

February 2018

CENTRAL NEWS

Winter Trees, Exeter, Ca Allen L

What is the Alcoholic's Moral Responsibility

Alcoholism has been traditionally regarded as a vice, with the implication of moral responsibility that such a characterization involves.

The modern tendency is to consider any obsessional aberration to be pathological. Hence, alcoholism is sometimes diagnosed as a disease, and the victim is accordingly absolved of moral responsibility.

Do the foregoing views constitute a conflict in which intellectual honesty compels us to take sides—or may they be reconciled and integrated?

If alcoholism is a disease it is one of which science has found so far neither cause nor cure. Dr. Silkworth in an article in the June, 1945, issue of *The Grapevine* says that “physically science does not know why a man cannot drink in moderation. “ The doctor also states that he is only “sure of one scientific fact—that detoxication by medical treatment must precede any psychiatric approach.”

Thus, the “physical issue” is reduced to the routine of a mere dealcoholizing process, preliminary to the really fundamental matter of dealing with what Dr. Silkworth refers to as the “moral issue. “

The A. A. Program of Recovery is devoted principally to the resolution of this “moral issue. “ The alcoholic is assisted in developing the personality change

essential to permanent rehabilitation. In so doing, the A. A. plan proceeds on the assumption that we have “defects of character” the removal of which is requisite to a restoration of sanity. The removal is to be accomplished not alone by the revelations of psychiatric treatment (self-knowledge), but by the application of spiritual force emanating from a Power in which we have faith (Steps 6-7).

Defects of character cannot, of course, be rooted out by knowledge alone. The authors of *Alcoholics Anonymous* were well aware of the limitations of the aphorism that knowledge is power, for at page 50 of the book, they assert: “But the actual or potential alcoholic, with hardly an exception, will be absolutely unable to stop drinking on the basis of self-knowledge. This is a point we wish to emphasize and reemphasize, to smash home upon our alcoholic readers as it has been revealed to us out of bitter experience”.

Elsewhere in the same text the same thought is expressed in different form and with varied application. It is said, for example, that “the alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink. Except in a few rare cases, neither he nor any other human being can provide such a defense. His defense must come from a higher Power” (pg. 55).

Finally, for those of us who accept it, the predominance of the moral factors in the A. A. plan is summarized in the following statement at pages 35-36 of the book: "The great fact is just this and nothing else: that we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences, which have revolutionized our whole altitude toward life, toward our fellows, and toward God's universe. The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do for ourselves."

Here, then, seems to be the answer to the question posed at the outset. Both moralist and scientist agree that there can be no blame imposed for a condition over which one has no control. Both agree that an alcoholic has been reduced to a state of powerlessness over alcohol. It follows that an alcoholic should not be held morally accountable for acts committed while in the grip of the obsession.

The syllogism suggests a corollary. When an alcoholic realizes the nature of his malady, and that help, human and otherwise, is at hand and that "there is a solution," is it not reasonable to assume that an element of moral responsibility enters into the situation? Tolerance for the sinner but none for the sin is a noble sentiment. And alcoholics will probably always require understanding. But may we, who have accepted A. A. and assume to practice its precepts, continue to expect, under the new dispensation, condemnation when the rules of society are broken?

If the truth has made us free and the spirit has given us strength, shall we not take and maintain our places in the ranks of society without favor as well as without fear? It is submitted that a lively sense of moral responsibility should be assiduously cultivated, the more so because of our newly found power to accept it and because in the very acceptance of it, we wax stronger and stronger as we "grow by what we feed on."—R. F. S., Monclair, N. J. November 1945

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Step 2

Today I absolutely love my higher power whom I call God. When I first came to A.A. a broken, empty faithless drunk I was angry at God and ashamed of myself that I didn't know where to start with step two. My sponsor suggested that I kneel in prayer. I

