

# CENTRAL NEWS



February 2022

Website: [www.aa-tulareco.org](http://www.aa-tulareco.org)

## *Why AA Never Gives Up on Anyone*

Kaweah Lake Allen L.

I'll have to take a bit of a short cut and identify myself briefly as a social-drinking, Turkish-bath, take-the-pledge, call-the-doctor, general-hospital, health-farm, leave-of-absence, job-losing, long-vacation-in-Florida will-fix-me-up, sanitarium, mental-hospital alcoholic, in the order named. When A. A. was first presented to me, I felt that here at last was the answer. I couldn't get enough of it fast enough. I read the book, attended several meetings, met many of the group, and lived AA so vigorously the first two weeks got "cured"—and then got drunk.

The group picked me up and explained that in my initial elation I had become over-confident, that there was much solid groundwork to be laid, and that an entire pattern of thinking and living had to be changed. Furthermore, it might not be easy, and the time might be long before I was able to rehabilitate myself both socially and economically. The first year was tough going and I suffered five or six slips of increasing intensity, until I reached the point where I felt that for me there was no help. I about gave up, but the group did not, and in some way its faith was transmitted to me. I started in once more, attending meetings regularly, gradually making real progress; some nine or ten months before I crash-dived again into Bellevue.

This was surely the end, for it came the very week I was being called to an interview for an excellent position, doing the type of work that that I had long wanted. In some way I pulled myself together, got the job and started off again,

only to run into trouble once more about ten months later. Then I seemed to flip back considerably. During the next six months I bounced about erratically but managed by virtue of an understanding boss to hold my job. Somehow, once more I pulled out of the maelstrom, and for the past year-and-a-half have been completely dry.

I mention this brief background to make one point. There are many in AA whose recovery is apparently immediate, who after being in A.A. only a short time find complete release from their problem. However, there are as many more who just as sincerely desire to be free of alcohol but find themselves confronted with slip after slip and increasing discouragement. They doubt their own ability to be honest with themselves and the situation looks pretty hopeless to them and others as well.

I have never heard of AA giving anyone up as an impossible case, and if the individual confronted with such a dilemma can marshal even the barest physical energy to attend the meetings regularly and to keep trying within the limits of his capabilities to follow the AA program, he will progress. The time element is relatively unimportant—whether it be six months, two years or more before he achieves adequate stability—for we all realize what the alternative must be.

—Jack C. AA Grapevine February 1945

# Step 1

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

When I came into this program I did not believe in anything. I did not believe in love or hope, the world was out to get me. I had no self worth. I Didn't believe in life and I certainly did not believe in God. My dad took me to church when we were little and at about 10 years old I decided I was an Atheist. God was vengeful and hypocritical, and such. And the people who believed in Him, they were worse. The horrible things they did in the name of God. It was not for me.

I hear in meetings that you don't have to believe in God. You can believe in a Higher Power or even a door knob. To me God and a higher power were the same and a door knob? That's just ridiculous. So where did that leave me, confused. I knew I had to believe in something to stay sober so I began to act as if. I would say I believe in something because I did not get myself sober and I'll call it God because everyone else does. I went to A Course In Miracles Meetings. I read meditation books every morning. I'd even talk about God or "whatever" in meetings. I knew I'd stay sober because I was doing what everyone else was. But the God part didn't feel right.

An inner battle began. One day I believed in God the next day I didn't. I got more frustrated as the months went on. I would talk about it in meetings and to my friends to try and figure it all out. One day my sponsor said something like "pick a side, make a decision and quit stressing." It was at that point I began to understand. Spiritually and religion are not the same thing. God and a Higher Power are not the same thing. I do not have to believe in God. It's okay not to. I can still follow the program and stay sober.

AA is my Higher Power, and so are the people in it. My friends are my support group. What they are doing works and if I follow them and do the right thing I'll be okay too. I know something outside of myself has been helping me throughout my recovery, and it is everyone in AA. I've also learned what I think or believe is not set in stone. I need to keep growing. I still read my meditation books every morning. Someday I might believe in God and that would be okay too. At least I believe in something.

Thank you AA!

—Sheryl

# Tradition 2

*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.*

Tradition Two starts with the group; spiritually united in its endeavor to carry the message and having leaders who understand what it means to be a trusted servant.

The spirit of all 12 Traditions is Unity; is my group united? Purpose: What is the purpose of my group and are we meeting the goal? Selfless service: Am I taking my group hostage to my way of thinking or am I allowing other members to contribute to the welfare of the group? Relationship to a God of our understanding; Do I listen to my HP in my decision making for the group? Conscience: The group conscience is a spiritual exercise. Anonymity: Do we, as a group, understand anonymity?

Remember: A group is Higher Powered if it is to survive.

A homegroup member is one who is dedicated to the group and serves in many capacities. AA groups have their bleeding deacon who think the group will suffer without him or her, then there is the elder statesman who listens, and sees the wisdom of the group decisions. The elder statesman has "the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge and humble example that resolve a crisis" (12x12 p 135)

As an AA member of a homegroup, I have learned to listen despite differences of opinion. That was not always the case. I became open minded. I have also learned that other ideas presented to the group are worthwhile and good for the group. It is hard to hear a loving God when I am not being loving. Ego deflation as my sponsor put it.

There are many different 'right answers' for a group. My thinking used to be 'black and white,' no middle ground. AA has taught me to think freely. Change does not always come easy, and I find myself still resisting change when a new idea is presented to the group.

