

CENTRAL NEWS

March 2020

After Her “Willpower” Failed

For several months my drinking habits were becoming steadily worse. I would not give up hope that at some future date I would be able to control my drinking. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I had the idea I would trot out this “will-power” others seemed to have and to put it to work when I needed it. Somehow I had been able to shake it out after a night and day of drinking but this time I didn't seem to be able to face the kitchen stove until I had a drink. Fortunately, there was a little left in the bottle, so while my husband was in the bathroom shaving I took a “quickie”. This steadied me enough to enable me to cook our breakfast, mine consisting of black coffee.

As we all know who have traveled this road, along about 10 o'clock the shakes return. I saw no point in suffering. Another “quickie”. Needless to say, I ran out of whiskey, dressed and went to the liquor store and returned with a fifth.

It now became necessary to take the drinks more often. By nightfall, instead of having a clean house and hot supper when my husband returned from work I was a drunken object piled in the bed. I had hidden the bottle in the bathroom and all during the night I

California Gold--Tulare/Kern County Line Louie T.

would slip in and take a drink. Of course, morning found me a shaking mass of nerves. My husband again left for work with a warning that I must stay sober and straighten up. I didn't know how to straighten up, except by taking a few drinks to quiet my screaming nerves. Naturally the second day duplicated the first, and the third and the fourth, until at last it would only mean death if I didn't get off the stuff. Finally I shook it out with the help of my sister.

This was the first time I had ever been on such a spree. I resolved never to do it again. But I did. Again and again. Each time it became increasingly worse. My hangovers were almost unbearable. There was no happiness when I was drinking. It was simply oblivion. I knew nothing of what transpired for days and then remorse would catch me in its clutches.

At last the voice of my sister penetrated my befogged alcoholic mind. She read to me an article in our local paper—something about an organization called Alcoholics Anonymous. She asked me why I didn't write them. I paid very little attention to her, but after she left I hunted feverishly through the paper for the article to read it myself. I never found it, so thought she must be “nuts”.

I decided now was the time to use this “willpower” of mine and at the next party we attended I trotted it out. I took only two drinks the first hour, but goodness knows, that “will-power” of mine let me down. After the first two I wound up as usual—drunk again. This spree ended in a sanitorium. There I heard more about A.A. Thinking that I would contact them, I went home. The humiliation of having to be locked up in a sanitorium to get sober kept me from drinking too much for a month, but Brother Alky caught me again in his trap. It was then I began to believe that I was hopeless.

I at last turned around and faced the woman from whom I was trying to get away. I listened to her say, “You are a doomed woman, you know you can’t stop drinking by yourself. You’ve tried many times but always failed. You’re future is black as sin. You will either kill yourself or die in a drunken condition. Your husband is sick of you. Your sister is sick of you; even you are sick of the thing you have become—you must have help.”

I tried to pray, but no words came. I felt I had wandered too far from God for Him to hear me now.

Being unable to hold a pen in my shaking hands I asked my niece to write a letter to A.A. for me. This she did with some doubts as to the wisdom of her action. Two nights later, while lying on the couch holding a book before me—wishing I could read and get some sense out of what I read, someone knocked on my door. I now know that knock opened the door to a new world of opportunities. Three women and a man entered, all nice looking people. People who looked like neighbors—but they were different for they were members from A.A. They were alcoholics, they had come in answer to my feeble cry for help.

As I sat there holding my hands to keep them from shaking, listening to them talk, I thought, “They can’t possibly know what I’ve gone through. These people all look happy and healthy, they have not ever been drunks”. They soon dispelled this doubt from my mind. They opened up with both barrels and let me have their stories straight from the shoulder.

They then asked me if I thought I was an alcoholic, if I was unable to control my drinking. I reluctantly admitted I was an alcoholic, but was whole hearted

in saying I could not control my drinks. They didn’t tell me how to stay sober but they did leave me with literature and an invitation to attend one of their meetings. I very eagerly seized the literature and as I read each story in the booklet, I said, “Yes, that is me. That is me!”

Thus began my new life of sobriety—grateful for any crumbs of wisdom that came my way, thankful to be able to attend the meetings.

I went to my first A.A. meeting resembling something someone had dreamed of in a nightmare. My face and eyes were swollen, I had bruises all over me. I always seemed to have trouble staying out of the way of the furniture. On my last binge the tables and chairs, even the radiators jumped out and hit me, or it seemed. Now in my sixth month of sobriety I can laugh about it, but then I had a hard time forcing myself out to meet people, to expose myself to public view.

Thank goodness, I wanted sobriety enough to go through anything to achieve that happy state, so I went to work on myself, and others. I have emerged from a state of foggy misery, and understand my trouble. I understand that I am afflicted with the disease of alcoholism, that though I can never be cured, I can be an arrested case. With that I am happy. I am free from the desire and need of drinking. My eyes are opened to the need of others. The good and pleasure I receive from helping another is indescribable. I have learned many things through A.A. I am learning something new each day. When the final curtain falls I shall still be learning.

