

March 2018

# CENTRAL NEWS

## *The Book Is Born*

Alfalfa Sunset Tulare, CA

In recent Grapevine attention has been drawn to the fact that A.A. is still in the process of forming a public relations policy, that failure to crystallize a sound policy could seriously cripple us.

During the first three years of A.A. no one gave a thought to public relations. It was a time of "flying blind," when we feverishly sought the principles upon which we might stay sober and assist the few alcoholics who came around wanting to do likewise. We were entirely preoccupied with the life and death question of personal recovery. It was strictly a man to man affair. We hadn't even agreed upon a name for our movement. There was no literature.

By the fall of 1937 we could count what looked like 40 recovered members. One of us had been sober for three years, another two and a half, and a fair number had a year or more behind them. As all of us had been hopeless cases, this amount of time elapsed began to be significant. The realization that we "had found something" began to take hold of us. No longer were we a dubious experiment. Alcoholics could stay sober. By Bill Great numbers perhaps! While some of us had always clung to this possibility, the dream now had real

substance. If 40 alcoholics could recover, why not four hundred, four thousand - even forty thousand?

Once this spectacular notion gripped us, our thinking underwent a sudden change. Our alcoholic imaginations certainly had a field day. By temperament most of us are salesmen, promoters. So we began talking very big. Mere boxcar numbers wouldn't do. We went astronomical. Undoubtedly, we said, this was the beginning of one of the greatest medical, religious and social developments of all time. We would show the medical profession and the sky pilots where they got off! A million alcoholics in America; more millions all over the world! Why, we only had to sober up all these boys and girls (and sell them God) whereupon they would revolutionize society. A brand new world with exdrunks running it. Just think of that, folks!

Publicity? Why of course! Millions of words! Money? Sure! It would take millions, naturally! The matter of money and publicity would be a cinch - just a campaign of high powered selling directed at our American tycoon and editors would quickly settle that question. How could they resist when they saw what we had? Just watch us drunks. Actually a few of



us were pretty nearly as bad as that! No circus barker was ever so enthusiastic or extravagant in his cries as were some of us in the fall of 1937. In fact, I can recall having done a great deal of the barking myself!

Now suppose the promoters of those pioneering days had not been slowed down. Suppose that our public relations policy had been left fully in their hands. Suppose they had been able to raise millions, to flood the country with A.A. propaganda and wild claims. Where would we be now? Nowhere, obviously. We would not only have fallen out with our best friends, religion and medicine; we would surely have been discredited among the very people we wished most to reach - alcoholic men and women. Much money would have meant a large staff of professional A.A. therapists or "do gooders," and promoters plus money would surely have meant ballyhoo on every subject under the sun from prohibition to Communist Russia. Internally, if we still existed at all, we would have been torn apart by political controversy, religious dissension. It happened to the Washingtonians. Who, then, has saved us thus far?

The people who did the saving job then, and who have continued to save us much trouble since, are a class of individuals with whom most A.A.s are impatient. These people are the conservatives. They are the "go slow," "think it over," "let's not do that" type. Not many of them are to be found among us alcoholics but it's certainly providential that we have always had a few such around. Often accused of being a drag on progress (as they sometimes are) they bring nevertheless a priceless asset. They bring the rest of us down out of the clouds; they make us face the realities of experience; they foresee dangers which most of us would blithely ignore. Sometimes their conservatism is overdone; they needlessly "view with alarm for the good of the movement." Knowing that mere change is not necessarily progress they instinctively resist change. They never wish to take an irrevocable step; they often shrink from those final decisions from which there is no retreat. They keep out of trouble by making sure never to get into it.

The first discussion of our public relations in 1937 at Akron will always live in my memory. The promoters could think of nothing but getting the glad news of our recoveries to a million alcoholics, overnight if possible. If this were done, God would do the rest, they said. But

the conservatives did not think God did business that way.

The conservatives then proceeded, with terrific impact, to make the point that The Man of Galilee had no press agent, no newspapers, no pamphlets, no books - nothing but word of mouth to carry the spirit from person to person, from group to group. Why would we deviate from His example? Were we about to substitute ballyhoo for personal demonstration? Were we to favor personal glorification in public in place of quietness, humility and anonymity?

These were good questions; they made us promoters stop and think. Though obliged to concede much to the conservatives on principle, we still felt their counsel was that of perfection. It wasn't practical. The conservatives retorted that while promoters had built many a successful enterprise they almost always bankrupt what they had built if they were left long enough in charge. We promoters (and I was one of them) came back to this: How, we inquired, could the "go slow boys" sleep nights when they reflected but three small groups; that America had a million alcoholics dying like flies; that within gunshot of where we sat there were perhaps hundreds who could get well if they only knew what we knew? And did alcoholics in California have to wait for relief to get there by word of mouth only? And wasn't there grave danger of our successful methods being badly distorted unless reduced to writing and put in book form? And if we made no written record of what we had found, might not columnists get funny and start deadly ridicule? Caution, we agreed, ought to be observed by all means, but still didn't we need a book of our own, some publicity?

Such was the gist of the discussion out of which came the discussion to publish the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This led to publicity, to the establishment of our Board of Trustees (The Alcoholic Foundation), and to the creation of the Central Office at New York where alcoholics and their families can write for literature and direct help. Our rapid and seemingly healthy growth the past few years has pretty well demonstrated the wisdom of these early decision.

