

# GRATITUDE GAZETTE

**24 HOUR HOTLINE**  
**(951) 530-4136**

**"LIVING FREE IN 2023..."**

**[www.TemeculaCentralOffice.org](http://www.TemeculaCentralOffice.org)**

Welcome to a new look for the Gratitude Gazette! We'd like you to get to know our friendly Office Manager Ken! Please feel free to stop by our office and say hello! If you are in need of a book, a chip, or just a cup of coffee and a friendly chat, we encourage you to stop by and support us!

## **CENTRAL OFFICE ACTIVITY For June, 2023**

- 7897 Visits to Website
- 390 Phone Calls
- 77 Walk-ins / Purchases
- 24 intergroup Reps

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**



**Founder's Day**  
**July 8 at Ronald Regan Park, 5pm**



**Softball Tournament**  
**TBD at Cal Oaks, Murrieta**



**Chili Cook Off & Bake Off**  
**Being discussed for possibly Sept 30.**



**Golf Tournament**  
**Fall 2023 TBD**



**Tentative - Central Office Formal (aka, Anniversary Dinner) Possibly Nov.**

## **"QUOTABLE DRINKERS" HEARD IN AA**

"Faith is hope with a track record."

"Gratitude for me is an action, not a feeling."

"If you can't find a power greater than yourself, how about you find a power OTHER than yourself?"

"If I worry about something and then it happens, well then I've suffered through it twice."

"You can always tell a drunk... but not much."

"If I do this right, I get peace of mind, and that's what I call sobriety."

"We get high on resentment, until resentment gets high on us."

"A good sponsor disturbs the comfortable, and comforts the disturbed."

"Nothing changes if nothing changes."

"The journey of 1000 miles begins with 1 step."

"AA may not get me to Heaven, but it sure got me out of hell."

Do you have a quote you'd like to submit to the Gazette? Please email:  
[gazette@TemeculaCentralOffice.org](mailto:gazette@TemeculaCentralOffice.org)

# MEETING SPOTLIGHT



## The World Famous Speaker Meeting

by Bill P.

The World Famous Speaker Meeting meets every Sat at 7pm (recently changed from 8pm) at the Del Rio Meeting Place:  
28020 Del Rio St, STE 203 & 204  
(off Jefferson)  
Temecula, CA 92590

Today speakers are scheduled from Pacific Group, Bellflower Big Book, Laguna Beach, Casa Blanca and others. Speaker sobriety requirements: main speaker 5 years sobriety, 10 minute speaker needs at least 1 year.

I was pointed to a Mike C. for this story. Mike has been coming to the World Famous Speaker Meeting at Del Rio for 28 years, so he's well versed on the history of this meeting. This meeting has been going strong for 31 years! In fact, please refer to the flyer on page 8 of this newsletter. They are having a 31 year celebration on July 15! Please attend if you can.

The last Saturday of the month is birthdays (no 10 minute speaker). Chips for milestones less than 1 year are given at every meeting.

Babysitting is available. They generally meet for dinner beforehand at Rosa's Cafe and Tortilla Factory at 5:45pm.

Plus if you're looking for a commitment, they have plenty of spots needing to be filled!

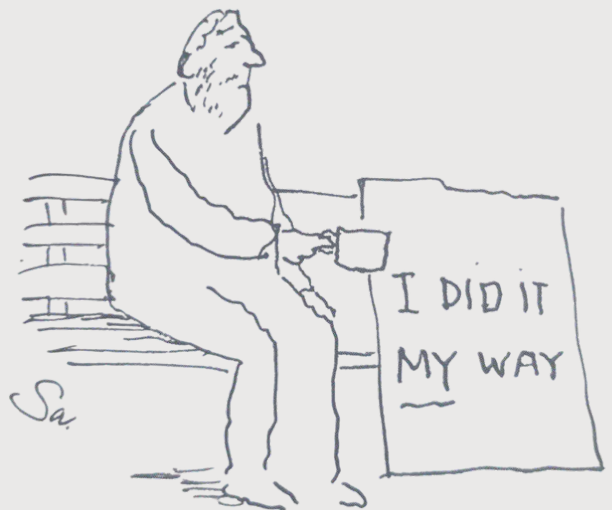
Mike said this meeting was founded by Jerry Raney and Gene Taylor, who have both since passed. These gentlemen came from the Los Angeles area and wanted to start a "spin-off" of the Pacific Group in LA.