How I have achieved this happy, healthy state, I cannot say. I do know I could not have achieved it without the help of A.A. I do know it is not the mythical “will-power” I once thought I had. It is more than that. It is “Godpower.”

Needless to say I am deeply grateful for A.A. For what they have taught me—how to live happily—though sober, a state I once thought impossible. Every day I thank God for the organization and ask only that I may be able to help other unfortunate persons to find their true place in life as I have.

—M.S., Memphis, Tenn. AA Grapevine March 1946

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

Step Three: Turning it Over -- for Tulare County AA newsletter, March 2020

Many newcomers to the program are squeamish when they hear Step Three read at meetings, and I know that I certainly was.

When I came into the program 5 years ago I did not “have” a higher power, though I’ve had enough mystical experiences over the course of my life to believe one exists. I had been investigating the power of religion for the past decade and thought I knew what that was about, though I was a little afraid that if I really listened to what I was told, I’d find myself carrying a damned cross. But I didn’t really think there is someone up in the sky watching everything I do, or that I would qualify for his/her attentions if it did, and I did not want someone telling me I should believe that, regardless.

Red wine had been my go-to buddy for 30 years, and when I came into the program, I didn’t really want to stop drinking. But I really did want to stop having my power sucked away daily by hangovers. I wanted to stop being unable to finish anything. I hoped that if I stopped drinking (by some great miracle,) I’d get my power back and accomplish something before I die.

Working the steps with my sponsor, I grudgingly conceded my powerlessness in Step One, reinforced by the clear unmanageability of my life. I blinked at the higher power in Step Two, sure that something exists but still not sure I qualified as a recipient of help. But saying I was willing to turn my life over to this unknown entity I’d just blinked at posed a real problem, and I resisted more blinking or easy answers.

And then, miraculously, even mystically, my sponsor, who had been listening to my heart with her heart for months, found the perfect Third Step prayer for me, called the “Set-Aside Prayer:”

Let me set aside everything I think I know so that I can have a new experience today.

At first I was reluctant to try even this. I am a writer and a researcher, and what I know is my stock in

trade, my livelihood. But I had been using my happy hours to stop a certain kind of thinking that came most often at the end of the day, when I was tired, hungry, lonely from working alone, and often angry at myself if not the world. I had to agree that it was worth a shot.

This prayer was enough to get me to move forward into the dreaded Step Four with significantly less dread. But even better, it was enough to get me to explore relating to a higher power: to practice the art of praying for help when in need, to begin to experience the many blessings that come from not having to know it all or be the one to solve every one of the world’s problems. The new experiences started coming, and in turning it over, I made a turn away from the demon of supposed self-sufficiency and toward the truth of community, including the eternal one. It was a turning point: I took a turn for the better.

Trudy W.

Tradition 3 *The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking*

The third tradition has a low threshold to becoming an AA member which states, “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.” So basically, there’s no rules that can exclude anyone or keep you out as long as you have a desire to stop drinking.

For example: criminal history, emotional/mental health issues, sex, race, color, creed, religion, gender, political affiliation, social status, or any other cultural difference is of

no concern to becoming an AA member. Thank God our founders had the foresight to put into place a non-authoritative approach as well as the principle of non-judgement toward anyone wishing to join our awesome fellowship. However, in my view there’s some serious meaning that gets lost between the short form and the long form of the third tradition. The first sentence of the long form states, “Our membership ought to include all those who suffer from alcoholism.” Sometimes there is a world of difference between having a desire to stop drinking and a person who’s suffering from alcoholism. To illustrate, someone could commit themselves to a low carb diet and develop a desire not to drink based on avoiding carbohydrates contained in booze. Conversely, avoiding carbs in an alcohol beverage is not even in the same universe

as a person who's suffering from the fatal nature of alcoholism. Therefore, I believe that the context in some instances has gotten lost in translation, which has directly attracted people who have entrenched themselves in AA, but don't qualify as the chronic alcoholic in the Big Book of AA (see pages 20-21 of the big book for more detail).

Another point I will note is my experience of coming into the fellowship of AA and having members who expected me to stay sober based on my desire to stop drinking or just attending meetings, implying that I could make it happen by an act of will power alone. However, the BB of AA makes it explicitly clear, "That the most powerful desire to stop drinking is of absolutely no avail" (pg24). In other words, there's a delusion being perpetuated throughout the rooms of AA which is "meeting makers make it" and if you desire to stop "just don't drink no matter what." But coming from the school of having a black-belt in chronic relapse my trying not to drink no matter what and attending upward of 15 meetings a week invariably ended in one failure after another. Finally, after being approached by someone who had a message of depth and weight, I was introduced to the only thing that will help real alcoholics of the hopeless variety, which is a deep and effective spiritual experience. However, it would entail that I would have to meet a series of requirements outlined in the first portion of the Big Book. So, the consideration for powerless alcoholics is this: Is my most powerful desire to stop drinking enough to keep me sober for good? Or do I have "an illness which ONLY a spiritual experience will conquer" (BB pg44).

