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Volume 24, Issue 6

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

2025 International Convention Celebrating AA's 90th Anniversary

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By Judy F.

As the 2025 A.A. International Convention is right around the corner I thought it might be helpful to post some information on special sessions to be brought to those in the fellowship who will not be attending.

If you have never had the experience of attending an International Convention it can be exhilarating on one hand and overwhelming on the other. Those of you who know me will understand when I say 10,000 people all clustered in one location is not my idea of fun, until...

those 10,000 people join hands and say the Lord's Prayer to close a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

So you don't miss out on the opportunity to share in that experience and hear the three main speaker meetings of the convention you can purchase the 2025 Big Meeting Package for \$15.00. Purchase now and receive access to MP3s all three Big Meeting sessions: *Opening Flag Ceremony and Big Meeting; Oldtimers Big Meeting; Closing Big Meeting.* 2025ic.scvlearningcenter.com/MVSite/MVSpecialOffer.aspx

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

The convention is also offering a Virtual Program Track. There will be eight sessions, including topics such as, "Unity: The Most Cherished Quality," and "Online Meetings, Are We Hiding Behind Our

Continued on page 4

Intergroup Representatives

| Name | Meetings |
|--------------------|---|
| Bobby B. | Rafters, Sun Night Big Book Study, Recovery Room |
| Doug W. | Intergroup Chair, Just for Today, Stepping Stones |
| Ida B. | New Reflections, Christ Lutheran |
| Jennifer Y. | Santa Clarita Speakers Meeting, Magic Mountain Group, St. Stephens Church |
| Jenny M. | Magic Mountain Group, United Methodist Church |
| John C. | Men's Crosstalk, OLPH, Easy Does it |
| Judy F. | Intergroup, Central Office Manager |
| Kathy B. | Secretary, Step Sisters, St. Stephen's Church, Wednesday Night Happy Hour |
| Leslie M. | Daily Reflections, Stepping Stones |
| Linda C. | Step Sisters 12&12, St. Stephen's |
| Patty G. | Women's Bean Bag Toss, Stepping Stones, PI/CPC |
| Susie R. | Coyote Group & Magic Mountain Group Monday |
| Tobiah N. | 12&12 Discussion, Recovery Room, Outreach |

How to Become an 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 AA 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.

AA 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 160 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@aa.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 AA service entities, providing you with access to over 100,000 weekly meetings. The information is refreshed twice daily and is supported by AA 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

The 2025 International AA Convention is right around the corner. The planning committee is doing everything they can to bring the convention to those who cannot experience the event in person by offering various options for people to participate. The first is a virtual program track, which is a two-day 8 session virtual program track for individual viewing at home. The sessions will be live-streamed as they take place and will not be available for purchase at the convention. The cost is \$35.00. You can use the Online Registration to sign up for the Virtual Session Program Track. [AA.org/international-convention](https://aa.org/international-convention). The schedule will be available at this website as well.

Purchase the 2025 International Convention Three Big Meetings Video Product.

An anonymity-protected video recording of the Three Big Meetings in the Stadium will be available for viewing after the Convention. The cost is \$60 (USD). Once you purchase the video, you will receive instructions via email after the convention about how to view the anonymity-protected video recording. You can purchase the Three Big Meetings Video Product an ancillary product through the Online Registration portal.

Visit the following for more information—[AA.org/news-and-announcements](https://aa.org/news-and-announcements).



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: aa.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 83 Assembly, Hospital and Institutions, and GSO in New York



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



Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

Look for the June edition of the AA Grapevine, the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. June's featured section is "**The Annual Prison Issue**" – AA members inside and out of prison walls share powerful stories of service, sponsorship and hope. Featured articles include: *To Be Trusted; I Want What She Has; The Day Hope Arrived.*

Letter From The Editor—We get letters all the time from incarcerated members saying how grateful they are to have Grapevine and La Viña. Many tell us it's the only AA meeting they have. Luckily, there are incredibly dedicated outside volunteers who write letters, sponsor and do vital corrections service. This month's special section features powerful stories of hope from AA members inside and out of prison walls.

Daily Quote

"The actual experience of turning myself inside out for the first time in the presence of an AA member left me drained and numb; but when feeling started to come back, I found that I had changed. For the first time in my AA experience, I could feel the sunshine of God's love on my wounds, and true peace of mind."

