

# CENTRAL NEWS

May 2022

Website: [www.aa-tulareco.org](http://www.aa-tulareco.org)

Winter Road China Peak, CA David T.

## *Slips Laid to Lack of Faith*

Confined to bed with a prolonged illness, I have had ample time to dwell on the problem of “slips.” Through a process of elimination I have arrived at one conclusion.

Family upsets, business and financial troubles, etc., have been advanced as various reasons for these “slip?” depending on the individual case. Let us not lose sight of the fact that no matter what conditions prevailed at the time A.A. was accepted by these members, they managed to stay sober. So after many months or several years of sobriety, none of the conventional reasons, or excuses, for going on a bender can be advanced for these cases.

I believe there is only one reason for these slips. The errant members neglected—perhaps for one day—to place their lives in the hands of that “Greater Power.”

Let us not blame the individuals too much for this. Rather—is it not because at many of the meetings there has been too much of a tendency to accentuate the fact that “this is not a religious organization”? The group therapy has been stressed to the extreme of late, while the religious aspect has been side-stepped as much as possible.

I know from my own case (and others to whom I have talked have had the same experience) that, although the group therapy has helped, it alone wouldn't be the answer without the daily prayer, as unorthodox as that prayer might be.

Every A. A. knows it is that first drink and its effects that does the trick. He or she has learned through A.A. the chemical reactions that drink has on the alcoholic. We all agree that no one but an unmitigated idiot would take that first drink under the circumstances. Yet, knowing all this, an alcoholic will take that drink unless he places complete faith in that “higher power”— and he'll do it every shot out of the gun unless he has that faith, A.A. or not.

There are some A.A.s who always have been good church goers, but whom the church failed to help with their drinking problem. There are other A.A.s who say attending church fills them with resentments. Some profess upon entering A.A. that they are agnostics and others say they are downright atheists. But all who have succeeded in maintaining sobriety over a prolonged period have done so by turning to that “Greater Power,” either consciously or subconsciously, through whole-heartedly accepting A.A.

It is my belief that A.A. members who have “slipped” have done so because they first “slipped” back to their old way of thinking. This has been brought about in a large measure by the playing down of the religious angle of A.A. in the belief that, it might have an adverse effect on new members. As a matter of fact, if a man is desperate enough to admit to himself that he's an alcoholic and in crying need of A.A., I don't believe that the injection of a little

more of the need of the “Greater Power” into his initiation would greatly disturb him. It also seems just as important to me that A.A. not neglect the fact that no matter how long a member has enjoyed sobriety, he’s just as liable to go off the deep end and in as much need of consideration as the most recent member.

Those of you who are inclined to look upon A.A. as an association of drunks standing shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy, alcohol, and feel that all you need is each other’s help, just look over your shoulders and sense where your real strength lies. A friend of my wife, a woman who is not given to being emotional, after attending an open A.A. meeting, summed it up like this: “It was inspiring—it is the most religious group I ever have seen.” Perhaps she’s right, folks, perhaps she’s right.

—J. L. N., Merrick, Long Island, N. Y.

**Step 5** *Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*

Step 5 was a big deal for me. It was the first time. I was told that it is imperative to my survival to be fearless and thorough in Step 4, so I had to be as fearless and thorough with my admission as I was with my inventory.

It started out difficult, I had enough courage to put things down on paper that I never even wanted to think about. So I did what I was taught to do and I put my trust in God and I admitted to my sponsor the exact nature of all my wrongs... and trust me there was some stuff there that was VERY WRONG!!

A funny thing happened I wasn’t told I was a piece of crap, or I was messed up, I was told join the club! He must have been as sick as me because he had done most of the stuff I did and, in the end, it wasn’t that big of a deal. Those deep dark secrets that fueled my alcoholism seemed to shrink in the sunlight of the spirit. I gave those burdens to God; the guilt, shame, and the humiliation were lifted, and I began to feel like a real human being for the first time in a long while.

—Louie T

## Tradition 5

*Each group has but one primary purpose— to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

I have heard in the rooms of A.A. that the Steps are guidance to the individual, and the Traditions are guidance to our groups. It looks to me that Tradition 5 is to the group what Step 12 is to us as individuals.

This is why the group exists: to carry the message of hope, that one really can be free of King Alcohol, if one follows the plan.

Why does it have to be a group? Why can’t it be individuals, working alone? Three answers:

One answer is accountability. Left to my own choices, I will choose the easy way out. Without accountability, I will choose to kick the can down the road, to deal with painful things later. I will choose immediate gratification now over serenity later.

Long term, that is a bad plan.