learned that getting on my knees was the first way that I could demonstrate to God that I wanted a right relationship. When I'm on my knees a sense of humbleness overcomes me and it's in that state that I can be vulnerable and let go of all those defects that make my brain swell. An image was also given to me of a description of a poster of the whole galaxy with a very small spec pointing at earth and the words "you are here" written on it- wow, talk about right sized! Sometimes I get on my knees and think of that poster before I start in prayer and just smile being instantly right sized. That's how it started for me to begin to believe that God (a Power) was greater than me, I simply needed to see myself scaled correctly first. Being scaled correctly helps me see my insanity as well. Once I hit my bottom I was able to see my drunken days as pure insanity but what about being in sobriety...surely I'm fine now. Well, of course I wish that were true but I've learned that this life is of progress not perfection. I will continuously bump into areas of my life that my behavior isn't sane. I used to try to "hide" my imperfections or pure insanity thoughts but with this program I don't have to because I have a solution- and so do you. Step two is a freedom step for me. Have you heard in your meetings step one through three being described.."I can't, He can, Let Him?" I have heard that several times in my sobriety and with that concept I have adapted my own step two understanding as my "God Talks". For me, when I'm massaging a big issue in my life maybe thinking or acting insanely but I'm just not ready to let it go I simply talk with my Sponsor and also apply step two. It's my indicated right step of where I'm at. An example of my God talks go something like this: "Okay God, I know YOU are bigger than all things and can restore this for me but honestly I'm just not ready to let it go yet so can we just talk about it? Maybe you can help me want to let it go to YOU but for now let's just talk". That's it...that's how I "work" my step two in my life. I don't know about you but for me part of my insane struggle is the strong desire of wanting to be perfect every way at all times. Step two reminds me that I'm not that great so breathe....relax and go to God. What freedom!

Sheri T.

Tradition 2

Tradition Two: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

When Bill decided it was time to turn the running of AA over to the membership, he had faith that our AA groups, as well as our fellowship as a whole, could find God's will in the group conscience. Bill left us with the Twelve Traditions to guide us and help us fulfill what he identified in the Big Book as our "urgent need for continuous effectiveness and permanent unity."

We have several types of groups in AA. We have our home groups and our local intergroups (or central offices). We have our General Service districts, our Area Assemblies, and our General Service Conference. We also have groups and committees formed for the purpose of other AA service such as H&I. In order to remain united and effective in carrying out our primary purpose, our AA groups need the guidance of a loving God, and that guidance is found in the group conscience.

In the 12 & 12, Bill mentions a group of eminent psychologists who studied a large group of "problem drinkers" in hopes of finding any personality traits these drunks had in common. The study concluded that the most common traits among these alcoholics were their childishness, emotional sensitivity and grandiosity. The Big Book says, "the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot." Then it goes on to say "though he usually doesn't think so." So how can a group of people whose social interactions are so often hindered by their relentless self-will and belligerent denial ever hope to stumble upon a consensus that even remotely resembles God's will for them? I think the answer to that question can be found in Tradition 12, which reminds us to place "principles before personalities."

When taking a group conscience, we may discuss and vote on the way we run our meetings or on other issues that affect our groups or AA as a whole. We are often satisfied with voting with our opinions and our emotions. That often seems like an adequate way to arrive at a group conscience, but we all know from

doing our inventories just how tainted our opinions and emotions can be. With that in mind, it makes sense to consider how our positions align with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous before we participate in discussions or vote on these issues. If we follow the guidance of the Twelve Traditions when we vote, we will be participating in an informed group conscience, and we can be assured that we are tapping into that ultimate authority, a loving God that will be expressing itself in our group conscience.

Allen L.

Central Service Meeting Minutes January 9, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00

CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie M., Louise G., Stella T., Bob H., and Sheri T.

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: None

SERENITY PRAYER: Julie M.

12 TRADITIONS: Ed

SECRETARY REPORT: Minutes of the last meeting with the following edit "Julie & Louie were nominated and voted in-congratulations" to the revised and corrected "Julie & Louise were nominated and voted in- congratulations". With edit Stella mentioned for approval and Louise 2nd all were in favor.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Minutes of the board of directors meeting were read by Sheri T.

TREASURER REPORT/OFFICE REPORT: Bob H.- We had an income of \$2,472.39 and expenses of \$2,870.38 for a loss of \$397.99 for this accounting period. Group contributions were average. Individual contributions were good. Sales were about average. We had normal expenses for the period. We had \$286.82 in sales from the Credit and Debit card sales from 9 transactions in December. We had 11 customers on Saturdays in December receiving \$422.14 total. We are starting a new year and I want to thank all the members and groups that helped keep the doors of A.A. open and carrying the message of recovery through A.A.'s **12 steps**. Bob H.

PI/CPC: Stella T. - Nothing to report.