When a group faces a challenge, all sides should be heard before voting on an issue. When the subject is talked to death, then a vote is taken. People are in a hurry; AA is never in a hurry. The group conscience is the true voice of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Cheryl H.

## *A Tribute To Bob H.*

To honor Bob H., there will be a Celebration of Life at the Springville Veteran's Memorial Bldg on Saturday February 26th from 11am to 3pm. Lunch will be served, all are welcome.

AA in Tuare county owes a BIG thank you to Bob H!

Bob has been serving us as the manager of the Central Office for many years. Bob was dedicated to AA through and through.

The Responsibility Statement states:  
I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,. I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that.

This epitomizes Bob and his willingness to help anyone at anytime.

He will be truly Missed!



I have a few memories of Bob that I would like to share. My first one is when I came into AA 32 years ago, and attended the Springville Meeting on a weekly basis. He and Cheryl were some of the first people I met. I would listen to Bob every week, he always has great stuff to say, and really helped me in my sobriety. He talked a lot about his job, and the challenges he had there, I also had those same challenges, and could relate to him all the time. I used to call him EF Hutton, like the old commercial, when EF Hutton talks, everyone listens. I listened.

The other story I wanted to share is when we all went to the International Convention in Minneapolis in the year 2000. Cheryl was a speaker at that convention. The meeting she spoke in was full of about 400 people. She did an amazing job. She talked a lot about OI' Bob and the things they went through in their relationship. She would say OI' Bob did this and OI' Bob said that. After the meeting was over, we all walked outside, people kept coming up to her and saying "is this OI' Bob?" and pointed to him. It was hilarious. Of course knowing someone for 30 years, I could tell lots of stories, but those are some of my fondest. Will miss you Bob, and everything you have done for all of us here in Tulare County AA.

Julie M.

# *Meet the New Office Manager*

A change has occurred for TULARE COUNTY AA; Bob H passed away.

Bob was manager of Tulare County Central Office of AA since March of 1993. Before becoming manager, Bob served Central Office as a Central Service Representative (CSR), President of the Board, Secretary of the Board, and Board Treasurer. Bob knew the Traditions. Bob loved Alcoholics Anonymous. He was hard working, honest and dedicated to his position as office manager. At the end of the day, if the money count was off, he took money from his pocket to make up the difference. The cash box was never short.

In December of 2019, Cheryl H. was elected to the Central Office Board. Cheryl had held positions in General Service and learned the importance of setting goals in service positions within AA. In January of 2020, Cheryl and Bob discussed the fact that Bob rarely took a vacation from the office and discussed was the possibility of Bob retiring. Someone would have to be trained to run the office if Bob took a vacation or decided to retire. Cheryl knew how to run the office from years ago but did not want the position. Bob joked just last November that he would retire if Cheryl would take the job. She declined.

For several months at the central office CSR meetings, the agenda had 'succession plan' under new business then under old business. CSRs were to tell their groups about the plan and ask if anyone was interested in training under Bob. One lady showed up at the office from Porterville: Carol Ann. She said she wanted to learn about Central Office, was a member of the fellowship and had experience in accounting and business. She worked for a tax preparation company. For many months, Carol Ann drove to Central Office and Bob trained her in all aspects of the office. Bob took a day off here and there and Carol Ann ran the office in his absence.

When Bob was hospitalized December 19th, 2021, he asked Cheryl if she would see if Carol Ann was available to work until he got better. Carol Ann said yes. Bob was relieved. He trusted Carol Ann and her judgement concerning office matters.

Bob passed January 2nd, 2022. He is missed and will always be remembered for his dedication to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. He had a fabulous sense of humor.

Carol Ann G. is the Office Manager of Tulare County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. She is a member, attends meetings several times a week, has a sponsor and a service sponsor.

Stop by the office and say 'hi' to Carol Ann. Soon, she will be training someone to learn office procedures when she takes a vacation or has an appointment. The Office will let the members know when that time comes. For now, Carol Ann is familiarizing herself with office operation and matters concerning carrying the message which is the function of Central office.

\*\*\*\*Central Office will be closed in observance of Presidents day Feb 21, 2022\*\*\*\*

# Big Book Discussion

## February Discussion Topic

AA Big Book Pgs. 44-45

“If a mere code of morals or a better philosophy of life were sufficient to overcome alcoholism, many of us would have recovered long ago. But we found that such codes and philosophies did not save us, no matter how much we tried. We could wish to be moral, we could wish to be philosophically comforted, in fact, we could will these things with all our might, but the needed power wasn't there. Our human resources, as marshalled by the will, were not sufficient; they failed utterly.

Lack of power, that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a *Power greater than ourselves*. Obviously. But where and how were we to find this Power?”

I encourage anyone interested to read this passage and write a few lines on the subject. Please submit your thoughts to [centralintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:centralintergroupnews@gmail.com) by 1/20/22 to be included in the February Central News!

## Comments

**When I read this passage it reminded me of a idea that popped into my head one night at a meeting:**

**An alocholic like me in my natural state is completely powerless, so I have to rely on a supernatural power to relieve me of that powerlessness! I found God who is all powerful and definitely has relieved me of that seeming hopeless state of mind and body!**

**Louie T.**

## March Discussion Topic

AA Big Book Pg. 62

“So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making. They arise out of ourselves, and the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot, though he usually doesn't think so. Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness. We must, or it kills us! God makes that possible. And there often seems no way of entirely getting rid of self without His aid. Many of us had moral and philosophical convictions galore, but we could not live up to them even though we would have liked to. Neither could we reduce our self-centeredness much by wishing or trying on our own power. We had to have God's help.

