



March/April 2015

Volume 5, Issue 2

52nd District

"Passing It On"

500 South Broadway, Suite 114, Santa Maria, CA 93454

805-925-3782

Central Office Website: www.aa52centraloffice.org

District 52 Website: www.aadistrict52.org

Alcoholics Anonymous Website: www.aa.org

Step 3

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

"Each one of us has had his own near-fatal encounter with the juggernaut of self-will, and has suffered enough under its weight to be willing to look for something better." Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pp37-38

Tradition 3

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

Third Step Prayer

"God, I offer myself to Thee – to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy way of life. May I do Thy will always."

Step 4

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

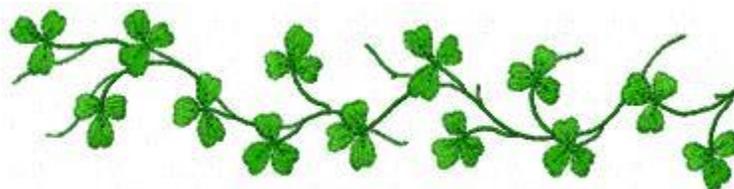
"Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith which really works in daily living is still out of reach." Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p43

Tradition 4

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

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Surrender and the Third Step

Never say "die" was always my motto. I can do it myself, my creed. Until I realized that I could not stop drinking. Restless sleep and the stench of whiskey each evening fueled my defeat. Promises made in the middle of the night evaporated in the light of day. I could not do this myself. Surrender, hell no. Surrender, well maybe. Surrender, you bet! Only with my Higher Power's love and help can I stay sober.

Anonymous, Santa Maria

Bridging the Gap – Meet new members at a treatment program or correctional facility. Help them find meetings, introduce them to other AA's, make sure they get phone numbers, and help them find a sponsor. For more info, call Steve K. at 818-433-0257.



80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free!

2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

July 2-5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia

Convention and Housing Registration now open.

www.aa.org

If you're planning on or thinking about going, and want to meet up with area A.A.s, contact Michael B. at mvbarriere@msn.com



Resentments and the Fourth Step

"If you have a resentment you want to be free of, if you will pray for the person or the thing that you resent, you will be free. If you will ask in prayer for everything you want for yourself to be given to them, you will be free...Even when you don't really want it for them...Do it every day for two weeks and you will find you have come to mean it and to want it for them, and you will realize that where you used to feel bitterness and resentment and hatred, you now feel compassionate understanding and love."

Big Book, p. 552

HONESTY

Life wasn't going well for me when I showed upon the scene, but I was ready for the change, whatever that would mean.

The life I'd lead was scandalous, I think you get the gist, and to get rigorously honest, was the first thing on my list.

When practicing this principle I was brutal from the start, but that sometimes caused reactions, and it wasn't very smart.

My wife asked me a question, while trying on some jeans. Did they make her look extended? Well, you know what I mean.

That put me in a quandary and, I knew I had to lie, if I have to be that rigorous, well, I guess I'm gonna die.

I told a friend about it and he said "you got it right". Kindness trumps the rigorous clause, and you gotta keep it light.

He gave a definition and for our purpose, I believe Kind honesty is devoid of all motives to deceive.

It gives a little wiggle room and, I think God wouldn't mind if self-righteousness takes a little hit, if only to be kind.

I've learned there are few absolutes, and my conscience is my guide and I must put self-honesty first, when, these thing I must decide. Rick R, Poway, CA



St. Paddy's Day Spring Fling and Pot Luck
Saturday, March 14th, 8pm - 1am
1600 Club, 324 W. Cypress Avenue, Santa Maria
\$5 donation
DJ, Dancing, Fun, Fellowship, Food!!!



Southern California H&I Intergroup

The Southern California H&I Intergroup is made up of H&I Committees from all over Southern California. Each year the SoCalHandI hosts a Conference to promote a better understanding between ourselves, the professionals from the Institutions we provide services in and the rest of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

We of the SoCalHandI Conference would like to extend an invitation to all who are interested in H&I to attend our Conference, May 15th, 16th and 17th at the Holiday Inn in La Mirada.

