

June 2026



GRATITUDE GAZETTE

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

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



Meeting Schedule

Email: info@aascv.org

Website: aascv.org

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Self-Support

By Carolyn W.

Hello friends! I'm Carolyn and I am an alcoholic. I am currently serving as a Class B (Alcoholic) Trustee and an AAWS Director. I will be rotating soon and I am very grateful for this wonderful opportunity to reflect on my experience with self support.

I imagine if you have received this letter, you are already well informed about self support in A.A. My hope is that you will share this letter with some of your A.A. friends who may not be.

One old-timer told me "You are a member now, no one can take that away from you even if you drink, now act like a member, help clean up at every meeting you attend

and put something in the basket no matter what." I wasn't staying sober, I didn't have much money, and I was holding onto the little bit of money I did have for things I thought were more important. I was avoiding the basket by going to the washroom when it was passed. After noticing this, the old-timer started giving me a little spare change from his pocket "for the basket." He told me, "A.A. is our home, it is up to us to take care of it." I was deeply ashamed for taking his money (he had none to spare), especially when I knew I had my own spare change. Because of his example, I started putting in what I could. We never discussed how much, or exactly how it was spent, he kept it simple "we do what we can so A.A. is here when we need it."

SCV Central Office
 2695 1 Ruether Avenue, B-4
 Santa Clarita, CA 9135 1
 Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 (661) 250-9922

I was blessed to join a home group that lived our Twelve Traditions. We were a small group and our funds were kept in a purple Crown Royal bag (we did eventually get a bank account). Great

Continued on page 4

Intergroup Representatives

Name	Meeting/Function
Barbara W.	Step Sisters, St. Stephen's Church
Bobby B.	Rafters
Ida B.	New Reflections, Saint Stephen's Church
Jasmine G.	Wednesday Women's Night Happy Hour
Jennifer Y.	Santa Clarita Speakers Meeting
Jenny M.	Magic Mountain Group, United Methodist Church
John C.	Men's Crosstalk, OLPH, Easy Does it
Joyce R.	Convention Liaison
Judy F.	Central Office Manager
Kathy B.	Secretary, 10+ Meeting, Stepping Stones
Leslie M.	Daily Reflections, Stepping Stones
Patty G.	Women's Bean Bag Toss, Stepping Stones
Holly M.	By the Book, Stepping Stones
Susan C.	Intergroup Chair
Susie R.	Coyote Group & Magic Mountain Group Monday



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.

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.

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 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 In-Person and Online 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 provided 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.

Birthday Board

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

Marco T	6/19/2024	2
Kayla K	6/14/2022	4
Kyle H.	6/5/2020	6
Jen N	6/13/2003	23
Michael D	6/20/1990	36
Kelly P.	6/30/1986	40
Leslie W	6/12/1978	48

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.



Grapevine News

aagrapevine.org/store

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

The June issue of AA Grapevine is ready to hit, featuring articles on Young and Sober. Don't miss out on articles by AA members who came into the program at an early age, the challenges they faced and how they found other young members enjoying sobriety. Check out the following articles in the June Grapevine: Finding My People; Drive to the Bottom; If You Build it They Will Come; Truly Life Changing; Yets and Agains.

With a complete digital subscription to the AA Grapevine you not only have access to the monthly newsletter but you can go back through the archives to find articles written by Bill W. and Dr. Bob. Research the Grapevine website at aagrapevine.org to see all of the benefits of having a subscription today.

Quote for the Day:

"Yes, we AAs were once a burden on everybody. We were "takers." Now that we are sober, and by the grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about-face and become 'thankful givers'! Yes, it is high time we did!"

Bill W. June 1948, "Tradition Seven" *The Language of the Heart*

Literature

aascv.org

New literature available from AA Grapevine, Inc.

"Gratitude" is a collection of powerful, personal stories about being thankful. With warmth and humor, the stories, written by AA members, illustrate the many ways the program of recovery can improve one's perspective to help enjoy each day to the fullest. The book includes chapters on spirituality, fellowship, family, service, getting through tough times and more. All stories were previously published in Grapevine. A great book to start the day.

Price: \$14.99 each Can be ordered aagrapevine.org

To learn more, visit aagrapevine.org/store

News from New York

The Twelve Steps Illustrated Table Top Display – this brand-new item features the illustrations from the recently redesigned "Twelve Steps Illustrated" pamphlet in a tabletop display format (17" x 24"). Includes QR codes linked to the "Twelve Steps Illustrated" pamphlet in digital format and the AA Meeting Guide App. \$25.00 See a sample at your local Central Office.

Our Primary Purpose: GSO Podcast

Our Primary Purpose is the official podcast from the General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous for the U.S. and Canada. Through interviews with GSO staff and voices from A.A. history and the Fellowship today, we explore how GSO supports A.A. to carry the message of recovery to those who need it most, which is Our Primary Purpose.

Make sure and listen to the latest podcast - Episode 8: Get in the Car: An A.A. Traditions Radio Comedy (in Stereo)

Listen to a lighthearted audio story where a search for a new meeting space turns into a fun, engaging look at the principles that keep A.A. united.