This is the how and why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work. Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal; we are His agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new and triumphant arch through which we passed to freedom.”

Last Month's Discussion Topic didn't yield a lot of discussion, but I am hopeful there will be more interest in the future!!

Please submit your thoughts to [centralintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:centralintergroupnews@gmail.com) by 1/20/22 to be included in the February Central News!

# Tulare County Hospitals & Institutions

Hospitals & Institutions continue to serve the following facilities, Pine Manor Recovery, Women's Recovery Home, Mental Health and Turning Point. Both in person and zoom. Our local jails remain closed to meetings. H & I provides literature to facilities upon request and/or at time of in-person meetings.

H & I continues to encourage all groups to elect an H&I Representative and to attend the business meeting. This will ensure we are carrying the collective conscience of Tulare County to the NorCal Committee.

Tulare Co. is collaborating with Fresno and Madera counties to have an H & I Unity day. More info to follow.

The next H&I orientation is on February 26th at 9am. ID 848 7072 2515 P/W Sober

Our bi-monthly business meeting will be March 26th at 10am, prior to at 9am will be an orientation. The zoom acct. ID: 848 7072 2515 Password: Sober.

Note: All interested in this type of service work are welcomed/encouraged to attend. The information is also available at [aa-tulareco.org](http://aa-tulareco.org).

Love & Service,

Boo

## Newsletter Contributions

Hello Everyone,

This is Louie T. the editor of the Central News. Since I started editing the newsletter I have noticed that there are several ways to make contributions to the Central Office such as the Birthday Club, Individual Contributions, Grateful Givers, and Memorial Contributions. However, there is one contribution I have never seen used and that is the Newsletter Contribution.

If you enjoy the Central News, I invite you to make a donation to the Central Office on the name of the Newsletter

# Financial Report

TULARE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

Income & Expense Statement

12/21/21 THROUGH 1/20/2022

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
B.Day Club	103.00	103.00
CD & Tape Cont.	0.00	0.00
Grateful Givers Club	1,456.12	1,456.12
Group Cont.	4,180.44	4,180.44
Indiv Cont	1,621.17	1,621.17
Lit. Sales	394.15	394.15
Memorial Cont.	200.00	200.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cont.	0.00	0.00
S & H	0.00	0.00
Sales Tax	54.63	54.63
Spec. Events	0.00	0.00
Spec. Items	370.15	370.15

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**TOTAL** **\$8,379.66** **\$8,379.66**

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
Fees-Taxes	25.00	25.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00
Lit. Costs	357.45	357.45
PI-CPC Expense	0.00	0.00
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cost	0.00	0.00
Office Exp	528.48	528.48
Office Equip.& Maint	0.00	0.00
Phone & ISP	132.97	132.97
Ph-venmo	39.50	39.50
Postage	0.00	0.00
Employee Taxes	1,556.07	1,556.07
Returned Chk & Chg	0.00	0.00
Rent	600.00	600.00
Salary	1,927.95	1,927.95
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	20.17	20.17
Utilities	113.57	113.57
Website	4.36	4.36

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**TOTAL** **\$5,305.52** **\$5,305.52**

**Net Gain(Loss)** **\$3,074.14** **\$3,074.14**

**BEGINNING TOTAL ACCT BAL:** **\$19,929.59**

**ENDING TOTAL ACCT BAL:** **\$23,001.01**

# Service Meetings AND ADDRESSES

GSR Meeting at Central Office  
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA  
Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 at 7:00 PM  
**Zoom ID: 872 4177 2425 Passcode: D47GSR**  
**(Telephone) Passcode: 546020**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87241772425?pwd=VEF1b-004WEhoNU5ReXErVDJpcDV1QT09>

CSR Meeting at Central Office  
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 7:00 PM

H&I Meeting  
**Zoom ID:885 8119 7080 Password: Sober(capital S).**  
Saturday February 26, 2022 9:00 AM

## SERVICE ADDRESSES

Tulare County Central Office  
449 E. Maple St.  
Exeter, CA 93221  
Email: [tccof@hotmail.com](mailto:tccof@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.aa-tulareco.org](http://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.

## Contributions

### Birthday Club

Reyes A Visalia	39
Anonymous	27
Donna K Porterville	22
Jerry S. Tulare	15

### GRATEFUL GIVERS CLUB

Members	\$ 1,456.12
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### Individual Contributions

Anonymous  
AAA  
Albert S  
David G.  
Doris P.  
Hal W  
Jim K.  
Mitch K.  
Sandra K.