The point is obvious. If these vital matters had been left entirely to the promoters like me, we would surly have gone hog wild and spoiled everything. Had



these affairs been left exclusively to the conservatives it is probable that few of our present membership would yet have heard of A.A. Thousands would have remained miserable. Many would have been dead. So it seems clear that sound policy can only be made by rubbing the conservatives and the promoters together. Their discussions, if free from personal ambitions and resentment, can be depended upon to produce the right answers. For us, there is no other way. Having now shown how our first step in public was taken, I would like, in forthcoming pieces, to tell more of our recent experiences in this field, with emphasis on the desirability of continued modesty, anonymity, and fidelity to one objective only: That of carrying A.A. to the alcoholic who wishes to recover.

Bill W. AA Grapevine October, 1945

**Step 3** *Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him*

In AA we often hear that Step 1 is the only step that we need to take 100%; and it is understandable that people say this. Without completely surrendering to the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and that our lives are unmanageable, there is little chance of recovery. If we still believe drinking can bring us any form of pleasure in the future, at best we might have white-knuckle sobriety...for a while. Inevitably, we will succumb again to the lure of alcohol. Once we admit complete defeat and surrender to the hopelessness of our condition, Step 2 comes along and reassures us that there is a way out, that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity. Step 2 gives us the necessary hope to continue on. But at Step 3, we are called to take a leap of faith. Step 3 asks for commitment and dedication to this Higher Power. We're not just turning our alcoholism over to a Power greater than ourselves, we are "abandoning ourselves to God, as we understand God."

If Step 1 is the linchpin of the AA program and Step 2 is a bridge, then I would argue that Step 3 is the pivot. The first three steps can be seen as "inside jobs" – the only person who knows the degree to which one has given him/herself "to this simple program" is the person taking these steps. The reason I call Step 3 "pivotal" is that it seems that the ease and thoroughness with which one is able to complete Steps 4 – 9 depend upon how thoroughly one is willing to

surrender to this Power, as we are invited to in Step 3. I know this from my own experience – and, as usual, my example is the "bad" example. When I originally took Steps 4 and 5, instead of being filled with peace and feeling that a weight had been lifted from my shoulders, I was overcome with self-loathing, self-recrimination, and remorse. How could I have done such things, been so selfish, and harmed those that I loved the most? It took a while before I saw that I had lacked the necessary humility (which is, ideally, the outcome of taking the Third Step), and that my pride was what was causing me so much pain. I believed that "I should be better than that" – and that I could have been better than that! That's the voice of pride and ego, the voice that tells me that on my own I can eradicate my character defects, that I have the power rein in my own "self-will", that I am (or can be) better than, in fact, I am.

Step 3, however, is about giving up those old ideas. It's about letting God be the one who determines my worth, who guides my actions, who gives me whatever power I might have in dealing with life. Of course, a lot depends upon one's conception of a Higher Power. For me, the God to whom I would want to turn over my will and my life needs to be a God of forgiveness, love, and mercy. Evidently, that was not the God that I had in mind when I initially did Step 3. The God I had then, unfortunately, looked a lot like me: judgmental, critical, and moralistic - in other words, not God at all. Needless to say, over the years I have had to re-work Steps 4 – 9, but now with a foundation of trust in a God whose care brings peace and acceptance. For me, and, I believe, most people, Step 3 can never be taken 100%, once and for all - in fact, I need to reaffirm it daily, which, as time has passed, has resulted in a deepening need for reliance upon God. Of one thing I am certain, however: The best I'm ever going to be is "human" – and given the fact that my Higher Power loves me exactly the way I am, this is good enough.

Louise G.

## Upcoming Events

**Have an Event?? Send an Email:  
centralintergroupnews@gmail.com**



# Tradition 3

*The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking”*

Tradition three is “packed with meaning”. The 12X12 helps to unpack the significance of this not-so-straightforward tradition by reminding us, first, that only you can declare yourself an alcoholic and thereby a member of A.A. Furthermore, there are no “other” requirements for membership, only a desire to stop drinking. “No matter who you are, how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications – even your crimes – we still can’t deny you AA membership.” (p. 139) This tradition is about inclusion.

Interestingly enough, there are some AA members who tend to use this tradition as a “winnowing fork” to determine who really belongs in AA – as if it’s an adjunct to AA’s “singleness of purpose” as expressed in Tradition 5. In other words, they see “the only requirement” as the sole and exclusive requirement for membership in AA, viewing with suspicion people with “other addictions” who also declare themselves alcoholics. Alcoholics, in this view, must be “pure” alcoholics in order to belong. Obviously, the kind of exclusion practiced by those who share this mindset never goes so far as to actually bar membership to any individuals. But this attitude of intolerance can still be damaging when people with other addictions and issues are not welcomed wholeheartedly into our fellowship along with the “pure” alcoholic (if there still is such a creature).

It only takes reading the long form of the tradition and a nodding acquaintance with its history as described in the 12X12 to realize that this “requirement” was established after a rather shameful history of intolerance and bias on the part of early AA members, members who would decline membership to “beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots, and fallen women.....” (p. 140)

The long form of the tradition states: Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no outside affiliation.” This tradition guarantees that all individuals (who desire to stop drinking) can belong

to the fellowship regardless of their past criminal histories, sexual preferences, spiritual beliefs (or lack thereof), emotional stability, or economic status. In the words of the 12X12: “At last experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic’s full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence, and often to condemn him to endless misery. Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother?” As a member of an AA home group, each of us might want to ask him/herself, “Does our group make a point of welcoming ALL who desire recovery?” If the answer is “yes” then the group is in keeping with Tradition 3. If not, it might be a good time for a Group Inventory on the Traditions.