"Finding Self-Forgiveness" Memphis, TN October 1977

Literature

aascv.org

Literature available at Central Office.

Available now at central office – **The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety I & II**. This special hardback collector's edition combines two of AA Grapevine's most beloved books **Emotional Sobriety**, **The Next Frontier and Emotional Sobriety II**. Both volumes are now bound together for the first time. The 87 stories beautifully illustrate how much our lives can change for the better through the AA program. The book includes a special 4-page keepsake pull-out of AA cofounder Bill W.'s 1958 treasured essay "**The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety**." Price: \$17.50

Legacies for June

Step

6

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition

6

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept

6

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Birthday Board

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

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----|
| Kayla K | 6/14/2022 | 3 |
| Kyle H | 6/5/2020 | 5 |
| Jen N | 6/13/2003 | 22 |
| Michael D | 6/20/1990 | 35 |
| Kelly P | 6/30/1986 | 39 |
| Leslie W | 6/12/1978 | 47 |

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

Faithful Friends

Consider supporting your Central Office by giving monthly or one time. Visit AASCV.org to contribute.

2025 SCV Convention Corner

Women's Day Luncheon, Special Event.

June 14TH, 11am–3pm
 Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Church
 22508 Copper Hill Dr, Santa Clarita

Tickets—\$25 (Presale Tickets Only)

A date has been set for the Santa Clarita Valley Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous With Al-Anon participation, to be held at the Embassy Suites Valencia.

Mark your calendar – October 17TH – 19TH, 2025. Watch the Gazette for further information on special events throughout the year as well as information on planning meetings.

2025 International Convention

Continued from page 1

Screens?," Will be live-streamed as they take place and will not be available for purchase after the convention. Want to watch with a group? You can purchase a group viewing option with discounted rates, as well as individual registration. The Virtual Session Program Track:

- Friday, July 4th: 9am – 10:30am PDT
AA Around the World Call Up
- Friday, July 4th: 11am – 12:30pm PDT
Online Meetings Hiding Behind Screen
- Friday, July 4th: 1pm – 2:30pm PDT
Unity: Most Cherished Quality
- Friday, July 4th: 3pm – 4:30pm PDT
Living Sober
- Saturday, July 5th: 9am – 10:30am PDT
AA Around the World Call Up
- Saturday, July 5th: 11am – 12:30pm PDT
H.A.L.T.
- Saturday, July 5th: 1pm – 2:30pm PDT
Intensive Work With Other Alcoholics
- Saturday, July 5th: 3pm – 4:30pm PDT
Celebrate Sobriety

Following is the price for group watch parties: A Group and Information Gathering Watch party coordinator must register and pay a 2025 IC Virtual Program Session Track registration fee based on a tiered number of watch party attendees as follows:

- 1 6-20 attendees = \$200.00 (USD)
- 2 21-30 attendees = \$300.00 (USD)
- 3 31-40 attendees = \$400.00 (USD)
- 4 41-50 attendees = \$500.00 (USD)

2025ic.wufoo.com/forms/z3724db1c8ztax/

The history of the International Conventions is interesting in that they now take place every five years and marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. But in 1945 members began to get together in large meetings, first locally with one-day programs, then among several towns in an area and then eventually regionally with week-end conferences. (The first being in Birmingham, Alabama 1945).

The first national meeting was in 1945, hosted by the 44 Cleveland groups on June 9th-10th. People attended from 36 states, two Canadian provinces and Mexico. Cleveland did not announce it as an "International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous" because in 1945 alcoholism was still a hush-hush word, not to be mentioned in polite company. AA had been struggling to become established in many parts of the country so to hold a Convention of alcoholics was a presumptuous and fearsome thing to do. Cleveland mailed an announcement to all groups saying they would be hosting the most significant meeting in the 10-year history... the milestone is to be commemorated in Cleveland, Ohio. Bill and Dr. Bob were the main speakers. They spoke to a crowd of over 2,500, "the largest crowd of AA's ever assembled in one place."