### Newsletter Contributions

None

### Memorial Contribution

## Central Office Contacts

Voice Mail Calls	2
AA Members	62
Court Ref/Info	18
Meeting Information	21
H&I	0
Alanon & Alateen Information	0
Info. re Recovery Homes	0
Schedules & Info-Mailed & Faxed	0
Bridging The Gap	0
Other 12 Step Programs	2
Visitors to Office	32
Literature Sales	13
Specialty Sales	24
Churches & Schools	0
General Information	15
Prospective Members	0
Twelve Step Calls	0
E-Mail Contacts	13
Spanish Contact	1
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Total	108

## Speaker Meetings

Porterville Recovery Club Speaker Meeting  
186 W. Walnut Ave.  
Friday February 4th, 2022 at 8:00 PM  
Speaker: - TBA

Sunday AM Breakfast, Speaker Meeting  
Veterans Memorial Building  
36000 Hwy 190, Springville  
Sunday, closed down until June 12, 2022  
(Breakfast at 8:30 to 10:00 AM)  
Speaker: Beverly M from Lancaster

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  
2/9- Les B of Tulare 1 year  
2/16- David G of Tulare 36 years  
2/23- Lauren H of Visalia 11 years

Sunday Night Valley Group Serenity Seekers  
914 W. Center Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291  
7:30-9PM  
Feb 6 Martin Speer of Fresno  
Feb 13 Bethany C. Of Visalia  
Feb 20 Nelson K. Of Visalia  
Feb 27 Amber K. Of Visalia

# Central Service Meeting

Central Office Meeting Report

Date: January 11, 2022

Meeting called to order: Cheryl H. Time: 7:05 PM

Board members present: Cheryl H., William E., Patrick

A., Sara S., David G. Absent: none

Serenity Prayer: said by all.

12 Traditions: Boo.

A.A. member comments: none at this meeting.

Minutes of last meeting: Distributed to each CSR for review. Noted that the Bridge Street meeting CSR report was omitted from minutes, although the report had been given during the meeting. Board member filling the Bridging The Gap chair (Sara S.) was corrected. Motion made to approve minutes as updated, was seconded, and approved by all.

Report of last Board meeting: The meeting was short, basically adding the members elected, and deciding which positions everyone would fill. Cheryl Hinton is the president, Bill Evans is the vice president, David Gerisch is the secretary, and Sara Salvato is the member at large. Patrick Anderson continues as P.I./C.P.C. (Public Information / Communication with Professional Community). Noted that for service positions doing service meetings, we are not anonymous; but during an AA meeting or out in public, we are.

Treasurer and office report: Carol Ann is our new Treasurer and Office Manager, and she prepared the normal reports. Her other employer lets her work evenings, so she is not able to be here to present the report. Report read by Cheryl H.: January 11, 2022 We had an income of \$4,765.61 and expenses of \$3,040.68 for a gain of \$1,724.93 for this accounting period. Group and individual contributions were very good. Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$130.00 and our Birthday Club brought in \$28.00 in much appreciated contributions. We had \$256.58 total gross sales in 5 transactions for credit and debit cards last month. Traffic and calls have been about average. Carol Ann G., Office Manager. The December Income & Expense statement was presented, for November 21st through December 20th (our financial accounting period). There was a question about the website expense being larger than normal for December; Cheryl will ask Carol Ann to research.

Public Information report: Patrick A. gave the report: Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community (P.I./C.P.C.). We inform professionals and future professionals about A.A. -

What we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. We attempt to establish better communication between A.A. and professionals, to establish simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating. Last month I had mentioned that we were very happy to have our first public information volunteer, Claudia. She is helping us spread awareness of A.A. to potential alcoholics in the Porterville area by providing pamphlets at local businesses. As always we are looking forward to the upcoming health fairs and other opportunities to spread awareness of A.A. We has some assistance from a school; we received a letter from a teacher, who has a student, Anna, who found a web site about addiction among seniors. We will be adding the web page to our web site Links page (<https://aatulareco.org/links/>). We welcome ideas for potential events or anything that's upcoming that we can provide awareness of A.A.; please contact your local CSR or myself. Patrick. Volunteers to write Step and Tradition for Central News Step for newsletter:

Issue	Step	Member	Due
Feb.	2	Sheryl E.	January 20
March	3	Erica E.	February 20 Due

Due to: CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com

Issue	Trad	Member	Due
Feb.	2	Cheryl H.	January 20
March	3	David G.	February 20

Due to: CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com

Newsletter report: Report provided by Louie T., read by Cheryl H. (paper copies provided):

The newsletter is continuing to go well! Although, as of late I have been late with getting it done. I still do enjoy and would like to continue being the editor of the Central News. I am really working hard to provide quality content in an easy to read format.

I would like to invite the CSRs to take back to their groups that we would like to encourage members to provide content for the newsletters. Original articles, pictures (that don't break anonymity), articles we find interesting, readings from the book, jokes, etc. I am willing to help anyone interested in contributing with getting a submission or even an idea into print.

I am going to try a new feature out called "Big Book Discussion". I will select a reading from the big book and ask for short writings on the reading. I am hoping to provoke more participation and varying perspectives for the benefit of everyone.

I am also going to be publishing a small "ad" (for lack of a better term) encouraging Newsletter contributions. I have been editing the newsletter for close to five years and



as of date there has never been a newsletter contribution to the Central Office. (Wow)

I appreciate your continued patience and allowing me to be of service.

Warmest regards,  
Louie T.

Discussion, and a request to all CSRs to ask their group to ask at least one person in the group to submit a contribution to the newsletter. Send your contribution to: [CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com](mailto:CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com)

Website report: David G. reported that due to a change in analytics software, we don't have good numbers for the last month. The previous software gave us the last 30 days, which lined up with our monthly reporting. The new software shows only January, which is 11 days at the moment. This will be worked on. Also, there was a web site redesign to get Announcements on the front page for mobile phone visitors.

