

CENTRAL NEWS

Website: www.aa-tulareco.org

March 2021



The Alcoholic Palm

Bayside View Seward, AK Louie T.

Even a palm tree can grow crooked for a while and live . . . travel along a crooked, unnatural path, and then perk up to spread its glorious foliage upward and blossom forth into a thing of splendor.

Over the doorway of the A.A. clubhouse in Clearwater, Fla., the alcoholic palm tree curves upward and over the door, just high enough for the average person to walk under without bumping his head. It is a living example to those of us who have traveled high and low roads, full of curves and crooked paths. It is a constant reminder to those who find peace and serenity in surrounding themselves with others more desperately in need than they . . . that even trees can be buffeted into grotesque shapes by living and growing against nature.

Something happened in the life of this palm tree to start it across the walk, up over the doorway and then down . . . down as low as it possibly could go and continue to live on until something else happened to straighten it up. Maybe conviction had something to do with it, as in the case of an alcoholic. Convictions put a spark into life. Those who are content to hold opinions they scarcely take the trouble to express, much less to defend, miss the fun that people convinced of the rightness of their ideas so heartily enjoy. But a conviction is a positive idea, never a negative one. It is not enough to be against,

we must be for something with all our hearts and with all our souls. Only then will we really come alive . . . to think and grow straight.

What changed the growth of the alcoholic palm tree? Maybe it was the men and women who walk beneath its arch, straightforward humans . . . walking erect without leaning upon alcohol for a crutch.

In a lovely Florida twilight a woman stood under the alcoholic palm tree, looked back 20 years burdened by sorrows. And yet she was able to say: "To live soberly is to be thankful; to know night and day, and changing seasons, to hear golden laughter, and even to weep softly . . . just to be alive and sober is to be thankful."

For what shall a man give thanks? For A.A. and sobriety; for glad laughter; for neighbors and friends, and strangers, too, who pause in a teeming, turbulent highway called Life to remind us that it is good to be sober and alive.

Pity him who weighs his blessings by counting what he holds in his pocket. Pity him who cannot feel a real exultation and a deep humility as he says, "I will give thanks because I am alive in A.A.!"

For in that is the root of gratitude . . . the principle of divine, law, whether it be human's or palm tree's.

—B.H. St. Petersburg, FL AA Grapevine March 1948

Step 3

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.

As a person who reasons that there is not sufficient evidence for the belief in a God , an a-thiest, I have had difficulty with this step, to say the least. How, exactly, do I understand Him? Is there a being that has all power? How can this being be all things to all people? Can he be the all loving, forgiving, kindly god to some, and at the same time a vengeful, spiteful, egomaniac god to others? These are questions that I ask myself often. Is there a truth? If I use the term "God" loosely to name a "higher power" does that mislead others in understanding what my higher power is? I'm going to have to use the term higher power, not God. God means different things to each person and if I use that title, each person understands a different God. I use the title higher power. That higher power is the AA groups I attend, the people I talk to, and the people I meet throughout the day. This is where I can say that the care of my will and my life is held. I don't ask "what should I do in this instance?" Or "tell me if this is right or wrong." I listen for what others have done in similar circumstances. I get opinions on how others have dealt with similar issues. I watch others to see what they may do and what their results have been.

A friend used to say "first thought wrong," and I find this to be true for me. So I shut up and wait awhile before I act or open my mouth. My ego wants to be right and incharge, which usually leads to trouble. "First thought wrong." It's true that if I can keep me out of my affairs, things probably won't screw up. I do have a Higher Power, and that Higher Power is You.

—Bill E.

Tradition 3

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

Tradition three has been a constant theme of my recovery and life in AA. About three years ago when I decided to open myself up to a new way of life I became a member of AA. All I had to have was the desire to stop drinking. All are welcome and I felt that from the other members of AA. I have learned how to be a functioning member of

AA. My sponsor and brothers and sisters of AA have taught me so much all stemming from my desire to stop drinking. One of my favorite things about AA is how welcome and understood I feel. In return I can open my arms to the most important members of this program (the newcomer).

Erica D.