Another answer is that my thinking may be straight up wrong. I can use logic, and I can string together logical ideas, and at the end of that string can be an entire proposition that defies common sense. In a group, I get feedback from other people who can see where my thinking might have gone astray. I’m reminded of a joke I saw in a comic strip recently. It involved a guy and his girlfriend:

Guy: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

Girlfriend: “Your narcissism is crushing our relationship.”

Guy: “See? No effect at all.”

If I’m off in my own little world of my own imagination, I won’t get the feedback that I’m straight up wrong. I have to open up to a group of people to find out what their experiences are, and to what extent I am out of kilter with the rest of the world.

Another answer is that a Higher Power is at work in the lives of the people who choose to become a part of a group. Any meeting topic the group chooses to discuss will benefit from multiple points of view. I may hear a topic and immediately think I know about that topic; but time and time again, I hear a point of view that I had not considered. That comes about because our members are diverse, with vastly different life experiences. How can it be that such a wide variety of people can decide to help each other

# Financial Report

TULARE COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE

Income & Expense Statement

3/21/22 THROUGH 4/20/2022

out? I think it is because a Higher Power guides each of us through our personal journey, and if we choose the path of helping others, that path leads to a group.

So it seems to me that Tradition 5 is the best plan for a group: carry the message of A.A. and make it the primary purpose of the group. Welcome every newcomer, because they need the hope that their pain shall pass, and welcome every long timer, because their Higher Power has guided them on a path of helping others. Together, as a group, we can help each other out.

David G.

## Contributions

### Birthday Club

Pete B	14
Linda N	20
Cheryl H	42
Jolene E	48

### GRATEFUL GIVERS CLUB

Members 259.00

### Individual Contributions

Anonymous

Anonymous

David G

Jim K

Jolene E

Sandra K

### Newsletter Contributions

None

### Memorial Contribution

None

## Support the Central Office

Supporting the Central Office is a very important and valuable thing for our fellowship! Now it is easier than ever!

Donate Today using Venmo



<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
B.Day Club	67.00	313.00
CD & Tape Cont.	0.00	0.00
Grateful Givers Club	260.00	2,275.12
Group Cont.	1,724.43	8,677.25
Indiv Cont	1,003.68	3,561.69
Lit. Sales	1,299.80	2,600.00
Memorial Cont.	0.00	200.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cont	5.00	5.00
S & H	0.00	0.00
Sales Tax	89.29	278.79
Service Charge	0.00	1.75
Spec. Events-picnic	0.00	0.00
Spec. Items	309.45	1,313.00
State fund dividend	0.00	50.00

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,758.65</b>	<b>\$19,275.60</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DT.</u>
Fees-Taxes	0.00	45.00
Insurance	0.00	550.00
Lit. Costs	51.00	2,893.39
PI-CPC Expense	145.00	145.00
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00
Newsletter Cost	0.00	0.00
Office Exp	88.38	795.12
Office Equip.& Maint	231.14	231.14
Phone & ISP	132.97	531.88
Ph-venmo	19.00	77.50
Postage	58.00	58.00
Employee Taxes	1,629.38	3,185.45
Returned Chk & Chg	0.00	0.00
Rent	600.00	2,400.00
Salary	1,309.66	5,856.93
Sales Tax-Paid	0.00	0.00
closed account	0.00	-35.92
Spec. Events-picnic	0.00	200.00
Spec. Items	309.20	1,525.35
Card Charge	27.04	79.24
Utilities	52.59	379.01
venmo fees	0.38	0.38
Website	4.91	19.01

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,658.65</b>	<b>18,936.48</b>
<b>Net Gain(Loss)</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$339.12</b>
<b>BEGINNING TOTAL ACCT BAL:</b>	<b>\$20,168.71</b>	
<b>ENDING TOTAL ACCT BAL:</b>	<b>\$20,268.71</b>	

# Big Book Discussion

## May Big Book Discussion

AA Big Book Pg. 75

“We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past. Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe.”

## Comments

“It is plain that a life which includes deep resentment leads only to futility and unhappiness.” My resentments deprived me of the sunlight of the Spirit. Step Four was a vital part of my healthy recovery and I definitely needed the help of a good Sponsor. He explained to me that my Anger was masking Fear. Because of the Spiritual experience I have had, the Faith within me is greater than the Fear before me. I was able to look at my own mistakes and ask my Creator to save me from being angry.

My Sponsor had me answer all the questions on Page 67 and honestly admitted my wrongs. This helps me keep my side of the street clean and how I can positively affect others and not how they affect me. I have been able to develop a new manner of living based on a more spiritual outlook on life. I used to expect others to live to a higher standard than I set for myself. Expectations are Resentments under construction.

Reyes A., Rainbow AA Group, Visalia

At this point in my recovery I was able to begin to fully feel the implications of trusting God. Step 5 was a big leap for me because I revealed things I have perviously promised myself I would take to the grave.