H & I report: Boo reported:  
Hospitals & Institutions (H & I) continue to serve the following facilities: Pine Manor Recovery, Women's Recovery Home, Mental Health, and Turning Point. Pine Manor are meeting ad-hoc, depending on Covid infection status. Women's Recovery and Turning Point meetings continue in person. Mental Health is not meeting, being a part of County of Tulare; also our local jails remain closed to meetings. H & I provides literature to facilities upon request and/or at time of in-person meetings. H & I continue to have new volunteers join our monthly orientation. We are in the process of planning a Regional H & I Workshop for early next year in conjunction with the other Areas. This will be a great opportunity to learn about this type of service work.

The committee reviewed NorCal's proposal for restructuring the committee. The proposal includes adding Area Chairs to the Steering Committee, having the Steering Committee meet 4 times a year via Zoom and holding one General Committee Meeting, which will be a two-day event. After review, our Area and Region support this proposal as it will create a democratic voting structure and will promote attendance due to the accessibility of Zoom. The NorCal Committee will begin the voting process on this proposal in January 2022.

H & I continues to encourage all groups to elect an H & I Representative and to attend the business meeting. This will/would ensure we are carrying the collective conscience of Tulare County to the NorCal Committee.

The next H & I Orientation and Business meeting will be January 22, 2022 at 9:00 AM, followed by the H & I Business meeting at 10 AM. **Zoom ID is: 848 7072 2515 and the passcode is "Sober" (with a capital S).** <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84870722515?pwd=QksyVFI3enNoQ0wvY2xZTFhpQ0JtZz09>

The February H & I Orientation meeting will be February 26, 2022 at 9:00 AM. **Zoom ID is: 848 7072 2515 and the passcode is "Sober" (with a capital S).** (same URL as above)

Note: All interested in this type of service work are welcomed/encouraged to attend. The information is also available at [aa-tulareco.org](http://aa-tulareco.org). A question came up about how to get a pink H & I can, and the answer was to contact Boo.

GSO liaison: Not present, but Cheryl H. and David G. relayed what they know. The District 47 officers renewed their current positions. They need each group to elect a GSR and attend the monthly meeting, which is via Zoom. The Winter Assembly is January 15 and 16. District 47 sent Central Office a rent check, for when they meet in person. They are having a Unity event, General Service 411, on Saturday January 22nd at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

BTG Chairperson: Sara S. will have a report next month, as she is new to the position.

CSR reports:  
Tuesday Night "Friends Of Bill W. and Doctor Bob" Patrick A., CSR: This is a Tuesday Night Open Meeting held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1701 East Prosperity Avenue, Tulare CA, 93274 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We are a fellowship of men and women sharing our experience, strength, and hope. This is an indoor meeting, sanitized daily, masks are optional. We give out chips for various lengths of continuous sobriety and celebrate birthdays at the end of each month with cake and ice cream. We have cake and ice cream regardless if anyone is celebrating a birthday. ;- ) Newcomers are welcome, and anyone may attend.

Monday Men's Meeting  
David G., CSR: We meet at the PPAV Hall in Visalia, at the corner of Burke and Main at 7:30 PM. This is a closed meeting for men only, for an hour and a half. We usually have 25-35 attendees. Every week we give chips for sobriety milestones under one year; the last Monday of the month we celebrate those members with full years behind them, with cheesecake (although last month it was the rare apple pie). Our business meeting is the first Monday of the

month. We have coffee and literature (and candy), with a good amount of fellowship before and after. Grant C. is our Secretary.

**Keep It Simple Sunday**  
(report was accidentally omitted from the meeting)

**David G. CSR:** We meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM in Blain Park in Visalia (on Court Street between Whitendale and Caldwell). Our meeting is 90 minutes in a beautiful (sometimes chilly) outdoor setting. This is an open meeting, and all are welcome. You want to bring a lawn chair or camp chair with you, and perhaps a blanket. We celebrate sobriety milestones and birthdays every meeting. We use the Daily Reflections book as a topic starter; then everyone shares, going around the circle (time permitting). Our Secretary is Ryan B., and business meetings are the last Sunday of the month, immediately after. Here in the colder weather, there are between 10 and 20 people attending our meeting.

**Sunday PM Serenity Seekers**

**Erica E., CSR:** Serenity Seekers is a hybrid meeting on Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM. We are located at 914 West Center in Visalia. This is an open meeting that starts off with a speaker and then shares from the group after. All are welcome. The Zoom link is on the website. <https://zoom.us/j/291287156?pwd=c2N2R1B4THNZT3VJbzZleEorOXVtZz09>

**Civic Center Group**

**Brett R., CSR:** Tuesday night Civic Center meeting is going well; we could use all the support we can get. Sometimes it's three or four of us, and other times it's standing room only. It is held at the Christ Lutheran church near Tulare and Demaree. It starts at 7:00 PM and goes to 8:00 PM. We have a new secretary that just started: Shanna.

**Bridge Street Drunks**

**Sara S., CSR:** We are a large group which hosts 19 meetings. We have a Birthday meeting the last Saturday of the month, at the noon meeting. We give out chips and hugs, goodies and coffee. Our business meeting is also the last Saturday of the month, alternating times between 8:00 AM or 1:00 PM. We have a large selection of literature available. All are welcome. Our meetings are: Monday through Sunday 7:00 to 8:00 AM. Monday through Sunday 12 to 1:00 PM. Tuesday evening 6:00 to 7:00 PM – book study. Wednesday evening 6:00 to 7:00 PM–12 by 12 book study. Thursday evening 7:00 to 8:30 PM – Big Book study. Saturday evening 7:00 to 8:00 PM – open meeting. Sunday evening 5:00 to 6:00 PM – 10th Step study.