One of the places they met for 4 to 5 years was at the Water District Board Room. This venue was theater-style seating and held about 100 people, which was always packed. The Water District did not charge rent, and only required insurance be covered, which Mike said was about \$1000/year. This left plenty of money for Central Office. Mike said he would help get the speakers while they were there, making sure to get circuit speakers.

The meetings are still going strong, but now they meet at Del Rio St (of Jefferson) and recently changed the meeting time to 7pm, to be more accommodating to people's schedules. This was made pursuant to a group conscious vote.



## CARTOON CORNER



# DESPERATION IS A GREAT MOTIVATOR

## Sincerity Is A Great Healer

by Rick R.

Recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) affects people in many ways. The first and most obvious is their ability to abstain from the use of alcohol for without that there can be no recovery. Next is the willingness to abandon the idea that they can do this on their own and to seek the help of something outside of their own failed way of thinking. Third is the act of surrendering and “buying in” completely (so to speak). At this point, the recovery process may differ depending on your age, gender, economic situation, marital status, legal woes, and other side issues. It is not our role to judge anyone who comes to A. A. seeking help nor is it our job to bail them out of their current situation out of sympathy. That does not mean that we cannot buy a meal for a hungry soul or give them a few bucks for gas. We are recovering alcoholics and our role is to listen and to try to understand what they need from us consistent with the principles we have learned and relate our experiences with them. Younger arrivals usually are dual addicted and the average long-term alcoholic that has not experienced the drug culture lifestyle may have a difficult time identifying with them. Recovered addicts usually share about their Rip Off mentality as a user, while the average common variety alcoholic talks about guilt and shame and the need to pay their bar-tab. A high percentage of our membership arrive in their forties in the middle of, or on the cusp of the threat of a divorce, and without experienced feed-back, make bad decisions where, in some cases, they could have salvaged their marriage and saved the children the damage caused by divorce. My main question when greeting a newcomer at a meeting is usually “What brings you to A.A.?” Usually, their response comes in the form of a complaint about the situation they are in, (divorce papers, DUI, Fired from job) etc.

My next question is, (If that hadn't happened, would you be here today?” Their response is usually, “Probably not.” I then explain that my first wife could have filed for divorce ten times before she became Desperate enough to do it and, had she not, I would, still be out there circling the drain or worse. For two years I tried to convince her to take me back, but it did not happen. Desperation brought me to the door of A.A. where I began the life I live today. This type of perspective usually gets their attention, and they often turn out to be more accepting of the need to change. Next, I will share the experience that worked or me. It may come in a sincere statement such as, “I know that I have been wrong about what a husband/father's responsibilities are and that I am an alcoholic and I believe that I've found the solution to my drinking problem. You have suffered from all of this, and I have learned greatly from the mistakes I have made, and I intend to do my best to make it right. Whatever the outcome is, I want to minimize the trauma to the children as we move forward.” This type of sincerity sometimes takes the pressure off and gives her some breathing room and in some cases, opens the door to salvaging the marriage. My question is: Can you live up to these proposed actions? Another area where sincerity and ownership of past mistakes has an unexpected outcome is in the courtroom. Judges have heard every flimsy excuse in the world and can see right through all the BS of a con artists, and they are not fooled by them. Believe me when I say that I have witnessed more than my share of these two approaches to resolving the damages of alcoholic behavior, and the sincere approach far outweighs the con job, most of the time, and you cannot fake sincerity.