In my estimation, making clear the distinction of the long and short form of tradition three is of vital importance. I believe it's directly related to the survival of AA as whole; the survival of the AA group; and the survival of the individual alcoholic. Because if there is no AA, there is no AA group, and if there's no AA group--then there's no where for the individual (alcoholic) to go. Ultimately, if AA doesn't survive then many potential alcoholics who might have come to us seeking a solution to their problem will be confined to the tyranny of alcoholic torture. "And with us, to drink is to die" (bb pg 66). My homegroup is an open meeting on Thursday nights (7pm), 526 N. Bridge st. in Visalia, where the focus is the study of the big book. We also study a tradition on the first Thursday of each

month and discuss our experience. We welcome you to join us.

In Gods care,

--Teddy B

March AA Birthdays

Manuel C.	Tulare	45
Kristi H.	Visalia	44
Art W.	Lampasas TX	42
John G.	Armona	37
Barbara S.	Hanford	37
Ray D.	Tulare	36
Laura H.	Visalia	36
Sylvia M.	Visalia	35
Rod R.	Tulare	33
Cy F.	Visalia	33
Jesse M.	Porterville	32
Marcie M.	Porterville	32
Anita B	Lemoore	31
Mark C.	Hanford	31
Lawrence C.	Tulare	29
Dave S.	Visalia	27
Tom S.	Visalia	27
Wendy S.	Visalia	27
Gary S.	Three Rivers	25
Jeanmarie D.	Porterville	18
Mitch H.	Terra Bella	18
Jeff P.	Visalia	17
Stephanie G.	Visalia	16
Chuck W.	Exeter	15
Edward V.	Dinuba	14
Pete B.	Camp Nelson	12
Steven S.	Visalia	9
Zach D.	Visalia	7
Nick V.	Visalia	6
Kenneth B.	Porterville	4
Sarah S.	Visalia	2

I Stand by the Door

By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)

I stand by the door.

I neither go to far in, nor stay to far out.

**The door is the most important door in the world -
It is the door through which men walk when they find God.**

**There is no use my going way inside and staying there,
When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,
Crave to know where the door is.**

And all that so many ever find

Is only the wall where the door ought to be.

**They creep along the wall like blind men,
With outstretched, groping hands,**

Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it.
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world
Is for men to find that door - the door to God.
The most important thing that any man can do
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands
And put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks
And opens to the man's own touch.

Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter.
Die for want of what is within their grasp.
They live on the other side of it - live because they have
not found it.

Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,
And open it, and walk in, and find Him.
So I stand by the door.

Go in great saints; go all the way in -
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,
And way up into the spacious attics.
It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.
Some must inhabit those inner rooms
And know the depths and heights of God,
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.
Sometimes I take a deeper look in.
Sometimes venture in a little farther,
But my place seems closer to the opening.
So I stand by the door.

There is another reason why I stand there.
Some people get part way in and become afraid
Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them;
For God is so very great and asks all of us.
And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia
And want to get out. 'Let me out!' they cry.
And the people way inside only terrify them more.
Somebody must be by the door to tell them that they are
spoiled.
For the old life, they have seen too much:
One taste of God and nothing but God will do any more.
Somebody must be watching for the frightened
Who seek to sneak out just where they came in,
To tell them how much better it is inside.
The people too far in do not see how near these are
To leaving - preoccupied with the wonder of it all.
Somebody must watch for those who have entered the
door
But would like to run away. So for them too,

I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in.
But I wish they would not forget how it was
Before they got in. Then they would be able to help
The people who have not yet even found the door.
Or the people who want to run away again from God.
You can go in too deeply and stay in too long
And forget the people outside the door.
As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
Near enough to God to hear Him and know He is there,
But not so far from men as not to hear them,
And remember they are there too.

Where? Outside the door -
Thousands of them. Millions of them.
But - more important for me -
One of them, two of them, ten of them.
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch.
So I shall stand by the door and wait
For those who seek it.

'I had rather be a door-keeper
So I stand by the door.

Contributed by --Robert D

Speaker Meetings

Speaker Meetings
Porterville Recovery Club Speaker Meeting
186 W. Walnut Ave.
Friday March 6, 2020 at 8:00 PM
Speaker: - TBA

Friday Book Study Speaker Meeting
1820 N. Gem St, Tulare
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8:00 PM
Speaker: - Erica E

Sunday AM Breakfast, Speaker Meeting
Veterans Memorial Building
36000 Hwy 190, Springville
Sunday, March 8th, 2020 at 10:15 AM
(Breakfast at 8:30 to 10:00 AM)
Speaker: Cindy B. - Granada Hills, CA

The Valley Group, Speaker Meeting
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
120 N. Hall St. Visalia, CA 93291
Every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.
Speakers for March
Mar 4 - Lynn S. of Visalia 13 Years
Mar 11 - JJ S. of Porterville 1 Year
Mar 18 - Kelly R. of Visalia 12 Years
Mar 25 - Steve C. of Visalia 3 Years
That's 29 years of sober experience in AA in four
simple one-hour sessions!