Speaker Meetings

Porterville Recovery Club Speaker Meeting

186 W. Walnut Ave.

Friday March 5, 2021 at 8:00 PM

Speaker: - TBA

Sunday AM Breakfast, Speaker Meeting

Veterans Memorial Building

36000 Hwy 190, Springville

Sunday, March 14th, 2021 at 10:15 AM

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

Speaker: Cheryl H. - Springville, 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 October Our meetings will be held online using Zoom through the end of 2020. We hope to return to St. Paul's Church in August. Thank you! Hope to see you soon!

Mar 3 - TBD

Mar 10 - Ken B of Pleasanton - 41 years

Mar 17-TBD

Mar 24-TBD

Mar 31-TBD

Want to be of Service??

Since COVID has come are you struggling to get involved???

Contribute to this newsletter!!

Send a picture, send a joke, suggest an article.

email:

centralintergroupnews@gmail.com

Financial Report

TULARE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE
Income & Expense Statement
1/21/21 THROUGH 2/20/2021

Central Service Meeting

DATE: February 9, 2021

TIME: 7:04

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Cheryl H.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl H., Erica E., William E., Patrick A.

ABSENT: Mike K.

SERENITY PRAYER: Read by Cheryl H.

12 TRADITIONS: Read by Patrick A.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Approved by all
REPORT OF LAST BOARD MEETING: read by Cheryl H.

TREASURER and OFFICE REPORT: We had an income of \$3,581.97 and expenses of \$3,559.27 for a gain of \$22.70 for this accounting period. Group contributions were good. I want to thank all the contributing groups and members for their much needed and appreciated contributions. Expenses include our quarterly tax for the 4th quarter of 2020. Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$220.00 in much appreciated contributions. We had \$441.15 total net sales in 6 transactions for credit and debit cards last month. Traffic and calls have been light.

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT: Patrick A.:
VOLUNTEERS TO WRITE STEP & TRADITION FOR CENTRAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER:

STEPS

Issue	Step	Member	Due
Mar.	3	William E.	Due February 20, 2021
April	4	Sara B.	Due March 20, 2021

TRADITION

Issue	Trad	Member	Due
Mar	3	Erica E.	Due February 20, 2021
April	4	Robert	Due March 20, 2021

NEWSLETTER REPORT: NO Report

WEBSITE: David G.: For the web site report, please note that for the 30 days ending February 9, 2021, we had 3,162 visits and 708 unique visitors. Previously, we tracked "page views" instead of "visits"; these last 30 days we had 7,600+ page views. This month's daily activity is pretty similar to recent previous months. We did have a web site outage on Tuesday, February 2nd, for around nine hours. I was attempting to add a large graphic file to an event, and that caused the computer server to go 100% busy until I could reboot it.

Thank you very much to our members who

INCOME	MONTH	YEAR TO DT.
B.Day Club	0.00	58.00
CD & Tape Cont.	0.00	0.00
Grateful Givers Club	340.00	560.00
Group Cont.	370.00	1,975.92
Indiv Cont	890.57	1,704.03
Lit. Sales	514.80	1,069.67
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	41.11	86.08
Spec. Events	0.00	0.00
Spec. Items	166.30	451.05

TOTAL **\$2,322.78** **\$5,904.75**

EXPENSES	MONTH	YEAR TO DT.
Fees-Taxes	0.00	0.00
Insurance	550.00	550.00
Lit. Costs	0.00	293.11
PI-CPC Expense	0.00	0.00
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cost	0.00	0.00
Office Exp	0.00	0.00
Office Equip.& Maint	0.00	0.00
Phone & ISP	116.97	233.94
Postage	0.00	0.00
Employee Taxes	0.00	1,249.16
Rent	525.00	1,050.00
Salary	1,273.12	2,547.81
Sales Tax-Paid	0.00	0.00
Security System	0.00	0.00
Spec. Events	0.00	0.00
Spec. Items	0.00	0.00
Card Charge	3.91	11.39
Utilities	95.40	184.43
Website	3.12	6.95

TOTAL **\$2,567.52** **6,126.79**

Net Gain(Loss) **(\$244.74)** **(\$222.04)**

BEGINNING TOTAL ACCT BAL: \$14,504.69

ENDING TOTAL ACCT BAL: \$14,259.95

reached out to me to let me know there was a problem. I didn't actually know there was a problem until hearing from members 7:00 PM Tuesday night.