This Day in History

Founding of Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was founded on June 10, 1935, by Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith in Akron, Ohio. The establishment of AA introduced a revolutionary peer-support program aimed at helping those suffering from alcoholism. The organization's Twelve-Step program has not only provided a framework for recovery for millions of individuals worldwide but has also inspired the creation of numerous other groups addressing various addictions. AA's founding marked a significant shift in the approach to addiction, emphasizing community, support, and personal accountability.

Central Office News

Central Office relies on contributions from our local groups/ meetings and AA members to cover its monthly operating costs. In 2026 we are looking to relocate to better serve our AA Community in Santa Clarita.

Self-Support

Continued from page 1

care was taken with the money; every penny was accounted for and reported on. At the business meeting we always heard about the services provided and funds needed by the levels of service (intergroup, district, area, General Service Board). I once suggested we spend for something we didn't strictly need and was promptly reminded that "it's not our money, it passes through the group on its way to support A.A. service entities and carry the message."

For my first few years I was close to bankruptcy. It took time to make my amends—I negotiated the best terms I could and repaid what I owed. My sponsor and my homegroup had a profound impact on me and I saw that money and spirituality really do mix! As I grew in A.A. my life grew and it was not long before I resumed a career where I was responsible for the financial performance of a large business operation.

As I result of doing service at the homegroup, intergroup, district, and area levels, I learned about the Twelve Traditions. In my employment and in my personal life I made spending decisions based on these new ideas where faith, sacrifice, responsibility, and prudence came together to guide the way. At work I took time to educate our team about our financial results. We were successful and I was promoted. Little did they know that the secret sauce was our Twelve Traditions brought into my (for-profit) workplace. A.A. principles work in the basket, in my home group, in my personal life, and in my professional life. I remain in awe of the power and simplicity of it all.

I served as delegate for Area 79 (British Columbia and Yukon). Area 79 is (552,609 sq miles) large. The size informs service needs in Area 79. I remember one Western Canada Regional event where there was a finance workshop on the "costs of travel." The sharing continued and at one point shifted from how to reduce our spending to what the harmful impacts of these decisions might be. Through the sharing we heard many examples of where there was connection between participation and contributions. Ultimately, we agreed that the financial cost to keep the groups connected to the area and informed was better than the price to be paid if we fail to do so.

I have seen powerful examples of our Seventh Tradition in action. I remember a DCM from a remote district who was able to attend the area assembly due to an area travel subsidy, and afterward the district contributed the amount of the subsidy PLUS an additional contribution back to the area. Perhaps more important, that same DCM had a GSR and another member with her at the next assembly.

We have so much work yet to do. For example, we have materials in American Sign Language for deaf and hard of hearing members, but these are limited and there are ongoing requests for more items, including the A.A. Service Manual, which might

foster more participation. There is a seemingly limitless need for translations, but there are not limitless funds. Then there are our operational needs. Bill spoke often and passionately about our "headquarters" and the need to support the core functioning of the office. There are no services without the operations and that means we have to pay the staff and routine.

Early on Bill W. noted "It was soon apparent that while alcoholics would spend lavishly on Twelfth Step cases, they had a terrific aversion to dropping money into a meeting-place hat for group purposes." This remains just as true today as when it was written. It can be harder to see the direct impact on the alcoholic who still suffers of our contributions to the GSB and because of the scale of the services for an estimated 1.5 million members in the US and Canada. In 1951 Bill W. said "Our present array of services may look like big business to some. But when we think of the size and reach of A.A. today, that isn't true at all, In 1945, for example we had one paid worker to every 98 groups (from A.A. Service Manual, Appendix A "A.A.'s Legacy of Service"). Based on our estimated number of groups in the US and Canada, it is now approximately one paid worker to every 748 groups. There is a staggering amount of services provided. You can learn more about that here [SMF-176 Services Provided by GSO/AAWS](#).

At the time I came to A.A. I had given nothing and I received, literally, everything. I received this through the sacrifice of others. In time, I became self-supporting and was no longer a drain on A.A., or anyone else. But it took a little more time before I became a grateful contributor. Even this was still transactional; I was paying my share informed by the financial reports. Finally, there was a shift, and it became about the joy of giving and the spirit of sacrifice instead of what I can easily spare. I have seen countless examples that the sacrifices we each make have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of alcoholics (and beyond). I am inspired by the possibility of our service entities having more than the minimum funds required for them to survive. I believe that given the resources to do so, these entities can do more to carry our lifesaving message than I can even imagine. The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us together in unity. As it is in A.A., the more I give the more I receive, and so the circle of sacrifice goes on (and on).

I will continue to try to inform newer members, the way others informed me. Simple things are important, like how at my homegroup we announce that "books are available at cost and pamphlets and Grapevines are available through your group contributions," because nothing is free, someone made a sacrifice to put it on the table. I will continue to share what you taught me, that our Seventh Tradition is not a transaction, it is a sacrifice made in a spirit of gratitude, trust, and faith.

With gratitude love and service,

Carolyn W.