WEBSITE REPORT: The website is still very active with 148 unique visitors per day in the last 2 weeks. 3800 Visalia views for the directory and 180 views for Springville.

STEP FOR NEWSLETTER – VOLUNTEER

February Step 2 Sheri T. Due to CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com 1/20/18
March Step 3 Louise G. Due to CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com 2/20/18

TRADITION FOR NEWSLETTER-VOLUNTEER

February Tradition 2 Allen L. Due to
CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com 1/20/18

Jun Tradition 3 Doug H. Due to
CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com 2/20/18

H&I REPORT:- Meets January 13, 2018

GSO LIAISON- Allen- Alternate DSM- trying to get more people involved to G.S.R. to allow unity throughout the groups as well as have more fun! We do have some new G.S.R. representatives and we hope to see more- please share with your group.

CSR REPORTS:

Doug H.-Acceptance Group- This is an open, gay AA meeting in Porterville but everyone is welcome. We meet at the First Congregational Church on Fourth & Mill. This is a 1 hr meeting from 6-7 pm every Wednesday. The meeting has been growing, there have 20 - 25 people in attendance recently. We discuss what is going on in your sobriety today. Birthdays are celebrated on the last Wednesday of the month. Our group has been able to contribute to Central Office.

Louise G.-The Rainbow Group- The Visalia Rainbow meeting (Saturday evenings 5:30 - 7:00 PM) is an open discussion meeting which meets in the Polar Bear Room at Kaweah Delta Rehab on Acres. This is a topic discussion meeting with lots of good participation-facilitated by the use of a timer holding participants' shares to 5 minutes. Business meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, chips are given at every meeting but birthdays are celebrated on the last Saturday of the month.

Julie M. -Springville Gut Level Group- The meet every Thursday from 7:00-8:30 at the Lighthouse Chapel in Springville. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. Lots of old and new sobriety.

Monica R.- Women's Amity Group- We are a closed women's group located at 6400 W. Walnut Ave in Visalia. We meet every Tuesday from 6:30-8PM. We celebrate 1 year birthdays weekly and all other birthdays the last Tuesday of the month. We give chips weekly and have about 30 women attend regularly.

Stella T. Women's Changes— This is an open women's meeting each Tuesday evening at 7PM at the Church of the Nazarene, 2005 W. Olive St. in the Hope Room. This is a 1 hour meeting. A chairperson reads from AA approved materials and shares from their personal experience as it relates to the reading. The meeting is then open for discussion. Our business meeting is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month during the final 15 min of the regular meeting. We celebrate AA birthdays on the last Tuesday of the month with either a potluck or a restaurant gathering before the meeting. Cake is served following the birthday meeting.

Keith A. -Springville Breakfast Speaker Meeting- The Springville Breakfast Speaker meeting is an open meeting serving an average of 70 people. Breakfast starts at 8am to

10am. Meeting starts at 10:15 with a 10 minute speaker followed with a short break. The main speaker speaks after the break. There is a 50/50 raffle, fun and fellowship. The January speaker is Jose A. from Fresno.

Louise G.-Exeter Sunday Afternoon— We've moved! The Exeter Sunday afternoon (2:30-4:00) meeting has moved to the 1st Presbyterian Church at the corner of Maple & E Street. This is one of the oldest meetings in Tulare County with a solid core of regular old-timers and always getting newcomers who come and stay. It is a topic discussion meeting with good participation. We celebrate birthdays the last Sunday of the month.

Ed A. - Monday Men's Stag Visalia— We meet every Monday night at PPAV Hall, Visalia at 7:30pm. Our new secretary is Louie T. Our Business meeting is the 1st Monday of each month. We celebrate birthdays at the last Monday of each month. We give out chips for various lengths of sobriety. Lots of experience, strength & hope in this closed men's group.

Ed A.-Wednesday Spiritual Center of Living young people A.A. meeting - We meet on Wednesdays from 7-8pm. We celebrate birthdays and offer sponsorship towards the end of each meeting. There is great fellowship before and after the meeting. The ages are of a great variety. All are welcome!

Diana Z.-12 X 12 Women group - We meet every Saturday at the Lutheran Church from 9:00-10:00am. Our group does the tradition and step every other Saturday. Open for discussion on each topic. On the last Saturday of each month we have an ask it basket. We hand out chips every week. Our new secretary is Diana Z. who will also serve as C.S.R. temporarily. Danette is our G.S.R. and Craig is our Treasurer.