Tulare County Hospitals & Institutions

2020 is off to a great start for Tulare County H&I. Our H&I Committee had the opportunity to host the February 9, 2020 NorCal H&I Committee Meeting. The Unity and Service displayed at this event was amazing, from the planning stages to the day of the event. There was over 80 people in attendance with a large number from Tulare County. It was an opportunity for our Area to participate as part of the NorCal Committee. Thank you to all who helped in every way and those in attendance!

At our last meeting, we elected a new Recording Secretary, Tracy W., and Treasurer, Gary B and look forward to them joining us. We recognized our volunteers, who over the years have held multiple service positions at a time to keep the Tulare Area H&I Committee functioning. We also recognized our long time H&I volunteers who continued to carry the message to the confined alcoholic when the volunteer numbers dropped. These volunteers are an example of the commitment to service in our A.A. Fellowship, which provides an example we who follow can practice. We began inviting a representative from a facility we serve to come share with our committee the value they see of H&I volunteers carrying the A.A. message in their facilities. Our scheduled representative was sick on the meeting date, but we were blessed to have a different Corcoran Prison representative attend our meeting and share from the heart impromptu, and it was amazing.

In the coming months, we will continue to look for additional facilities which will allow us the opportunity to bring in an H&I panel, as we have seen an increase in volunteers. We have begun working with the Spanish 190 Region and hope that this will increase Spanish Speaking volunteers to carry the message into the Tulare County Jail. The Tulare H&I Committee members are excited about the future and want to thank the A.A. Fellowship who continues to contribute to the pink can and fund these activities. Please remember to put either Tulare County or Area 93 on any contributions sent to NorCal.

Our next Tulare County H&I Committee Orientation will be March 21, 2020, 9:00 am, Visalia Alano Club for any A.A. member interested in volunteering. Our next committee meeting is April 11, 2020, 9:00 am, Visalia Alano Club. Please elect an H & I representative from your group and have them attend.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Joyce R.

Central Service Meeting

February 11, 2020

Meeting called to order: Cheryl H. Time: 7:00pm

Board members present: Cheryl H. Erica E.

Absent: Mike K.

Serenity Prayer: Was done by all

12 Traditions: Read by Alice S.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Was approved Additions, Corrections, & Approval of Minutes

Report of Last Meeting: Mike S. has resigned. There is a vacancy for Secretary. We need to elect two board members. Board members email and phone numbers will be available to CSR's. Voicemail system was set up for Central Office phone line.

Treasurer and Office Report: We had an income of 2687.89 and expense of 4138.81 for a loss of 1450.92 for this accounting period. Group contributions were good. Sales were lower than average. Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$240.00 in appreciated contributions. We paid our 4th Quarter of 2019 employee taxes and had a large order of specialty items. We had 270.83 in total gross sales for credit and debit cards last month. Bob H. sent a large literature order to New York and he is expecting it anytime. Bob H. received and answered one voicemail since we installed the new system. The office has been operating normally.

Public Information: None

Volunteer Step Writers For Central News Step For Newsletter-Volunteer

Month	Step	Member	Due Date
Mar	3	Trudy	2/20/2020
Apr	4	Louie	3/20/2020

Tradition for Newsletter-Volunteer

Month	Trad	Member	Due Date
Mar	3	Teddy B.	2/20/2020
Apr	4	Allen	3/20/2020

Web site Report: There was a change on the web site due to a glitch that was corrected. The website had 5000 views.

Newsletter Report: None

H&I Report: Joyce reported we are requesting all AA groups elect an H&I representative to act as liaison between the AA groups and the Tulare County H&I committee. Have your rep. bring your groups questions and concerns to our committee and make weekly announcements about upcoming H&I committee meetings and activities at the group level. Currently we have no representatives outside of Tulare and Visalia. Please continue to pass the pink can at your meeting, and put Area 93 on the checks to Norcal. We have several

opportunities to be of service as we continue to grow. Please join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month, 9:00 am at the Alano club.

GSO Liaison: Kenneth reports that the Superior Court is handing out outdated meeting schedules.

CSR Reports:

Mike K. - Valley Group Speaker Series meets at ST. Pauls Church at Center and Hall Street in Visalia every Wednesday. The Valley group has two large speaker events and donates its excess funds to the Central Office.

Alice S. - The Women's Amity Group meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm to 8pm, a wonderful group of women of all ages with long timers and newcomers. Regular business meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month. We make group contributions to AA's entities. Birthdays are celebrated the last Tuesday of each month.