Service and General Service

By Douglas W., (webservant@aascv.org)

Often attributed in recovery circles; and in A.A. language, I hear the same truth in “Freely ye have received; freely give ...” (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 110)

A little over a week ago I was asked to lead a meeting, and I felt that familiar mix of gratitude and nerves. When I’m asked to lead, I don’t want to give a “good talk.” I want to offer something real—something that points back to the spiritual center of Alcoholics Anonymous, and something that can help me and the newcomer and the long-timer. So I did what I’ve learned to do when my opinions start getting loud: I referred to my experience of out literature.

In my reading I landed on a passage about service on page 143 of *As Bill See It. A.A.’s School of Life*

Within A.A., I suppose, we shall always quarrel a good bit. Mostly, I think, about how to do the greatest good for the greatest number of drunks. We shall have our childish spats and snits over small questions of money management and who is going to run our groups for the next six months. Any bunch of growing children (and that is what we are) would hardly be in character if they did less.

These are the growing pains of infancy, and we actually thrive on them. Surmounting such problems, in A.A.’s rather rugged school of life, is a healthy exercise.

It was reminding me that service is a **spiritual process**—a place where I have an opportunity to grow up. That phrase, **growing pains**, stayed with me through the whole meeting.

After I shared, other people shared. Several people gave what I call “the résumé of service.” They talked about the coffee they made, the donuts they brought, the chairs they set up, the meetings they secretary’d. And I want to say this clearly: those things matter. In early sobriety, those “simple” acts of service often keep me close enough to recover. They give us a place to belong, a reason to show up, and a way to be useful when I felt useless.

But something in me didn’t resonate—not because those tasks aren’t valuable, but because I could feel the difference between **doing tasks** and **being changed** by what I’m doing. I’m learning that I can be busy and still be spiritually immature. I can be helpful and still be resentful. I can serve and still be running the show.

And if I’m honest, I’ve done that. I’ve used service as a way to stay comfortable, to stay liked, to avoid conflict, and to avoid the deeper work of becoming the kind of person who can serve without needing to control the outcome.

The Kind Of Service That Saved My Life

When I was newer, I needed practical service the way I needed meetings and sponsorship. I needed my feet pointed in the right direction. A.A. is not a program of theory; it’s a program of lived principles and action. In the Big Book we read, “Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 58). That word **path** matters to me—it implies movement. It implies practice.

We’re also told, “If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it—then you are ready to take certain steps” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 58). For me, those “lengths” included showing up early, staying late, making coffee (even when I did not want to), cleaning up, and doing the small jobs that kept me connected. Sometimes I didn’t even understand what I was doing spiritually—I just knew I was doing something different than isolating.

And in that stage, service often came before meaning. The work kept me close.

But as a few years passes, I was bored and the program asks for something more than attendance and activity. It asks for spiritual growth.

When Service Becomes “Growing Up”

I keep coming back to one sentence from the Big Book because it describes what happens when I bring self-will into anything—even service:

“The first requirement is that we be convinced that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success... Each person is like an actor who wants to run the whole show...” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 60)

That’s not only about drinking. That’s about the way I try to manage life by managing people. And then the book puts the finger on the deeper cause:

“Selfishness—self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles.” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 62)

If that’s true—and I believe it is—then I can bring my alcoholism right into service: my fear, my image management, my resentments, my need for control, my need to be right. I can do “good work” while still running on self.

So the question becomes: am I using service to avoid growth, or am I letting service become the place where I grow?

“Growing Up” Is A Willingness to Change—And to Shoulder Responsibility

“The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails.” (As Bill Sees It, p. 115)

It sounds inspiring until I apply it. Because when I apply it, I realize I don’t always want responsibility—I want comfort. I want praise. I want appreciation. I want influence. I want to do service and stay spiritually immature.

But A.A. doesn’t offer that. Growth means discomfort. It means giving up the old ways I manage fear. Service starts where convenience ends.

And it’s right there in that phrase: **unremitting willingness**. Not willingness when I feel like it. Not willingness when people agree with me. Not willingness when I’m being thanked. Willingness that persists.

Service Vs. General Service (As I’m Learning It)

In my personal experience, “service” often begins with what supports the meeting: coffee, cleanup, greeter, secretary, setup. These are beautiful, humble acts. They are often how we stay in the center long enough to recover.

But “General Service” has felt different for me. It has felt like service that supports A.A. beyond the meeting, with a wider horizon and a deeper demand. It often looks like being an IGR (Central Office), or a GSR involved with my district and area. Taking on those responsibilities requires patience with process, humility in disagreement, and spiritual maturity when the stakes feel higher and my emotions get louder.

General service exposes the places where I still want to control.

And that’s why it can irritate me.

Why Irritation Might Be the Point

After that meeting, I thought: Yes, I will be irritated and disappointed in myself, did I not share it correctly? Did I misspeak? Or, was I misunderstood? Yes I’m spiritually immature, and those are the things that I look for.

Irritation is often a signal that I’m bumping into something I want to control. It can reveal fear: fear that things won’t go my way, fear I’ll be overlooked, fear I’ll be misunderstood, fear that “my” work won’t be done “right.”

In the past, I would treat irritation as proof that others were wrong. Now I’m learning to treat it as an invitation to inventory. It’s like my character defects raising their hand and saying, “We’re still here.”

So what do I do with that irritation?

A.A. doesn’t tell me to “try harder” or “be nicer” by sheer willpower. It offers me a different solution: surrender.