Trudy W. -Lindsay Fireside Fellowship- We meet Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 in the Fireside Room of Lindsay United Methodist Church (corner of Honolulu & Gale Hill due east of post office and city hall.) We are an open meeting; a small number of regulars welcomes newcomers and card carriers equally, sharing sobriety old and new. We celebrate birthdays the last Thursday of the month. Come help us keep the lights on for this community with recovery needs.

Trudy W. Exeter Quiet Trails Group - We meet every Tuesday evening in the Exeter Methodist Church fellowship room (behind the sanctuary) at the corner of Palm and D Streets. We are an open meeting welcoming newcomers and old timers alike. We celebrate birthdays the last Tuesday of the month. Please join our small town fellowship at our NEW TIME: 7:30-8:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **New Year's Celebration--** Julie reported a great time was had by all and thanked everyone for their generosity and service.

2. **Substitute position for Central Office** – Information on what board discussed last meeting and board will continue to review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Date for Picnic:** June 9th will be the date for our annual picnic

SEVENTH TRADITION: \$81.00
MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri T.

Special Announcement

The Exeter Sunday Afternoon Group Meeting that meets from 2:30-4:00 HAS MOVED!!!! It has moved from its previous location to the First Presbyterian Church at 200 S. E. St. Exeter. That's the corner of Maple and E St. We hope to see you there!

Contributions

Birthday Club

Reyes A.	Visalia	35
Greg G.	Porterville	19
Elgin M.	Exeter	12

Individual Contributions

Anonymous
Bill H.
Jim K.
Julio Q.
Mike S.

Newsletter Contributions

None

Memorial Contribution

None

District 47 Meeting Minutes

Minutes January 3, 2018

*A copy of each month's minutes with written reports are in the District 47 binder housed at Central Office.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by District Committee Member Josh F.

Committee: Josh F. DCM/ Allen L., Alt. DCM and GSR for Visalia AM Sunday Serenity Seekers AA Group Greg G., District Treasurer/ John W., D-47 Recording Secretary/ and GSR for the Tulare Alpha Group.
Nick V., GSR for Rainbow Group; Dean J., GSR of Visalia Young Peoples Group; Brooke, GSR of Bridge Street Drunks Group;

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

Twelve Traditions: Brooke

Twelve Concepts: Concept 1; Josh F.

Approval of Minutes: MSP for approval of minutes for the December 2017 D-47 meeting. Motioned by Nick to approve, Jake seconded.

Treasurer's Report – Greg reported on how the available funds are usually spent within the District to carry the message from GSO to the groups. Examples given were of funding Service Fairs to supporting GSR's from groups with limited resources so they can more easily attend our Area assemblies (4) held throughout the year.

CSO Report – Alan L. reported that there was a discussion on staffing at the Central Office and an eventual smooth transition with that extra staffing when Bob retires.

DCM Report – Josh F. reported that District 55 will be hosting the CNIA Elections Assembly in 2019 in Visalia. He listed the new area officers just elected. He talked about the litigation regarding the original manuscript of the Big Book and the decision not go forward with attempts to sue to take ownership. The reasons being not wanting to drag AA through a

costly civil case. TUCYPAA was requesting a letter of support, voted on and approved. A lively discussion followed regarding groups changing their meeting readings from the original written form. Upcoming assemblies and PRASSA were discussed.

GSR Reports – No reports available

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Alan L. spoke of the need for Service Fairs with roundtable discussions, with 3 or 4 people per table to help new GSR's. It was noted that it would be a great way to focus on Agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference. GSR involvement and participation was stressed to make GSO more inclusive, so they could take the message back to the groups so they could have an informed group conscience.

Our DCM and 5 GSR's (including Greg from District 49) will be attending the Winter Assembly in Roseville on January 20th and 21st.

7th Tradition: \$ 32.00

The meeting closed with the Declaration of Unity and the Responsibility Declaration at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted, John W,

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.

Louie T.