I was taught that the spiritual principles “belief in the power of God, plus enough willingness, honest, and hunility” were a design for living that would answer all of my problems. Step 5 was the first real test of this. I truly belived (and completely believe now) that as long

as I trusted those principles that day and I definitely had a spiritual experience and grew closer to my Creator.

Right around this time in my life was the first hiccup. In retrospect it wasn't even that big a deal, but I got in an argument over something trivial and I got really mad and said some mean things. I called my sponsor and talked it through. He asked me a question (which I now ask my sponsees)... I now you got real upset, but did you think about getting loaded. I was shocked through the whole situation I never one time thought about getting drunk! The program was working!!

Louie T.

## June Discussion Topic

AA Big Book Pg. 76

We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all - every one? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing.

Please submit your thoughts to:

[centralintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:centralintergroupnews@gmail.com) by 5/20/22 to be included in the AprilCentral News!

# Tulare County Hospitals & Institutions

## May AA Birthdays

Name	City	Years
Penny O.	Dinuba	54
Greg	Woodlake	45
Virginia E.	Lemoore	42
Allen L.	Visalia	41
Bill T.	Exeter	38
Joe S.	Lindsay	38
Jose S.	Visalia	38
Jesse M.	Porterville	38
Jesse M.	Porterville	37
Harry C.	Visalia	36
Terry W.	Visalia	36
Luann B.	Three Rivers	35
Larry B.	Visalia	34
John B.	Tulare	34
Jeff S.	Visalia	34
Don S.	Visalia	34
Mark A.	Tulare	34
Sarah R.	Visalia	34
Dave I.	Visalia	33
Julie M.	Porterville	33
Steven M.	Porterville	33
Sharon Y.	Visalia	33
Jimmy V.	Visalia	32
Susan M.	Porterville	32
Steve D.	Visalia	32
Ron Mc.	Visalia	31
Joe S.	Porterville	30
Scott H.	Visalia	30
Melonie K.	Visalia	30
Wayne T.	Visalia	30
Gail G.	Visalia	29
Jerry Mc.	Visalia	29
Mike G.	Visalia	29
Mike N.	Visalia	29
Henry T.	Visalia	29
Brian C.	Visalia	29
Willie	Visalia	29
Louise G.	Exeter	29
Greg B.	Tulare	28
Manuel O.	Tulare	27
BOO M.	Visalia	25
Theresa S.	Visalia	25
Kathy D.	Visalia	21
Jim C.	Visalia	21
Jennifer R.	Visalia	19
Carolyn W.	Porterville	17
Lucy A.	Visalia	14
Tim A.	Visalia	12
Laura D.	Porterville	11
William K.	Springville	11
Courtney R.	Tulare	7
Britnee H.	Visalia	4

!!Thats 1,545 years of Sobriety!!

### Area Chair Report:

H & I continues to report to Central office the 2nd Tuesday of the month and I send report to Central Office newsletter.

We continue to panel with: Pine Manor, Mental Health, Turning Point and Women's Recovery Home.

**Pine Manor:** 1st-3rd Saturday via zoom (going well)

**Women's Recovery:** 2nd -4th via zoom

Mental Health: April in person cancelled due to covid.

Turning Point Back in person re-arranged to Tuesdays

- Literature continues to be delivered upon request.
- H&I volunteers continue to share at meetings they attend the date and time of our meetings and orientations to encourage more volunteers.
- The Fresno/Tulare County Spring workshop has been put on hold for now.
- Tulare Jail- Emailed Susana Reyes, the Jail remains closed to volunteers.

Thank you,

## Boo *Contributions*

### Birthday Club

Therea S	25
Albert G	33
Julio Q	34

### GRATEFUL GIVERS CLUB

Members -	\$260.00
Individual Contributions	
Anonymous	
Anonymous II	
Bill H	
David G	
Doris P	
Erika E	
Jim B	
Jim K	
Sharon K	
Shannon S	

### Newsletter Contributions

Carol Ann G

### Memorial Contribution

None

# Service Meetings AND ADDRESSES

GSR Meeting at Central Office  
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA  
Wednesday, May 4th, 2022 at 7:00 PM

CSR Meeting at Central Office  
449 E. Maple St., Exeter, CA  
Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 7:00 PM

H&I Meeting  
**Zoom ID:885 8119 7080 Password: Sober(capital S).**  
4th Saturday May 28th at 9am.