We are currently looking for a couple Morning secretaries. We filled the Tuesday noon position; and we rotated service positions (but I think a lot of people stayed in their positions). Bridge Street also discussed the budget and agree with the idea of creating a budget committee. We gave our usual contributions.

**Tuesday Women's Amity Group Zoom**

**Boo, CSR:** We meet every Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Zoom followed by 10 minutes of fellowship. Meeting ID is on the AA website. We are a closed women's' meeting. The secretary asks someone to lead from the Daily Reflections and to talk about the reading. We just elected a new secretary, Kim B. Our group hands out chips for different lengths of sobriety to let others know the program works. Our group consists of 10-12 women weekly and keeps a phone list for newcomers. New comers are encouraged and welcome to attend. We virtually sign court cards. Our group celebrate birthdays at the end of the month with Party hats!!!! <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76383444014?pwd=ZXhvVExJUjNRMVhsV2FXR0N1RmlwQT09>  
**Springville Breakfast Meeting – Sheryl E., CSR:** no report this month.

**Tuesday Womens Changes Meeting**

**Sheryl E., CSR:** We meet every Tuesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the 12 Step Recovery Club in Porterville. Vicki B. is our secretary, Sheryl E. is our treasurer. We average 25 women a week. The last Tuesday of each month we celebrate a birthday potluck and the group pays for our own plates, spoons, cake etc.. Nothing new to report.

**Old business:**

**After hours phone service:**

Have had several phone calls asking about online Zoom meetings and how do they give verification? Go to the meeting and ask the secretary how they validate you as being at the meeting, because some groups do it differently than others.

A phone call from someone with family at Lemoore Naval Air Station; no, we don't have permission to go on-base. Another phone call, this time looking for Young People's meetings.

Another phone call, asking if A.A. members will pick someone up if Uber refuses to pick someone up after a party? Central Office does not arrange for this and it is not a service we provide, although some members have done this on their own.

**Venmo:**

Bob had started the activation process for Venmo, but went into the hospital that night. We now need to get a death certificate from the County to proceed with

changing over

the designated Office Manager with the bank; after the bank change, we can proceed with Venmo.

**Budget:**

Each CSR was polled if they asked their groups if there was an interest in creating a budget. Seven groups were asked; five were in favor, one against, one group undecided.

Clayton report (reading Joyce' email, as she was unable to attend): Due to feed back regarding the recent request made to have Central Office create a budget, it has become apparent that the that intention of the request has been misinterpreted either due to presentation or perception. As a member of the local A.A. fellowship and a member of the group who made the request, I felt compelled to reach out with the following information for consideration by the Board of the Central Office. The request was made as a way to create unity through participation of the local fellowship with Central Office. The request was never meant to question Central Office nor micro manage. Alcoholics Anonymous has years of experience which can be replicated. If we look to other entities from GSO, CNIA Area 07, many districts, Central Offices, InterGroups, and NorCal H&I, we find that each create a budget or spending plan on yearly basis. This process provides the fellowship the opportunity to participate and support our service boards which ensure services are available to the still suffering alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving on the NorCal H&I Finance Committee and participated in the 2022 budget preparation.

- We started with the Finance Committee, General Chair, General Co-Chair and Treasurer meeting and going through our yearly income and expenses, reviewing each line item of income and expenses, discussing where we should increase and decrease based on current conditions.

- We produced a preliminary budget, which went to the Steering Committee for review and revision.

- The revised version from the Steering Committee then went to the General Committee for the same review, revision and adoption. Our budget is not an absolute but a guideline of where we want to be to provide the service of our committee. It also provides our Treasurer a guideline for monthly reporting of where we stand.

I was also blessed to be present via Zoom as Area 07 went through the same process. It was evident that they followed the same process. The request for Central Office to provide a budget for consideration and adoption was to made to allow the fellowship to not only financially support Central Office but to be invested in the service work the Central Office provides to the still suffering alcoholic.

There are several ways we could initiate this process locally: The board could review the actual income and expenses and prepare a preliminary budget to present to the CSR's or we consider appointing a Finance Chair to Board along with forming a Finance Committee who with the Board could prepare a preliminary budget which would be presented to the CSR's to take back to the fellowship for input and return for review, revision and adoption. The Finance Chair could prepare a monthly report of the actual income and expenses in relation to the budget and give a true picture of where we are and where would like to be. This process only encourages participation, through informed decision making and unity.

In a quick review of the past 5 years of Central Office's financial reports as published in the newsletter, eliminating 2020 which was an anomaly due to the pandemic, the average income of the Central Office is rounded to \$47,000 while expenses are rounded to \$45,000. Currently our bank account has increased 27% from 2017 while our expenses have remained relatively the same. This is evidence that the fellowship is willing to support the endeavors of the Central Office and since we now have more than a safe prudent reserve which by review seems \$15,000.00. It appears that it would be safe to increase our expenses to grow our unity and service work.

A suggestion could be to include some travel expenses for Board Members which are currently holding the position of Bridging The Gap and PI/CPC position to attend the conferences for each committee yearly. The experience of learning the true aspects of these vital General Service Committees from others in the same type of service, returning to implement them locally will only bring unity and service for us all while ensuring the still suffering alcoholic will always have services available. This is just one idea, I believe if we open this for discussion with the fellowship as a whole, we only stand to grow together.

I am hopeful, this provides insight into the motivation behind the request. I will be out of town on Tuesday or would have brought this information to the CSR meeting in person.