Financial Report

TULARE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

Income & Expense Statement

12/21/2017 THROUGH 1/20/2018

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
B.Day Club	66.00	66.00
CD & Tape Cont.	0.00	0.00
Group Cont.	2,595.55	2,595.55
Indiv Cont	3,027.76	3,027.76
Lit. Sales	472.75	472.75
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	80.57	80.57
Spec. Events	5,893.58	5,893.58
Spec. Items	560.55	560.55

TOTAL **\$12,696.76** **\$12,696.76**

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
Ans. Serv.	40.00	40.00
Fees-Taxes	20.00	20.00
Insurance	550.00	550.00
Lit. Costs	0.00	0.00
PI-CPC Expense	0.00	0.00
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cost	0.00	0.00
Office Exp	100.00	100.00
Office Equip.& Maint	0.00	0.00
Phone & ISP	176.76	176.76
Postage	0.00	0.00
Employee Taxes	0.00	0.00
Rent	525.00	525.00
Salary	1,405.64	1,405.64
Sales Tax-Paid	0.00	0.00
Security System	0.00	0.00
Spec. Events	2,885.84	2,885.84
Spec. Items	338.10	338.10
Card Charge	3.49	3.49
Utilities	92.48	92.48
Website	65.38	65.38

TOTAL **\$6,202.69** **6,202.69**

Net Gain(Loss) **\$6,494.07** **\$6,494.07**

BEG. TOT. ACCT. BAL: **\$12,355.46**

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

February AA Birthdays

Name	City	Years
Merle F.	Porterville	42
Kay C.	Visalia	39
Reyes A.	Visalia	35
Joe B.	Visalia	35
Joe B.	Tulare	34
Hal E.	Porterville	33
Yolanda D.	Visalia	33
Kristy B.	Visalia	32
David G.	Tulare	32
Connie D.	Tulare	31
"Mad Jack"	Pixley	31
Ken R.	Visalia	31
Brent S.	Tulare	30
Debbie M.	Porterville	30
Jamie M.	Porterville	30
Jack R.	Tulare	30
Chris K.	Tulare	30
Bob V.	Visalia	29
Dave W.	Lindsay	29
Holden M.	Visalia	29
Pat L.	Visalia	29
Dan G.	Visalia	28
Doug M.	Visalia	28
Sig G.	Visalia	28
Rick E.	Visalia	27
Dave H.	Visalia	26
Vickie H.	Tulare	25
Mark F.	Visalia	25
Linda R.	Visalia	24
Tarrie J.	Visalia	24
Tammy P.	Tulare	24
Trevor H.	Visalia	23
Jennifer S.	Visalia	21
Gloria C.	Visalia	21
Angela F.	Visalia	21
Dale L.	Visalia	18
Paige S.	Visalia	17
Judy K.	Visalia	17
Linda N.	Tulare	16
Denece B.	Visalia	16
Kimi K.	Tulare	12
Ricky T.	Visalia	11
Bob G.	Visalia	9
Derek B.	Visalia	9
Lee B.	Tulare	6
Pat J.	Springville	6

Speaker Meetings

Porterville Recovery Club Speaker Meeting

186 W. Walnut Ave.

Friday February 2nd, 2018 at 8:00 PM

Speaker: - TBA

Friday Book Study Speaker Meeting

1820 N. Gem St, Tulare

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

Speaker: -Boston Paul

Sunday AM Breakfast Speaker Meeting

Veterans Memorial Building

36000 Hwy 190, Springville

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

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

Speaker: Chris H Visalia

The Valley Group, Speaker Meeting

The Gallery @ The Creative Center

410 E. Race Ave.

Every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.

Feb 7- Nic W. of Visalia- 1+ Years!

Feb 14- Jack R. of Tulare - 30 Years!

Feb 21- Kat S. of Fresno - 11 Years!

Feb 28- Amy F. of Visalia - 1+ Years!

That's 43+ years of sobriety in four simple one-hour sessions!