As we celebrate AA's 90TH anniversary as well as the 14TH International Convention, I hope we all take the opportunity to reflect on our own sobriety and give thanks to those who have come before us. For, it is in the mistakes that were made in the beginning and the established traditions we follow today, that Alcoholics Anonymous still thrives and allows us to carry the message to the "alcoholic who still suffers."



Bridging the Gap: Where Action and Service Meet in AA

By Doug W. webservant@aascv.org

Introduction

I am involved with my local Hospitals and Institutions committee and serve as a panel leader for several panels. I share my experience, strength, and hope with the residents, and sometimes I see someone who is receptive to AA's message when we finish.

While I love H&I service, I wondered if I could do more—is giving about hour enough? This is where **Bridging the Gap (BTG)** can help. I worked with our Area 93 Treatment Chair to expand our efforts. Together, we placed a process to connect residents using the local and national Bridging the Gap volunteers who can take them to in-person meetings in their hometowns or online meetings.

I believe that when residents leave a facility without knowing how to connect with the AA fellowship in their own community, their chances of maintaining sobriety are significantly lower.

One of the clearest expressions of these values in real-world practice is **Bridging the Gap**—AA's temporary contact program for individuals transitioning out of treatment, detox centers, crisis centers, or other facilities and reentering daily life. The program's roots and ongoing effectiveness reveal how purpose-driven action and selfless service keep AA vibrant and open for all who seek recovery.

AA has a conference-approved pamphlet titled "Bridging the Gap" ([P-49](#)), which guides members who wish to serve as temporary contacts for those leaving treatment.

The Heart of Bridging the Gap

At its core, Bridging the Gap puts the Fifth Tradition into action: "...but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." For many individuals, leaving a structured environment after treatment can be daunting and fraught with risk. The first days and weeks of freedom are often marked by uncertainty, loneliness, and vulnerability to relapse.

Bridging the Gap directly responds to this challenge by pairing the newcomer with an AA member—a temporary contact—who becomes both guide and companion. The local contact introduces the newcomer to local meetings, may answer questions, and provides critical support during this fragile time. In doing so, the volunteer bridges that dangerous span between institutional support and independent, long-term recovery. A temporary contact is not asked to be a sponsor, only a guide into the Fellowship. The commitment is to take this person to a maximum of six meetings and encourage them to connect with other AA members, getting phone numbers, remembering their names, and start their process of feeling welcome and included.

"One Drunk Helping Another": The Oldest AA Action

The practice of guiding a newcomer is as old as AA itself. The original "bridge" happened when Bill W. reached out to Dr. Bob, beginning one of the most significant partnerships in AA history. Ever since, the action of one alcoholic supporting another has been AA's central practice for growth and survival.

Meetings, Local and National

People leaving a facility and returning home—whether locally or to another state—often need help finding AA meetings in their area along with meeting days and times.

The official AA Meeting Guide App provides the ideal solution. It synchronizes national areas, districts, intergroup/central offices, and international general service office websites, delivering meeting information from over 400 AA service entities directly to those looking for an AA meeting. The app currently lists more than 100,000 weekly meetings and updates its information twice daily.

How the Program Works

- **Temporary Contacts:** Many AA members volunteer as temporary contacts, ready to meet and support newcomers released from treatment or related facilities. The duration is limited but crucial, offering a safety net.
- **Practical Support:** The contact accompanies the newcomer to their first (up to six) AA meetings, explains the AA structure, answers questions, and helps them feel included.
- **Safety and Matching:** Whenever possible, contacts and newcomers are matched by gender and locations to enhance comfort and safety. The importance of a member meeting a newcomer and adhering to AA's Traditions is emphasized for everyone's well-being.
- **Local Organization:** In some regions, Bridging the Gap operates as its own committee. Elsewhere, it functions within Area Treatment, local Hospital & Institution (H&I) committees, or through Intergroup/Central Offices. The focus remains the same: provide a bridge for newcomers to a welcoming recovery community.