## SERVICE ADDRESSES

Tulare County Central Office  
449 E. Maple St.  
Exeter, CA 93221  
Email: tccof@hotmail.com  
Website: www.aa-tulareco.org

District 47, C.N.I.A.  
P.O. Box 273  
Exeter, CA 93221

CNIA Treasurer  
PO Box 161712  
Sacramento, CA 95816-1712

General Service Office  
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

# Central Office Contacts

Voice Mail Calls	9
AA Members	32
Court Ref/Info	2
Meeting Information	11
H&I	0
Alanon & Alateen Information	0
Info. re Recovery Homes	0
Schedules & Info-Mailed & Faxed	1
Bridging The Gap	0
Other 12 Step Programs	0
Visitors to Office	17
Literature Sales	6
Specialty Sales	7
Churches & Schools	0
General Information	11
Prospective Members	0
Twelve Step Calls	0
E-Mail Contacts	85
Spanish Contact	3
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<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>

# Speaker Meetings

**Porterville Recovery Club Speaker Meeting**  
186 W. Walnut Ave.  
Friday May 6th, 2022 at 8:00 PM  
Speaker: - TBA

**Sunday AM Breakfast, Speaker Meeting**  
**Veterans Memorial Building**  
36000 Hwy 190, Springville  
**Closed down until June 12, 2022**

**The Valley Group, Speaker Meeting**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
120 N. Hall St. Visalia, CA 93291  
Every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.  
**Speakers for October**  
5/4- Javier V of Fresno 32 years  
5/11- Rolinda G of Fresno 28 years  
5/18- Allen L of Exeter 41 years  
5/25- Shanna L of Tulare 16 year

**Sunday Night Valley Group Serenity Seekers**  
914 W. Center Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291  
7:30-9PM  
5/1-Pat E. of Bakersfield  
5/8- Cory R. of Visalia  
5/15- Linda J. of Porterville  
5/22- Tricia S. of Fresno  
5/29- Niki C. of Visalia

## Newsletter Contributions

Hello Everyone,

This is Louie T. the editor of the Central News. Since I started editing the newsletter I have noticed that there are several ways to make contributions to the Central Office such as the Birthday Club, Individual Contributions, Grateful Givers, and Memorial Contributions. However, there is one contribution I have never seen used and that is the Newsletter Contribution.

If you enjoy the Central News, I invite you to make a donation to the Central Office on the name of the Newsletter

# Central Service Meeting

Date: April 12th, 2022

Meeting called to order: William (Bill) E. Time: 7:00 PM

Board members present: William E., Patrick A., Sara S., David G.

Absent: Cheryl H.

Serenity Prayer: said by all.

12 Traditions: Trudy W.

Minutes of last meeting: lack of smiley face noted in Patrick's CSR report, but otherwise approved.

Report of last Board meeting: Provided by Bill Evans

**President's report:** Review of the responsibilities and times of service for being on the Board of Directors. As President, the duties of the office have increased substantially due to the high rate of change due to the pandemic and Bob's passing. We do have great support from CSRs and members; we maintain high levels of communication and transparency with our membership to keep that support.

**Vice President's report:** The Board is running well right now. We could use more CSR participation here at our monthly meeting. (Two CSRs who usually show up did have surprise events which prevented their participation tonight, and they notified us ahead of time that they could not attend). Discussion of how to increase group participation with Central Office.

**New Business:** In the Technology In A.A. (TIAA) forum, David G. found a question from a member, asking about how to organize volunteers electronically. Five A.A. members in the TIAA forum reported using a service named Sign Up Genius, and that it worked well. Discussion of service description, pricing and use cases. One of the questions people will raise is "how can we guarantee anonymity?" David G. will present that question to the TIAA forum. First, we will vet the service regarding anonymity before we consider adding the item to the CSR meeting agenda.

**Announcements:** Founders Day Picnic planning meeting Wednesday March 9th. Central Office could be used for the planning meetings; another option would be online attendance via Zoom – we want to ease access to opportunities for service with the Founders Day Picnic no matter where in county they are.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:02 PM

**Treasurer and office report:** (Provided by Carol Ann Gable, Office Manager & Treasurer; read by Bill Evans).

Central Office had an income of \$2,472.48 and expenses of \$4,492.86 for a loss \$2,020.38. We received our Big Book

back order as well as other literature for an expense of \$1,718, and replenished our chip supply for an expense of \$319 as well as our deposit for the Mooney Grove deposit of \$200 which comes to a total \$2,237.00 in expenses.

Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$259.00 and our Birthday Club brought in \$124.00 in much appreciated contributions.

We had \$135.42 in gross sales in 3 transactions for credit and debit cards last month.

We had our 1st incoming VENMO transaction of \$5.00! The VENMO expenses to date are \$58.50.

Traffic and calls have been above average.

Office operations are going well and we are still fulfilling our primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message of recovery.