Please visit our Web Site for more details and pre-registration. www.socalhandi.org

Gifts My Service to H&I Has Given Me

When I was new in sobriety, I would complain a lot. I still complain, but not nearly as much. Back then I would complain to my sponsor, Rick T., about her, about them, and about those damn lawyers. When I would complain to him, he would just say “that’s great Danny, let’s go to Metro.” And I would think “what the???” does that have to do with anything? So, we would go to the State Metropolitan Mental Hospital at Norwalk, California. I hated that. We arrived there to be met by people with badges and guns who took us behind walls with locks and razor wire. And there we met the “patients”, who would act out and scare me to death. But I would go, and read, or talk, or whatever it was that we were supposed to do. But when we left, something magic happened to me. As I passed through the sally port and heard that gate “clang” shut behind me, I felt better. I relaxed. I had absolutely nothing to complain about. It took me the longest time to figure that out. My sponsor was teaching me that if I got with you, I could get out of my own head. It was I gift.

The next gift was when he gave me “his” panel at the Navy brig. I think he got it just to make me do it. You see, I had been in the brig when I was in the Navy, and I got to go back in on a panel and see myself across the table. I had that panel until that base was closed down. Not long after that, I got a panel at Juvenile Hall, where I had spent some time when I was fifteen. I had that panel for more than three years.

It was about then that I started going into prisons. My first was at Tehachapi, where the prisoners had many “AA groups” and even had an “AA Convention” once a year. I got to go there many times with Angie T. and my sponsor. Did I just say that I “got to” go there? More Gifts. Although I have never had a panel there of my own, I’ve been to Chino Prison several times. I once drove half way up the State with Nick M. to Kern Valley State Prison. That’s what my sponsor calls going to any length plus a couple of hundred miles.

But the panel that affected me the most was when I went to Calipatria State Prison with Rick. Calipatria is a level four prison, which means that eighty percent of the prisoners are in under a life sentence. The walls have armed guards and electrified fences. You have to sign a hostage waiver to get in. It’s the real deal. After heavy security and a long walk across the yard past some very scary people, we arrived at the meeting room. Soon thereafter, the inmates were escorted in. When they started sharing, a world I never knew came into view. Under all the tattoos and scars there were real people. In prison you can get anything you want, and there are some serious games going on. But these guys had their own Big Books, and the books were obviously much worn and heavily used. These men had AA groups, and sponsors, and did 12 step calls on the yard. They had meetings and fellowship. And boy were they very glad to see us bring a meeting into them. Some of them had found a freedom inside the walls that many other people want. I wanted what they had. That really put the light of day on me.

Twenty seven years later, I am still doing H&I panels. I currently have a panel at the Salvation Army ARC in Anaheim and at the VA Hospital in Long Beach. I go to Skid row in LA twice a month. I know the secret of Alcoholics Anonymous. You have to give it away to keep it. So in May I’ll be going to the Southern California H&I Convention being held in La Mirada on the 15th, 16th, and 17th. We’ll have food, fun, and fellowship. We’ll talk about how best to help the suffering alcoholic and we’ll stay sober together. We’re having a banquet and we’re having a dance. Come join us. You can register at WWW.SOCALHANDI.ORG and be part of. “Among them you will make lifelong friends “ (BB 152)