Alice S. - Sober sisters meet every Monday starting on February 10th the meeting will start at 7pm not 7:30pm. Meeting is one hour. Attendance is up, we believe it's due to the intimacy of the meeting and a safe place for women of all ages. Meeting is held at the Hillman House, 220 west Tulare Ave. Birthdays are celebrated the last Monday of the month with chips and cake.

Jonathon T. - Tulare Sunday night meeting meets every Sunday night for an open AA meeting at 7pm. We have coffee and give out chips. We are located at 220 West Tulare Ave.

Johnny S. - Bridge St. Drunks Only has three meetings per day 7 am, noon, and 7pm daily. There are usually 15 to 30 people per meeting.

John W. - Civic center group meets every Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm at Christ Lutheran 3830 W. Tulare Ave in Visalia. Format is speaker followed by discussion. Birthdays are celebrated the last Tuesday of the month. There is a great mix up of new comers and old timers. It's a great meeting. We hand out chips.

David - The Messy Pants Winos group meet every Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the Visalia Alano Club. This is an open meeting, and meets for one hour. Our format is that we play 20 minutes of audio from a Joe and Charlie weekend Big Book Study, followed by discussions (every week, a new episode, working through the Big Book). The group members are mostly newcomers with attendance cards, so we need members willing to sponsor and take on new sponsee's. Typical attendance count is fifteen to twenty people.

Patrick - Saturday Night Jay Walkers is a young people chip meeting. It's an open meeting with various lengths of sobriety sharing their experience, strength, and hope. Our meeting is in a small room with a cozy atmosphere, located at the Hillman house on 220 W. Tulare Ave. in Tulare at 7:30pm Saturday nights.

Trudy W-Lindsay Fireside Fellowship - for December 2019 CSR meeting. We are an open, topic discussion meeting. We gather every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 in the Fireside Room of the United Methodist Church, corner of Honolulu and Gale Hill due east of City Hall. We are a small, intimate meeting welcoming newcomers and oldtimers alike, a good place to dig deep and make friends. We celebrate annual birthdays at the end of each month, and monthly chips anytime for folks under one year. We treasure our sobriety and offer hope and support to those who want it in their lives. We look forward to your visit!

Old Business: Fund raising event options were discussed. Options include golf tournament, new years party, take your sponsor to breakfast. We need volunteers to return calls made to our new voicemail service. The chair for the annual picnic is Johnny. We agreed on groups donating baskets and making deserts. Allen will make the flyer for the picnic. We had a suggested idea about a bake sale.

New Business: There is a lack of unity with the Spanish speaking central office. The central office for Spanish speaking AA is located at 1830 S. Mooney BLVD. suite 210. The telephone number is 559-679-7061. The phone will only be answered on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month from 10am to 2pm.

7th Tradition: \$34

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned: 8:04pm

District 47 Minutes February 5, 2020

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. by DCM Allen L. Committee: Allen L., DCM; Ralph D., GSR for Bridge Street Drunks Only Group; Josh F., Treasurer; Danette L., GSR for the Saturday Women's 12x12 Study; Kenneth B., GSR for Springville Gut Level Group (Alt. DCM), Greg G. Registrar, Chuck N., GSR for Sunday Serenity Seekers, Jim K., (Recording Secretary) GSR for Monday Men's Meeting.

The GSR Preamble was recited by all present.

12 Traditions: read by Josh F.

12 Concepts: Concept 2 read by Greg G.

Approval of Minutes: January 1, 2020 minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Josh F. reported a balance forward of \$1983.66. Income from groups was \$337.44. TCCO Office expense was \$260.00 for Allen L. DCM trip, leaving a balance of

\$2061.10.

CSO Report: Allen L. reported that the Mike S. and Louis T. resigned from the board, and there are two immediate openings on the Central Office board and voting will happen at next weeks CSR Meeting on Tuesday February 11, 2020.

Registrar: Greg G. had no report as he was unable to attend the Winter Assembly.

PI/CPC Report: No Report as we are looking for a representative

H&I Report: Ralph D. announced this Saturday is the regularly scheduled H&I meeting at the Visalia Alano Club February 8th at 9 am.. This Sunday at the the Creative Center (Ice House) in Visalia from 11-3 will be the NorCal H and I meeting.

DCM Report/Old Business: DCM Allen L, Jim K, Rafael D., and Chuck N. attended the Winter Assembly. Allen shard the Preliminary Agenda Items which could potentially become an agenda item at this year's General Service Conference. The Pre Conference Workshop will be held at the Porterville Recovery Club on March 14, 2020 starting at 10:00 and lunch is included.

It will give all AA members in our area an opportunity to learn more and share input on the agenda items to share with our delegate to take to the conference. We are waiting for the actual topics at this time.

