

GRATITUDE GAZETTE

www.temeculacentraloffice.org Phone (951) 695-1535

August 2010



gazette@temeculacentraloffice.org

A Color Copy of this news-
letter is available on the
website at [www.](http://www.temeculacentraloffice.org)

[temeculacentraloffice.org](http://www.temeculacentraloffice.org)



Welcome to The We

My name is Moses and I am an alcoholic. The sobriety date I am blessed with is January 26, 1998 and my service group is the Men's Mosh Pit Big Book Study in Temecula, California. I would like to thank the gazette staff for giving me the opportunity to share my experience of the 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in my home city of San Antonio, Texas. I remember being told at my first home group that I didn't ever have to be alone again because anywhere I went the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous would welcome me into their home. I have been blessed to travel through many cities and conventions in sobriety and been welcomed into many groups, but nothing could have prepared me for the welcome I experienced in San Antonio and the International Convention. I arrived in San Antonio on the Friday before the convention to spend some time with my family and prepare for a South Texas Barbeque and AA Birthday Party for my service sponsor Harry P. to celebrate his 48th year of sobriety. The first meeting I went to was at 5:30 pm on Friday evening and I no sooner walked into the Winner's Club than I ran into my friend Jorge from Santee, California. This was the first gift I was blessed with during the week. I had met Jorge less than two years ago at his second AA meeting ever and we started talking about our families and I mentioned that San Antonio was my home town and that I was going home to attend my first AA International so that my mom could meet some of the friends that God introduced me too in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Jorge told me his family had moved to San Antonio a few years before he came into the fellowship and he really had not talked to them a great deal. I mentioned that perhaps it was more than coincidence that the next International was being held in San Antonio and that he might consider attending the convention. When I saw Jorge at this meeting the thing I noticed was his smile because I had not seen this kind of smile on his face back in Santee. We talked after the meeting and I fully understood the source of his new smile and his new attitude. His family had invited him to come join them in San Antonio and that he could stay with them until he got a place of his own and he knew this was from being welcomed to the "We of Alcoholics Anonymous: I was really taken by the welcoming attitude of all the groups at the meetings I attended and especially so at the Central Service Office where I went to

(continued on page 7)

Birthdays	2
New Perspective— Central Office Volunteer Opportunities	3
AA Service Opportunities	4
Central Office—At Your Service!	4
Traditions	5
AA Humor	6
Int'l continued from pg 1	7
Int'l thoughts	8

Alcoholics

Anonymous

I AM RESPONSIBLE

Whenever anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I want the
hand of AA always to be there
and for that

I AM RESPONSIBLE

-Declaration of 30th Anniversary Inter-
national Convention, 1965



AA Birthdays: Who's Taking a Cake in July and August?



Happy Birthday

Lockdown Bob 8/29/09	Chris 7/16/09	Ray R. 8/9/89
Lee M 8/99	Alan 7/23/09	Marty 7/15/09
Brett G 7/20/09	Nichole 8/20/08	



Want your sobriety date published? Submit your name and sobriety date to gratitudegazette1@hotmail.com

Contribute to Central Office for your Sponsor's Birthday

Celebrate your birthday or your sponsor's birthday by donating \$1 per year of sobriety to Central Office. What a great way to give back! (Address for Central Office is on the bottom of page 3.)

**H
o
t
l
i
n
e**

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BE OF SERVICE?

Our "HOTLINE" is a great way to be of service. When Central Office is closed a member of Alcoholics Anonymous answers the phone EVERY time. The phone call may be as simple as "where is a meeting?" It may be an alcoholic needs to talk, be visiting from out of town, etc. For more information on the Hotline visit our website and click on the "HOTLINE" link. At TVCO.com

To all AA members Email list

Get your Gratitude Gazette and be notified of meeting changes, new events and other important AA information. Join our mailing list. Send an email to

webservant@temeculacentraloffice.org

and be added to the list.

Get on the List and get the Gazette!