Doug H.

## *Central Service Meeting* Minutes February 13, 2018

**Meeting called to order: 7:00 p.m.**

**Central Office Board members present:** Julie M., Louise G., Stella T., Bob H.

**Serenity Prayer:** Julie M.

**12 Traditions:** Doug H.

**Secretary Report:** Minutes of last meeting were unanimously approved as read, Mike K. moved and Stella T. seconded.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** Julie read the minutes of the last meeting.

**Treasurer and Office Report:** Bob H. reported an income of \$12,696.76 and expenses of \$6,202.69, resulting in a net gain of \$6,494.07. Group contributions were up considerably this month as well as individual contributions. Sales were also above average.

**PI/CPC:** Stella T: nothing to report.

**Website Report:** The website continues to be active, averaging 148 hits per day. Over a 2 week period, there were 3,162 views of the meeting directory. It is now possible to download speaker tapes or listen to them directly through the link on our website.

**H&I Report (Mike K):** The H&I team has volunteers going to Corcoran prison Substance Abuse facility three times a month, twice a month Joyce R. is taking volunteers to the women’s jail facility and the men’s correctional facility is also being visited two times a month. In addition, there are three meetings per week being facilitated by H&I at Turning Point. H&I organizational meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. at the Alano Club.

**GSO Liaison:** (Alan L., Alternate DCM) reported that preparations are being made to discuss the agenda items which will be presented at the New York General Service



Conference in April. There will be a meeting for GSR's on Feb. 24 to decide which agenda items will be presented to the groups in order to get feedback to the Area Delegate before the conference. A service fair open to all is tentatively in the works for the end of March.

#### **CSR Reports:**

**Jonathan T Tulare Unity Young People's:** 220 W. Tulare Ave in Tulare. We meet every Sat. night at 7:30 p.m. for an open young people's AA meeting. All ages welcome.

**Billy Bridge St Drunks Only Group:** This group has 20 meetings each week. The early morning group (closed) meets 7 days a week with approx. 20 in attendance. The noon meeting (closed) meets M – F and has open meetings Sat. and Sun. There's a women's meeting at 5:30-6:30 Monday evenings. Tues night at 7:00 is an open literature study currently reading As Bill Sees It. Wed. at 6:00 p.m. is an open 12X12 study meeting. The Primary Purpose group meets on Thursday nights at 7:00. This meeting studies the Big Book and gives an opportunity for newcomers to be introduced to the program and find a sponsor. On Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. an open discussion meeting is held; and on Sunday evening 5:00 p.m. there is a closed 10th Step workshop.

**Monica R. Women's Amity Group:** We are a closed women's group located at 6400 W. Walnut in Visalia and meet every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. One year birthdays are celebrated weekly and multi-years the last Tuesday of the month.

**Doug H. Acceptance Group:** This is an open Gay AA meeting in Porterville and all are welcome. We meet at the First Congregational Church at 4th and Mill St. This is a one hour meeting from 6:00-7:00 every Wednesday. The meeting has been growing with 20-25 people in attendance. This is a topic discussion meeting. Birthdays are celebrated on the last Wed. of the month.

**Louise G. Rainbow Group:** We meet Saturday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Polar Bear room at Kaweah Delta Rehab on Acres in Visalia. This is a topic discussion which employs a timer to ensure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to share. There is a good balance of old-timers and new-comers. Business meetings are held regularly the 2nd Saturday of the month and birthdays are celebrated the last Saturday.

#### **Newsletter volunteers:**

March Issue: Step 3: Louise G. 2/20/18 to  
centralintergroupnews@gmail.com

April Issue: Step 4: Alan L. 3/20/18 to  
centralintergroupnews@gmail.com.

March Issue: Tradition 3: Doug H 2/20/18 (see above)

April Issue: Tradition 4: Julie M. 3/20/19 (see above)

**Old Business:** Julie M. passed out questionnaire "preference forms" (as we discussed in last month's board

meeting) to be distributed among AA members in order to solicit feed-back to help improve the Central Office's annual fundraiser, the New Year's Eve Celebration. This event is making less money, partly due to increased expenses regarding the dinner and entertainment. If you are interested in giving in-put regarding the planning of next year's New Year's Eve function, please obtain one of these forms from your group CSR or from Central Office. New ideas are welcome!!

**New Business:** The annual AA Picnic will be held June 9 at Mooney Grove, Arbor #9

A chairperson is needed to head up this event. There is discussion about whether or not a Golf Tournament will be held this year.

