

GRATITUDE GAZETTE

Phone (951) 695-1535

FEBRUARY 2013



A Color Copy of this newsletter is available on the website at

www.temeculacentraloffice.org

Editor: [Charlene W](#)

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Remember we are waiting to read your story. Email it to us.

Feature Article

What does it take? What has to happen to cause someone to change? They say that that a person will change when they are "ready", not before, not until. Family and friends are always "ready" long before the person who needs to change is. I can say for myself that I too was "ready" long before I actually made a change. Or was I? Remorseful? Yes. Guilt ridden? Yes. Frustrated? Yes. But "ready"? Guess not. Or so at least that's what my drawer full of silver chips told me. The perpetual "new-comer" was my pattern. I was the broken record: "Is there anyone within their first 29 days...?" Yep-me-again. Writing this is my

way of putting myself in the corner-figuratively speaking. Eighteen months in the revolving door and five in the building so to speak; I had found myself, if I'm being honest here, passing on the same judgment and disdain towards others (privately in my own mind, of course, shame on me) that I was once so annoyed about having passed on to me. Does any of this make sense so far? Anyway, bottom line, I had felt myself perching, just a little, on a bit of a high horse. Well, maybe a pony. Guilty! None-the-less, I think it's important, and I can only speak for myself, to remember the gravity of this thing that we call a disease, and

always remember that it is no easy task. No sir-ee, far from it. Not like quitting something as trivial as nail biting for example. Enter-the newcomer. I would like to advocate, for a moment, the newcomer. Not the garden-variety newcomer, the perpetual newcomer. The one that makes you want to shake them. The one that makes your inner-dialogue say very bad things about them. The one that makes the whole room roll their eyes at them-on the inside of course. Really? Again? Come ON! LOSER! Well I was that loser. But let's be honest here, I didn't find myself in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous because I had been nomi-

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.

-Declaration of 30th Anniversary International Convention, 1965

Meetings that need help

gazette@temeculacentraloffice.org If your meeting needs help Email us.

Closed Meeting

*For Fun & For Free
BB Discussion
Thurs 6 PM
41845 6th St.
Temecula Senior Center
in back*

Closed Meeting

*12 & 12 Step & Tradition
Discussion
Friday 7 PM
33122 Grape St.
Mt. View Comm. Church
Wildomar
in back*

Closed Meeting

*Pigs On the Wall
BB Discussion
Sunday 7 PM
33122 Grape St
Mt. View Comm. Church
Wildomar
in back*

Feature Article - continued

Applying the rules of congeniality and high functionality to me was silly, and in my own mind I felt that those who I perceived to judge me were not unlike the kids who might think of themselves as the cool kids in juvy (juvenile hall). I remember thinking, 'context people! We are in a recovery program, remember?' It seemed (my perception of course) as though the people who struggled the most didn't really deserve to be there, and I went so far in my own mind as to begin to think that those who really struggle have the MOST right to be there. I mean, who knows, perhaps the degree of struggle is a direct correlation to the degree of disease. Aha!

Patience people. "Ready-ness" is not linear. It takes what it takes. I know for myself that I wouldn't have found myself "ready" without each and every "failure". I see each of them: each silver chip, each newcomer identification, each let down to the family, each foiled rehab stint (there was only one of those actually), as a score in the key- without which the key may never have turned.

Well there you have it-the rambling notions of a former perpetual new-comer.

~Lisa~

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please email your story as a document or text file to:

temeculaaa@verizon.net



"I looked just like you once, but that was back when work wasn't clouding my drinking."

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/cartoon-winners>



"I'm lying here because I slipped on the First Step."

—Loren B., Bozeman, Mont.

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/cartoon-winners>

AA Birthdays: Look Who Took A Cake In January?

Happy Birthday

Date	Memo	Account	Amount
01/24/2013	Sheila G	Birthday Donations	10.00
01/28/2013	Andy 7 year Birthday!	Birthday Donations	20.00
			30.00

Email your birthdates to gazette@temeculacentraloffice.org



To all AA members, join our Email list

Be notified of meeting changes, new events and other important AA information. Send email to DLservant@temeculacentraloffice.org and be added to the list.