# STEP 7

## **A.A. Oldtimers...On the Seventh Step**

A.A. Grapevine, May 1945, Vol. 1 No. 12

Editorial: On the 7th Step

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings." We all know that it is God's will that we live clean, wholesome lives; that we think clearly and become persons of honest decision. This we know we cannot do until we become our real selves, so, in desperation, we alcoholics revert to prayer. We humbly ask God to remove our shortcomings; to restore us to our natural selves, so that we may think clearly on our problems. Emerson says, "None will ever solve the problem of his character according to our prejudice, but only in his own high unprecedented way."

Character is undoubtedly accumulative, and in removing shortcomings it stands to reason that we are striving to build character. This can be done by observing our errors, and, one at a time, correcting them on the spot.

We have already accepted this "Power greater than ourselves" as a reality. Something to which we can pray, expecting to receive help. So now we ask for courage to look at our shortcomings honestly. To recognize them for what they really are, and not what we might wish them to be.

What are some of our shortcomings? Let us list just a few:

1. Excessive drinking. 2. Resenting help. 3. Resenting the good fortune of others. 4. Defending ourselves when we know we are in the wrong. 5. Jealousy and envy of all kinds. 6. Shunning responsibility.

Through the grace of God we have found A.A., which teaches us that we are sick people and that alcohol in any form or amount is out. So we stop drinking. That takes care of our number one problem.

We must be willing to accept help of all kinds without resentment. This takes a little time, as we are the world's most sensitive persons. We know too well that we have neglected all of our talents and abilities for alcohol, and we have terribly guilty feelings, made more acute by persons who are already in better circumstances than we are. Nevertheless, we learn to suffer our hurt feelings and start building a constructive, happy life.

Defending what we call our "pride" is one of the most difficult shortcomings to remove. Many of us have thought of pride as something virtuous, something to be honored. Well, what have we left, we who are humbly seeking help, that we can put on exhibition as virtue? Often we cannot actually put our finger on anything in our make-up of which we are really proud. So we break down our false pride, and exchange it for humility.

The most beautiful art in the world is simple, with few lines, little fuss and complications. So we try being simple for a change. Just plain honest simplicity. We look for the best in our fellow man, "Pardon the wrong in him; hark to the song in him."

By accepting God's help, we learn to think clearly; to play fairly; and to give generously.

Elizabeth W.

Boston, Massachusetts

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### **First Ala-Teen, Dr. Bob's Daughter**

Sue Smith Galbraith Windows was Dr. Bob and Anne Smith's adopted daughter. Dr. Bob and Anne brought her home in 1923, although they already had a son (Robert Jr. "Smitty") almost the same age. In a 1998 Beacon Journal story, Mrs. Windows said she did not know her father was an alcoholic until she was 17. She called herself the first Alateen. Her first marriage was in the autumn 1935 to Ernie G., A.A. #4. At the time, Dr. Bob wanted this union, but Ernie could not stay sober and was a terrible husband. Sue wanted to marry her high school sweetheart but Dr. Bob thought he would not make a good husband. She ended up suffering the pain of this marriage for 24 years, and had 2 children with Ernie. Daughter Bonna Erickson died in 1969 killing herself and her young child. Sue always felt this was from the pain of growing up in an alcoholic household. She finally divorced Ernie, and married Ray Windows in 1975. Ray, her first love was a widow at this time.

Sue and her brother, "Smitty", were eyewitnesses to history. Sue re-membered well Ebby Thatcher, Bill W.'s sponsor and who introduced him to spiritual sobriety, relapsing and hiding and drinking in the Smith's attic. She experienced many crazy situations in the Smith house-hold during the beginnings of AA. As a young girl, Sue gave up her bed-room to drunks who came to stay in the family house at 855 Ardmore Ave., now a national historic site owned by "Dr. Bob's Home". The Smiths always welcomed strangers into the home to care for them and help them get sober.

Credit - <https://aapinellas.org/plain-straight-newsletter-and-archive/>  
Pinellas County Archives.



## WHAT IS CENTRAL OFFICE?

What is Central Office?