Carol Ann Gable  
Office Manager/Treasurer

Central Office will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

**AA member comments (summarized):**  
Joyce, on the topic of finances, brought up the point that the Treasurer report includes extraordinary expenses of \$2,237, which tends to make the financial picture of Central Office appear dire. However, that outgo actually replenished salable inventory, which will eventually be realized as income for a net-zero effect. This raised two questions: what do we allocate for literature, and what is the Prudent Reserve for Central Office? Bill replied that we would normally get these answers from Cheryl, who is not here tonight. Patrick said we do have a Prudent Reserve number set, which is to cover 3 – 6 months normal expenses. Joyce has run the numbers of five years of Central Office expenses (excluding 2020, an anomalous year), and the average monthly expense is \$3,809.56. For six months of expenses, the Prudent Reserve would be \$22,857. We have cash in bank of \$20,168, which is \$2,689 short of the Prudent Reserve. The Central Office financial position is sound. Can we get the previously established Prudent Reserve number? Joyce provided the numbers that she ran.

**Public Information report:** Patrick A. provided the report.

**Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community (P.I./C.P.C.).** We inform professionals and future professionals about A.A. – What we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. We attempt to establish better communication between A.A. and professionals, to establish simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating. We welcome ideas for

potential events or anything that's upcoming that we can provide awareness of A.A. at; please contact your local CSR or myself if you know of any such events. I did have someone reach out to me about the upcoming Iris Festival in Porterville. We were all gung-ho, which would have been this month. We were going to have a booth; I got all the paperwork filled out, and went to turn it in, only to find out the Iris Festival has been postponed to a later date TBD. We will have a booth at the Founders Day Picnic. We didn't have a booth at the Valley Speakers Series event or the ACYPAA event, due to timing. In the future, we would like to have representation at these sort of events.

- Patrick.

**Volunteers to write Step and Tradition for Central News Step for newsletter**

Issue	Step	Member	Due date
May	5	Lindi E.	April 20
June	6	Trudy W.	May 20

Due to [CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com](mailto:CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com)

**Tradition for newsletter**

Issue	Trad	Member	Due date
May	5	David G.	April 20
June	6	Jamie D.	May 20

Due to [CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com](mailto:CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com)

**Newsletter report:**

Website report: Provided by David G.

For March 2022, we had 2,487 visits and 4,783 page views. There were 23 downloads of the March Central News newsletter, and 18 downloads of the print version of the meeting schedule.

The list of today's meetings was most popular page, at 927 views, followed by the front page at 490. The third most popular page was the Weekday Noon Valley Group Online A.A. meeting, at 335 views, barely edging out fourth place Online Meetings list page, at 330 views.

There was a question about the web site and our Spanish Speaking community; Alberto is still helping us with this portion of our web site, and has updated (at least) three different meetings last month.

H & I reports: Provided by Boo (offline) and Joyce (in-meeting).

Boo: Tulare County Hospital & Institution Committee April, 2022 Report

Hospitals & Institutions (H & I) would like to start off by thanking our volunteers for their support and dedication during these trying times.

This month H & I would like to encourage all groups to elect an H & I Representative from your group. H & I urge

volunteers to attend the bi-monthly business meeting. This would ensure we are carrying the collective conscience of Tulare County to the NorCal Committee.

Hospitals & Institutions served the following facilities for the month of March: Pine Manor, Women's Recovery Home and Mental Health. Pine Manor and Women's Recovery are continuing on Zoom (February through April). Mental Health commenced back in person for the month of March. Turning Point has been in hiatus mode but will resume in person the month of April. H & I provides literature to facilities upon request and/or at time of in-person meetings.

Our local jails remain closed to meetings due to the pandemic.

H & I continue to bring forward the proposal for H & I re-structure for 2022 manual revisions.

H & I are in the process of planning a Regional H & I workshop for later in the year, this will be in conjunction with the other Areas. This will be a great opportunity to learn about this type of service work.

The next H & I Orientation will be 04.23.2022 at 9:00 am, with the Business Meeting at 10am. Zoom ID is: 848 7072 2515 and pass code Sober (with a capital S).

Please note & mark your calendars for the following change. The May business meeting will be May 21st at 10am, due to the Memorial Day weekend holiday. Zoom ID is: 848 7072 2515 and pass code Sober (with a capital S). H & I orientation will remain the 4th Saturday May 28th at 9am. Zoom ID is: 848 7072 2515 and pass code Sober (with a capital S).