H&I REPORT: Happy to report that H&I continues zoom meetings. Our volunteers participate twice a month at Pine Manor Recovery and Mothering Heights Women's Recovery (with exception in January due to the pandemic, ladies had to be quarantined to their rooms. We zoom once a month with Turning Point. Literature continues to be provided to facilities. If you would like more information on H & I, the business meetings are on odd months and/or contact one of us, we would love to share this type of 12th step work.

H&I opened a venmo account for 7th tradition donations. We will use this account to pay debits and collect donations. At our January meeting we opened up to the committee elections for a recording secretary and will vote at our March meeting.

Regional Chair, Joyce R, reported the following from the January 9, 2021 Steering Committee Meeting:

The IVSS Program has been continuing as Sponsors, writing to sponsees in lieu of in-person visits. San Quentin allows inmates 1 video call per month. The inmate may choose to use either for sponsorship or to make a family call. If an in-mate chooses family, sponsor continues to write.

Presentations on the IVSS (Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service) program are continuing as interest is generated throughout the US and internationally. The last talk was given in British Columbia. Pretty exciting how the program can work! There will be a second article about the IVSS Program in the February Grapevine. Check it out if you are interested in this type of service work.

Soledad Prison is working on an innovative way to bring Zoom H&I meetings to the inmates since zoom is not allowed from outside of the prison due to internet firewalls. The volunteers zoom within the prison walls in an administrative office, broadcasting real time. This is energizing as it brings opportunity for more involvement from H & I volunteers as clearance would not be necessary. Hopefully, this will spark more interest for volunteers once we go face to face to get cleared for H & I panels.

With that being said, H&I encourages all groups to elect an H&I Representative. The Representative should attend our business meetings and relay the information back to their group, in order to ensure we are carrying the collective conscience of Tulare County to the NorCal Committee. We are a 9th tradition service committee and rely on the group representative

to maintain open communication between the H&I Committee and the local fellowship which funds our activities.

The next H & I Orientation will be held via zoom on February 27, 2021 at 9:00am. The next Orientation and Business meeting is March 27th, 2021. Orientation will start at 9:00am followed by the business meeting 10:00am.

**For all aboveThe zoom ID: 885 8119 7080
Password: Sober (capital S).**

Thank you for letting me be of service, Boo

BTG Report: No Report

CSR REPORTS:Alice S - Sober Sisters Sober Sisters meet every Monday from 7 to 8 at River Valley Church at 554 South Blackstone Ave. Tulare. This meeting is an open meeting. Birthdays are celebrated the last Monday of each month. Business meetings the third Monday of each month. Attendance is low. What we lack in numbers we make up in spirit. Contributions are being made to all AA entities each quarter. Thank you for letting me be of service.

The Women's Amity Group The Women's Amity Group continues to merton Zoom every Tuesday at 6;30 to 7;30. With 15 minutes after meeting for social time. New services positions were elected this month for the January to June term. Attendance is 20 to 30 women. Business meetings are the third Tuesday of the month and Birthdays are celebrated on the last Tuesday. Chips, Literature, and Phone Lists are mailed upon request.

There is no plan at this time to return to a physical meeting.

Sunday Morning "Keep it Simple Sunday" Patrick, A., GSR, The Sunday Morning "Keep it Simple Sunday" meeting is held at Blain Park, 3101 South Court Street in Visalia Ca,93277, from 10:00am- 11:30am. This is an open meeting held outside at the North end of Blain Park in Visalia. We do recommend that you bring your own chair if you would like to sit and do practice social distancing. We are a fellowship of men and women averaging. 20-30 people. We begin every meeting in the traditional fashion and start our sharing with the reading of the Daily Reflections. This is a chip meeting, we do celebrate birthdays and newcomers are welcome to attend.

Saturday Night Jay Walker Young People Meeting. Patrick, A., GSR, This Saturday Evening Meeting has been temporarily moved to St. John's in Tulare.1701 East Prosperity Ave, Tulare Ca, 93274 from 7:30pm- 8:45pm. This is an indoor open meeting, anyone young

in years, sobriety, or heart may attend. This is a chair meeting with great energy as we share our experience, strength and hope. The room is sanitized daily, masks are optional.

Tuesday Night "Friends Of Bill W. and Doctor Bob" Patrick, A., GSR, This is a Tuesday Night Open Meeting held at St. John's Episcopal Church 1701 East Prosperity Avenue, Visalia Ca, 93274. From 7:00pm-8:30pm. We are a fellowship of men and women very grateful to have kept our doors open during the entirety of this difficult time. This is an indoor meeting, sanitized daily, masks are optional. newcomers are welcome to attend.