A Central Office (or Intergroup) is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community—just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups—functions which are best handled by a centralized office—and it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

*Reprinted from the A.A. Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

Financial Reports, Agendas, Meeting Minutes for the Intergroup Board are available by request.

Contact the TVCO Intergroup Board Secretary at: [secretarytvco@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytvco@gmail.com)



**Don't think of service...**  
**Be of service.**

## WAYS TO SERVE "In Order to Keep It..."

Part of our recovery is to be of service, to help a fellow suffering alcoholic, and to spread the message. If you're looking for ways to be of service, there are many! Here are a few options available to you, ranging from light to heavy duty:

- Volunteer for a commitment in your home group - coffee, greeter, trash, secretary, etc.
- Check with Central Office and see if volunteers are needed for any upcoming events (they are always needed!)
- Hospitals & Institutions opportunities! We have 92 H&I panels in the valley - it's really sprung back from the pandemic and help is needed. It was requested that women are needed for H&I also! Please check the Central Office website for opportunities. Please help carry the message of AA to alcoholics who are confined in hospitals and institutions.
- Central Office needs volunteers! Please contact Ken S. at (951) 530-4136.
- Hotline - add your name to the Central Office 24 Hour Hotline list. Man the phones for a few hours. Spanish speaking volunteers also needed. Central Office website has scripts so you'll know exactly what to say!
- Be a GSR or Intergroup Rep for your group! Contact Erin K. at (951) 818-4458.

If the information you need isn't available on the Central Office website, please call Ken S. at (951) 530-4136.

# TVYPAA

Temecula Valley Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (TVYPAA) has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We are aware that not all young people, or young at heart, may find our meetings and events necessary; therefore we do not propose to be the only answer in the Temecula Valley area for young alcoholics. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, we want the hand of alcoholics anonymous (A.A.) always to be there. And for that: we are responsible. We ensure by unifying young people in the Temecula Valley area and by practicing the principles of A.A. through meetings, events, outreach, and providing a forum for young alcoholics to grow through service. We welcome all young and young at heart alcoholics to join our business meetings and potentially obtain a commitment, where you can join in the magic of reaching the alcoholics still suffering and create the fellowship you crave!

Business meetings are held every second and fourth Sunday at 5:00 PM at the Temecula Alano Club.


A fun AA meeting you can find many of us at:  
"Wasted Youth" Young People's Meeting, held every Sunday at 7 PM at the Temecula Alano Club

## Contact:

Cassie, TVYPAA Intergroup Rep - (951) 426-6333  
Star, TVYPAA Events Chair - (951) 525-0199

 <https://tvypaaevents.wixsite.com/temeculavalleyyoungp>

 <https://www.instagram.com/tvypaa/>

 [https://fb.me/g/p\\_XuZu9QmkFkMhAdg6/XxYJeYbm](https://fb.me/g/p_XuZu9QmkFkMhAdg6/XxYJeYbm)



# H&I PANELS

There's a fire in the Valley with H&I Panels - we are making a difference! It was reported that we had 58 attendants with a lot more women, so the word is getting out! We would like group participation going forward! Currently we have over 100 panels, and more new panels are added each week.

## The Temecula Valley Hospitals & Institutions Committee meets

1st Monday of the month @ 6:45 p.m.  
at the Temecula Valley Alano Club, 27470  
Commerce Center Drive,  
Temecula, CA 92591

Donations to H&I can be sent directly to:

Temecula Valley H&I

P.O. Box 893142

Temecula CA, 92589

## H & I Needs YOUR Help!

If you have never been on an AA panel in the Temecula Valley, now is the time! We have openings for recovering AA volunteers in every category: Youth facilities, men's & woman's jails and prisons, hospitals and recovery homes need us to bring meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous to their doorstep.

## H & I Committee Book Donation Box

Did you know that there is a box at the Temecula Valley Central Office for you to drop off your new and used books, which will be donated to the various institutions that our Temecula Valley H&I serve?

Please remember that if you want your book to go to a jail or prison, it must be a soft cover book.