Danny B, Fullerton



Some 52's Celebrating Anniversaries

10/17	Julie J.	15 years
10/25	Carmel A.	8 years
11/07	Larry E.	29 years
12/16	Shelly R.	2 years
1/01	Leonard F.	9 years
1/02	Sharon W.	4 years
1/02	Kathy F.	12 years
1/04	Merilyn G.	32 years
1/08	Joseph M.	5 years
1/08	Val	8 years
1/10	Dixie	34 years
1/11	Ted K.	16 years
1/11	Marc V.	1 year
1/12	Dave H.	18 years
1/13	Amy S.	2 years
1/18	Mikey B.	35 years
1/18	Joanne W.	25 years
1/19	Danelle W.	14 years
1/23	Shane P.	4 years
1/30	Sarah G.	9 years
2/05	Bob H.	40 years
2/06	Shirley M.	41 years
2/07	Red	7 years
2/07	Marcus M.	2 years
2/20	Tarin W.	19 years
2/21	Jack S.	19 years

Steering Committee Meetings

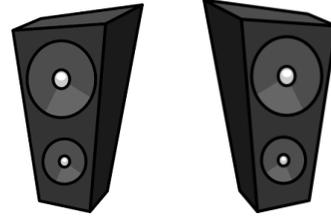
Freedom Group - 2nd Sunday of the month, Lompoc, 1pm

Happy Hour – 1st Monday of even months, 1600 Club, 6:45pm

Santa Maria Golden Group – 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm

Santa Maria Valley Group – 2nd Wednesday of the month 6:45pm

Santa Ynez Valley Action Group – 3rd Saturday of the month, Alano Club, 9am



Speaker Meetings

Freedom Group Speaker Meeting – 113 N. V St., Lompoc (Friday, 8pm)

Happy Hour Group – 1600 Club, 324 W. Cypress (last Monday of the month, 5:30pm)

Lompoc Valley Group Unity Speaker Meeting Lompoc Alano Club, 119 N. "D" St. (Sunday, 4pm)

South County Speaker Meeting, Arroyo Grande (1st Saturday, 8pm)

Santa Maria Golden Group – 500 S. Broadway, Suite 252 (Saturdays, 8pm)

Santa Maria Live – Bethel Lutheran Church, 624 E. Camino Colegio (4th Saturday, refreshments at 7:30pm, speaker at 8pm)

Santa Maria Valley Group, 1600 Club, 324 W. Cypress (Sunday, 7pm)

Solvang Action Group, Solvang Alano Club, 320 Alisal Rd. (Saturday, 8pm)

Women's Meeting – Freedom Group - - 113 N. V St., Lompoc (4th Saturday, 10-11am)

Monthly Service Meetings

1st Saturday of month: 10:00am

Intergroup Committee (Central Office) 1600 Club 324 W Cypress Santa Maria

3rd Saturday of month: 10:00am

Central Coast Round-Up Meeting, 1600 Club 324 Cypress St., Santa Maria

2nd Sunday of month: 10:00am

GSR meeting – location varies, Call Joe C. 805-757-6847

3rd Thursday of month: 6:45pm

North S.B. H&I Committee Mtg. Freedom Group, 113 N. V St. Lompoc

52nd District Central Office Happenings

Central Office Board of Directors

Chairman: Sylvia M.
 Co-Chairman: Marilyn G.
 Treasurer: Terry S.
 Secretary: Michael B.
 Literature & Chips: Vicki D.
 Fundraising: Sarah G.

Member at Large

Shirlev M.

What's Happening in Central Office?

	<u>Dec/Jan</u>
Calls	40
Office Walk-Ins	29
Book Sales	100
Chip Sales	204
Directory packs/Pamphlets	249
CD's/Bumper Stickers	12

**Handmade Cards Now Available
At Central Office!!!**

Got a recovery book you're looking for? See if Central Office has it. If they don't, they will special order it.