New Business: In new business, a gun was been pulled out at a local meeting last week. This is a legal issue and there is nothing in the AA program that states that we should protect criminal activity at locations where active AA meetings are being held. We discussed the situation and made no recommendations other than to share at our group business meeting and make policy clear at all meetings. Allen stated the need for an emergency services contact info for health professionals dealing with alcoholics in crises. Also, the Superior Court is handing out outdated AA meeting schedules and we need someone to contact them with proper schedules.

7th Tradition: \$22.00

Announcements: None

The meeting closed with the Declaration of Unity and the Responsibility Declaration at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim K -GSR, Recording Secretary

Financial Report

TULARE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

Income & Expense Statement

1/21/20 THROUGH 2/20/2020

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
B.Day Club	21.00	132.00
CD & Tape Cont.	0.00	0.00
Grateful Givers Club	520.00	760.00
Group Cont.	2,094.96	3,740.52
Indiv Cont	447.04	472.04
Lit. Sales	782.05	1,203.30
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	73.73	120.06
Spec. Events	0.00	0.00
Spec. Items	494.40	693.15

TOTAL	\$4,433.18	\$7,121.07
--------------	-------------------	-------------------

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
Ans. Serv.	40.00	80.00
Fees-Taxes	0.00	0.00
Insurance	550.00	550.00
Lit. Costs	280.92	280.92
PI-CPC Expense	0.00	0.00
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cost	0.00	0.00
Office Exp	20.00	30.00
Office Equip.& Maint	0.00	183.20
Phone & ISP	149.09	248.09
Postage	55.00	55.00
Employee Taxes	574.34	1,776.34
Rent	525.00	1,050.00
Salary	1,276.26	2,553.30
Sales Tax-Paid	0.00	0.00
Security System	0.00	0.00
Spec. Events	0.00	195.00
Spec. Items	0.00	442.95
Card Charge	12.52	21.41
Utilities	91.91	169.47
Website	5.53	83.70

TOTAL	\$3,580.57	7,719.38
--------------	-------------------	-----------------

Net Gain(Loss)	\$852.61	(\$598.31)
-----------------------	-----------------	-------------------

BEGINNING TOTAL ACCT BAL:	\$14,275.52
----------------------------------	--------------------

ENDING TOTAL ACCT BAL:	\$15,128.13
-------------------------------	--------------------

Central Office BOD Mtg

Minutes

Date: February 11, 2019

Meeting called to order: Cheryl Hinton 8:10pm

Absent: Mike Kregger

Minutes of last board meeting: Read and approved

Board decided the positions of the two new members voted on by the CSRs. Jonathan Toledo is Member at Large; William Evans is Recording Secretary to begin taking minutes in March.

President: Cheryl Hinton

Vice President: Erica Epperson

Secretary: William Evans

Member at large: Jonathon Toledo

PI/CPC: Mike Kregger

Office Operator: Bob Hinton

Old Business:

Picnic - June 6, 2020

Fund Raising Events

New Business:

Bank Signers

Erica Epperson and Cheryl Hinton will be on the account with office manager Bob Hinton. Office is in working order and has a new coffee pot. Bob will call about fax number to make sure it is completely turned off. William suggests we should have a link on the website for Spanish translation.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm

In Service, Erica Epperson (Acting Secretary)

Group Contributions

10th Ave Men's-Lemoore		0.00
Alpha-Wed-Tulare		0.00
As It Is Outlined in Book		25.00
Attitude Modification-210		0.00
Bill & Friends		0.00
Breath of Fresh Air		0.00
Bridge St. "Drunks Only"	322.93	576.98
Central Calif. Roundup		0.00
Civic Center Grp.	60.00	60.00
Clodbusters-Tulare		0.00
Crossroads-Tulare		0.00
CSO Meeting	34.00	70.00

Dinuba Grp		0.00
District 47		400.00
Dr. Bob & Friends		0.00
Exeter-Quiet Trails	100.00	200.00
Exeter Sun Afternoon		0.00
Foundation Group		0.00
Freedom Fellowship		0.00
Fri. Night Study Tulare		0.00
Friday Noon 210		111.21
Half & Half		0.00
Hillman Group		0.00
Lindsay Fireside Grp		0.00
Messy Pants Winos		0.00
Monday Men's Mtg.		0.00
Mid Valley-Tulare		00.0
Mon Book Study-S'ville		0.00
Mon Lit Study-Visalia		0.00
Nooners Group-Visalia		0.00
Pine Recovery AA Mtg		0.00
Porterville Young People		0.00
Practicing The Principles		0.00
Rainbow Group		0.00
Rule 62-Visalia	125.00	125.00
Serenity Junction-Tulare		0.00
Serenity Seekers AM-Visalia	52.79	114.09
Serenity Sisters		0.00
Wed. Sobriety Celebration		0.00
Springville Gut Level		50.00
St. Ritas Group		0.00
Sun Bkfst Spkr Mtg		230.00
Sun PM Serenity Seekers		0.00
Tulare Young People	104.00	104.00
TUFYPAA		0.00
Tulare Fri. Book Study		0.00
Tulare 2nd Fri Spkr Mtg		0.00
Tulare Tuesday Night		0.00
Tulare Sunday Night		0.00
Tues. Men's-P'ville		0.00
Three Rivers-Monday		248.00
Unity Thru Traditions		0.00
Valley Group		70.00
Valley Speaker Series	701.74	701.74
Wandering Couples		0.00
Wed. Acceptance, P'ville	150.00	150.00
Weekend Attitude Adj.		0.00
Women's Amity-Visalia		0.00
Women's Changes-P'ville	87.50	87.50
Women's Fri. Night-P'ville		0.00
Women in Unity		0.00
Women's Sat AM 12x12		60.00
Young & Restless		0.00