Love & Service,  
Boo

Joyce: has the privilege of serving as the Region 90 Chairperson, which represents Madera, Mariposa, Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. Our services were fluctuating due to Covid-19; Some have gone back to Zoom until May. The prisons did open, but we're understanding there's a rise of Covid-19 coming again. One of the things we're really looking for is to encourage people to understand that we are a Ninth Tradition service committee. We are funded completely by the pink can that gets passed, which means that every person that puts money in the pink can has a voice in the services we provide. We encourage our groups to have an H & I rep to come to our meeting and share your group's conscience with us. Joyce is a member of the finance committee; budget runs about \$500,000 a year. 93.9% of that is spent on literature alone, that goes in to the confined alcoholics. The rest of it is for shipping costs and minimal travel. We have 100,000 square miles that our territory covers, from here to the Oregon border. We were the

committee that started the One-On-One sponsorship in the prisons, in San Quentin. We have 64 inmates that have One-On-One sponsorship with an outside sponsor. We have five at inmates Soledad. We're hoping to expand that to a third prison this year, and possibly Chowchilla to be able to have women doing this service there. Our last thing that we're working on right now is a reorganization of our committee – to more align ourselves with the spiritual concepts of service and democratic voting. As the committee grew over the last 80 years, we now have more appointed positions on the steering committee than elected positions. So we're looking at shifting that back; having our meetings four times a year on Zoom (because we go from Tulare County to the Oregon border). This way all can participate and become one committee. We're looking at adding the Area Chairs as voting members, along with Regional Chairs and the Appointed Chairs.

Thank you for allowing me to be in service in the prisons.  
Joyce

GSO liaison report: provided by David G.

The GSR meeting was April 6th; they remain 100% on Zoom. Josh (the alternate DCM) attended the Area Committee Meeting (ACM). The ACM topics were the Pre-Conference Assembly and the General Service Conference. The plain language version of the big book has not gotten much support; at least that was the feeling during the ACM. The Area had a motion to return to in-person meetings; Josh let them know that he would only support a hybrid meeting. Nothing about driving to Sacramento once a month is a great idea, especially with gasoline prices where they are. The motion to be a hybrid meeting failed by one vote; so the next two ACMs will be in person only. Both are scheduled to in Sacramento. The Agenda Items Workshop was really good. There were 35 people on the Zoom. We had some excellent presentations; everyone who attended got a lot of great background on what could be talked about at the Pre-Conference Assembly. The Pre-Conference Assembly was this last weekend (April 9 and 10). Alan and I went to that – 251 people showed up in Auburn California. They had reservations for 180, then another 70 just showed up the day of. The presentations were really good and on point and focused. The four big topics were 1) the plain language version of the big book, 2) there is a motion to rescind the change to the preamble, 3) a motion to reconsider changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, 4) moving The Doctor's Opinion to the front of the Big Book. The Doctor's Opinion was in the front (page 1) of the first edition of the Big Book, and then Bill Wilson moved it forward to roman numerals. Now there is a motion to move it back, because what happens is newcomers open up the Big Book, they see the roman numerals and they go, I'm not reading that and they jump past The Doctor's Opinion. So the thought is if we make it Page One, people will read The Doctor's Opinion as the starting point.

CSR questions and answers: There is a committee in GSO that is considering creating a plain and simple version of the Big Book. They're going to gear it to 5th grade reading level. What do we think of that? It seemed to be pretty much a 50/50 split. There were a lot of people who said, oh that would be super helpful, because a lot of people can't read well. And then the other side of it was you do realize you're going to replace the big book with the big book for dummies, right? There's going to be two separate books; the practical worry is that you're going to have newcomers who default into the simple version and then what are you as a sponsor going to do when your sponsee brings you the simple version?

At this point, a telephone call came in from someone asking for help to stop drinking. Brett R. took the 12th Step Call. This did cause the meeting to have two simultaneous conversations present, as David, Sara, and Sheryl provided their reports.

Bridging The Gap (BTG) Chairperson: Sara S. had contacted Brad E. out of Marysville, who did a lot of explanation, and then redirected Sara to our DCM. Brad thought that Sara was a BTG volunteer, instead of the BTG chairperson. Joyce was able provide some background information; in several parts of A.A., BTG is a district function, but for us, we are doing it out of our Central Office / Intergroup. Sara talked with Brad for almost an hour.

CSR reports:

Springville Breakfast Meeting, Sheryl E., CSR.

We had our committee meeting on March 26 to restructure our breakfast meeting. The first speaker meeting will be held on June 12th at 8:00 AM – that's when it will come back up. There are a total of 14 permanent committee members including the secretary and the treasurer and CSR. For June and July we're going to try to buffet style, as opposed to going in and out of the kitchen. We're going to do that, and hopefully everybody will like that, and it will work. If it does, we will continue to do it that way. If that just doesn't work out, then we're going to go back to the old way or find a different way to do it. But we've got for 14 permanent committee members; that would be four in the kitchen, four serving the food. A ticket taker, 50/50, there will be people setting up and cleaning up and somebody for the sound and some people will be doing more than one job, so everything will be covered. We won't have to try to train new people every month.

Thank you for letting me be of service,  
Sheryl

Tuesday Womens Changes Meeting, Sheryl E., CSR.