Director Vs. Agent: Bringing Step Three Into Service

Step Three says, “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 59). And then the Big Book gives me a picture that I can carry into every service situation:

“God is going to be our Director... we are His agents.” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 62)

That line is simple enough to miss. But when I’m in service—especially general service—it becomes a measuring stick:

Am I acting like the director? Or am I acting like an agent?

An agent can be responsible without being prideful. An agent can be firm without being controlling. An agent can serve without needing to win.

When I remember that I’m an agent, my job becomes clearer: show up, do my part, be guided by principles, and let go of outcomes I can’t control.

My Spiritual Condition Is Not Optional

There’s a line in the Big Book that has always sobered me up:

“But with the alcoholic, whose hope is the maintenance and growth of a spiritual experience, this business of resentment is infinitely grave... For when harboring such feelings we shut ourselves off from the sunlight of the Spirit... And with us, to drink is to die.” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 66)

That’s not theory. That’s a warning.

Resentment doesn’t just ruin my mood; it threatens my spiritual condition. And my spiritual condition is tied to my sobriety. So service that exposes resentment isn’t a nuisance—it’s a gift, if I use it properly.

General service often forces me to keep cleaning house in real time:

- When I don’t get my way
- When the process is slow
- When someone is difficult
- When a decision isn’t mine to make
- When I’m asked to be patient
- When I’m asked to participate rather than dominate

In the past, when I did not get my way, I had thoughts of running you over in the parking lot. Today, I have thoughts of slashing your

tires. They are only thoughts, never actions. This is slight spiritual growth, but I know my thought life is still very much in need of much more spiritual growth.

If I don't inventory those moments, I carry resentment. And resentment is poison for an alcoholic like me.

So for me, general service is spiritual fitness training.

The Twelfth Step: Giving That Asks No Rewards

The Twelve and Twelve says something that challenges my old way of thinking: "Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 106)

That line goes right after my hidden motives. Because if I'm honest, I still sometimes want repayment—if not money, then appreciation; if not appreciation, then influence; if not influence, then the comfort of being right.

But Step Twelve points me toward giving without keeping score. And it gets practical:

"There are many opportunities... perhaps arranging for the coffee and cake after the meetings... This is Twelfth Step work in the very best sense of the word." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 110)

So yes—coffee counts. Cleanup counts. Setup counts.

But it's not only **what** I do. It's **who I become** while I do it.

Being Useful vs. Being Formed

I can be useful and still be spiritually immature. I can be useful and still be resentful. I can be useful and still be running on self-will.

AA invites me into something deeper than usefulness. It invites me into being **formed**—shaped by principles.

And that's where that sentence about growth becomes my assignment again: "...a *willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails.*" (As Bill Sees It, p. 115)

Sometimes the responsibility isn't a role. Sometimes the responsibility is emotional maturity:

- Responsibility for my tone
- Responsibility for my motives
- Responsibility for how I handle disagreement
- Responsibility for not gossiping
- Responsibility for not subtly undermining
- Responsibility for doing what's right even when it's not flattering

That kind of service doesn't look impressive on a résumé, but it changes the servant.

AA as the Lodestar

Another reading that frames this for me is about AA being a guiding star: "A.A. was the lodestar of hope and help..." (As Bill Sees It, p. 147)

That matters because service—especially general service—can pull me into personalities, politics, and preferences if I'm not careful. I can start serving *my* ideas instead of serving AA's primary purpose.

So I need the lodestar: the Steps, the Traditions, and the reminder that I'm not running the show. I'm an agent. (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 62)

Putting It Into Practice

Here's what I'm taking forward from that meeting—simple, but not easy:

1. I'm going to keep doing the "basic" service.

Coffee and chairs are not beneath me; they're often exactly what I need. (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 110)

2. I'm going to treat irritation as a spiritual alarm.

Not as proof others are wrong, but as evidence I'm being invited to grow up.

3. I'm going to bring Step Three into service situations.

Director vs. agent. (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 62)

4. I'm going to measure my service by my spiritual condition, not my activity.

Because resentment can kill me spiritually, and spiritual condition is life-or-death for me. (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 66)

5. I'm going to aim for giving that asks no rewards.

Because when I'm free from needing recognition, I'm closer to usefulness—and closer to peace. (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 106)

It's Time To Grow Up

That night, the most honest sentence I could say to myself was:

It's time for me to grow up in AA

Not in a harsh way. Not in a shaming way. In a hopeful way. Because growing up means my sobriety keeps maturing. My relationships keep healing. My usefulness keeps expanding. My ego gets less oxygen. And my Higher Power gets more room to work.

Service is how A.A. continues to change me.

Change for Change

You've seen those small change dishes at coffee counters—pennies and quarters that don't seem like much on their own, but together make a real difference. The same is true for supporting our Santa Clarita Valley Central Office.

Central Office is where newcomers find their first meeting, where literature and chips are available, and where the phone is answered day and night by someone who understands. These services rely on rent, utilities, phone lines, and supplies—costs that add up.

We're inviting you to help in a simple way: contribute your spare change. Keep a small bowl or jar at home or in your meeting labeled "For Central Office." When it fills, drop it off. Small, steady gifts keep our local AA heartbeat strong.

