

January
2025



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

A New Year–A New Opportunity for Service

By Judy F.

As we all get ready to welcome in a new year you will see meetings getting ready for the rotation of leadership – which means new opportunities to be of service in your meetings and A.A. as a whole. I’m always amazed at this process of electing new meeting secretaries and people stepping up for the other service commitments in their meeting. One of two things are possible – no one wants to take on any commitment or you have more people step up for service positions than there are positions.

I don’t think people who have been secretaries or treasurers can stress enough the responsibilities that come with these two positions. First, a meeting secretary election should not be a popularity contest. It should be stressed that for the next 6 months (yes 6 months) you are responsible for that meeting. You select the leaders (certainly not as someone walks through the door and is a warm body); you get there early enough to make sure the hall is ready and your coffee person has been there early enough to get coffee going; if you use a particular book at your meeting they are set out for when the meeting begins; your not the first person out the door before making sure the hall is cleaned and ready for the next meeting; and did I mention this is generally a 6 month commitment?

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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	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 163 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 at webservant@aascv.org.

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

Last month GSO announced the new A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service: 2024-2026 Edition was released in digital format. The printed copies are now available and have been ordered by your local central office.

A reminder that a physical inventory will be taking place between December 28TH and January 8TH at GSO warehouse and literature orders will be delayed approximately seven (7) business days.

2025 A.A. International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Registration is now open. **Rooms are available** Go to aa.org to learn more about the international convention or to register. Registration is \$160.00 per person through April 15TH, 2025; \$185.00 per person starting April 16TH. The International Convention is July 3TH – 6TH, 2025.

Central Office is grateful for all of the contributions made in November for Gratitude Month. We have accepted about \$4,100 in contributions with stragglers still coming in. Central Office thanks all of you who participated as the contributions help our office to keep the primary purpose of AA and that of Tradition 5 alive and that is "to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers".

Legacies for January

Step 1 We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition 1 Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Concept 1 Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Birthday Board

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

Carolyn A 1/16/2023
Dawn S 1/6/2023
Tanner W 1/11/2019
Cynthia B 1/2/2018
Judy T 1/1/2015
Daun I 1/3/2012
Hailey W 1/1/2012
Kelly D 1/25/2011
Bobbie G 1/17/1997
Tobiah H 1/1/1996
Bobbie Mc C 1/1/1980
Venita S 1/1/1980
Vanessa R 1/1/1971

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.

A New Opportunity for Service

Continued from page 1

As a group, remember, this individual will be representing your meeting. Do you care enough about your meeting to make sure the person you elect as secretary is ready for the responsibility. And what of the person who will be handling your 7th tradition? Are they responsible enough to make sure your rent is paid every week and your prudent reserve is kept safe and you are meeting your other obligations for disbursement?

Your local central office has literature available to provide information on these service positions. A new booklet, **Group Secretary Handbook**, can help new secretaries who are not familiar with what their job entails. The handbook will explain each of the trusted service positions as well as explain the need for InterGroup and General Service Representatives.

Your treasurer might find the literature piece, **The AA Group Treasurer**, handy as a guide when taking on this service position, as treasurer is considered to be the most responsible position in any A.A. group.

Make sure your group is represented in your local Central Office by sending an InterGroup rep to the monthly InterGroup meeting at central office. Your representative is the link between your group and other groups in Santa Clarita as well as a link between your group and Central Office. Remember, Santa Clarita Valley Central Office is your Central Office. You have a say in what goes on at

Central Office from how your 7th tradition contributions are spent to the literature and books we carry.

Your group should also be represented at the monthly district meeting for General Service. By sending a GSR (General Service Representative) to these monthly and quarterly meetings you are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. As GSR you transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts; through you, the group conscience becomes a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." Visit Central Office and pick up the pamphlet **G.S.R. General Service Representative - May Be The Most Important Job in A.A.** Inform your group on the importance of this service commitment.

I started this article with the idea of a new year being right around the corner, which, for me, means another year is passing. I want to hold on to the gratitude I have felt all year for the opportunity to be of service here at central office as well as my involvement with General Service. Through these service positions the importance of the 12 traditions, especially traditions 8 and 9, have spoken to me this year. I have a much deeper appreciation of the **A.A. Declaration of Unity - This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives; and the lives to come.**

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://internationalwomensconference.org/>

All Events

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



Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

As of February 1, 2025 AA Grapevine, the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, will add a \$1.00 increase to all book prices. This increase will help AA Grapevine, Inc keep up with the steadily rising costs of paper, printing, and shipping that all publishers currently face.

This month's featured section is "Spirituality and Prayer," with powerful stories by members about their journeys with finding a Higher Power and the many ways they use prayer.