Discussion by all present. A document, A.A. Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices was handed out, explaining the purpose of the Central Office. <https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/mg-02-centralorinter.pdf>

All CSRs should talk with their groups, and ask if there is

support for the idea of creating a budget; we do currently have provide a monthly income and expenses report. Further budget discussion tabled to February.

**New business:**

Office coverage in view of Bob Hinton's passing:  
There will be a Celebration of Life in Honor of Bob at the Springville Veterans Memorial building on Saturday, February 26th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Carol Ann Gable has been hired as Office Manager. Months back, when we asked for volunteers to shadow Bob, Carol Ann stepped up, and had been working with Bob, weekly, for many months now. Carol Ann identifies as an Alcoholic, and has been sober for five years. Carol Ann has payroll experience, and is currently employed in a related (financial) industry.

Seventh Tradition: \$36

**Announcements:**

Celebration of Life in Honor of Bob at the Springville Veterans Memorial building on Saturday, February 26th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  
Meeting adjourned: 8:41 PM

## *Central Office BOD Meeting*

Central Office Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Date: January 11, 2022 Time: 8:55 PM  
Meeting called to order by: Cheryl Hinton

**Previous minutes:**

During the previous Board Meeting, we decided which board members would take which positions.

**President's report:**

**Vice President's report:**

I met with Roxanne from Bull Head City Central Office and talked to her about how they set up a budget for their Central Office. She said they do a yearly budget and have it available for members. Cheryl will contact her for further information and guidance.

We also discussed Credit cards and Venmo. She said they used them all but will be adding on the surcharges to each sale or donation. She also suggested we need to visit meetings and "beat the bushes" for better support and engagement

between C.O. and the meetings.

William Evans  
Board Vice President

**Secretary's report:**

**Member At Large report:**

Public Information & Cooperation with the professional community (P.I./C.P.C.) report:  
We inform professionals and future professionals about A.A. - what we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. We attempt to establish better communication between A.A. and professionals, to establish simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating.  
Public information is a large part of what we do for the alcoholic who still suffers, so we would like to thank Mrs. Bennett's class and Anna for the web link you shared with us. We are so grateful for your contribution to our web page and it can now be viewed as a link in the Tulare County A.A. web site. As always, we are looking forward to the upcoming health fairs and other opportunities to spread awareness of A.A. to those who may not know about us otherwise.  
This is a great opportunity for service and we welcome ideas for potential events A.A. may provide information at. Please contact your local CSR or central office if you have any questions.

Thank you, Patrick

**Office Operations report:**

**Old Business:**

Venmo implementation will be worked on in the future.

Budget request by a member: discussion, noting that the current financial situation has a lot of variability in the short term. Tabled to next month.

**New Business:**

Discussion of the amount of pay for Carol Ann. Decision was made to pay Carol Ann the same as we had voted to pay Bob. Decision was unanimous.

**Announcements:**

Meeting Adjourned: 9:12 PM

## February AA Birthdays

## Group Contributions

Name	City	Years
Merle F.	Porterville	46
Kay C.	Visalia	43
Reyes A.	Visalia	39
Joe B.	Visalia	39
Joe B.	Tulare	38
Hal E.	Porterville	37
Yolanda D.	Visalia	37
Kristy B.	Visalia	36
David G.	Tulare	36
Connie D.	Tulare	35
"Mad Jack"	Pixley	35
Ken R.	Visalia	35
Brent S.	Tulare	34
Debbie M.	Porterville	34
Jamie M.	Porterville	34
Jack R.	Tulare	34
Chris K.	Tulare	34
Bob V.	Visalia	33
Dave W.	Lindsay	33
Holden M.	Visalia	33
Pat L.	Visalia	33
Dan G.	Visalia	32
Doug M.	Visalia	32
Sig G.	Visalia	32
Rick E.	Visalia	31
Dave H.	Visalia	30
Vickie H.	Tulare	29
Mark F.	Visalia	29
Linda R.	Visalia	28
Tarrie J.	Visalia	28
Tammy P.	Tulare	28
Trevor H.	Visalia	27
Jennifer S.	Visalia	25
Gloria C.	Visalia	25
Angela F.	Visalia	25
Dale L.	Visalia	22
Paige S.	Visalia	21
Judy K.	Visalia	21
Linda N.	Tulare	20
Denece B.	Visalia	20
Kimi K.	Tulare	16
Ricky T.	Visalia	15
Bob G.	Visalia	13
Derek B.	Visalia	13
Lee B.	Tulare	10

\*\*\*\*\*That is 1,330 years of sobriety!!\*\*\*\*\*

11/21/20- 12/20/21

	Month	YTD
1st Friday Spkr Mtg		0.00
Alpha-Wed-Tulare		0.00
As It Is Outlined in Book		0.00
Breath of Fresh Air		0.00
Bridge St. "Drunks Only"	234.20	234.20
Civic Center Grp.		0.00
Clodbusters-Tulare		0.00
Crossroads-Tulare		0.00
CSO Meeting	36.00	36.00
District 47	413.24	413.24
Bill & Friends		0.00
Exeter-Quiet Trails	100.00	100.00
Exeter Sun Afternoon		0.00
Foundation Group		0.00
Freedom Fellowship		0.00
Fri. Recovery Club		0.00
Fri. Night Study Tulare		0.00
Half & Half		0.00
Hillman Group		0.00
Keep it Simple Sunday		0.00
Lindsay Fireside Grp		0.00
Men's Valley Book Study		0.00
Monday Men's Mtg.	200.00	200.00
Mid Valley-Tulare		0.00
Mon Book Study-S'ville		0.00
Mon Lit Study-Visalia	120.00	120.00
Mon. Women's Reflections		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	229.00	229.00
Rule 62-Visalia		0.00
Serenity Junction-Tulare		0.00
Serenity Seekers AM-Visalia		0.00
Sober Sisters		0.00
Wed. Sobriety Celebration		0.00
Sat Night Believers		0.00
Springville Gut Level		0.00
St. Ritas AA Group		0.00
Sun Bkfst Spkr Mtg		0.00
Sun PM Serenity Seekers		0.00
The Shack-Fri Night		0.00
Tulare Young People		0.00
TUFYPAA		0.00