Group Contributions

<u>12/21/17 Thru 1/20/18</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
110th Ave Men's-Lemoore	43.56	43.56
ABC Group	35.00	35.00
Alpha-Wed-Tulare		0.00
Attitude Modification-210	150.00	150.00
Bills & Friends		0.00
Breath of Fresh Air		0.00
Bridge St. "Drunks Only"	440.46	440.46
Central Calif. Roundup		0.00
Civic Center Grp.		0.00
Clodbusters-Tulare		0.00
Crossroads-Tulare		0.00
CSO Meeting	81.00	81.00
Dinuba Grp		0.00
District 47	400.00	400.00
Dr. Bob & Friends	40.00	40.00
Exeter-Quiet Trails		0.00
Exeter Sun Afternoon	150.00	150.00
Foundation Group	34.45	34.45
Freedom Fellowship		0.00
Fresno Village Group	350.00	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	60.00
Rule 62-Visalia		0.00
Serenity Junction-Tulare		0.00
Serenity Seekers AM-Visalia	100.00	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		0.00
Tulare Fri. Book Study		0.00

Tulare 2nd Fri Spkr Mtg		0.00
Tulare Tuesday Night	100.00	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	58.08	58.08
Valley Group	100.00	100.00
Valley Speaker Series		0.00
Wed. Acceptance, P'ville	400.00	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	53.00
Young & Restless		0.00

Total	2,595.55	2,595.55

Central Office Contacts

Central Office Contacts

Answering Service Calls	1
AA Members	8
Court Ref/Info	3
Meeting Information	7
H & I	0
Alanon & Alateen Information	32
Info. re Recovery Homes	0
Schedules & Info-Mailed & Faxed	0
Bridging The Gap	0
Other 12 Step Programs	1
Visitors to Office	69
Literature Sales	16
Specialty Sales	31
Churches & Schools	0
General Information	7
Prospective Members	1
Twelve Step Calls	0
E-Mail Contacts	14
Spanish Contact	2

Total	192

Lighter Side of AA Service Meetings

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

An alcoholic goes into a bar and sees a beautiful woman. After several drinks he finally works up the courage to go talk to her, "Would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?" She yells, "No, I won't sleep with you tonight!" Everyone in the bar is now staring at them. Naturally, the guy is hopelessly and completely embarrassed and he to his drink. After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologizes. She smiles at him and says, "I'm sorry if I embarrassed you. You see, I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying how people respond to embarrassing situations." To which he responds, at the top of his lungs, "What do you mean \$200!?"

An Irishman, Englishman and Scotsman go into a pub and each order a pint of Guinness. Just as the bartender hands them over, three flies buzz down and one lands in each of the pints. The Englishman looks disgusted, pushes his pint away and demands another pint. The Scotsman picks out the fly, shrugs, and takes a long swallow. The Irishman reaches in to the glass, pinches the fly between his fingers and shakes him while yelling, "Spit it out, ya bastard! Spit it out!"

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, February 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM

CSR Meeting at Central Office
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA
Tuesday, February 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

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New York, NY 10163

Editor's Corner

A new year is upon us... it seems like the older I get the faster the time goes!! I am here today to wish you all well. If your recovery could use a little pep, why not get involved in some service work, make coffee, greet a newcomer, or perhaps...write an article, personal story, or some experience, hey even a joke!!! Being involved with the production of this newsletter has really been an unforeseen source of serenity! Thank you for letting me be of service. Have a 2018 that is happy joyous, and free!!

centralintergroupnews@gmail.com

Louie T.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Annual Pink Can Collection Report – FYE 2017

The Hospital & Institution Committee of Northern California is a Ninth Tradition service committee of Alcoholics Anonymous with the purpose of carrying the message of A.A. to those who are confined in prisons, hospitals, and other institutions. Nor Cal H&I has been carrying the A.A. message of recovery to confined alcoholics for over 70 years, dating to its origins in 1942 at San Quentin State Prison, and is one of the oldest independent service committees of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In the fiscal year ending November 2017 NorCal H&I spent \$411,265 for books and literature from AA World Services; \$69,428 for the AA Grapevine in both English and Spanish; \$5742 to purchase Meeting Directories from the local Central Offices; and \$23,650 to ship, distribute, and supply these items throughout Northern California. These necessary categories comprise over 94% of the total NorCal 2017 expenses and **amounts to the cost of giving away just one Big Book, one Twelve and Twelve and a small handful of pamphlets and schedules per meeting**. Additionally, we pay for neither an office nor for salaries for service committee workers, thus enabling us to dedicate such a large portion of our contributions to literature for the confined alcoholic.