PLEASE NOTE: MEETING CHANGES

The "GRANGE" meeting formerly in Rainbow at 8pm on Friday night has now merged with the Bats in the Belfry meeting, at 7:30 pm, held at the Pechanga Senior Center (not casino) 12784 Pechanga Road. (Left turn immediately AFTER Great Oaks High School Baseball Field off of Pechanga Parkway)

The "GRANGE" Sunday night at 7:30 pm has changed their location to the Pechanga Senior Center.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

It's not easy but it works if you work it

A little over 90 days ago my life felt unmanageable. I was mentally, emotionally and spiritually broken. I hadn't lost anything but inside I had nothing. The only time I felt happy was when I was drinking. When I wasn't drinking I was thinking about drinking. It controlled my wants, needs, desires, dreams, goals, priorities, and passions in life. Today my life is completely different. I'm getting to know myself and finding out I'm not such a bad person. When I take action in my life towards becoming the best me I can be I feel good inside, and that means a lot. Today I see things I've never seen, feel things I've never felt. I've got dreams, desires, goals, priorities and passions in my life today. I still miss the social aspect of drinking but when I look at everything I've gained in my life from not drinking I am reminded why I need to continue this journey in sobriety. God has guided me and the fellowship of A.A. has shown me the way. Thank you!

"It really is mind over matter. If you want to
Change badly enough, you can do anything"

Melody M.

Central Office Service

Please call (951) 695-1535 if you can be of service at Central Office by volunteering for time slots to answer phones and help walk-ins. Volunteers are always appreciated, training is free, and of course you get the grand reward...**Sobriety for another day!**

Slots Available:

Monday 3–5:30pm

Tuesday 12:30–3pm

Tuesday 3pm–5:30pm

Thurs 12:30–3pm

**CENTRAL
OFFICE
NEWS**

Special thanks to those who helped with the newsletter this month! Moses, Melody, Kimberly F., Darcie and Laura L.

We would love to print your submissions for the Newsletter. All profanity will be edited out of the final copy. The primary theme of any article content must pertain to; alcoholism and recovery, the Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions, or The Concepts. Poems, inspiring materials, AA trivia, jokes and cartoons are welcome also. Proper credit must be given to each article's source. If taken from previously printed materials include its copyright so that we can acknowledge it. The committee reserves the right to edit or refuse any articles submitted. Submissions accepted via email at:

gazette@temeculacentraloffice.org

Mailing Address @ Temecula Valley Central Office, 28636 Old Front Street, #106, Temecula CA 92590

Email: temeculaaa@verizon.net

AA Service Meetings

What	When	Where
H&I Committee Meeting	1st Monday - 7:30pm	28765 Single Oak Drive Temecula, CA 92590
TVCO Board Meeting	1st Tuesday - 6:30pm	Central Office - All are welcome, but only board members may participate.
Mid So-Cal Area Meeting	2nd Sunday - 9:30am	Meets at various locations. Call Central Office for meeting location
Cooperating with Prof Community (CPC)	2nd Tuesday - 5:45pm	Boston Billies - 26850 Cherry Hills Blvd. Sun City
GSR Meeting - District 17	2nd Tuesday - 6:30pm	Boston Billies - 26850 Cherry Hills Blvd. Sun City
Intergroup Meeting	3rd Tuesday - 6:45pm	United Methodist Church, Murrieta 24652 Adams at Kalmia & Adams
GSR Meeting - District 14	3rd Wednesday - 7pm	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church 308 E Acacia Ave, Hemet, CA 92543

What you get from Central Office!

During the day, your Central Office keeps the doors open to assist recovering and suffering AA members alike. We provide (at cost) the Big Book. We also provide the 12x12, assorted literature, chips, and newcomer packets. Your office manager organizes volunteers, makes bank deposits, keeps your accounting data accurate, and safe guards your inventory. We make and distribute your meeting schedules and the Gratitude Gazette. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, volunteers take calls from suffering alcoholics and organize 12 step calls. The phone line and special call-forwarding are paid for by your central office donations.

Please ask at your next business meeting if you are donating monthly to your Central Office. It doesn't have to be a lot. Being self-supporting means not only paying for your rent and coffee, but also paying for the services you receive through Central Office.

If your group has stopped donating (or never started), please bring it up at your next business meeting and take a group conscious. There have been a lot of changes made. The board has had a new influx of members, and oversight is strong. Traditions are always the first thought for any changes being considered.

We invite anyone to call, email, and/or attend the monthly board meeting. We value your input and want to make sure we understand your opinion.

Still Skeptical?



Focus on Tradition Eight



On Tradition Eight

**"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional,
but our service centers may employ special workers."**

Editorial by Bill W.

A.A. Grapevine, July, 1948

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12th Step" work is never to be paid for."

Throughout the world A.A.s are "12th stepping" with thousands of new prospects a month. Between one and two thousand of these stick on our first presentation; past experience shows that most of the remainder will come back to us later on. Almost entirely unorganized, and completely non-professional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another; that's all.