Central Office - 805-925-3782



**Thanks To Our Central Office
Volunteers**

**Amy S., Arlene H., Carmel A., Larry,
Lisa B., Martin, Paul C., Shirley M,
Terry S., Vicki D., Wade W.**

District 52 Central Office Accounting Snapshot

<u>Donations Group</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>1/15</u>
6 AM Sickies	89.14	125.63
Women's Fresh Start		28.00
As Bill Sees It		40.00
Santa Ynez Valley Action Group		17.92
Wed. Night Mtg. of AA	<u>80.00</u>	
Total Group	169.12	211.55

Individual

Danelle W.	20.00	20.00
Earl G.	10.00	
Keith D. (birthday donation)	34.00	15.00
Terry & Diane S.		<u>25.00</u>
Total Individual	64.00	60.00

Misc. & Change Donations 7.95 15.85

Total Donations	241.09	287.30
Total Sales	522.66	870.27
Net Proceeds from Fundraiser		<u>675.73</u>
Total Sales & Donations	763.75	1833.30

Jan/Feb Expenses Paid 715.58 1613.00
 (Insurance, Cable, Phone,
 Internet, Answering Service, Rent)

Bank Balance as of: (1/15) 2,953.04 3,502.04 (2/15)

Volunteer Opportunities

Answer phones, sell books and literature in Central Office. Answer calls from alcoholics after hours in your home. Get their contact info and pass it on to someone on the 12 Step Referral List.

Put your contact info on the 12 Step Referral List. Be there for fellow alcoholics in need.

Call Vicki at 805-268-2397.

Openings in Volunteer Schedule

Mondays	9am-10:30am, and between 12:30pm-5pm
Tuesdays	Between 1pm and 5pm
Wednesdays	Between 9am and 1pm
Thursdays	Between 1pm and 3pm
Fridays	Between 2pm and 5pm
Saturdays	Between 9am and 5pm

More 52nd District Central Office Happenings

Elections for Central Office Board of Directors Saturday, March 7, 10am 1600 Club, 324 W. Cypress, Santa Maria

Elections will be held for the following positions on the Central Office Board of Directors:

Convention Liaison	5 th Board Member
52 nd District Liaison	Fundraiser Chair
Secretary	

If you have at least one year of sobriety and are interested in serving in any of these positions, please attend the meeting on March 7th and put your name in as a candidate.



"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Muhammad Ali

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mahatma Gandhi

"Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living."

Albert Einstein

"Service to others in their time of need is a privilege and an honor."

Harley King

Service, the Third Legacy

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence.

Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.

Bill W., "AA's Legacy of Service"

Speaking of the
AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

The Grapevine has been an important recovery tool for many alcoholics over the last 70 years. Unfortunately, subscriptions to *The Grapevine* and *La Vina* have fallen steadily over the years. Additional subscribers are needed to keep it in publication. Contact: www.aagrapevine.org or call 818-487-4550 to subscribe or to renew your subscription.

Traditions Breakfast

Goleta Community Center Auditorium
March 21st, 9:30am – Noon \$7.00
Speaker Topic—Living the 12 Traditions
Great Food, Raffles, Baked Goods
For tix, call 805-962-3332 (SBCO)



Resentments are like stray cats. If you don't feed them, they'll go away!



"No matter how hard I tried to quit, I kept drinking like a fish."

News From Around the District



This space reserved for future stuff



The Monday, 7pm Back To Basics Group Meeting at St. Mary's Church, 2800 Harris Grade Rd. has changed its format to a Step Study. This is still an open meeting.

What's Happening???

- Ongoing** Register for the 2015 Int'l Convention of AA 7/2 – 7/5/15, Atlanta, GA www.aa.org
- 3/7/15** Elections – Central Office Board of Directors, 10am, 1600 Club, 324 W. Cypress
- 3/17/15** St. Paddy's Day Spring Fling and Potluck, 1600 Club, 324 W. Cypress 8pm-1am, \$5 donation, dancing
- 3/21/15** Traditions Breakfast, 9:30am-noon, \$7.00 Goleta Community Center Auditorium
- 5/15-17/15** H&I Conference, Holiday Inn, La Mirada www.socalhandi.org

EDITOR'S CORNER



Got a birthday coming up? Have some wisdom to share? E-mail your material to Nancy, at: nsagg98@yahoo.com

Or mail it to:

52nd District Central Office
500 So. Broadway, Suite 114
Santa Maria, CA 93454