Total	1,737.96	3,383.52

Contributions

BirthDay Club

Greg G.	Porterville	21
Nick V.	Visalia	5
Raymond G.	Visalia	1

GRATEFUL GIVERS CLUB

Members - \$ 440.00

Individual Contributions

Anonymous

Barbara VB

David G.

Jim K.

Shannon S.

Newsletter Contributions

None

Memorial Contribution

None

Central Office Contacts

Answering Service Calls	0
After Hours Calls	6
AA Members	13
Court Ref/Info	11
Meeting Information	15
H & I	0
Alanon & Alateen Information	2
Info. re Recovery Homes	0
Schedules & Info-Mailed & Faxed	0
Bridging The Gap	0
Other 12 Step Programs	3
Visitors to Office	56
Literature Sales	13
Specialty Sales	33
Churches & Schools	0
General Information	17
Prospective Members	2
Twelve Step Calls	0
E-Mail Contacts	12
Spanish Contact	1



Service Meetings

AND ADDRESSES

GSR Meeting at Central Office

449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM

CSR Meeting at Central Office

449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:00 PM

H&I Meeting at Alano Club

Visalia Alano Club, 1311 W. Murray

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 9:00 am

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

Lighter Side of AA

The Judge

A guy wants a divorce. He tells the judge "I cant take it anymore she's out going from bar to bar every night way past midnight"

The judge responds "what's she doing"

The guy says "looking for me"