**Seventh Tradition:** \$24.00

**Announcements:** (Mike K.) "Spring into Sobriety", presented by the Valley Speaker Series and Men's Attitude Adjustment Group, will be held on Sat. March 10, 2018 at Christ Lutheran Church, 3830 W. Tulare Ave. in Visalia. This event includes "Back to the 40's" Step workshop from 11:00-5:00 p.m., Tri-tip dinner 5:30 -6:30 p.m., and 7:00 speaker, Vikki R. of Yuba City, CA. Pre-sale dinner tickets are \$15.00.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:10

## *Judge Not*

I have been a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous for seven years. One of the great satisfactions of the Twelve Step life is working with newcomers. The literature reminds us that working with another alcoholic insures immunity from drinking like nothing else. The most frequent complaint I get from newcomers is that there is too much God in A.A.; that A.A. seems too much like "religion". The standard answer seems to be that our program is "spiritual, not religious." As a newcomer, I was so desperate to get sober, I spent little time debating the distinction. Yet, I have heard A.A. members hotly defend A.A. from this "religious" charge. I don't see any need to do so. A.A. is like religion, in many ways. I have been a member of the Catholic Church, and have great respect for it. In this faith, it is held that each person is born with "original sin", because of the sin of Adam and Eve. They were seeking to be "god", by eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge, and so were cast out of paradise. Humans have to be redeemed of this inherited sin, or we will go to hell. Redemption is attained by following the teachings and path of Jesus Christ, as defined by the Seven Sacraments. Then we can attain the Kingdom of Heaven. The alcoholic



is born with the "sin" of alcoholism, and A.A. says that he cannot be cured. He is seeking to "play god", by changing his/her reality through intoxication. He will die an alcoholic death, unless he seeks a spiritual solution. That "God-given solution" is the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. These "sacraments" will allow the alcoholic to attain the "kingdom of sobriety" as long as he continues to practice them. The gate to heaven opens for the Catholic and the drunk, if he/she maintains the state of grace available through their respective sacraments. Spiritual, NOT religious? Seems a fine distinction, and perhaps insupportable. It makes no difference to me. I am a chronic, late stage alcoholic. I have recovered by living the Twelve Steps of A.A. My life, as a result, is better than it has ever been. It matters not in the least to me what anyone calls it. I just hope that those hostile to the mere idea of religion do not reject A.A. because of any similarity.

There are great differences as well. Most religions holds that theirs is the one, true faith and the only path to salvation. A.A. states, "We have no monopoly on recovery from alcoholism". The First Commandment defines One God. A.A. allows us to choose our own. Religions have rigid dogma, that requires strict adherence. The steps of A.A., are only "suggestions". Both the Christian and the drunk have to keep the faith, or Satan will get the better of them. For the religious, Satan can take many forms. Mine is in a bottle.

A.A. owes much of it's origins to the Oxford Group. In these groups, it was expected that one would remain a member of their "home" religion, in addition to the Oxford Group. It is the same in A.A. We are not in opposition to any faith, anyone, or anything: We are all-inclusive. Our literature suggests we "resign from the debating society" about certain spiritual matters. I think it's fine to debate...just as long as we don't take ourselves too damn seriously.

Mark G.

## *Special Announcement*

**THE HILLMAN GROUP NEEDS SUPPORT!!!!**

**IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE WE MEET EVERY THURSDAY AT NOON. AT ST. RITA'S IN TULARE 954 S. "O" ST. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!!**

## *District 47 Meeting Minutes*

Minutes February 7, 2018

**Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by DCM Josh F.**

**Committee:** Josh F., DCM; Allen L., Alternate DCM and GSR for the Serenity Seekers AM Group; Nick V., GSR for the Rainbow Group; Dean J., GSR for the Young & Restless Group; Billy G., GSR for the Visalia Monday Men's Stag Group; Kenneth B., GSR for the Springville Gut Level Group; David G., GSR for the Sunday Serenity Seekers PM Group; Danette L., GSR for the Saturday Morning Women's 12x12 Group; Boo M., GSR for the Women's Amity Group; Brooke L. GSR for the Bridge Street Drunks Only Group; Martha M., Tuesday Women's Changes in Porterville, Sherri D., GSR for the Exeter Sunday Afternoon Group; Cheryl H., Esteemed Member at Large.

The Serenity Prayer and the GSR Preamble were recited by all present.

Approval of Minutes: MSP for approval of minutes for the January D-47 meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Beginning Balance \$ 1,217.90. Contributions totaled \$392.16. Expenses totaled \$72.00. Ending Balance \$ 1,538.06. Report on file. DCM Report – Seven were in attendance of the Winter Assembly in Roseville. The agenda items for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference include the following. A list of all of the agenda items is available on the "Delegate's Page" at [cna.org](http://cna.org). Group feedback is crucial for our Delegate, Mike K., as he prepares to take the collective "group conscience" of our area to the meeting in New York:

(1) Motion to Censure General Service Board (Agenda Item No. XI(E)). Area 65 has moved to censure the General Service Board for filing a lawsuit to recover the "original working manuscript" of the Big Book (the lawsuit was later voluntarily dropped in November of 2017). Area 65 is seeking the censure because it claims that the Board violated the Conference Charter and other principles by "inciting public controversy" without first consulting the General Service Conference. This proposal will first be taken up by the Conference Committees on the Trustees.

(2) Proposal to Add Materials to the Big Book (Agenda



Item Nos. VI(A) & VI(E)). There are three proposed additions to the Big Book: (1) to add an appendix reflecting recognition of the Big Book by the Library of Congress in 2012 as Appendix 8; (2) to add the Preamble and the Responsibility Statement to the Big Book; and (3) to add an endnote to the end of Bill's Story, acknowledging Dr. Bob and referring to his story, which follows the main text.