Every call answered, every Big Book sold, every meeting list printed is powered by generosity—one coin at a time. Your change truly helps change lives.

You can also contribute through our "Faithful Friends program at AASCV.org with either a one-time or monthly contribution.

AA Links

- AA - aa.org
- Area 93 - area93.org
- AA Grapevine - aagrapevine.org
- Area 93, District 7 - area93district7.org
- Stepping Stones Alano Club - steppingstonesalanoclub.org
- Central Park Group - centralparkgroupsantaclarita.com
- SCVYPAA - scvypaa.org
- Rafter Group - raftersaa.com
- AV Central Office - avcentraloffice.org
- Santa Clarita Valley Central Office - aascv.org

Southern California AA Convention Corner

- The 74TH Southern California AA Convention is scheduled for the weekend of October 16TH 2026
- The 2026 Southern California AA Convention will take place at the The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, located at 71333 Dinah Shore Dr., Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Visit their website at aasocal.com for information on their planning meetings scheduled for 2026

FAITHFUL

FRIENDS



Contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley Central Office

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



WOMEN'S DAY Luncheon Garden of Grace

Hosted by
SCV AA CONVENTION
with Al-Anon Participation

SATURDAY
JUNE 13
11:00 AM

Valencia United Methodist Church
25718 McBean Pkwy
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

FEATURING:
AA SPEAKER AL-ANON SPEAKER

Ticket Sales End on June 6th

Tickets: **\$25**

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION

Rooted in recovery.
Blooming in grace.
Growing together in fellowship.

AASCVCONVENTIONS.org

The Search for a Higher Power

By Kimberly Cooper

kimberlycooperstudio@gmail.com

The word God almost kept me out of Alcoholics Anonymous. Like many people, I heard the word God and immediately recoiled. I was thrown out of Catholic school in seventh grade. I imagined judgment, rigid religion, patriarchy, dogma, and a cosmic authority figure keeping score from the clouds. I thought recovery required me to subscribe to someone else's theology before I was allowed to heal. And honestly, I wasn't interested.

But over time I began to realize AA was asking a much deeper question entirely: What if the real problem was not that I didn't believe in God but that I had spent years worshiping my own destruction? That question changed everything for me.

In Alcoholics Anonymous, the concept of a Higher Power appears most prominently in Steps Two and Three: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity, and, made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. For many people, these are the hardest steps in the entire program. Some people have experienced deep religious trauma. Others are atheists or agnostics. Some simply reject the image of a traditional God entirely. The language of the Big Book can feel old-fashioned, exclusionary, or loaded with painful associations.

But the Big Book was written by specific people in a specific era, using the spiritual vocabulary available to the mainstream majority at the time. Underneath that language, I believe the real invitation is far less rigid and far more human. The invitation is humility: the recognition that the isolated ego, especially the addicted ego, cannot heal itself alone.

Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Carl Jung understood this deeply. Jung had a profound and surprisingly compassionate view of alcoholism. He did not see addiction simply as a moral failure or lack of willpower. He believed alcoholism was often connected to a deep spiritual and psychological crisis.

One of Jung's most famous ideas about alcoholism comes from a 1961 letter he wrote to Bill W., co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. Jung described one of his alcoholic patients as someone who had been unable to recover through conventional psychiatric treatment alone. He believed the man's craving for alcohol was, at a deeper level, a distorted spiritual longing. He used the famous phrase: "Spiritus contra spiritum." In Latin, spiritus means both alcohol and spirit. Jung believed alcohol often functions as a counterfeit spiritual experience, an artificial attempt to access transcendence, relief, connection, wholeness, ecstasy, or escape from unbearable psychic pain. That insight hit me hard when I first encountered it because it rang painfully true.

Many alcoholics are not simply seeking pleasure. They are seeking relief. Relief from trauma. Relief from alienation. Relief from shame. Relief from emotional repression. Relief from the unbearable feeling of being disconnected from themselves, from others, from meaning, and from life itself. Alcohol can temporarily create the illusion of reunion. The illusion of warmth. The illusion of safety. The illusion of transcendence. Until it begins destroying everything.

Jung did not romanticize addiction. He understood alcoholism as destructive and potentially fatal. But he also believed that underneath compulsive behavior there is often a desperate search for psychic relief, belonging, meaning, or contact with something larger than oneself. That idea became enormously influential in AA culture, especially the emphasis on surrender, spiritual awakening, humility, connection, honesty, and Higher Power.

And this is where I think many people misunderstand recovery. Recovery is not simply about removing alcohol. It is about rebuilding a relationship with meaning, truth, community, the soul, the unconscious self, and reality itself. This is also where many people get stuck. They stop drinking but never build a life that nourishes the part of them that was starving in the first place. Jung would likely say the psyche always tries to fill a vacuum somehow, through alcohol, compulsions, chaos, fantasy, workaholism, obsession, relationships, dissociation, or transformation.

The question becomes: what are you feeding yourself with instead?

For me, the concept of Higher Power began to make sense only when I stopped trying to define it intellectually and started observing it experientially. My Higher Power has never arrived as a booming cosmic voice telling me exactly what to do. It has appeared much more quietly than that. More like a current underneath my life that I can either move with or resist.