Get on the List!

What is the Intergroup?

Each group is encouraged to have an Intergroup Representative. This person is the liaison between Intergroup and their home group. The Intergroup Central Office depends upon the local members and groups for the necessary support to carry out its responsibilities. This support comes in the form of volunteer help and financial contributions. Our efficiency and the continuation of services offered are related to the level of support from the groups. Please register your group at Central Office. Any A.A. member is welcome to attend the Intergroup 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.

“The Intergroup associations are the best insurance we can have that our life lines to the hundreds of thousands yet to come will never break or tangle. Let us always be generous. Let us warmly support Intergroup.” AA co-founder Bill W. 1949

AA Service Meetings

What	When	Where
H&I Committee Meeting	1st Monday - 7:30pm	TVAC—27470 Commerce Center Dr. 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 Visitors Welcome	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 and provide the following services:

We provide the Big Book.

We provide the 12x12, assorted literature, chips, and newcomer packets.

Your office manager organizes volunteers, makes sure the office is a healthy place for all, keeps your accounting data accurate, and safe guards your inventory. The office manager is there to support the groups and the individual members of our fellowship.

We make and distribute your meeting schedules and we publish 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 contributions.

Please ask at your next business meeting if you are contributing 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 contributing (or never started), please bring it up at your next business meeting and take a group conscious.

We value your input and want to make sure we understand your opinion.

Come and join us!

Step Two

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to

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“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.”

Step Two Guidelines

How It Works...

“The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after make clear three pertinent ideas:

- (a) That we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives.
- (b) That probably no human power could have relieved our alcoholism.
- (c) That God could and would if He were sought.”

[More about Step 2 in the Big Book](#)

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 who 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 www.temeculacentraloffice.org

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, and of course you get the grand reward... **Sobriety for another day!**

Central Office News

Volunteers

- 1 Annie
- 2 Betsy
- 3 Chris K
- 4 Debi G
- 5 Debbie R
- 6 Gary
- 7 Gay
- 8 Jackie
- 9 Jill
- 10 Jim F
- 11 Julie G
- 12 Kim C
- 13 Kristen P
- 14 Launa R
- 15 Laurie S
- 16 Melinda
- 17 Michael S
- 18 Nancy W
- 19 Rich
- 20 Shawn
- 21 Sheila
- 22 Stuart
- 23 Tami
- 24 Tyrone
- 25 Vanessa J

Daily Activity for January

Phoned in	118
Walk ins	143
AA Meeting	65
Al-Anon	4
12 Step	14
Donations/Purchases	88
Misc/Other Business	85

BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridging the Gap is designed to help an alcoholic between a treatment program or prison make the transition. One of the more slippery places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of a facility and the nearest AA group or meeting. AA experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to Bridge the Gap, AA members have volunteered to be temporary contacts & introduce newcomers to AA. It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of AA meetings; introduce him or her to other AA's; insure that he or she has some phone numbers of several AA members and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

Temecula Valley is in the process of coordinating this committee. Volunteers are needed.

Please call Central Office for more information (951) 695-1535

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 articles 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