In addition, there is a proposal to add language concerning safety in A.A. to several pieces of A.A. literature, including the Big Book. Specifically, under the proposal, (1) a footnote or endnote would be added to Chapter 12, "Working with Others," to reflect the contemporary consensus that 12th-step work be done in pairs; (2) there would also be a reference in Chapter 12 to other A.A. literature for newcomers (for example, the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship").

(3) Proposal that AA Establish its Own LinkedIn Page in Order to Reach Out to Professionals (Agenda Item No. II(A)). A subcommittee for the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community has issued a 23-page report, with a majority of the subcommittee recommending that AA create its own LinkedIn page. The report includes discussions of Traditions 6, 10, and 11.

(4) Requests to Produce a Pamphlet for Atheists and Agnostics in AA (Agenda Items Nos. VI (B) & (C)). There are two proposals on this issue: (1) That AA for the U.S. and Canada begin to print and sell the pamphlet *The God Word* which has been published historically by AA in Great Britain; and (2) that a pamphlet be developed for atheists and agnostics in AA. The recent pamphlet *Many Paths to Spirituality* was designed (at least in part) to address atheists and agnostics. One central question is whether a new pamphlet is necessary in light of the recent publication of *Many Paths*.

(5) Request to Add Language to "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" Dealing with Anonymity (Agenda Item No. VI(R)). Area 29 has conducted an "Anonymity Survey" of its members, and has determined that, especially in light of social media and the internet, there is a wide range of opinions concerning Tradition Eleven, and that more guidance on the topic is desirable.

(6) Proposed Additions to Living Sober Regarding AA members and Medication (Agenda Item No. VI(M)). Area 06 proposes to include several paragraphs concerning AA members and medication in the "Note to Medical Professionals" on page 90 of *Living Sober*. The proposed language would not be original, but would be taken from page 6 of the Pamphlet "The AA Member - Medications & Other Drugs."

(7) Proposal for a New Book (a "12x12x12") that Adds Essays on the 12 Concepts to the Essays Currently in the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." (Agenda Item No. VI(N.)). Area 05 has advanced this proposal, advocating for a book that includes "Bill W.'s essays on all of A.A.'s 36 principles."

### GSR Reports.

**Billy G., Visalia Monday Night Men's Stag Mtg:** We meet weekly from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. We meet at the PPAV Hall on East Main St. in Visalia. 20 to 40 men attend weekly. After readings, we open the meeting to a chairperson who shares his experience, strength, and hope. Members then share on a selected topic. We celebrate birthdays the last Monday of the month. The group donates to the various AA entities when possible.

**David G., Sunday Serenity Seekers PM:** We are an open meeting, held from 7:30 to 9:30 Sunday evenings, located at the Spiritual Living Center in Visalia (door opens to the parking garage on Acequia across from Kaweah Delta Hospital). We have a chairperson who shares for 30 minutes; then open discussion. Our secretary is Louie t. We usually have between 20 and 30 members.

**Kenneth B., Springville Gut Level:** We meet every Thursday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Lighthouse Chapel in Springville. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. Lots of old and new sobriety.

**Martha M., Tuesday Night Womens' Changes Group:** We meet Tuesday nights from 7pm to 8pm. We celebrate birthdays on the last Tuesday of each month. It is a closed meeting, and benefits from a strong structure. Our focus is to help newcomers find a better way of living. I have nothing to report yet – this is my first meeting back in general service. Thank you for



letting me be of service.

**Allen L., Sunday Morning Serenity Seekers AM:** We meet at 10:00am at the Alano Club in Visalia every Sunday. We hand out chips for various lengths of sobriety. Birthdays are celebrated with cake on the last Sunday of every month. We have a good solid mix of old-timers and newcomers and we are represented by both CSR and GSR. We regularly contribute to the various AA entities and hold our business meeting on the first Sunday of each month following our regular meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1) Upcoming Events. Several upcoming events will assist interested AA members in learning more about actions that the General Service Conference might take in April:

a. Agenda Items Workshop in Clovis. Area officers will present on various agenda items in Clovis on March 24, 2018, from 1-3pm at the Sierra Fellowship, 1521 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA.

b. District 47 Service Fair in Visalia. Panels will present on specific AA traditions, and discussions will be held on how this year's GSC Agenda Items implicate the traditions. A tri-tip lunch will be provided – no fee for lunch! Event details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2018

Place: Center for Spiritual Living, 117 S. Locust St., Visalia, CA

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Porterville Workshop. Martha M. will explore possibilities related to a workshop in Porterville later in 2018.

2) Personal Anonymity and the Internet/Social Media. Boo M. discussed issues related to anonymity and social media sites such as Facebook. It was mentioned that GSO has issued "AA Guidelines" on anonymity and the internet, which are available online.