What the Program Does Not Do

- We do not give financial support
- We do not give legal or medical advice

Workshops

The national Bridging The Gap Workshop Weekend (BTGWW) is having their annual conference locally this year and we encouraged you to attend BTG workshop on September 5th-7th in Ontario, California. ([Event Flyer](#))

The Spirit of Service: Why Members Volunteer

Why do we AA members step up to be temporary contacts? The answer is in the service and action of our AA program:

- **Personal Experience:** Many volunteers recall being in the newcomer's shoes—the fear, confusion, and overwhelming nature of those early sober days.
- **Gratitude in Action:** Service is a way to “Carry the Message.” Many have been helped by previous generations of AA's and seek to keep the chain of support unbroken.
- **Staying Sober:** Our AA literature asserts that doing service is critical to maintaining sobriety. As countless members say, “We keep what we have by giving it away.”
- **Unity and Recovery:** BTG brings together volunteers across culture differences, building unity through action and reinforcing AA's principles of inclusivity and support.

Bridging the Gap: Lives Changed, One Connection at a Time

The program's results are seen every day:

- Newcomers attend meetings who might otherwise have felt too intimidated or lost to show up alone
- Volunteers often witness firsthand the difference a simple gesture of support can make—saving lives
- Local meetings receive new members and expand the spirit of the Fellowship
- AA as a whole remains strong by ensuring that “when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there—and for that: I am responsible.”

Bridging the Gap as Basic Twelfth Step Work

It is less common today to make a “12-Step call”, today, people are using rehabs more. So, in today's culture, we go to them.

Bridging the Gap is often described as “basic Twelfth Step work.” That means it's the direct application of the Twelfth Step:

“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.”

By stepping up as a BTG contact, volunteers put action behind the words—carrying the message and practicing the principles of selfless help in all aspects of life. It's where the rubber meets the road.

Broader Service Connections

Bridging the Gap serves as a model for other service initiatives in AA:

- **Treatment Committees:** Often working hand-in-hand with BTG, they help link institutions with AA communities.
- **Corrections Committee:** For those leaving correctional facilities, a separate but related “contact upon release” program assists in reentry.
- **Public Information and Cooperation with Professional Communities:** Volunteers work with community organizations to share about BTG and AA, so professionals can refer clients

who might benefit.

In every aspect, the willingness to take action—to reach out, show up, and support someone—is what sustains AA's growth and relevance.

Lasting Change Through Action and Service

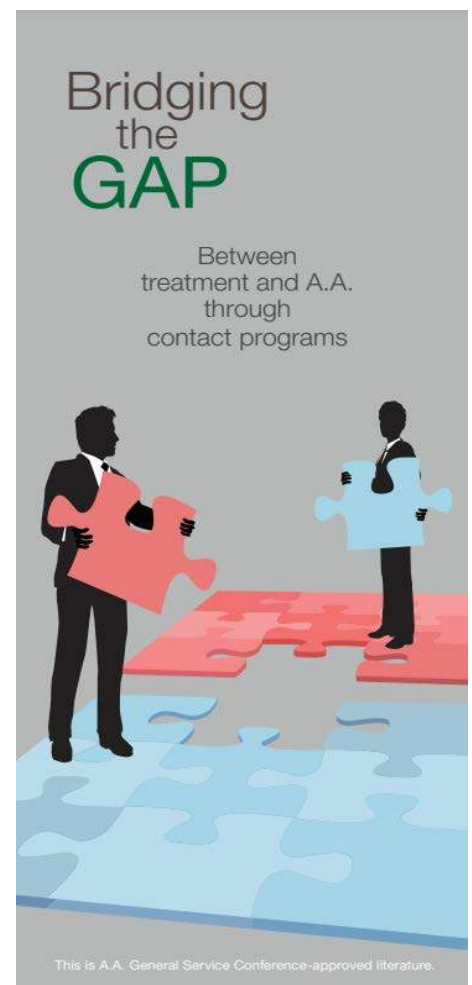
Action and service are not just ideals in AA; they come alive through practical, ongoing commitment. Bridging the Gap is not a one-time project or a clever program, but the living legacy of AA's founding purpose: ****one alcoholic helping another.****

When a newcomer leaves treatment and is met by a friendly face, given support through their first few meetings, and gently guided toward a new way of living, the power of action and service becomes clear and tangible.

Through these efforts, the bridge between despair and hope, isolation and connection, addiction and recovery is built and rebuilt, day after day. In these simple acts, AA's message remains ever fresh, ever accessible, and ever life-saving.