Submit Your Story! Upcoming Topics...

- **Atheists/Agnostics in AA** — Do you have experience staying sober in AA as an atheist or agnostic? What have been your joys and challenges? We're looking for a variety of experiences. (Stories due January 15TH, 2025)
- **Gratitude** — What were you like before AA compared to what you're like today? How do you stay grateful each day? Share some stories that illustrate your journey with gratitude now that you're sober. (Stories due February 15TH, 2025)
- **Technology in AA** — Online meetings, hybrid meetings, smartphones, texting, meeting apps, social media ... and yes, good old-fashioned phone calls. How has technology helped your sobriety and changed the way you connect with your sponsor, sponsees, and fellow A.A.s? (Stories due March 15TH, 2025)

Over 1 million served! The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour has exceeded 1 million downloads.

Tap the podcast icon at the bottom of the app home page to join the fun! New episode every week.

www.aagrapevine.org/podcast

Grapevine Daily Quote

December 11, 2024

"If each sufferer were to carry the news of the scientific hopelessness of alcoholism to each new prospect, he might be able to lay every newcomer wide open to a transforming spiritual experience."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1963, "The Bill W.--Carl Jung Letters", *The Language of the Heart*.

Literature

aascv.org/shop


Literature available at Central Office.

One of my favorite pieces of literature is **Questions & Answers On Sponsorship (P-15)**. Copy right 2017 and revised in June of 2022.

This 30 page pamphlet discusses what Sponsorship is for the person seeking a sponsor as well as the person wanting to be a sponsor. It also has a small section on Service Sponsorship.

Circles of Love and Service- How the parts of A.A. all fit and work together (P-45). All parts of our Fellowship – group meetings, committees, offices, Conferences and group jobs – have one joint purpose: to help that one newcomer who has a drinking problem.

When they come trying to find us, the millions of sick alcoholics still stumbling out there in the dark, we want each of them to get the same loving help we all had. The Conference – and the whole general service system – has that responsibility: to keep A.A. alive and well for those yet to come.



FAITHFULL


FRIENDS

Contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley Central Office

Faithful Friends are A.A. members who choose to contribute five dollars or more each month to support the Santa Clarita Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in its efforts to carry the A.A. message of hope and recovery to those alcoholics who still suffer. As a Faithful Friend, your personal contribution will help your Central Office provide the services necessary to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Your Central Office Provides:

- 24 hour / 7 days a week answering inquiries from those seeking help - suffering alcoholics, sober alcoholics, meetings, groups, professionals and the general public
- Publishes A. A. In-person Meeting Schedules
- Maintains an informative and up-to-date website: aascv.org
- Orders and sells A.A. literature
- Publishes the monthly Gratitude Gazette Newsletter
- Acts as an information exchange for all SCV meetings
- Cooperates closely with our Area 93 Assembly, Hospital and Institutions, and GSO in New York



Yes! I wish to participate as a Faithful Friend!
 Visit aascv.org and fillout the PayPal form (Debit Cards Accepted) No PayPal account needed.

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

By Douglas W.

I want to focus on a new direction as the New Year begins. This past year, my writings have centered mainly on the Steps and Traditions. This year, I'll focus on AA Conference-approved literature, primarily the AA pamphlets.



Pamphlets are a valuable and often underutilized part of the Fellowship. GSO produces numerous pamphlets and other resources to inform the Fellowship. Some groups struggle when they attempt activities that don't align with the Traditions—such as failing to practice Service Rotation (Tradition 2) or using 7TH Tradition funds for non-AA expenses, violating anonymity (Tradition 11), trying to help with multiple problems, other than alcohol (Tradition 5) to name a few.

On Page 563 of the Big Book, discussing the Traditions, we find, **"Our A.A. experience has taught us that..."** The Traditions were developed in response to the problems that the groups were

experiencing. Most difficulties today can be traced back to not following the framework of the Traditions. While the Steps are for recovery, the Traditions are for maintaining a healthy group.

My most frequently referenced pamphlet is **"The A.A. Group ... where it all begins."** (P-16). It is around 50 pages and can be purchased at the Central Office. It's a concise guide that explains what an AA group is and how a healthy group should function. I refer to it often as it provides practical applications of the Traditions.

It's important to note that a Group differs from a meeting. While a meeting can be a group, in traditional AA, a single Group typically comprises multiple meetings. Groups hold monthly business meetings to discuss their health and operations. When you become a member of a Group—called your Home Group—you gain voting rights in the Group affairs. You can only have one Home Group and, therefore, one vote.

The pamphlet serves as a comprehensive guide for AA groups, covering what an AA group is, how it functions, its relations with the community, and its place in AA's overall structure.