# Financial Report

TULARE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

Income & Expense Statement

1/21/2018 THROUGH 2/20/2018

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
B.Day Club	16.00	82.00
CD & Tape Cont.	10.00	10.00
Group Cont.	1,765.30	4,360.85
Indiv Cont	109.61	3,137.37
Lit. Sales	671.05	1,143.80
Memorial Cont.	0.00	0.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cont.	0.00	0.00
S & H	0.00	0.00
Sales Tax	64.78	145.35
Spec. Events	0.00	5,893.58
Spec. Items	535.55	1,096.10

**TOTAL** **\$3,172.29** **\$15,869.05**

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
Ans. Serv.	40.00	80.00
Fees-Taxes	0.00	20.00
Insurance	0.00	550.00
Lit. Costs	1,862.60	1,862.60
PI-CPC Expense	0.00	0.00
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cost	0.00	0.00
Office Exp	236.95	336.95
Office Equip.& Maint	292.26	292.26
Phone & ISP	180.29	357.05
Postage	50.00	50.00
Employee Taxes	1,267.04	1,267.04
Rent	525.00	1,050.00
Salary	1,874.73	3,280.37
Sales Tax-Paid	0.00	0.00
Security System	0.00	0.00
Spec. Events	0.00	2,885.84
Spec. Items	198.55	536.65
Card Charge	4.52	8.01
Utilities	94.08	186.56
Website	0.00	65.38

**TOTAL** **\$6,626.02** **12,828.71**

**Net Gain(Loss)** **(\$3,453.73)** **\$3,040.34**

**BEG. TOT. ACCT. BAL:** **\$18,849.53**

**END. TOT. ACCT BAL:** **\$15,395.80**



# March AA Birthdays

Name	City	Years
Manuel C.	Tulare	43
Kristi H.	Visalia	42
Art W.	Lampasas TX	40
John G.	Armona	35
Barbara S.	Hanford	35
Ray D.	Tulare	34
Laura H.	Visalia	34
Sylvia M.	Visalia	33
Allan L.	Visalia	32
Jesse M.	Porterville	31
Rod R.	Tulare	31
Vick G.	Exeter	31
Cy F.	Visalia	31
Marcie M.	Porterville	30
Mark C.	Hanford	29
Lawrence C.	Tulare	27
Dave S.	Visalia	25
Tom S.	Visalia	25
Wendy S.	Visalia	25
Gary S.	Three Rivers	23
Jeanmarie D.	Porterville	16
Mitch H.	Terra Bella	16
Jeff P.	Visalia	15
Stephanie G.	Visalia	14
Chuck W.	Exeter	13
Edward V.	Dinuba	12
Pete B.	Camp Nelson	10
Steven S.	Visalia	7
Zach D.	Visalia	5
Nick V.	Visalia	4

## CENTRAL NEWS

### Editorial Policy

Central News is a monthly newsletter of the Tulare County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous located at 449 E. Maple, Exeter, Ca. 93221. It is about, by and for the members of the AA Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to the AA organization as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or the Tulare County Central Office. Exception: Quotations and artwork from AA books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission from AA World Services, Inc., or AA Grapevine, Inc. Contributions from AA members are encouraged and welcomed! These will be reprinted as space permits. Send contributions to [centralintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:centralintergroupnews@gmail.com).

Louie T.

# Group Contributions

1/21/18 Thru 2/20/18	Month	YTD
10th Ave Men's-Lemoore		43.56
ABC Group		35.00
Alpha-Wed-Tulare		0.00
Attitude Modification-210		150.00
Bills & Friends		0.00
Breath of Fresh Air		0.00
Bridge St. "Drunks Only"	360.82	801.28
Central Calif. Roundup		0.00
Civic Center Grp.		0.00
Clodbusters-Tulare	362.00	362.00
Crossroads-Tulare		0.00
CSO Meeting	24.00	105.00
Dinuba Grp		0.00
District 47		400.00
Dr. Bob & Friends		40.00
Exeter-Quiet Trails		0.00
Exeter Sun Afternoon		150.00
Foundation Group		34.45
Freedom Fellowship	275.00	275.00
Fresno Village Group		350.00
Fri. Night Study Tulare		0.00
No. Cal H&I		0.00
Message of Hope		0.00
Monday Men's Mtg.		0.00
Monday Night Live		0.00
Mid Valley-Tulare		0.00
Mon Book Study-S'ville		0.00
Mon Lit Study-Visalia		0.00
Monday Meditation-Visalia		0.00
Mon Men's Book Study		0.00
Nooners Group-Visalia		0.00
Pine Recovery AA Mtg		0.00
Porterville Young People		0.00
Practicing The Pinciples		0.00
Rainbow Group		60.00
Rule 62-Visalia		0.00
Serenity Junction-Tulare		0.00
Serenity Seekers AM-Visalia		100.00
Soberfest Groups		0.00
Wed. Sobriety Celebration		0.00
Springville Gut Level		0.00
Sun Bkfst Spkr Mtg		0.00
Sun PM Serenity Seekers		0.00
Tulare Young People		0.00
Tulare Co. Young People	28.05	28.05
Tulare Fri. Book Study		0.00



# Speaker Meetings

Tulare 2nd Fri Spkr Mtg		0.00
Tulare Tuesday Night		100.00
Tulare Thurs. Noon		0.00
Tulare Sunday Night		0.00
Tues. Men's-P'ville		0.00
Three Rivers-Monday		0.00
Unity Thru Traditions	94.43	152.51
Valley Group		100.00
Valley Speaker Series	621.00	621.00
Wed. Acceptance, P'ville		400.00
Weekend Attitude Adj.		0.00
Women's Amity-Visalia		0.00
Women's Changes-P'ville		0.00
Women's Fri. Night-P'ville		0.00
Women's Sat AM 12x12		53.00
Young & Restless		0.00
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Total	1,765.30	4,360.85

## Porterville Recovery Club Speaker Meeting

186 W. Walnut Ave.

Friday March 2nd, 2018 at 8:00 PM

Speaker: - TBA

## Friday Book Study Speaker Meeting

1820 N. Gem St, Tulare

Friday, March 9th, 2018 at 8:00 PM

Speaker: -

## Sunday AM Breakfast Speaker Meeting

Veterans Memorial Building

36000 Hwy 190, Springville

Sunday, March 11th, 2018 at 10:15 AM

(Breakfast at 8:30 to 10:00 AM)

Speaker: Nancy A. - Fresno, CA

## The Valley Group, Speaker Meeting

The Gallery @ The Creative Center

410 E. Race Ave.

Every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.