To Become a Temporary Contact

Area 93 has a Treatment Committee which organizes support for both those leaving a facility and those who want to volunteer as temporary contacts. If you would like to become a temporary contact volunteer, please follow this [link](#) or use the QR code.



Mind Your Business

By Rest on Your Laurels

Have you ever caught yourself wondering why someone else in the fellowship isn't handling a situation the way you think they should? Maybe you've thought: "They've been sober awhile; they should know better." Or perhaps you've silently judged how someone else is working (*or not working*) their program. After all, we have a blueprint for handling conflicts within the fellowship, right?

We often talk about practicing these principles in all our affairs, but do we realize that includes how we respond to others in the fellowship, especially when we think they're doing it wrong (*Alcoholics Anonymous [AA], 4TH ed., p. 60*)? The truth—their program is not our business.

Isn't it just like an alcoholic to miss the point of practicing these principles in all our affairs? Our only concern is how we handle ourselves, how we apply the steps to our behavior and thinking, and if we owe amends for any actions that have harmed others. Step Ten is clear: *"We continue to take personal inventory and continue to set right any new mistakes as we go along. We vigorously commenced this way of living as we cleaned up the past."* (*AA, 4TH ed., p. 84*). Nowhere in the Big Book or any approved literature will you find it written: *Continue to take another's inventory and determine if they are applying the steps correctly. That falls solidly in the category of "not your business."*

The Big Book may not say outright, "Mind your own business," but the message is clear in the spiritual principles woven through the Steps: humility, restraint of tongue and pen, and personal responsibility. *"So we clean house... asking each morning in meditation that our Creator show us the way of patience, tolerance, kindness and love."* (*AA, 4TH ed., p. 83*). *"Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them"* (*AA, 4TH ed., p. 84*).

Well, that is easier said than done, we think with a huff. Then our heads full of AA admonish us before we even finish that thought, *"If we were to live, we had to be free of anger. The grouch and the brainstorm were not for us. They may be the dubious luxury of normal men, but for alcoholics these things are poison"* (*AA, 4TH ed., p. 66*). Next, we hear our sponsor's voice in our head, *"Resentment is the 'number one' offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else. From it stem all forms of spiritual disease...When we harbor such feelings, we shut ourselves off from the sunlight of the Spirit"* (*AA, 4TH ed., pp. 64, 66*).

Not willing to lose the Sunlight, we reconsider tallying up another's flaws, and instead we pray the Set Aside Prayer:

"God, please help me set aside everything I think I know about myself, my disease, these steps, and especially You, so that I may have an open mind and a new experience with all these things. Please help me to see the truth, Amen" (commonly attributed to Joe H., Joe & Charlie Big Book Study).

Suddenly, we feel the bricks lift from our chest. We realize we can breathe deeply again. What a shift! It occurs to us that practicing the program in all our affairs means we don't get to judge how others practice their programs. We apply the core spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps, not only where it is convenient or easy in our lives, but also in challenging places, which require courage, restraint, love, and compassion. What does practicing spiritual principles in all our affairs look like? Here are a few examples:

- Being honest at work, even when it's uncomfortable
- Choosing forgiveness in conflict
- Owning your part in relationships
- Setting boundaries with kindness
- Speaking respectfully, even when angry or afraid
- Not taking someone else's inventory
- Saying "I was wrong" and making amends

The 12 & 12 tells us, *"It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us"* (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions [12 & 12], p. 90). *Just like a carousel, we watch as our spiritual growth develops, and we bring the focus back to ourselves. If something is off, whatever the disturbance, we must look in the mirror. There, printed in big, bold letters, reads: You are looking at the problem.* (This is Karen C's famous quote, and she has the stickers to prove it.)

How grateful we are to have this enlightened awareness of self. *"We feel that elimination of our drinking is but a beginning. A much more important demonstration of our principles lies before us in our respective homes, occupations and affairs"* (*AA, 4TH ed., p. 19*). Sobriety is a miraculous and beautiful start, but the real test of the program is how we treat others and how we conduct ourselves in all our affairs. This is the cornerstone of our recovery journey in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Great Forgetters

By Anonymous

I write sometimes to remind myself. As I am one of the "great forgetters."