To help, please call Rick S. 951-378-9815



## June 2023 Group Donations

Unity Hall	\$750.00
Del Rio	\$700.00
ASBI M-S 7AM	\$615.00
Early Risers	\$519.00
Jaywalkers	\$420.00
Good Dudes	\$394.20
Intergroup	\$336.00
Came to Believe at the Park	\$300.00
Bats in the Belfrey	\$200.00
Pigs on the Wall	\$200.00
Serenity Friday 6PM	\$177.00
Road Crew	\$162.40
Board Meeting	\$159.00
Step Sisters	\$150.00
Grass Roots	\$129.00
Mur Date St Wed Night	\$99.00
Serenity Seekers 715 Thurs	\$60.00
Anza	\$50.00
Acceptance LE Womans	\$40.00
Serenity Tues 6 Pm	\$38.55
Wildest Dreams	\$38.00
Little Big Book	\$30.00
Primary Purpose Womans	\$11.00






<b>JUNE</b>	<b>\$5,728.15</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>\$5,574.79</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>\$4,510.08</b>





# THE WORLD FAMOUS SPEAKER MEETING

## **31<sup>st</sup>** *Anniversary* celebration

-  **Date:** Saturday, July 15th
-  **5:00 pm:** Potluck
-  **5:45 pm:** From the Podium — Share your Memories of The World Famous Speaker Meeting
-  **7:00 pm:** Speaker Meeting  
Special Speaker: Mike M. from the Bellflower Big Book Group
-  **Place:** Del Rio Hall  
28120 Jefferson, Suites 203-204  
Temecula, California 92590

Babysitting is available.



## Everyday

HIKING  
BIKING  
NAPPING  
GAMING  
SNACKING  
VISITING  
FROLICKING  
HUTCHIE COOING

## Friday

STARTING @ 5:00P  
SCHEDULED  
MEETINGS  
FELLOWSHIP  
FREE COFFEE  
LAUGHTER / TEARS

## Saturday



Steve  
MEMORIAL

POT LUCK  
5:00P  
CAMPFIRE MTG  
7:30P

LUNAR

ECLIPSE

# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CAMPOUT

## Liberty Bells

Half Cracked But Liberated

**October 13-15, 2023**

✓-In Friday 2:00p

✓-Out Sunday 12:00p

**Everyone Welcome  
Family & Friends**

**Loop "B"**  
**Hurkey Creek Park**  
56375 CA-74,  
Mountain Center, CA 92561

RV's and Trailers welcome  
This is a Dry Campsite:  
No Hook-Ups No Dump Station

**All Questions**  
**garagejim@gmail.com**



RV's & Trailers  
4 People  
\$TBD  
Extra Kids \$TBD  
Extra Adult \$TBD



Tents: 4 People  
\$TBD  
Extra Kids \$TBD  
Extra Adult \$TBD

Tents: 1 Person  
\$TBD  
Extra Kid \$TBD  
Extra Adult \$TBD



Day Use  
No Camping  
\$TBD



Pet Friendly  
Pay @ Gate



## Does your home group have an **Intergroup Rep?**

If not, why not you (or someone you think might benefit)? This is a great service commitment that helps everyone get the most out of our fellowship and live transformed lives!

**KNOW AND SHARE ALL THE FUN  
EVENTS HAPPENING IN OUR  
DISTRICT!**

**IG Meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month at  
The Springs Church 6:30 PM  
41735 Winchester Rd #C, Temecula  
Meeting entrance is in the back of the building  
Call Erin K. (951) 818-4458 for info or  
just show up at the meeting!**

Central Office



(951) 530-4136



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



# Get in the middle of the herd.

go wild with Temecula Valley Young People of AA  
business meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month

5pm

Temecula Valley Alano Club  
27470 Commerce Center Dr. #C

more info:

Cassie: (951) 426-6333

Star: (951) 525-0199

Ty: (760) 601-5431

Zoom ID:

834 7150 2411

Passcode:

TvBaddie23