When I look honestly at the themes that keep surfacing in my life: recovery, dreams, art, truth-telling, beauty, healing, transformation, service, and the longing to protect the abandoned child inside me, I realize my understanding of Higher Power is not rooted in rigid doctrine. It is rooted in aliveness.

Early in my sobriety journey, I noticed that certain things consistently moved me toward life: creating art, telling the truth, helping others, cleaning and organizing my environment, simplifying my life, staying sober long enough to hear myself think, protecting myself instead of abandoning myself, and allowing myself to feel instead of numbing out. I also noticed the things that consistently moved me toward fragmentation: alcohol,

dishonesty, dissociation, chaos, fantasy, grandiosity, avoidance, self-neglect, and escape.

That distinction became more useful to me than theology ever had. Over time, I stopped asking: "What is my Higher Power?" And started asking: "What way of living makes me feel accompanied instead of abandoned?" That question brought me closer to God, or whatever word one chooses to use, than any argument ever could.

I think many people resist the concept of Higher Power because they imagine it must mean subscribing to a rigid religious identity. But in practice, many recovering people understand Higher Power in deeply personal ways. For some, it truly is God in the traditional sense. For others, it may be nature, truth, love, consciousness, the AA fellowship, collective wisdom, service, the universe, the moral conscience, or simply the force that moves them toward wholeness instead of destruction.

I do not know why the Higher Power concept was initially so uncomfortable for me because I had already been devoted to a higher power for years, and that higher power was alcohol. I was already in a relationship with a certain kind of worship. Alcohol asked for my obedience, my health, my relationships, my creativity, my integrity, my future, my self-respect, my nervous system, and my peace. And if I had not stopped, it eventually would have asked for my life.

Once I reoriented my sense of devotion away from the bottle and toward the quiet internal compass that emerged when I sat with myself instead of self-medicating, I began to understand my own personal experience of God: a place to come home, simplify, awaken, be present, and heal. Maybe that is what a Higher Power sounds like sometimes. Not a command from the heavens. But a deep internal movement toward truth.

And here is something I wish more people understood about recovery: You do not have to fully define your Higher Power before you begin trusting it. Many people wait for certainty and stay trapped. But recovery often begins much more simply than certainty. It begins with willingness. With following what consistently makes you more awake, more honest, more connected, more sober, more compassionate, and more alive. And learning to distrust what consistently makes you smaller, more fragmented, more ashamed, more unconscious, and more disconnected from yourself.

Over time, the shape of your Higher Power becomes clearer through action not theory, performance, or dogma. Just action.

For me, my Higher Power today is less about a supernatural figure in the sky and more about a relationship to reality itself. A relationship to truth. To creativity. To conscience. To love. To the quiet force inside me that keeps trying, despite everything,

to pull me back toward life. Maybe that is all spirituality really is. Learning, slowly and imperfectly, not to abandon yourself anymore. And remembering the benevolent, loving, mysterious source we all stem from, the thing that makes us human, vulnerable, and connected to one another.



The poster features a central graphic with a heart containing a triangle, a dove, and the text "Love & Tolerance" in a stylized font. Below this, it reads "22ND ANNUAL ALCATHON Stepping Stones" and "JULY 10TH, 11TH, AND 12TH". A grid of icons represents various activities: Speakers, Marathon Meetings, Bingo, Potluck Dinner, Raffles, Silent Auction, Spiritual Breakfast, Gift Cards, Food, and Fun, Fellowship. The slogan "Together We Grow" is at the bottom, along with the address "24508 LYONS AVENUE, SANTA CLARITA, 91321".

2026 SCV Convention Corner

Registration is now open for the Santa Clarita Valley AA Convention to be held September 11TH – 13TH, 2026. Our venue has changed and we will have our event at the Hyatt Regency Valencia. A block of rooms have been secured for the weekend at a special rate. Visit the convention website for more information and to take advantage of early registration pricing.

SCV Convention Planning Committee Only (In-Person 11:30 AM
22607 6TH Street, Newhall, CA. 91321

Women's Day Luncheon (Online Tickets Close June 6TH) \$25

Garden of Grace – A Special Event

Saturday, June 13TH

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Valencia United Methodist Church

25718 McBean Pkwy, Santa Clarita, CA 91355



Newsletter



Santa Clarita Valley Central Office
Join to read our monthly newsletter. Each month, you will receive our newsletter with articles, calendar of events, links to meetings, distribution information and other nuggets of current information.