After 35+ Years of Drinking:

Here's **My Truth** about **Getting Free**:

I quit because I was slowly disappearing. Into the drink. Into the shame.

Into the same old story that said, "*this is just who I am.*"

I drank for 35+ years. Every high and every heartbreak was soaked in alcohol.

It was how I celebrated. How I coped. How I socialized. How I numbed.

It was my identity.

And I didn't just walk away from a drink—I walked away from the version of myself it kept on life support.

Now? I'm sober.

And here's the brutal, beautiful truth no one told me...

The Real Fight Isn't the Drink...

It's what comes after.

It's the silence.

The identity crisis.

The gut-punch of facing feelings you haven't felt in decades.

Nobody told me that the hardest part of quitting isn't the cravings—it's the absence.

The gaping hole where my old self used to hide.

When I took away the cold beers and the shots, the martinis and the champagne...what was left?

Me.

Raw. Awake. Unfiltered.

And completely out of practice at being present.

The first week? I was away from My Family. My heart. My Home.

I was Restless. Broken.

The second week? Emotional. Depressed and Lost.

The third week? I can't remember. I was just putting one foot in front of the other so not to fall backward. In survival mode.

By week four, I could feel again—and it wasn't all pretty.

But by week eight, I started sleeping.

Deeply. Peacefully. Without waking up at 3am in a cold sweat wondering what I'd done the night before. Or still not having slept at all.

By week ten, my energy came back.

By week twelve, my face looked different. My skin clearer. My eyes less haunted. I was losing weight. I felt better.

And by week sixteen? (**Month 4!!**)

I didn't just feel sober. I felt **Free!!**

(It took me a couple attempts to get this far but it was well worth it)

I found something radical:

Radical self-respect.

I rebuilt my life using these tools:

At first I just listened.

Then,

I found a community.

I made new friends.

I found comfort in being uncomfortable.

I forgave myself and I forgave others.

(We are only human)

I got to know myself.

I began to accept people, places and things as they are.

I was (am) kind. To myself and to others.

I seek new knowledge daily.

I let go of my ego and prideful thoughts.

I take the contrary action.

And I always... **Always** lead with love.

- I pray, do breath work and meditate (it helps to regulate my nervous system)
- I read, journal, reach out to others and share. I give of my time and share my experience.
- I walk my dogs, clean my house, lift weights, or do yoga (I move to shift trauma out of my body)
- Boundaries!! (not optional—essential to maintain my sanity)
- Alcohol was never the problem. It was the symptom. I remind myself.
- I wasn't broken. I was buried. I remind myself.
- Sobriety didn't take my life away—it gave it back. I remind myself.
- I also remind myself that I don't need to explain my healing to anyone who benefited from my pain.
- I am allowed to choose me, even if it makes other people uncomfortable.

I'm not here to impress anyone.

I'm here to tell the truth.

This is my sobriety. And it's the most powerful rebellion of my life.

-Anonymous

The Recovering Corker Column

By *The Recovering Corker* info@aaascv.org

This is a **question-and-answer column** written by rotating guest contributors who respond with loving care, drawing from the wisdom of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. We speak not from personal opinion, but from the shared language and spiritual principles that have helped millions of us find freedom, one day at a time. Our aim is to offer support rooted in experience, strength, and hope—not ego. As the Big Book reminds us: **“We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful”** (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 17).

The phrase **“He was a real corker”** appears in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, 4TH Edition, in the personal story titled **“Acceptance Was the Answer.”** Here’s the quote with context: **“The doctor said, ‘You’re not the kind of alcoholic I treat; you’re the kind I lock up.’ He was a real corker”** (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 409). This line appears as the storyteller (a physician) recounts his early experiences with doctors who misunderstood or judged his alcoholism.

Dear Recovering Corker,

Is it okay to ghost someone who keeps relapsing? Shouldn’t we protect ourselves from people who can’t stay sober?

Sincerely,

New in Sobriety & Keeping Original Sobriety Date

Dear New in Sobriety & Keeping Original Sobriety Date,

Your desire to protect your sobriety is both wise and commendable. It takes real courage to choose this path and to hold onto the clarity that your recovery and your life depend on putting sobriety first. Wanting to keep your original sobriety date reflects commitment, integrity, and a deep respect for the spiritual journey you have begun. As a newcomer, it is natural to feel unsure about how to relate to others in the fellowship that are struggling.