Tulare Fri. Book Study		0.00
Tulare Tuesday Night		0.00
Tulare Thur. Noon		0.00
Tulare Sunday Night		0.00
Tues. Men's-P'ville		0.00
Three Rivers-Monday		0.00
Three Rivers-Friday		0.00
TWAG	209.00	209.00
Unity Thru Traditions		0.00
Valley Group	1800.00	1800.00
Valley Speaker Series		0.00
Visalia Alano	839.00	839.00
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4180.44</b>	<b>4180.44</b>

January 5, 2022

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

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 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; Ally A., GSR for the Saturday Women's 12x12 Study, Josh F. Treasurer

The GSR Preamble was read by all attendees. "We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a Loving God as he may express himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that the groups can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups and A.A. as a whole."

12 Traditions: read by Josh F.  
 Concept 12: Concept 1 long form read and explained by

Allen L.

Approval of Minutes: December 1, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: We had a balance forward of \$3,053.03 in December. Donations came from Women's Amity Group \$22.47, Women's 12x12 Study \$25.00 and the Civic Center Group \$38.00. Thanks to these groups for their contributions! Our end of year total was \$3138.50 Using our formula of 60% of the overage of our prudent reserve to Central office and 40% to GSO we gave \$413.24 to Central Office and \$275.50 to GSO. Our current balance is \$2449.76.

CSO Liaison Report: No report

Registrar: No Report

H&I Report: Tulare County Hospital & Institution Committee Rafael D. Tulare County H&I continues to bring meetings to Pine Recovery, Mothering Heights, Turning Point, Mental Health, Corcoran State Prison and Avenal while Tulare County Jail and SATF continue to be closed. We maintain open communication with the closed facilities and provide literature as requested. We continue to have new volunteers at every monthly orientation and are encouraging volunteers consider bringing meetings into the Prisons as we are in need of more volunteers in these facilities. Our next orientation is 9:00 am 1/22/22 followed by the business meeting at 10:00 am. **It will be held on zoom. Meeting ID: 848 7072 2515 Password: Sober (capital S).** We encourage all groups to send an H&I representative to the meeting in order to maintain open communication with the fellowship we serve.

Rafael D., GSR for Bridge Street Drunks & H&I Liaison  
 DCM Report: Allen L. recently attended the end of the year planning meeting and different dates and locations were finalized for meetings. District 57 is hosting the Winter Assembly in 2023, and District 34 is hosting the Pre Conference Assembly and District 17 is hosting the Post Conference Assembly. The Election Assembly will be hosted by District 22. Winter Assembly is coming up on January 15-16. It is being planned as in person at this time.

Old Business: On January 22 2021, District 47 is hosting a Unity Event entitled General Service 411. The speakers (Nancy Mc. and Don H.) have been secured and the flyers have been created and submitted for publication in the Central News newsletter and on the Central Office website. This is an event about the history of General Service and how AA began. Both speakers are popular, knowledgable speakers, and it should be a great, informative evening. It will be a zoom only meeting. District 47 officers were elected in December.

Results are Allen L. DCM, Treasurer Josh F, Secretary Jim K. and the Alternate DCM and Registrar positions remain unfilled. If you are interested in joining the D47 committee, please consider joining our meeting on zoom next month.

New Business: Format and participants for the General Service 411 was discussed.  
Seventh Tradition: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: General Service 411 on January 22, at 7 pm. Online only go to the Saturday Night Valley Group link.

DECLARATION OF UNITY: Read by all: "This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION: "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jim K, Recording Secretary

## Lighter Side of AA

Q: Why did the accountant do so well in AA?

A: He was already a friend of bills.

### The Mathematician

Jim is told by his sponsor that he needs to participate more in service work. So he applies for the position of treasurer. They hold a group conscience and ask him "What is nine multiplied by four?" He thinks quickly and says "Thirty-three." After the interview, he realizes his mistake. He's surprised when they inform he got the job, despite there being four other candidates.

"But I got the wrong answer," he protests.

"Yeah, we know. But you were closest."

### Sponsor Vs. Therapist

What is the difference between your therapist and your sponsor?

The only time your sponsor says the word "closure", it is immediately followed by "your mouth".

### Heavy Drinker Vs. Alcoholic

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."

### Out of Necessity

An old man stood up in a meeting and said that he hadn't found it necessary to take a drink in over 20 years. Another man stood up and said you old liar, I saw you last night and you were as drunk as skunk. The first old man said you're right, I was drunk last night, but it wasn't necessary!



# *Your Content Here!!!*

Have an event????

New group starting up?????

Have a story to share???

Take some amazing photos around our district???

Want to be of service????

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

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

Send your content to:

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

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