



Temecula Valley Central Office

# Gratitude Gazette

*Carrying the message throughout our valley*

951-695-1535 Hotline 24 hours

Alcoholics Anonymous

## Responsibility Pledge

I am responsible  
whenever anyone, any-  
where, reaches out  
for help, I want the  
hand of AA always to  
be there, and for that I  
am responsible

*Declaration of 30th  
Anniversary International  
Convention, 1965*

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## Deep Down Inside

**An experience with a Higher Power**

DEEP DOWN INSIDE When we talk about a "power greater than ourselves", we all have a different way of expressing the way we, as individuals, try to describe our understanding of it. We hear a person say "deep down in my heart, I knew better" and if we take that sentence literally we could ask, "how can an organ that pumps blood to everything in our body, know better"? It is obviously a figure of speech meaning something else. Or "What is a soul"? "What shape does a soul take"? That's another thing a person could have a problem defining. Then there's, "What is a conscience"? It seems to be something inside of us that governs our behavior to some degree or another, and causes us to feel guilty if our conscience is not clear, but these things that I'm describing here are not like organs that can be surgically removed or replaced. These things seem to me to fall into the spiritual realm. Things that we can't see or describe, but know that they have a profound effect on our day to day living. On page 55 in the Big Book, it says "deep down in every man, woman, and child, is the fundamental idea of God." This statement does not exclude anyone and I believe that we all can access that fundamental idea, and call it anything we want to. Even the militant atheist has a conscience and has that fundamental idea inside himself as well, and when it comes to alcoholism, he often bridges the gap when he comes to an understanding of this and is satisfied with a more generic description, such as "a power greater than myself." It's just that simple.

*(Continued)*

The main thing is to come to recognize and to separate the literal ideas from the figurative ideas and drop the prejudgment of what other people use to find their path to enlightenment.

We all seem to come into A.A. on the defensive. Life hasn't been good to us, up to that point, and we have been conditioned to defend ourselves, after all, we are used to getting the short end of the stick. When we cross that line in our lives when we realize that we are not immortal and, if we don't do something about it, we may cause irreparable damage to ourselves, our families, or others, we show up at A.A. and begin the slow process of accepting outside input. Most of us resist this and only give it up a little at a time. In tradition two in the 12X12, it speaks of "a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience". Throughout all my years in the program, the answers to most of my problems came from the collective input of others that came before me, in the program. Much of my intuition didn't come from a comment or a word, but came in fragments of many different comments and words which my inner self collected without my knowing and the answers were there when I needed them. My part in it was to find the strength to surrender to something other than my own failed thinking. Strength to surrender sounds like an oxymoron ,but I find it to be essential to crossing over into a way of thinking that has worked on alcoholics in the millions, and all I had to do was to let go of my egocentric thinking, start listening to others and , let the healing begin. My higher power did the rest.

~RICK R., POWAY, CA

## AA Service Meetings

H&I Committee Meeting	1st Monday 7:30 pm	Temecula Valley Alano Club 27470 Commerce Center Dr. Temecula, CA 92590
TVCO Board Meeting	1st Tuesday 6:30pm Visitors welcome as observers	Central Office 28636 Old Town Front St #106, Temecula, CA 92590
Mid So-Cal Area Meeting	2nd Sunday 9:30am	See the MSCA website <a href="http://msca09aa.org/">http://msca09aa.org/</a>
District 17 GSR Meeting	2nd Tues 6:30pm Visitors Welcome!	Springs Church 41735 Winchester Rd #C Temecula, CA 92590 <a href="https://www.aadistrict17.org/">https://www.aadistrict17.org/</a>
Intergroup Meeting	3rd Tuesday 6:45pm Visitors Welcome!	United Methodist Church, Murrieta 24652 Adams (At Kalmia & Adams) <a href="http://www.temeculacentraloffice.org/">http://www.temeculacentraloffice.org/</a>

# Tradition 8

**Tradition 8 – Short Form “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”**

Tradition 8 was confusing for me as a newcomer. I found myself the most perplexed when I started to meet people who earned their living as drug and alcohol counselors. It didn't make sense to me how these people could “get away with” making a living being sober at what I THOUGHT was 12<sup>th</sup> Step work. It wasn't long before I began to bubble over to my sponsor about how this seemed to break tradition. She gently explained to me that these professionals rarely break their anonymity and do not counsel from the big book.