Could this vast and vital face-to-face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. The few efforts to professionalize straight "12th Step" work have always failed quickly. Today, no A.A. will tolerate the idea of paid "A.A. Therapists" or "organizers". Nor does any A.A. like to be told just how he must handle that new prospect of his. No, this great life-giving stream can never be dammed up by paid do-gooders or professionals. Alcoholics Anonymous is never going to cut its own life lines. To a man, we are sure of that.

But what about those who serve us full time in other capacities -- are cooks, caretakers and paid Intergroup secretaries "A.A. professionals"?

Because our thinking about these people is still unclear, we often feel and act as though they were such. The impression of professionalism subtly attaches to them, so we frequently hear they are "making money out of A.A.", or that they are "professionalizing" A.A. Seemingly, if they do take our A.A. dollars they don't quite belong with us A.A.s any more. We sometimes go further; we underpay them on the theory they ought to be glad to "cook" for A.A. cheap. Now isn't this carrying our fears of professionalism rather far? If these fears ever got too strong, none but a saint or an incompetent could work for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our supply of saints being quite small, we would certainly wind up with less competent workers than we need.

We are beginning to see that our few paid workers are performing only those service tasks that our volunteers cannot consistently handle. Primarily these folks are not doing 12th Step work. They are just making more and better 12th Step work possible. Secretaries at their desks are valuable points of contact, information and public relations. That is what they are paid for, and nothing else. They help carry the good news of A.A. to the outside world and bring our prospects face to face with us. That's not "A.A. therapy"; it's just a lot of very necessary but often thankless work.

So, where needed, let's revise our attitude toward those who labor at our special services. Let us treat them as A.A. associates, and not as hired help; let's recompense them fairly and, above all, let's absolve them from the label of professionalism.

Let us also distinguish clearly between "organizing the A.A. movement" and setting up, in a reasonably business-like manner, its few essential services of contact and propagation. Once we do that, all will be well. The million or so brother alcoholics who are still sick will then continue to get the break we 60,000 A.A.s have already had.

Let's give our "service desks" the hand they so well deserve.

Bill W.

The A.A. Grapevine, July, 1948

AA HUMOR

Send AA related humor to
gazette@temeculacentraloffice.org



SPONSORSHIP

A man in a hot air balloon realized that he was lost.

He reduced altitude and spotted another man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below replied, "You're in a hot air ball hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be a sponsor," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the man, "how did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "Everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The man below responded, "You must be a sponsee"

"I am", replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect other people to solve your problems. The fact is, you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

A girl working with her sponsor asked "Where can I read about my sex problems?"

Sponsor said, "That's covered on page 69."

Later at home the page number got jumbled as she tried to remember and she turned to page 96 for her sex problems.

"Do not be discouraged if your prospect does not respond at once. Search out another alcoholic and try again. You are sure to find someone desperate enough to accept with eagerness what you offer. We find it a waste of time to keep chasing a man who cannot or will not work with you

Alcoholic Alzheimers is a kind of dementia that can be experienced by alcoholics where we forget everything except our resentments.

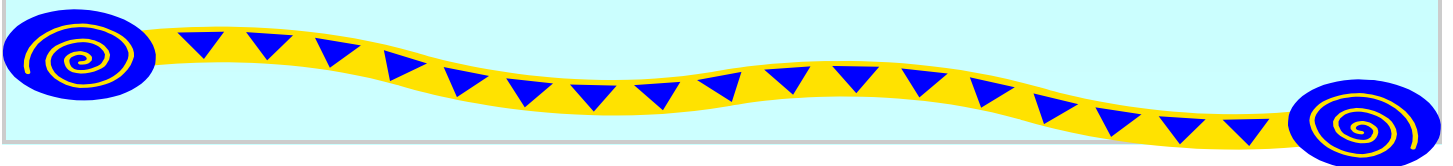
The doctor told his patient that he had 10 days to live unless he quit drinking.

The man said, "Isn't there anything else I can do besides quit drinking?"

The doc said., "Well, you could go down to the beauty parlor & get a mud pack every day."

You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.