1st Drink

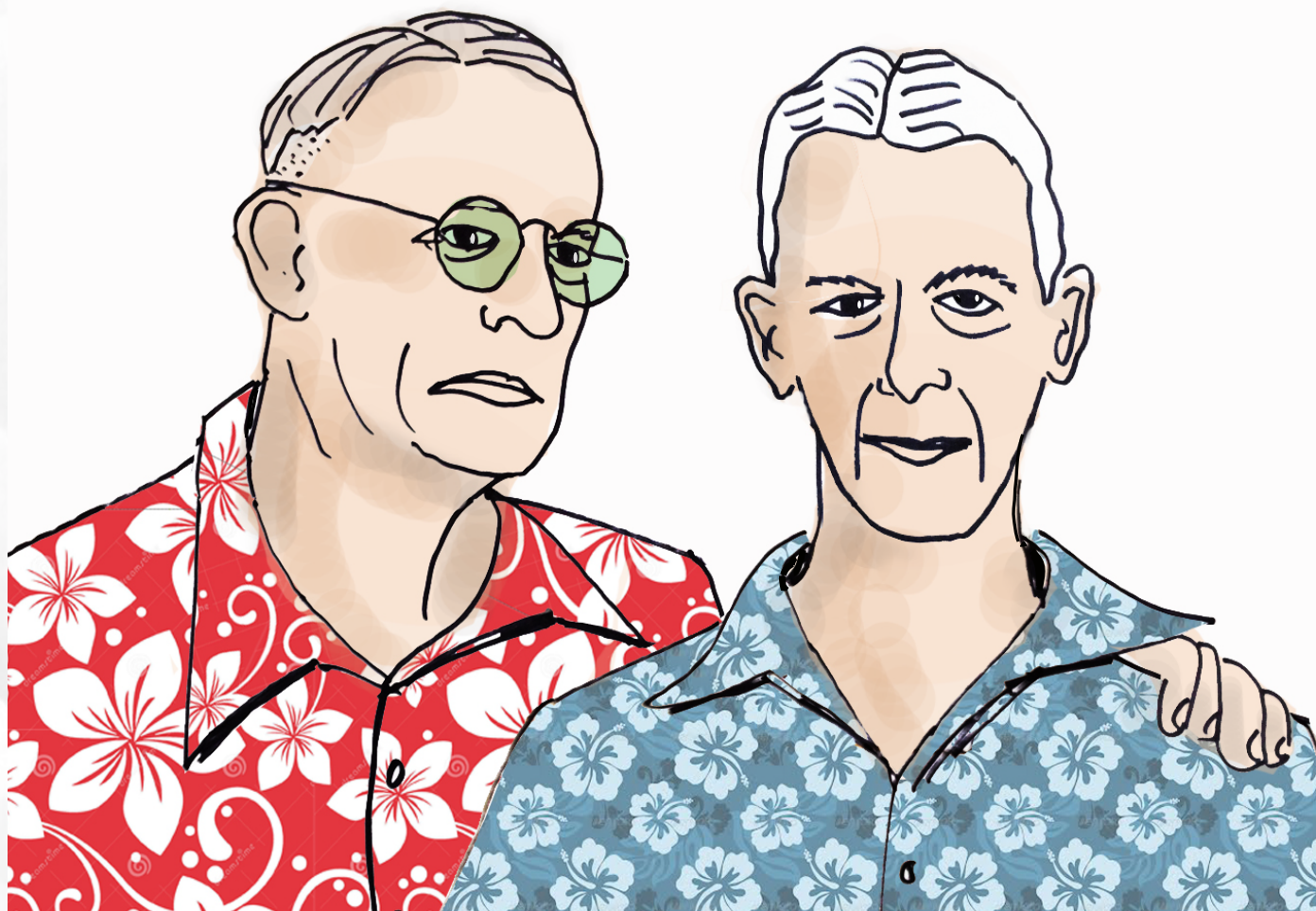
An alcoholic is sitting at a bar

He orders two shots. He proceeds to pour out the first one all over the bar, downs the second one and then orders two more. He pours out the first one on the bar, downs the second one and orders two more.

The bartender asks him why he keeps pouring out the first shot all over the bar.

The alcoholic replies with "My AA group said all I need to do is avoid that first drink."

Tulare County Central Office Founders Day Picnic



SATURDAY - JUNE 6, 2020

MOONEY GROVE PARK - VISALIA - ARBOR #9

SPEAKER: Patti B. FROM Bakersfield, Calif.

Lunch Served FROM 11 AM TO 12:30 PM

LUNCH: Adults: \$5.00 / Kids Under 12: \$1.00

Hamburgers AND Hot Dogs WITH All The Fixin's - Chips - Dessert - Free Coffee

Come Early for Setup at 8:00 AM - Picnic Starts at 9 AM - Speaker at 1 PM

District 47 Pre-Conference Service Fair

Connecting GSC Agenda Items to the Twelve Traditions

Saturday, March 14, 2020 • 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Porterville 12 Step Recovery Club • 186 S. D Street, Porterville



Food, Fellowship & Meaningful Service!

- Participate in some meaningful District 47 service and fellowship and enjoy a delicious BBQ tri-tip 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 and AA Traditions relevant to this year's agenda items.*
- *Open Mic discussion sessions*
- *Lunch & further discussion*
- *Provide your input with the Agenda Item Feedback Questionnaire*



40th Annual Northern California Woman to Woman Conference with Al-Anon Participation April 24, 25 & 26, 2020

Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova: (916) 638-1100
11211 Point E Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742
*Room rates \$124.00+taxes & fees; Conference rates
good until **Friday, March 27, 2020!**
<https://book.passkey.com/event/49927793>

"WE WERE REBORN"
WOMAN TO WOMAN 2020
40TH ANNIVERSARY

Registration & Conference open at 3pm on Friday, April 24th
Don't miss "Big Book Trivia" from 6:00 - 7:00 pm Friday as well as the
many topic meetings & workshops!

Main Speakers

Friday - 8:00 pm	Tina A.	Torrance, CA
Saturday (Al-Anon) - 10:00 am	Sandi C.	Elk Grove, CA
Saturday - 1:00 pm	Mary D.	Elverta, CA
Saturday - 8:00 pm	Polly P.	Anaheim, CA
Sunday - 10:00 am	Hilda S.	Studio City, CA

Registration: Candice G. (209) 922-5290 **Conference Chair:** Heidi S. (916) 607-8986

Raffle Donations: Elora J. (916) 549-0543

PLEASE Send COMPLETED registration form and a CHECK payable to:
NCWW - P.O. Box 2008, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 no later than April 16, 2020!

Non-Refundable Registration Fee \$20 (before 4/16/20) Fee will be \$25 at the door.

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	Email:	

Pre-Order T-Shirt: __S __M __L __XL __XXL __XXXL @ \$15.00 each Total T-Shirts \$_____

Saturday Banquet: ()Pan Seared Chicken \$46 ()Filet Mignon \$57 ()Portabella Mushroom (Vegetarian) \$39

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the scholarship fund.

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE (INCLUDING FOOD, DONATIONS & T-SHIRTS) \$_____

All Banquet & pre-registration forms must be received by April 16, 2020. No dinners sold at door.

Regrettably, NO CHILDREN ALLOWED AT CONFERENCE

I would like to be of Service at this year's Conference I am attending as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous I am attending as a member of Al-Anon

If you are in need of a scholarship, please **submit a request, in writing, in advance.**

Scholarship covers registration only and requires a 2 hour service commitment. Limited times will be available.

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!!!