Mar 7 - Monica R. of Visalia - 2 Years!

Mar 14 - Shawn N. of Kingsburg - 2 Years!

Mar 21 - Zach D. of Visalia - 5 Years tonight!

Mar 28 - Kali M. of Bakersfield - 1 Year!

**That's 10 years of sobriety in four simple one-hour sessions!**

## Central Office Contacts

Answering Service Calls	3
AA Members	7
Court Ref/Info	8
Meeting Information	12
H & I	0
Alanon & Alateen Information	1
Info. re Recovery Homes	0
Schedules & Info-Mailed & Faxed	0
Bridging The Gap	0
Other 12 Step Programs	1
Visitors to Office	65
Literature Sales	25
Specialty Sales	36
Churches & Schools	0
General Information	9
Prospective Members	1
Twelve Step Calls	1
E-Mail Contacts	12
Spanish Contact	1
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Total	182

## Contributions

Birthday Club

Billy G. Visalia 8

Zach D. Visalia 5

Nick V. Visalia 3

Individual Contributions

Anonymous

Bill E.

Jim K.

Julie M.

Mike S.

Newsletter Contributions

None

Memorial Contribution

None



# Lighter Side of AA Service Meetings

## WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

Two men are drinking in a bar at the top of the Empire State Building. One turns to the other and says: "You know last week I discovered that if you jump from the top of this building-by the time you fall to the 10th floor, the winds around the building are so intense that they carry you around the building and back into the window."

The bartender just shakes his head in disapproval while wiping the bar.

The 2nd Man says: "What are you a nut? There is no way in hell that could happen."

1st Man: "No it's true let me prove it to you." So he gets up from the bar, jumps over the balcony, and careens to the street below. When he passes the 10th floor, the high wind whips him around the building and back into the 10th floor window and he takes the elevator back up to the bar.

The 2nd Man tells him: "You know I saw that with my own eyes, but that must have been a one time fluke."

1st Man: "No, I'll prove it again" and again he jumps and hurtles toward the street where the 10th floor wind gently carries him around the building and into the window. Once upstairs he urges his fellow drinker to try it.

2nd Man: "Well what the hell, it works, I'll try it." he jumps over the balcony, plunges downward, passes the 11th, 10th, 9th, 8th floors... and hits the sidewalk with a 'splat.'

Back upstairs the Bartender turns to the other drinker: "You know, Superman, you're a real jerk when you're drunk."

Have a Joke???? Submit it to:

**centralintergroupnews@gmail.com**

## AND ADDRESSES

### Service Meetings

GSR Meeting at Central Office  
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA  
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM

CSR Meeting at Central Office  
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 7:00 PM

H&I Meeting at Alano Club  
Visalia Alano Club, 1311 W. Murray  
Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 9:00 am  
2nd Saturday of odd months.

### SERVICE ADDRESSES

Tulare County Central Office  
449 E. Maple St..  
Exeter, CA 93221

District 47, C.N.I.A.  
P.O. Box 273  
Exeter, CA 93221

CNIA Treasurer  
PO Box 161712  
Sacramento, CA 95816-1712

General Service Office  
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163





# District 47 Pre-Conference Service Fair

## Connecting GSC Agenda Items to the Twelve Traditions

*Saturday, March 31, 2018 • 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM*  
*Center for Spiritual Living • 117 S. Locust Street in Visalia*



## Food, Fellowship & Meaningful Service!

- Participate in some meaningful District 47 service and fellowship and enjoy a delicious deep-pit BBQ lunch while you're at it!
- Come review the Traditions that impact agenda items for this year's General Service Conference and provide your feedback on issues that affect AA as a whole.
- Your participation ensures that your voice will be heard and that our Area Delegate will be supplied with a truly representative group conscience to guide his participation in this year's General Service Conference.

### ***The Day's Agenda:***

- *Presentation of selected GSC agenda items for this year's General Service Conference*
- *Panel presentations on Traditions relevant to this year's agenda items*
- *Lunch & breakout discussion groups*
- *Discussion group reports & additional discussion*
- *Provide your input with the Agenda Item Feedback Questionnaire*



The Valley Speaker Series and Men's Attitude Adjustment Groups Present

# Spring into Sobriety

OPEN AA Step Workshop, Dinner & Speaker Meeting

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**VIKKI R. OF YUBA CITY, CA**

SOBER 6 DAYS, 10 MONTHS AND 15 YEARS!