We meet every Tuesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the 12 Step Recovery Club in Porterville. We draw strips out of a jar, and share whatever was picked. We have voted in a new secretary, Angela A. with over one year of sobriety;

she is going to do a great job. Our meeting has gotten smaller due to a competing NA meeting that has recently opened up. The last Tuesday of each month we have a birthday potluck and cake. We celebrate whether anyone is celebrating or not. Our group is going to do a basket for the Founders Day Picnic.

Thank you for letting me be of service,  
Sheryl

Monday Men's Meeting, David G., CSR.

We meet at the PPAV Hall in Visalia, at the corner of Burke and Main at 7:30 PM. This is a closed meeting for men only, for an hour and a half. We usually have 25-35 attendees. Every week we give chips for sobriety milestones under one year; the last Monday of the month we celebrate those members with full years behind them, with cheesecake. Our business meeting is the first Monday of the month. We have coffee and literature (and candy), with a good amount of fellowship before and after. Grant C. is our Secretary. We are going to do a basket for the Founders Day Picnic.

Keep It Simple Sunday, David G. CSR.

We meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM in Blain Park in Visalia (on Court Street between Whitendale and Caldwell) (note that there is a Blain Park in Tulare). Our meeting is 90 minutes in a beautiful outdoor setting. This is an open meeting, and all are welcome. You want to bring a lawn chair or camp chair with you, and perhaps a blanket. We celebrate sobriety milestones and birthdays every meeting. We use the Daily Reflections book as a topic starter; then everyone shares, going around the circle (time permitting). In the spirit of rotation, our new Secretary is Scott L. The business meetings are the last Sunday of the month, immediately after. There are usually between 20 and 30 people attending our meeting. Please note that this meeting has a summer schedule (meeting starts at 9:00 AM) and a winter schedule (meeting starts at 10:00 AM). We are currently on the winter schedule.

Bridge Street Drunks, Sara S., CSR.

We are a large group which hosts 19 meetings. We have literature and books at cost. Our business meetings are held the last Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM or 1:00 PM. Our birthday meetings are the last Saturday of the month at the noon meeting. Chips, hugs, and goodies are available. We provide coffee at all meetings. We encourage anyone to join us. Our meeting schedule is Monday through Sunday 7 AM to 8 AM, Monday through Sunday 12 noon to 1 PM, Tuesday evening 6 to 7 PM (book study), Wednesday evening 6 to 7 PM (12 x 12 book study), Thursday evening 7 to 8:30 PM (Big Book study), Saturday evening 7 to 8 PM (open meeting), Sunday evening 5 to 6 PM (10th step study). Thank you for letting me of service,  
Sara S.

Sunday PM Valley Group Serenity Seekers, Erica E., CSR.  
Serenity Seekers is a hybrid meeting (both in-person, and

online) on Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM. We are located at 914 W Center Ave. in Visalia. This is an open meeting that starts off with a speaker and then shares from the group until 9:00 PM. All are welcome. On the last Sunday of the month there is a business meeting at 8:45 PM. We are also creating a basket for the Founders Day Picnic. The Zoom link is on the website. <https://zoom.us/j/291287156?pwd=c2N2R1B4THNZN3VJbzZleEorOXVtZz09>

Civic Center Group, Brett R., CSR.

Tuesday night Civic Center meeting is going well; We have good attendance, and are open for anybody. It is held at the Christ Lutheran church near Tulare and Demaree. It starts at 7:00 PM and goes to 8:00 PM. Our secretary was Shanna; but her new employment will have her working Tuesday nights. We have elected Mitch K. as our new secretary.

Tuesday Night "Friends Of Bill W. and Doctor Bob" Patrick A., CSR.

This is a Tuesday Night Open Meeting held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1701 East Prosperity Avenue, Tulare CA, 93274 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We are a fellowship of men and women sharing our experience, strength, and hope. This is an indoor meeting, sanitized daily, masks are optional. We give out chips for various lengths of continuous sobriety and celebrate birthdays at the end of each month with cake and ice cream. We will have cake and ice cream regardless if anyone is celebrating a birthday. Regardless! Newcomers are welcome, and anyone may attend.

Thank you for letting me be of service,  
Patrick A.

Lindsay Fireside Fellowship, Trudy W., CSR.

We are a small, intimate, open topic discussion meeting, welcoming newcomers and old timers alike. Membership has waned due to health issues of long time members. We gather every Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 PM in the Fireside Hall of the United Methodist Church, NE corner of Honolulu and Gale Hill. Sometimes we use the book As Bill Sees It to generate topics, or we speak to a topic of importance to one of the members. We celebrate annual birthdays at the end of each month, and give monthly chips anytime for folks under one year.