Santa Clarita Valley AA Convention With Al-Anon Participation 20th Anniversary

**SEPTEMBER
11-13, 2026**

Tickets and information at
aascvconvention.org
info@aascvconvention.org

Hyatt Regency Valencia
24500 Town Center Dr, Valencia, CA 91355

Calendar Events

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

Date	Event	Time	Location	Address
6/2/2026	The 2026 Unity in Action	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Online	ID: 202 006 1935 PW: 624101
6/4/2026	SCV H & I Monthly Meeting	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	In-Person	24901 Orchard Village Rd Santa Clarita, CA 91355
6/4/2026	AV Central Office Intergroup Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	In-Person	43619 17th Street West, Suite 103 Lancaster, Ca. 93534
6/5/2026	40th Annual Sunshine of the Spirit High Desert Convention	All Day	In-Person	9619 Mariposa Road, Hesperia, CA 92345
6/7/2026	SCV Convention Planning Committee Only	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	In-Person	22607 6th Street, Newhall, CA. 91321
6/7/2026	AV Monthly Roundup	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	In-Person	42545 Wall Street, Unit 115 Lancaster CA 93534
6/8/2026	District 7 Monthly Business Meetings	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Hybrid	41843 50th Street West Quartz Hill CA 93536; ID 835 1211 4894
6/11/2026	AA Desert Roundup	All Day	In-Person	44400 Indian Wells Ln, Indian Wells, CA 92210
6/13/2026	SCV Convention Women's Day Luncheon	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	In-Person	25718 McBean Pkwy, Santa Clarita, CA 91355
6/14/2026	AV H&I Monthly Meeting	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	In-Person	42545 Wall Street, Unit 115 Lancaster CA 93534
6/15/2026	Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Online	ID: 825 7541 7228 PW: Workbook
6/22/2026	SCV Intergroup Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	In-Person	26951 Ruether Ave., B-4 Santa Clarita, CA 91351
6/26 - 6/28	Rafters Alcathon	All Day	In-Person	22607 6th Street, Newhall, CA. 91321

May IGR Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 7:03PM by Chairperson, Susan C.

- Opening prayer: Serenity Prayer (all)
- Statement of purpose: Jenny M.

Meeting Minutes

- April, 2026 Meeting Minutes reviewed. Judy F. moved to accept, second, the motion by Leslie M., Meeting Minutes approved by all.

Attendance

- Susan C., Ida B., Jasmine G., Barbra W., Kathy B., Jenny M., John C., Susie R., Patty G., Judy F., Leslie M., and Melissa D.

Statement of purpose

- Read by Jenny M.

Treasures Report: Judy F.

- April Report reviewed. Central office was in positive position at \$888.
- Susie R. moved to accept April's Treasury Report. Barbra W. second the motion April Treasury Report approved by all.
- As of 4/26 Checking account balance was \$14,993 and Reserve account balance was \$16,144.
- April Group contributions \$2,708 Individual contributions were \$515. Total contributions \$3,224

Chairpersons Report: Susan C.

- Central Office Relocation & Current Location @ Ruether
- Current Location: Susan C. spoke to the landlord about fumigating the building for cockroach infestation. He will not. Asked him to spray our office. He will not. On 5/8/26 he sprayed the hallway and entryway.
- Walnut Street property (behind Rafters): Susan C. emailed IGR's on 5/1 with pro's & con's about property. Con's outweighed Pro's.
- It was decided not to move forward.
- 19040 Soledad Canyon Rd., #230 (Whites Canyon, next to Citibank). Ida B. found this listing and sent to Susan C. (Thank you Ida).
- Susan C. did footwork, discussed with Judy, it was decided to submit a lease application, financials and proposal to lease space to Spectrum Realty.
- 1st year rent \$950 Rent reduction for 3 mo. \$530.
- 5% increase annually. Lease term 5 years. Start Date: 7/1.
- Security Deposit and 1st month rent due at signing: approx. \$3,000
- Rigorous discussion ensued about finances, increase in rent, need for more contributions, need for promotion of QR Code, use Zelle, Venmo? - make it easy. At meetings ask for group conscience pass basket for Central Office, need for more IGR's - ask Stepping Stones to include (at New Secretary Orientation) a change in format to have IGR at meetings

(group conscience). Post Meeting Note: Susan C. sent e-mail to Stepping Stones.

- Susan C. moved to allow Central Office to accept the terms and move forward with review and signing of lease for space at 19040 Soledad Cyn. #230, effective 7/1/2026. Jasmine second the motion. Motion approved by all. POST MEETING NOTE: Lease rec'd & being reviewed.
- Susan C. moved to allow Central Office to withdraw from the Reserve Savings Account if needed for moving expenses, not to exceed \$5000.00. Jasmine seconded the motion. Motion approved by all.
- Susan C. moved to allow Central Office to give a 30-day notice to vacate space at 26951 Ruether, B4 to Landlord dated 6/1/2026. POST MEETING NOTE: Judy F. preparing notice to vacate. Judy F. preparing list of what needs to be done, who, what, where, when.

Literature Share - Kathy B.

- Postponed to next meeting.

Meeting Share

- Postponed to next meeting.

Office Manager Report

- Susan C. reported no changes.

Literature Report

- Judy F.- Postponed to next meeting.

Outreach Chairperson

- Position is open
- There are 14 meetings currently represented by IGRs. We have 26 meetings and 13 of them have no IGR representation.
- Flyer was handed out for IGRs to take to meetings

Technology - Doug W.

- Doug manages our Newsletter, website, and meeting schedules.
- Gazette articles & info due 25TH of each month - send directly to Doug: webservant@aascv.org

New Business

- Postponed until next meeting

Announcements

- John C., Susie R., Judy F.
- Easy Does it Weekend at Camp Seely 9/25-27 Go to easydoesitweekendinc.org Flyer handed out
- The 12 Concepts animated video is now available at aa.org
- The Woman's Day Luncheon hosted by SCV AA Convention is 6/13 @11AM flyer handed out and on website. Tickets \$25. aascvconvention.org

Birthdays

None

Meeting Adjourned: Susie R. moved to close meeting. Second Jenny M. Meeting closed at 8:17PM

Responsibility Statement recited by Group.