**SAT, MAR 10, 2018**

**NEWCOMERS WHO  
ATTEND THE FULL  
STEP WORKSHOP  
WILL BE OUR  
GUESTS FOR  
DINNER!!**

Christ Lutheran Church 3830 W. Tulare Ave, Visalia

11-5 PM: Back to the 40's Step Work Shop with Elgin M. of Exeter

5:30-6:30 PM: Ranch Style Tri-Tip Dinner with Speaker

Pre-Sale Dinner tickets \$15

7 PM: Speaker Meeting (ASL Interpreter will be available)

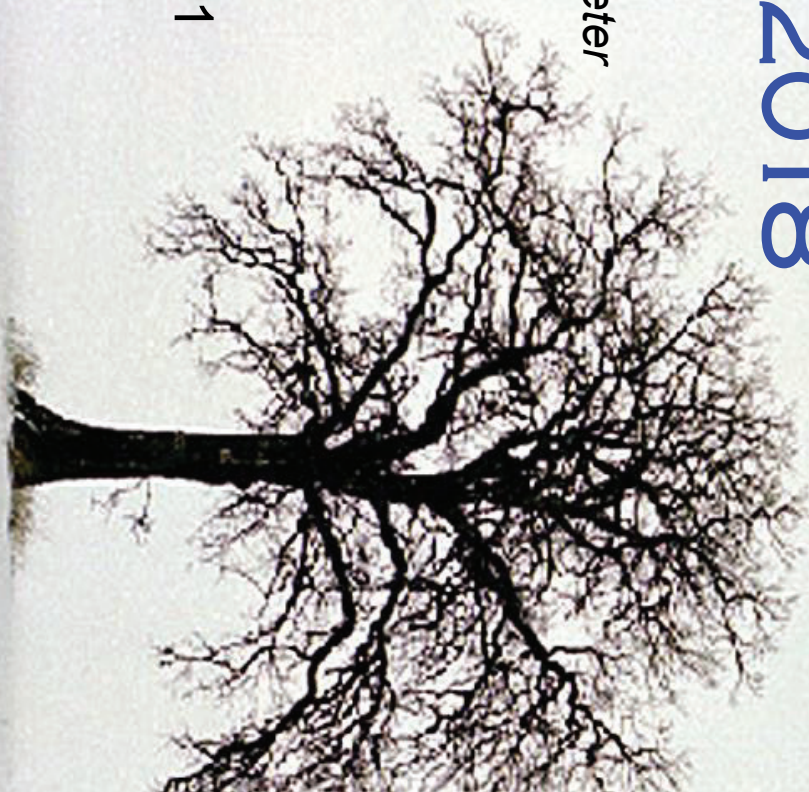
For info, please call:

Barbara V. at 559-303-5761

Elgin M. at 559-553-5736

Boo M. at 559-303-2484

Bill H. at 559-740-8613





# SIXTH ANNUAL CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ROUNDUP



## *AA: A Solution for All Generations*

**Newcomers Welcome!**

Roundup is Organized by  
10+ Central Valley AA Groups

**May 18 & 19, 2018**

Hope Lutheran Church: 364 E. Barstow Ave, Fresno, CA 93710

**ADMISSION \$20 per person**

Saturday Night Dinner (5:30 pm) & Saturday Night Comedy Show (9:15 pm)  
Registration Raffle and 50/50 Raffle

**FREE EVENTS**

Friday Night Speaker Meeting (7:30 pm), Saturday Speaker Meeting (7:00 pm),  
and Marathon Meetings

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

April 29, 2018, Riverside Golf Tournament

**Register Online for Conference & Golf Tournament at [www.3c2a.org](http://www.3c2a.org)**

**Last day to register is May 10th. No sales at the door.**

**HOTELS**

Registration Code 3C2A

Courtyard by Marriott: 140 E. Shaw Ave, Fresno, (855) 479-0732

Country Inn & Suites: 6065 N. Thesta St, Fresno, (559) 435-5838





"Breath of Fresh Air" presents...

# The Ritchie Barn Experience

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual BBQ, Auction & Dance

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Guest Speaker:  
Georgia B. of Los Angeles, California

**Tickets**  
\$12.50 in advance / \$15.00 at the door

BBQ Tri-Tip Dinner	5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Baked Goods Auction	6:00 p.m.
Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Speaker	7:30 p.m.
50/50 Drawing After Speaker	
Music and Dancing with Live Western Music	9:00 p.m. - ?????

### Come join the fun, food and fellowship!

Ritchie Barn - 16338 Avenue 308, Visalia, California



Directions: Take CA 198 East. Take Lovers Lane exit.  
Turn left on Lovers Lane. Turn right on Houston Avenue.  
Follow Houston Avenue to Road 160.  
Turn right on Avenue 308.





**JOIN US!!!**



# **TUCYPAA**

**Tulare County Young People in Alcoholics  
Anonymous**

**Unity. Service. Recovery.**



**For more info contact:**

**“L”**

**559-972-3210**

**Henry**

**559-977-4360**

**Amy**

**559-280-2679**

**Every 1st and 3rd Sunday at:**

**First Jesus Name Church of Cameron**

**Creek**

**29076 Road 164**

**Visalia, CA**

**OUR MISSION:**

**Support young alcoholics in their recovery through the 12 steps**

**Promote unity among alcoholics of all ages**

**Encourage young members of A.A to participate in A.A.'s general service structure**



# *Your Content Here!!!*

Have an event????

New group starting up?????

Have a story to share???

Take some amazing photos around our district???

Want to be of service????

All this can be accommodated-we are available to help! Simply reach out to us here at Central News and we will do all we can to get the word out!!!

Carrying the message to the Alcoholic who still suffer is our primary purpose. What better way to do it then to get involved!!!!

Send your content to:

[centralintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:centralintergroupnews@gmail.com)

... and we will help you communicate to district 47!!!

