the culmination of our spiritual journey through the previous eleven steps. It encompasses three essential elements:

- A spiritual awakening that occurs as the result of working the steps
- Carrying the message to other alcoholics
- Practicing these principles in all aspects of life

The Spiritual Awakening

The spiritual awakening mentioned in Step 12 represents a new state of consciousness and being that comes as a free gift from being rigorously honest (to the best of our ability) with the previous steps. This awakening varies from person to person. A spiritual experience is seen as fast, and spiritual awakening is slow—the difference between a light switch and a dimmer switch. In both cases the light comes on and results in a profound change in how we think, feel, and view the world.

Carrying the Message

The act of carrying the message to other alcoholics is not just a suggestion - it's essential for maintaining our own sobriety. This service work ranges from formal twelve-step calls to simple acts of sharing your experience, strength, and hope with fellow alcoholics.

Continued on page 8

AA's Tradition 12 and Step 12

Continued from page 7

Practicing These Principles

The final aspect of Step 12 challenges us to practice these principles in all our affairs. This means applying the spiritual principles such as, but not limited too - honesty, hope, faith, courage, integrity, willingness, humility, love, discipline, perseverance, spiritual awareness, and service - to every area of our lives.

The Intersection of Step 12 and Tradition 12

Together, Step 12 and Tradition 12 create a life changing framework for our personal recovery and the fellowship unity. While Step 12 guides us in personal spiritual growth and service, Tradition 12 ensures that when we come together whether in a meeting that our service remains pure and free from personal ambition or recognition.

Think of anonymity as a shield that keeps both you and A.A. safe. It helps everyone focus on what really matters - the message itself, not who's saying it. This humbling approach makes sure A.A.'s primary purpose - *to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers* - without us getting tangled up in who gets credit.

We are thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Your Third Legacy

Continued from page 7

full-time secretaries. Terrific outcries went up. To many, this really meant destructive organization, politics, professionalism, big expense, a ruling officialdom, and government."

As a group and as an individual are you familiar with the "arms of service" Bill refers to? If not, I believe we do a disservice to AA as a whole in making sure this fellowship is around for our kids and our grandkids. Let's not just assume the person next to us is taking on that responsibility. Let us assume that responsibility ourselves and then carry the message of its importance to the person sitting next to us. This was Bill's message for the Third Legacy.

As Bill so eloquently stated "by our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified, and through our **Third Legacy - Service** - we shall carry the AA message down through all the corridors of time to come. Of this, I am happily confident."

Most of this article was from Language of the Heart Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings.



The Language of the Heart will be Spoken Here

IWC INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

IN PERSON & ONLINE PROGRAM

The Language of the Heart will be Spoken Here

San Diego

JAN 30TH - FEB 2ND 2025

61ST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

SAN DIEGO, CA | JANUARY 30TH - FEBRUARY 2ND, 2025

You can register here: In person, \$70.00 (USD)
and online, \$15.00 (USD)

<https://internationalwomensconference.org/registration-form-2025/>

Speaker, Marathon, and Panel Meetings!!
Hospitality Room - Fun, Games, Yoga, Meditation

Questions - onlineiwc61@gmail.com



Save the Date!

AA.org/International-Convention

2025 AA International Convention

July 3-6, 2025

VANCOUVER

Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur

Scan here!

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