I also met people who were employed by AA offices. This confused me even MORE! I was again directed to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to re-read how valuable these special workers are. It never occurred to me that our AA offices must have special workers so that 12<sup>th</sup> Step work is possible. It is described in the Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions that we cannot run on volunteers alone and that there are certain people who feel called to be of full time service in our AA offices. They work diligently and tirelessly to make it possible to reach the still suffering alcoholic and they deserve to be paid for their efforts. But these people also reach out to the still suffering alcoholic after hours and are not paid for those services. 12<sup>th</sup> Step work becomes an issue that is outside of their professional description and they are not paid extra for this. I imagine that both counselors and AA special workers have to work a little harder at separating their program from their professional life and I can imagine at times the lines become very gray.

In order for recovery to be available to the richest King, or the most destitute and downtrodden, we must give freely of what we have found. Doing so pays tenfold in spiritual wages. These wages are unobtainable by any other means. Tradition eight focuses on the spiritual principle of selflessness. Being selfless means that we abandon the idea of receiving money, property or prestige for doing the right thing and helping another alcoholic achieve sobriety. This not only helps our friends stay sober, it also ensures our own sobriety. Make a deposit in your sobriety bank today and reach out for fun and for free. To see how your own program is aligning with the traditions, visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) and type “SMF-131” in the search bar. You'll get the opportunity to reflect on a few questions bringing you to the heart of each tradition!

In Grateful Service,

Crystal B, Grass Roots Women's Group

“Hungry, Angry, Lonely and Tired!  
I coulda got that from those AA's  
for free.”

—James, New Zealand

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



# 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.”

Intergroup Representatives are the liaison between Intergroup and their home group.

## How Central Office Serves the Fellowship and Our Community

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. Let us know when and how we can help.

~Your Central Office Team



**WE NEED YOU!!**

**Now accepting your submissions!**

Submit your original:

- Articles on the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, Service, or other recovery related material
- Photos, Jokes, Art,
- Poems

**Gratitude Gazette**  
Central Office

28636 Old Town Front St,  
Ste 106  
Temecula, CA 92590

**951-695-1535**

**Please email submissions to:**  
[Temeculaaa@verizon.net](mailto:Temeculaaa@verizon.net)

# Upcoming Events & Office News

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ⇒ Sun, 9/16/18  
8am-5pm TVCO Softball  
Tournament  
Cal Oaks Sport Park  
10am-12pm Chili & Bakery Cook-off
- ⇒ Sat, 9/22/18 H&I Talent Show  
9am-3pm—Ronald Reagan Sports  
Park
- ⇒ Friday, 11/9/18 Central Office  
Anniversary Dance

## Service Opportunities

- ⇒ Central Office Volunteer. Shifts open M-F 10am-12:30pm, 12:30pm-3pm, or 3pm-5:30pm  
Sat shift is 9am-12pm
- ⇒ 12 Step calls—Ken is currently putting together a list of people available for 12 step calls
- ⇒ Intergroup Outreach Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at Central Office.



## July Office Activity

AA Calls: 170

Al-Anon Calls: 25

Walk-Ins: 245

Purchases: 10

Misc. Visits: 10

Website Visits: 3,589



Central Office will be  
**CLOSED**  
 Aug 27 & 28 due to a  
 scheduled power  
 outage



# Group Contributions

*For July 2018*

Tem. Del Rio Survivors	..... \$1,200.00	Murrieta Community House	..... \$50.00
		Wed, 7pm Men's Stag	
SC Unity Hall/Umbrella	..... \$750.00		
		Anniversary 7th Tradition	..... \$50.00
Temecula Recovery	..... \$264.50		
Road Crew		Temecula Just Us Girls	..... \$50.00
Men's Stag	..... \$264.50		
		Tem. Serenity Circle-Thurs	..... \$44.00
Wildomar Wild Ones	..... \$150.00.	715pm Serenity Seekers	
Tem Hill Recovery Sat 8am	..... \$120.00	Lake Elsinore TMP Wed 5:30	..... \$28.00
Early Risers		The Pizza Meeting	
Murrieta As Bill Sees It/	..... \$96.50	Murrieta Salvation Army	..... \$20.00
Mon-Sat 7am Group		Thurs 6:30pm Solutions	
Murrieta/TVCO Intergroup	..... \$64.00	Temecula Alano Club	..... \$17.00
		Mon Noon	

A word of thanks goes out to all of you who donate your time,  
 your money, your resources and  
 yourself. When you give of yourself, you get out of  
 yourself. None of us would be here without the  
 willingness and gifts from each other.

*Thank you for all you do!*