Date	Memo	Account	Amount
1/1/13	Marcos	Valley Buck a Month Club	16.00
1/1/13	Gene W	Valley Buck a Month Club	5.00
1/1/13	Kenny	Valley Buck a Month Club	10.00
1/1/13	Karen K	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Georgia	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Mo	Valley Buck a Month Club	2.00
1/1/13	Mike B	Valley Buck a Month Club	6.00
1/1/13	Mike W	Valley Buck a Month Club	8.00
1/1/13	Edna E	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Jason	Valley Buck a Month Club	2.00
1/1/13	Mary	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Tom C	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Suzannah	Valley Buck a Month Club	4.00
1/1/13	Shayne	Valley Buck a Month Club	2.00
1/1/13	Cheryl	Valley Buck a Month Club	3.00
1/1/13	Linda	Valley Buck a Month Club	12.00
1/1/13	Rose	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Anonymous	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Sandy	Valley Buck a Month Club	5.00
1/1/13	Rory S	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Paul S	Valley Buck a Month Club	6.00
1/1/13	Dan Mc	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Ryan	Valley Buck a Month Club	2.00
1/1/13	Bill C	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Bob C	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Lori	Valley Buck a Month Club	4.00
1/1/13	Dean	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Bryan	Valley Buck a Month Club	9.00
1/1/13	Donut Dave	Valley Buck a Month Club	5.00
1/1/13	Tim	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/1/13	Candace W.	Valley Buck a Month Club	2.00
1/1/13	Ron	Valley Buck a Month Club	1.00
1/10/13	Monday Night Madness	Valley Buck a Month Club	19.00
			136.00

Join the **"Buck-A-Month"** Club. Contributions can be made to Central Office by mailing this form with your donation.

NAME _____

DONATION _____

Mail Your Donation to:
 Temecula Valley Central Office
 Old Town Temecula
 28636 Old Town Front Street, Suite 106
 Temecula, CA 92590 Temecula, CA 92591

Contribute to Central Office for your Sponsor's Birthday

NAME _____

YEARS OF SOBRIETY/DONATION _____

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!

Mail Your Donation to:
 Temecula Valley Central Office
 Old Town Temecula
 28636 Old Town Front Street, Suite 106
 Temecula, CA 92590

GROUP DONATIONS

	01/13/13
Tem Water District/Sat 8pm/World Famous	300.00
Mur Community House/Mon-Sat 7am/ABSI	281.25
Tem Lyndie Ln/Sat 8am/Early Risers	125.00
Tem Del Rio/M-F 7am/Survivors	120.00
SC Boston Billies/Wed 7am/Mens Breakfast	104.00
Tem Mon Night Men	95.00
Tem Pech Sr Ctr/Wed 7pm/Step Sisters	90.00
LE 1st Lutheran/M,Tue,Th,Sat 730pm/Bells	73.19
LE Meeting Place/M-F Noon/#171639	60.00
Tem Ser Cir/Tue Noon/Living Sober	60.00
Mur United Methodist/Mon 7pm/Lil Big Book	60.00
Tem St Catherine's/Fri Noon/Step Study	50.00
Sun City/Mon 645/We Ladies	42.00
Mur United Methodist/Mon Noon/Womens ABSI	40.00
Hemet Unity Church/Wed Noon/Lucky Ladies	40.00
Mur United Methodist/Tue 10am/Womens	39.50
Mur/TVCO Intergroup/#179377	37.70
LE AOG Church/Thur Noon/Womens BB	24.00
Tem The Meeting Place/Thurs 630pm/Solutio	8.45
LE Meeting Place/Sun 7am/Att Mod	3.45
Total	1,653.54



Great Work Everyone

Personal Donations

Date	Memo	Amount
1/1/13	Anonymous	\$500.00
1/8/13	John and Brenda	\$10.00
1/10/13	Debbie Hill	\$30.00
1/11/13	Ralph S	\$25.00
1/14/13	Personal Donation	\$9.00
1/15/13	Paulines S	\$25.00
1/22/13	Personal Donation	\$10.00
1/24/13	Personal Donation	\$5.11
		\$614.11

Bill's Friends By Spike C. Dolomite



nated for the Nobel Prize, or the “highest functioning person of the year award”, I mean really. I was at a loss: a complete loss.