Continued from page 1

48 year token and was so nervous I was at a loss for words' I suppose the moment just hit me all at once. Harry shared the experience of his first International at Toronto in 1965 and meeting our co-founder Bill W. and other pioneers of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Ohio Hospitality room the first morning of that convention. The next morning I made my way into the convention center at about 9:00 am and there was no line to wait for registration. I stepped up to the laptop, filled out my registration form and received my badge from the attendant behind the counter. I was then directed across the convention hall to receive my badge holder and the 75th anniversary of AA Comes of Age to commemorate the International Convention. This was the only time I saw no waiting lines on both sides of the registration area, within 30 minutes the floor was bustling with people and activity and it stayed that way throughout the convention. The convention was electric for me I ran into friends from San Diego, California; Oak Harbor, Washington; and Honolulu, Hawaii. The fact that in the midst of thousands of alcoholics I bumped into these friends showed me once again everything in my life happens in God's time and in His way. I attended panels on AA in the military and found out the message is being carried in foreign lands and in harm's way where any two or more alcoholics are sharing their experience, strength, and hope just like Bill and Bob. I heard about the importance of our history and how archives are vital to remember where we came from and how we've come to be where the fellowship is today. The ceremony that really demonstrated the "We of Alcoholics Anonymous: was the presentation of flags in the Alamo dome on Friday night. I witnessed 90 different countries being represented by home country members. The power of silence coming from thousands of our fellows pausing before the prayers of our meetings. Lastly, as I looked through the Alamo dome I was simply in awe of the sheer numbers of people on the floor and in the stands. I could only imagine what those first hundred of our founding members would think of where they started the program and what we've grown too today. I have to believe they would be grateful to see that by trusting in God, cleaning house, and working with others the seed they planted has become fellowship described in "A Vision for You".

WELCOME TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



What is an Intergroup?

Each group is encouraged to have an Intergroup Representative. This person is the liaison between Intergroup and their home group. Any decisions for changes to the way Central Office runs must be voted on. Any questions or concerns or compliments may be put on the agenda for discussion. By having an Intergroup representative your group will be able to bring a vote to the intergroup meeting. No vote can take place without a quorum. Your group must be a registered meeting in order to vote. Any A.A. member is welcome to attend the Rep. or board meeting as a guest. If your group is interested in joining Intergroup, send a member to the meeting, and we will gladly give you all the information you need to get started. Intergroup meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month on the corner of Kalmia & Adams in Murrieta at the church. Hope to see you there.

Thoughts about the International Convention from Kimberly F.

A couple of things come to mind when I think of the convention:

One is in the "old timers" section. The person with the longest length of sobriety was 63 years.

I talked with a policeman and was told that they were surprised by the amount of people (over 50,000) and the LACK of chaos!



A TWIST ON "THE PROMISES"

Submitted Anonymously to Inland Empire Central Office

If I am careless about this phase of my development, I will be lost before I am halfway through. I will renew my obsession with alcohol and sacrifice ALL true happiness. I will forget the word serenity, and have NO peace. No matter how far down the scale I have already gone, I will fall even lower. I will resent the past and then repeat it, over and over again. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will return, and more. I will focus on selfish things and hide from my fellows. Sanity will slip away. My whole attitude and outlook upon life will change for the worse. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will consume me. I will again be baffled by even the most normal of situations. I will suddenly believe that God will do nothing for me. Are these extravagant consequences? I THINK NOT!! They have been fulfilled within me, always quickly, always completely. They will always materialize when I cease to work this program of recovery.



RECOVERY
is a process
not an event

Woman To Woman Spiritual Retreat

In Idyllwild

Sept. 17th, 18th, 19th 2010

\$115.00 for all meals, rustic cabins w/



Bunk bed lodging and workshop materials

for more information call

Sheila Gibson 760-481-9491

or

Dawn Kerr 951-809-5135

AA Ladies Luncheon
The proceeds of this luncheon benefit:
Temecula Valley Central Office, District 17, II & I, Mid So Cal and GSO

**2nd Annual
Temecula Valley
AA Women's Luncheon**
Sunday, September 26th
at
Embassy Suites
29345 Rancho California Road
Temecula, CA 92591
11:00--12:00 Registration / Greet & Meet
12:00--1:00 Lunch (LIMITED 140 tickets)
1:00--2:00 Speaker & Raffle

Speaker, Shirley M. from Escondido

Tradition 2 Courtesy
Registration Information--
Theresa B. 951-217-8936
Kimberly F. 909-841-7935

Make checks payable to: TVAAWA Temecula Valley AA	Name	Name on Badge	Luncheon \$30.00
Women's Association c/o Kimberly Funk 31500 Grape Street Box 316 Lake Elsinore, CA 92532	Address	City	Luncheon Donation for Scholarship Lunch Fund
	Phone	email	\$
	Lunch (circle one) Fettuccini Alfredo or Spinach Salad		Total

Payment must be received by September 1st. One registration per person. 10 ladies per table.
Ladies send in your registration forms and payment together with the ladies you wish to sit with.

Mark your Calendars!

Our annual picnic/softball tournament! Is being held at Los Alamos Sports Park, Murrieta. September 12. Check the website at TVCO.com for more information.