AA's primary purpose is to carry the message to alcoholics who still suffer (Tradition 5). The organization maintains a focused approach, avoiding the temptation to become a broader spiritual movement, as emphasized by co-founder Bill W.

Anonymity

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of AA's traditions (Tradition 11). It functions on two levels:

- Public level: Members don't show faces or reveal last names in public appearances
- Personal level: Provides privacy and safety for members, especially newcomers

Within groups, members may use last names but must respect others' privacy choices. Personal sharing at meetings remains confidential.

Group Structure and Governance

AA operates as an "upside-down organization" where ultimate authority resides with the groups rather than central leadership. The organization has minimal central authority (Tradition 9) and operates through traditions rather than laws. Each group functions independently (Tradition 4) while considering impacts on AA as a whole.

Group Types and Membership

AA groups can be specialized (men, women, young people, LGBTQ+, etc.) as long as they remain open to all alcoholics seeking help. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking (Tradition 3).

Meeting Types

AA offers two main categories of meetings:

- Closed meetings: Reserved for AA members and those with a drinking problem
- Open meetings: These meetings are available to anyone interested in AA's recovery. Anyone can attend, but only Alcoholics can share.

Common Meeting Formats

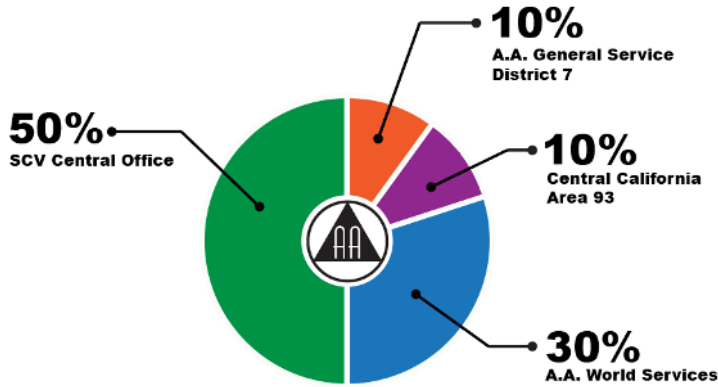
- Discussion meetings: Led by a chair who selects a topic from the AA literature
- Speaker meetings: A member(s) often shares their personal recovery story in a longer format.
- Beginners meetings: A meeting focused on helping newcomers understand the Steps, recovery process, and how to overcome

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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

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.

The A.A. Group ...

Continued from page 7

the obsession with alcohol.

- Step/Tradition/Big Book studies: Focus on AA's foundational texts. Often picking a topic and discussing the topic.

Meeting Procedures

Typical meetings include:

- Opening with the AA Preamble
- Readings from AA literature
- Member sharing
- Closing with moments of silence and/or prayer

Home Groups

Members typically choose a home group where they accept service responsibilities and build relationships. This concept creates a strong bond between members and the Fellowship. Homegroup membership includes voting rights on issues affecting both the group and AA as a whole.

The pamphlet emphasizes that while groups maintain autonomy (Tradition 4) in their operations, they function within AA's broader framework of traditions and principles, always focusing on the primary purpose of helping alcoholics achieve and maintain sobriety.

Representation

Groups should be listed with GSO (General Service Office). An unlisted group needs to have a voice in AA's broader decisions. When members have questions or opinions about AA as a whole, they need representation to be heard. To gain this voice, a group should first register with GSO and then elect a GSR (General Service Representative) through group conscience. The GSR gives the group voting power on issues being considered at the District, Area, or GSO level.

Groups can also gain representation at their local Central Office by electing an IGR (Intergroup Representative). This representative helps guide Central Office operations (Tradition 8) better to serve their group and other groups in our area.

Traditions

Groups should be deeply familiar with the twelve Traditions in their long form. While I've referenced only a few Traditions in this article, I've included them below.

1. Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.
3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.
4. With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.
5. Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.
7. The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform

those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.

9. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the AA Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.
10. No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.
11. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.
12. 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.





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

IN PERSON & ONLINE PROGRAM



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

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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A Newcomer Asks

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Is A.A. for Me?

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This is A.A.
An introduction to the A.A. recovery program

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ACCESS TO A.A.
MEMBERS SHARE ON OVERCOMING BARRIERS

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—Never too late

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Problems other than alcohol

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Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.

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The Twelve Steps Illustrated

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Understand Anonymity

P-17
A.A. Tradition How It Developed — by Bill W.
A tour of the historical events that led to our unique Twelve Traditions

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Bridging the GAP
Between treatment and A.A. contact programs

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Black in A.A.
EXPERIENCE STRINGS AND MORE

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