OLD BUSINESS: Cheryl H. said that the after hours phone has been semi-busy with 1-2 calls per week. Carol Anne is still in line for Central Office succession, with Ernesto also training to be an alternate and fill-in as needed. Check signers is moving forward with an appointment with the bank to change the signees.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

SEVENTH TRADITION: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Springville Breakfast Meeting is still meeting, Patrick A. was the speaker this last Valentine's Day. Boo said H & I's meetings are listed on our website.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:48 pm

Central Office Contacts

Voice Mail Calls	3
AA Members	6
Court Ref/Info	4
Meeting Information	19
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	26
Literature Sales	11
Specialty Sales	11
Churches & Schools	0
General Information	8
Prospective Members	1
Twelve Step Calls	0
E-Mail Contacts	10
Spanish Contact	1

Total	102

March AA Birthdays

Manuel C.	Tulare	46
Kristi H.	Visalia	45
Art W.	Lampasas TX	43
John G.	Armona	38
Barbara S.	Hanford	38
Ray D.	Tulare	37
Laura H.	Visalia	37
Sylvia M.	Visalia	36
Rod R.	Tulare	34
Vick G.	Exeter	34
Cy F.	Visalia	34
Jesse M.	Porterville	33
Marcie M.	Porterville	33
Mark C.	Hanford	32
Anita B.	Lemoore	32
Lawrence C.	Tulare	30
Dave S.	Visalia	28
Tom S.	Visalia	28
Wendy S.	Visalia	28
Gary S.	Three Rivers	26
Jeanmarie D.	Porterville	19
Mitch H.	Terra Bella	19
Jeff P.	Visalia	18
Stephanie G.	Visalia	17
Chuck W.	Exeter	16
Edward V.	Dinuba	15
Pete B.	Camp Nelson	13
Steven S.	Visalia	10
Zach D.	Visalia	8
Nick V.	Visalia	6
Kenneth B.	Porterville	5
Sarah S.	Visalia	3
Raymond G.	Visalia	1

Contributions

Birthday Club

NONE

GRATEFUL GIVERS CLUB

Members - \$ 140.00

Individual Contributions

Anonymous

AAA

Art M.

David G.

Jim K.

Joyce R.

Michele S.

Rafael D.

Sandra K.

Shannon S.

Newsletter Contributions

None

Memorial Contribution

None

Tulare County Hospitals & Institutions

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Boo

District 47 Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2021

This is a Zoom meeting with members participating from various locations.

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; Jim K.,

Recording Secretary, GSR for Monday Men's Stag; Danette L., GSR for the Saturday Women's 12x12 Study; Josh F., Treasurer
The GSR Preamble was read by Dannette L.

12 Traditions: read by Allen L.

12 Concepts: Concept 2 long form read by Josh F.

Approval of Minutes: January 6, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Josh F. reported a balance forward

\$2,252.49 Income from groups, \$25.21

No expenses. Current Balance \$2,277.70 Thanks to Bridge Street Drunks Only group for the contribution this month!

CSO Liaison Report: No report

Registrar: No Report

H&I Report: Ralph D. reported that H&I continues zoom meetings. Our volunteers participate twice a month at Pine Manor Recovery and Mothering Heights Women's Recovery (with exception in January due to the pandemic, ladies had to be quarantined to their rooms. We zoom once a month with Turning Point. Literature continues to be provided to facilities.

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DCM Report: Allen attended the first half of the Virtual Winter Assembly and heard the Delegate's Report. Along with the Area officers, there were 23 DCMs and 6 past delegates in attendance. Tom A. NCIA Delegate, distributed the Preliminary list of Agenda Items for this year's General Service Conference. Final list will be available soon. Tom also needs to know how many 2020 Conference Reports each District wants (pdf versions are also available)

Old Business: None

New Business: Now is the time for GSR's to look at potential agenda items for our General Service Conference, discuss them with our groups and get a group conscience regarding items of interest to the group. Allen suggested that we look at opportunities within our area for online opportunities concerning GSC agenda topics. We may possibly host an online workshop of our own to discuss agenda items at a local level.