Free AA Meeting Guide App

This card is made possible through the contributions of A.A. groups and A.A. members to the SCV Central Office (AASCV.org)

PRAASA 2027
Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly
Friday, March 5th – Sunday, March 7th, 2027

The Westin Seattle
1900 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Room Rate: \$189 per night (plus tax)
Estimated Registration Cost:
In Person: \$75 Online: \$25

Hybrid Event!
Come in person or online

Friday: Dinner
Saturday: Lunch, Banquet Dinner, Ice Cream Social
Grab & Go options available

Arriving via plane? SEA (Seattle-Tacoma International Airport)
Take the Link Light Rail all the way to the venue!
Contact: praasa2027@area72aa.org

Hosted in Western Washington Area 72

AUGUST 7-9 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Resort
Palm Springs

ACCEPTANCE IS THE ANSWER

Discounted room rates @\$134 • To book: Call 844-543-9184 • Use code MA2 by 7/23
DoubleTree by Hilton Resort • 67967 Vista Chino, Cathedral City, CA 92234

Weekend Events:

SPEAKER MEETINGS, MARATHON MEETINGS, POOL PARTY, KARAOKE, DJ DANCE PARTY, *GOLF TOURNAMENT, YOGA, GUIDED MEDITATIONS, BINGO, RAFFLE PRIZES, 50/50, MONEY TREE, AND MORE! *INDICATES TICKETED EVENT

scan or visit maddogdaze.org

52nd ANNUAL | 9th DISTRICT CONVENTION

- You must be registered to attend ticketed events
- To sit together, you must register on-line or mail in requests together
- If registration is not received by 7/20 you may register on-site on 8/07

Save the Date

Public Information (PI) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Workshop

Sunday July 19, 2026
12:30– 3:30

33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd, Aqua Dulce, CA

In-person and Zoom
812 4612 9383 Passcode: Panel75

- ❖ Lunch (Lunch will be served directly after the ACM Meeting)
- ❖ The History of PI and CPC
- ❖ What is PI and what is CPC?
- ❖ What do they do?

Guarda la fecha

Taller de Información Pública (IP) y Cooperación con la Comunidad Profesional (CCP) Domingo

19 de julio de 2026
12:30 – 3:30

33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd, Aqua Dulce, CA

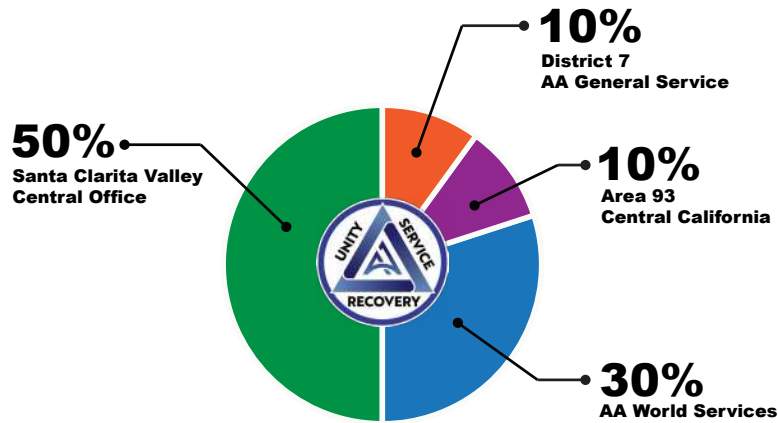
Presencial y Zoom
812 4612 9383 Código de acceso: Panel75

- ❖ Comida (El almuerzo se servirá directamente después de la reunión de RCA)
- ❖ La historia de IP y CCP
- ❖ ¿Qué es IP y qué es CCP?
- ❖ ¿Qué hacen?

7TH Tradition

Contributions to Central Offices, District 7, Area 93 and GSB

Financial Support for your Central Office, District 7, Area 93, and General Service Board of AA it is suggested for each group that participates in Tradition 7. When a meeting meets it rent and prudent reserve, the remaining contributions are suggested to support all of the AA Service Structure. The percentages are suggestions.



SCV Central Office

26951 Reuther Ave B-4
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
(Check payable to: SCV Central Office)
(Electronic: <https://aascv.org/7th-tradition/>)

District 7

P.O. Box 599
Acton, CA 93510
(Check payable to: District 7, CCAA)
(Electronic: <https://area93district7.org/make-a-contribution/>)

Central California Area 93

PMB #140
606 Alamo Pintado #3
Solvang, CA 93463
(Check payable to: CCAA, Area 93)
(Electronic: <https://area93.org/contributions/>)

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)
(Electronic: <https://contribution.aa.org/>)

Group IDs

It is very important to add your: **Group/ Meeting Information to all checks and other payments.**

- **AAWS Group ID Number (9-Digits)**
- **Meeting/Group Name**
- **Location and Time**

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

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:
7. Scroll down to the "Past Transactions" section.
8. 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.