*You asked: “Is it okay to ghost someone who keeps relapsing?” The short answer, grounded in the Big Book and the story of Bill W., is this: **no.***

*To judge is not our job, and ghosting without spiritual clarity can do more harm than good. The Big Book reminds us that sobriety is a daily reprieve, not a permanent condition we graduate into: **“We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition”** (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 85). Relapse is not a moral failure, and it is often part of this cunning disease. Judging someone for relapsing implies we*

have earned immunity from it, when clearly we have not. Grace, not perfection, will keep us sober.

*Bill Wilson, our co-founder, relapsed many, many times before his final surrender in 1934. His transformation began not through punishment or rejection, but because someone carried the message to him in love and without judgment. It wasn’t until Ebby T., a friend from the Oxford Group, reached out to him, that Bill opened to recovery and the spiritual path that became AA. Had someone ghosted or given up on Bill as a lost cause at his lowest point, we might not have the program of Alcoholics Anonymous today. Bill later wrote, **“We are all brothers and sisters. The more we learn tolerance, patience, and understanding, the better examples of recovery we become.”** (AA Comes of Age, p. 81).*

*There’s a difference between setting boundaries and disappearing into silence, scorn, and judgment. If someone’s relapse is threatening our sobriety or mental health, it is okay to set limits. However, we must act in the spirit of the Twelfth Step, knowing that: **“Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery”** (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 97) and **“Love and tolerance of others is our code”** (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 84).*

Instead of ghosting, we might respond with some version of, “I care about you deeply and I am praying for your recovery. Right now, I need space to take care of my own recovery, but the doors of AA, and my heart, are always open to you.” That is not enabling. That is not rejection. That is truth in love, compassion, and tolerance.

*When someone returns after relapse, the Big Book tells us to **“cheerfully see them”** and be ready to help when they ask for it: “We never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop... We simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for their inspection” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 95). Our program is based on grace, honesty, and hope, never shame or exclusion. We don’t give up on people; we don’t “shoot our wounded,” as the old-timers like to say. We love them, until they can love themselves.*

In humble service to our fellowship,

The Recovering Corker

Events

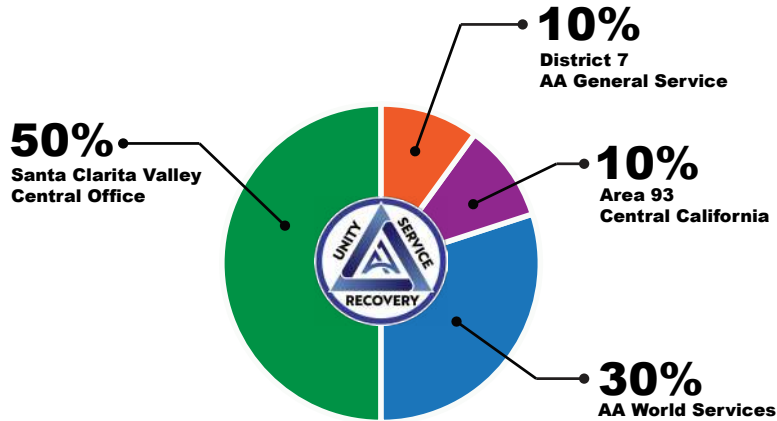
See <https://aascv.org/events-and-announcements/>