HOTLINE SCHEDULE

Temecula Valley Intergroup

1st Monday	Monday 7:00 Am - As Bill Sees It & Saturday Am Reflections (Murrieta)
1st Tuesday	Tuesday 10 Am - Women's 12x12 (Murrieta)
1st Wednesday	Monday 12:00 - Women's Closed As Bill Sees It (Murrieta)
1st Thursday	Thur. 10:00am - Women's -Lyndie Lane (Temecula)
1st Friday	Friday 7:00 Pm - Men's Stag Wednesday (Murrieta)
1st Weekend	Liberty Bell (Lake Elsinore)
2nd Monday	Saturday Early Risers (Temecula)
2nd Tuesday	Tuesday 7 Am—Unity Hall (Sun City)
2nd Wednesday	The Funks
2nd Thursday	Patrick B
2nd Friday	Sun City Swingers (Sun City)
2nd Weekend	Mosh Pit
3rd Monday	Patrick B
3rd Tuesday	Sunday Speaker Meeting @ The Meeting Place (Lake Elsinore)
3rd Wednesday	Women's Acceptance Wednesday (Lake Elsinore)
3rd Thursday	Thursday Women's BB Study L.E. (Lake Elsinore)
3rd Friday	Back To Basics (Sun City)
3rd Weekend	Serenity Circle Noon (Temecula)
4th Monday	Sunday 7 Am Attitude Adjustment (Lake Elsinore)
4th Tuesday	The Searching Party
4th Wednesday	Sandy S
4th Thursday	The Step Sisters – Wednesday (Temecula)
4th Friday	Women's Candlelight –Thursday (Temecula)
4th Weekend	Wild Ones Grape Street (Wildomar)
5th Monday	Came to Believe
5th Tuesday	Sunday Speaker Meeting @ The Meeting Place (Lake Elsinore)
5th Wednesday	Bobbi And Richard
5th Thursday	Charlene And Jeff (Murrieta)
5th Friday	Brenda & John Walter (Wildomar)
5th Weekend	Tuesday 7:30pm “Men's Stag” (Temecula)

UP AND COMING EVENTS

4th Annual TVCO Memorial Pancake Smackdown

There are no free lunches...but there is a FREE breakfast and its that time again!!!!

Sunday March 3rd

Murrieta Community Center 41810 Juniper St. 7am-12pm

Who is invited???? Everyone!!!

YES!! EVERYONE!!!

This is a FULL Breakfast!!!

Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Fruit, Milk, Juice, COFFEE !!!

ALL FREE & ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!

There will Be a speaker meeting following the breakfast so stick around!

HUGE RAFFLE!!!

Tons of great prizes!!!

50/50 & so much more!!!

The event is also a memorial for all in our fellowship that we lost this year. Please call Jason if you would like to add a picture of your loved one to the memorial board.

**If you are interested in making a donation to help make this event possible PLEASE contact Jason F. 951-691-9974
To donate to the raffle PLEASE contact Mike B. 951-595-9722**

Early Bird Coffee 7:00 - 8:00 am

Breakfast Served & Raffle Begins 8:01 - 10:45 am

Speaker Meeting 11:00am - 12:00 PM

Speaker is Jim H from

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

UP AND COMING EVENTS

2013
ROCKETED
INTO THE
4th
DIMENSION
36th Annual
San Diego Spring Roundup



www.SanDiegoSpringRoundUp.com

**San Diego
Spring Round Up**

March 28th-31st 2013
Town & Country Resort Hotel

Hotel Rooms \$109
(up to 4 per room)

24 Hour Meetings | Speakers | Alanon | Alateen
Spanish Meetings | Golf | Fishing | Ping Pong
Ice Cream Social | and MUCH MORE

A Past US President Reflects...

YOUNG ABE SALUTES SOBRIETY AND RECOVERY

Since his birthday is observed this month, (February 12th), we thought Gazette readers would be interested in reading about Abraham Lincoln's thoughts on alcoholism and recovery. Many of his observations about our disease and effective recovery methods anticipate A.A.'s basic tenets by almost one hundred years.