Seventh Tradition: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim K, Recording Secretary

Group Contributions

1st Friday Spkr Mtg	0.00
Alpha-Wed-Tulare	0.00
As It Is Outlined in Book	0.00
Attitude Modification-210	0.00
Breath of Fresh Air	0.00
Bridge St. "Drunks Only"	366.16
Civic Center Grp.	0.00
Clodbusters-Tulare	0.00
Crossroads-Tulare	0.00
CSO Meeting	0.00
Dinuba Grp	0.00
District 47	0.00
Bill & Friends	0.00
Exeter-Quiet Trails	0.00
Exeter Sun Afternoon	0.00
Foundation Group	0.00
Freedom Fellowship	0.00
Fri. Night Study Tulare	0.00
Friday Noon 210	0.00
H&I	0.00
Half & Half	0.00
Hillman Group	0.00
Keep it Simple Sunday	100.00
Lindsay Fireside Grp	0.00
Messy Pants Winos	0.00
Monday Men's Mtg.	0.00
Mid Valley-Tulare	200.0
Mon Book Study-S'ville	0.00
Mon Lit Study-Visalia	0.00
Mon Men's BB Study	0.00
Nooners Group-Visalia	0.00
Pine Recovery AA Mtg	0.00
Porterville Young People	0.00
Practicing The Principles	20.00
Rainbow Group	0.00
Rule 62-Visalia	0.00
Serenity Junction-Tulare	0.00
Serenity Seekers AM-Visalia	200.00
Sober Sisters	50.00
Wed. Sobriety Celebration	0.00
Springville Gut Level	0.00
St. Ritas Group	0.00
Sun Bkfst Spkr Mtg	150.00
Sun PM Serenity Seekers	0.00
Tulare Young People	0.00
TUFYPAA	0.00
Tulare Fri. Book Study	0.00
Tulare Tuesday Night	200.00
Tulare Thur. Noon	0.00
Tulare Sunday Night	0.00
Tues. Men's-P'ville	0.00
Tues. Noon 210	0.00

Lighter Side of AA

Do you ever get drunk?

Yes

No

X

Three Rivers-Monday		0.00
Unity Thru Traditions	120.00	120.00
Valley Group		569.76
Valley Speaker Series		0.00
Wed. Acceptance, P'ville		0.00
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 in Unity		0.00
Women's Sat AM 12x12		0.00
Young & Restless		0.00

Total	370.00	1,975.92

Service Meetings AND ADDRESSES

GSR Meeting at Central Office
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA
Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM

CSR Meeting at Central Office
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 7:00 PM

H&I Meeting at Alano Club
Via Zoom
Saturday March 27th, 2021

The zoom ID: 885 8119 7080 Password: Sober (capital S).

SERVICE ADDRESSES

Tulare County Central Office
449 E. Maple St..
Exeter, CA 93221
Website: www.aa-tulareco.org

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

H&I-Contributions
P.O. Box 192490
San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

Alcoholics & Heavy Drinkers

What's the difference between a heavy drinker and an alcoholic?

When a heavy drinker gets arrested for a DUI he says "ugh, I shouldn't have had that last shot."

When an alcoholic gets arrested for a DUI he says "ugh, I should have taken a different street home."

If drinking is interfering with your work, you're probably a heavy drinker. If work is interfering with your drinking, you're probably an alcoholic.

5 Oranges

A woman walks into a store and asks for half a pound of ham, one pound of turkey, and 5 oranges. The clerk responds by saying "ah, you must be the town drunk." Taken aback the woman says "why would you think that?" The clerk looks at her and says, "because this is a hardware store."

A Few One-liners

How many alcoholics does it take to change a light bulb? Just one. He holds it up and the whole world revolves around him.

An alcoholic, a meth user, and a junkie are all in a car. Who's driving? The police.

When a coke addict sneezes you don't say bless you. You say, "there goes 20 bucks!"

Alcoholics have three types of memory loss: short-term, long-term, and convenient.

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!!!

California Northern Interior Area
07

**Virtual Winter Assembly
Panel 70 2021**



Please log on and join us by Zoom

Saturday, January 16th, 2021

9:30am-8:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 966-0998-1109

Passcode: CNIAWinter

**Dial-In by Telephone: +1-669-
9006833**

Spanish - English Interpretation will be
provided