Northern California H&I supports approximately 33,500 meetings *each year*, serving approximately 25 major state and federal institutions plus hundreds of local jails, hospitals, rehabs and other community facilities. Those who are confined have no money to buy the AA literature brought in by the H&I volunteers, so the Pink Can, with your donations, covers this cost to provide them with the life-saving message of our literature that those of us on the outside take for granted. Unlike other areas of the country which don't have separately funded H&I committees, in Northern CA the use of the Pink Cans allows us to purchase the literature necessary to our service without placing the burden of this expense on the local groups or Central Committees.

The Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee has for many years been one of the largest purchasers of literature from AAWS contributing significantly to the support of our General Service Office in New York. No H&I members are ever paid for their Twelfth Step service, nor are they reimbursed for expenses incurred carrying the message into these institutions, regardless of the distance. It's not unusual for an H&I volunteer to drive well over 200 miles for a weekly or monthly institution meeting - these travel expenses are a personal contribution of the individual.

The H&I Committee is adamant that the contributions so generously made to our Pink Cans in no way detract from the Seventh Tradition collections of the groups. We therefore ask that the Pink Cans be passed separately from and after the baskets to avoid subtracting from support of the 7th Tradition, and we encourage all members to remove the cans from the baskets if they are being passed together. Many groups have had success in passing the collections at different times, for example passing the basket at the regular time and passing the Pink Cans at the end of the meetings.

We are humbly grateful for the generous contributions, both financial and in service, of the AA members of Northern CA who make our mission possible, and especially for the cooperation of our fellow service committees through-out the area. **Without this loving support tens of thousands of confined alcoholics simply would not have access to the lifesaving message of A.A.**

For additional information, please visit our website at www.handinorcal.org or write to the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee. P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco, CA. 94119-2490.

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)

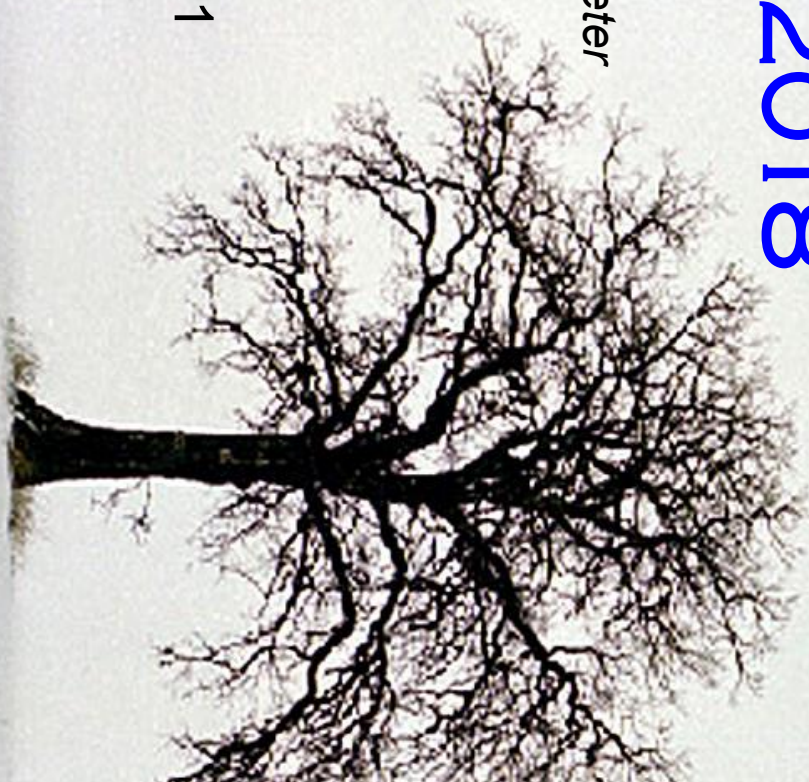
For info, please call:

Barbara V. at 559-303-5761

Elgin M. at 559-553-5736

Boo M. at 559-303-2484

Bill H. at 559-740-8613



Attention!

GSRs Needed!

- Very few Tulare County AA groups currently have GSR representation. More GSRs are needed to make District 47 a vibrant and effective part of the California Northern Interior Area.
- If your home group does not have a General Service Representative (GSR), you can volunteer for the job! It's a great way to be of service, and you'll be representing your group within the AA General Service structure.
- As a GSR you'll be helping to foster an informed group conscience as you deepen your understanding of AA's Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for AA World Service. Come be a part of District 47!
- Monthly Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Tulare County Central Office, 449 Maple Street in Exeter.

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

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