In 1842, Lincoln was a 33 year-old circuit-riding lawyer and member of the Illinois legislature. On February 22nd of that year he was asked to address the Springfield meeting of the Washingtonian Society, an offshoot of the temperance movement that was sweeping the nation during this era. In his remarks, Lincoln celebrated their success in sobering up their inebriate brothers where the efforts of other groups had failed. Other temperance associations used "Preachers, Lawyers, and hired agents" to effectuate recovery. But, as Lincoln noted, "The preacher, it is said, advocates temperance because he is a fanatic, and desires a union of the Church and State; the lawyer, from his pride and vanity of hearing himself speak; and the hired agent, for his salary." The Washingtonians, on the other hand, used peer-to-peer advocacy -one drunk working with another to stay sober. "They cannot say that he desires a union of church and state, for he is not a church member; they cannot say he is vain of hearing himself speak, for his whole demeanor shows he would gladly avoid speaking at all; they cannot say he speaks for pay for he receives none, and asks for none. Nor can his sincerity in any way be doubted; or his sympathy for those he would persuade to imitate his example be denied."

Lincoln went on to contrast the Washingtonians' approach to alcohol and the alcoholic from the more mainstream temperance groups of the time; many of them were very religiously oriented, and condemned both the "dram-seller and drinker ... in the thundering tones of anathema and denunciation." Lincoln wisely observed that to "assume to dictate to his (the alcoholic's) judgment, or to command his action, or to mark him as one to be shunned and despised, and he will retreat within himself, close all the avenues to his head and his heart." The Washingtonians on the other hand, "greatly excel the temperance advocates of former times ... Those whom they desire to convince and persuade, are their old friends and companions. They know they are not demons, nor even the worst of men. They know that generally, they are kind, generous, and charitable, even beyond the example of their more staid and sober neighbors ... when such is the temper of the advocate, and such of the audience, no good cause can be unsuccessful."

As for the use of alcohol generally, Lincoln argued that for most of society, partaking of liquor was not harmful, "Physicians prescribed it in this, that, and the other disease. Government provided it for soldiers and sailors; and to have a rolling or raising, a husking or hoe-down, anywhere about without it, was positively insufferable ... but none seemed to think the injury, arose' from use of a bad thing, but from the abuse of a very good thing The victims of it were pitied, and compassionated just as now are the heirs of consumptions, and other hereditary diseases."

A Past US President Reflects...

Continued from page 12

Lincoln thought it was wrong for mainstream temperance reformers to take "the position that all habitual drunkards were utterly incorrigible, and therefore, must be turned adrift, and damned without remedy, in order that the grace of temperance might abound to the temperate then, and to all mankind some hundred years thereafter. There is in this something so repugnant to humanity, so uncharitable, so cold-blooded and feelingless, that it never did, nor ever can enlist the enthusiasm of a popular cause." He went on to laud the Washingtonians because, They adopt a more enlarged philanthropy. They go for present as well as future good. They labor for all now living, as well as all hereafter to live. They teach hope to all - despair to none. As applying to their cause, they deny the doctrine of unpardonable sin. As in Christianity it is taught, so in this they teach, that

"While the lamp holds out to bum,

The vilest sinner may return".

In his closing remarks, Lincoln likened the temperance movement, and particularly the Washingtonians, to the revolutionaries of 1776. As those patriots of old freed themselves and their posterity from the bonds of political tyranny, so these revolutionaries were engaged in a greater, moral struggle. In the Temperance Revolution, Lincoln said, "we shall find a stronger bondage broken; a viler slavery, manumitted; a greater tyrant deposed. In it, more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged. In a finish that foreshadowed his titanic struggles to preserve the Union and end slavery, Lincoln expanded the moral horizons he envisioned to include victory over the greatest evil of his day: "And when the victory shall be complete -when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth -how proud the title of that Land, which may truly claim to be the birth-place and the cradle of both those revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory."

Sadly, the Washingtonian Society did not survive for many years past Abraham Lincoln's Springfield address. Without a solid core of method and tradition, they lost their singleness of purpose, and became fragmented by the many social controversies of their day, including prohibition, religious doctrine, sectional politics, and abolition. How fortunate we in A.A. are that our founders established a lasting foundation for our modern-day organization in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

If you would like to read Lincoln's entire address to the Springfield Washingtonians, go to abrahamlincolnonline.org;

Or click <http://abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/temperance.htm>

Submitted by:

Stuart S