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, June 1st | AV Monthly Roundup (In-Person, Recurring) | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | 41843 50 TH Street West, Quartz Hill CA 93536 |
| Monday, June 2nd | Monday Night Service Workshop (Online, Recurring) | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Meeting ID: 854 8136 1235 Passcode: 925644 |
| Tuesday, June 3rd | AA Service Manual Online Discussion Meeting (Online, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Meeting ID: 883 5669 9235 Passcode: 023869 |
| Thursday, June 5th | SCV H & I Monthly Meeting (In-Person, Recurring) | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM | 24901 Orchard Village Rd, Santa Clarita, CA 91355 |
| Thursday, June 5th | Fat Spiritual Lines (In-Person, Recurring) | 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM | Church of the Nazarene 23857 The Old Rd, Newhall, CA 91321 |
| Thursday, June 5th | AV Central Office Intergroup Meeting (In-Person, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | 43619 17 TH Street West, Suite 103, Lancaster, CA 93534 |
| Friday, June 6th-8th | 39 TH Annual Sunshine of the Spirit High Desert Convention (In-Person) | All Day | Holiday Inn Victorville 15494 Palmdale Rd, Victorville, CA 92392 |
| Friday, June 6th-8th | 21 ST Annual Alcathon at Stepping Stones (In-Person) | All Day | 24508 Lyons Avenue, Santa Clarita, California 91321 |
| Sunday, June 8th | AV H&I Monthly Meeting (In-Person, Recurring) | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | 42545 Wall Street, Unit 115, Lancaster CA 93534 |
| Monday, June 9th | Monday Night Service Workshop (Online, Recurring) | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Meeting ID: 854 8136 1235 Passcode: 925644 |
| Monday, June 9th | District 7 General Service Representative (GSR) Monthly Business Meetings (Hybrid, Recurring) | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM | 41843 50 TH Street West, Quartz Hill CA 93536 Meeting ID 835 1211 4894 |
| Tuesday, June 10th | A.A. Service Manual Online Discussion Meeting (Online, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Meeting ID: 883 5669 9235 Passcode: 023869 |
| Thursday, June 12th | Fat Spiritual Lines (In-Person, Recurring) | 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM | Church of the Nazarene 23857 The Old Rd, Newhall, CA 91321 |
| Saturday, June 14th | 4 Area DCM Sharing Session (Hybrid) | 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM | Agua Dulce Women's Club 33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd, Agua Dulce, CA, 91390 Meeting ID: 876 243 2900 Password: demshare |
| Saturday, June 14th | Women's Day Luncheon (In-Person) | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church 22508 Copper Hill Dr, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 |
| Monday, June 16th | Monday Night Service Workshop (Online, Recurring) | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Meeting ID: 854 8136 1235 Passcode: 925644 |
| Tuesday, June 17th | AA Service Manual Online Discussion Meeting (Online, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Meeting ID: 883 5669 9235 Passcode: 023869 |
| Thursday, June 19th | Fat Spiritual Lines (In-Person, Recurring) | 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM | Church of the Nazarene 23857 The Old Rd, Newhall, CA 91321 |
| Friday, June 20th-21st | Rafters Farewell Special Event (In-Person) | All Day | 24307 Railroad Avenue, Newhall CA 91321 |
| Saturday, June 21st | Happy Campers (In-Person, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Lake Piru Recreation Area 4780 Piru Canyon Rd, Piru, CA 93040 |
| Monday, June 23rd | SCV Intergroup Meeting (In-Person, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | 26951 Ruether Ave., B-4, Santa Clarita, CA 91351 |
| Tuesday, June 24th | AA Service Manual Online Discussion Meeting (Online, Recurring) | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Meeting ID: 883 5669 9235 Passcode: 023869 |
| Thursday, June 26th | Fat Spiritual Lines (In-Person, Recurring) | 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM | Church of the Nazarene 23857 The Old Rd, Newhall, CA 91321 |
| Saturday, June 28th | CPC/PI Monthly Committee Meeting (Hybrid, Recurring) | 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Meeting ID: 820 3482 3410 Passcode: D22CPC&PI |

7TH Tradition

To AAWS, 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 AA 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 AA 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)

AA World Services

P.O. Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116
(Check payable to: General Service Fund AA. 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 AAWS, Area 93, Districts, Central Offices.

It is important to add your: **Group/ Meeting Information:**

- **AAWS Group Number**
- **Meeting/Group Name**
- **Location**
- **Day(s) of your meeting and start time**

Privacy Tip on the Venmo App

Many AA 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.

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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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Do you think you're different?

P-2
Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.

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Women in A.A.

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Young People in A.A.

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EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH
LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.

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The A.A. Group ...where it all begins

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Questions & Answers on Sponsorship

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Understanding the Fellowship and its Services

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It Sure Beats Sitting in A Cell

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Problems other than alcohol
by Bill W., co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous

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The "God" Word
Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.

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The Twelve Steps Illustrated

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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. 12-step contact programs

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Black in A.A.
EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE

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