Tuesday Women's Amity zoom group, Boo, CSR (via email). We meet every Tuesday on Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. The ID is on the Tulare Co. org website (click and there we are). The meeting is a closed Women's meeting. (Which only means we talk about our addiction to alcohol.) The group reads the daily reflections, step or tradition and share our experience strength and hope with each other. We celebrate lengths of sobriety with a chip. Our group has an active phone list for newcomers.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76383444014?pwd=ZXhvVExJUjNRMVhsV2FXR0N1RmlwQT09>

Thank you for letting me be of service,  
Boo

Public Information & Cooperation with the professional community (P.I./C.P.C.) report:

Office Operations report:

Old Business:

New Business:

1. In the Technology In A.A. (TIAA) forum, David G. found a question from a member, asking about how to organize volunteers electronically. Five A.A. members in the TIAA forum reported using a service named Sign Up Genius, and that it worked well.

Discussion of service description, pricing and use cases. One of the questions people will raise is “how can we guarantee anonymity?” David G. will present that question to the TIAA forum. First, we will vet the service regarding anonymity before we consider adding the item to the CSR meeting agenda.

Announcements: Founders Day Picnic planning meeting Wednesday March 9th. Central Office could be used for the planning meetings; another option would be online attendance via Zoom – we want to ease access to opportunities for service with the Founders Day Picnic no matter where in county they are.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:02 PM  
David Gerisch, Secretary

## District 47 Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2022

This is a Zoom meeting with members participating from various locations.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 p.m. by DCM Allen L. Committee: Allen L., DCM; Ralph D., GSR for Bridge Street Drunks Only Group; Jim K., Recording Secretary, GSR for Monday Men's Stag; Ally A., GSR for the Exeter Sunday Afternoon Group; Josh F. Treasurer, David G. GSR for the Friday Freedom Fellowship.

The GSR Preamble was read by all attendees. “We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a Loving God as he may express himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that the groups can reach an informed group

conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups and A.A. as a whole.”

12 Traditions: read by David G..

Concept 4: Concept 4 long form read and explained by Allen L.

Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2022 minutes approved with a correction in David G being the GSR of the Friday Freedom Fellowship.

Treasurer's Report: We had a balance forward of \$2,327.39 in December. Donations came from Women's Amity Group \$24.70, Saturday AM Women's 12x12 \$17.72, Civic Center Group \$40.00, and Presently Unknown \$25.00. Thanks to these groups for their contributions! Total income was \$107.42. We had no expenses. Our current balance is \$2,434.81. Support is available for GSR's traveling to the Pre Conference Assembly this weekend whose groups can not afford helping them travel to the Area meetings.

CSO Liaison Report: At the last CSR meeting it was reported that we now have 7 people signed up to be available for the 12 step call list. This is up from 2. We have approved to have the donors or purchasers to Central Office pay for the fees that VENMO and credit cards charge for purchases and donations as long as the donors or purchasers are made aware of the charge. The request to have a budget working group discuss how money is being spent was voted down in group conscience from the groups. This request has therefore been denied and we will continue to work the Central Office budget in the transparent manner which it has been in the past. The picnic will be June 4 at Arbor 9, and groups are being asked to provide baskets for fund raising.

Registrar: No Report

H&I Report: Tulare County Hospital & Institution Committee Rafael D.

This month H&I would like to encourage all groups to elect an H&I Representative. We encourage all H&I Representatives attend the bi-monthly business meeting. This would ensure we are carrying the collective conscience of Tulare County to the NorCal Committee.

We were able to serve the following facilities for the month of March: Pine Manor, Women's Recovery Home and Mental Health. Pine Manor and Womens recovery are continuing on zoom. (February through April). Mental Health opened for an in person this month.

Turning Point has been in hiatus mode, but will resume in person the month of April. Literature continues to be delivered upon request. Corcoran and SATF Prisons are

open for meetings while Avenal continues to be closed. We are continuing to review the proposed restructuring of the NorCal Committee and are waiting to the proposed policy revisions. Once received, we will hold a Regional Workshop via Zoom to review the proposed revisions. H&I Representatives are encouraged to attend, to ensure all input is reviewed.

The next H&I Orientation will be 04.23.2022 at 9:00 am, with the business meeting at 10am. ID is: 848 7072 2515 passcode- Sober with a capitol S.

Please note & mark your calendars for the following change.

The May business meeting will be May 21st at 10am: Due to the Memorial weekend holiday. ID is: 848 7072 2515 and passcode- Sober with a capitol S. H and I orientation will remain the 4th Saturday May 28th at 9am. ID is: 848 7072 2515 and passcode- Sober with a capital S.

DCM Report: Josh went to the ACM last month on zoom and the focus was on the pre conference assembly and the General Service Conference. GSR's generally go to the mike to share their groups' group conscience regarding some of the approved items on the agenda. There was a lot of discussion regarding the right of decision at the ACM (Area Committee Meeting). There was a lot of discussion on coming up with a simplified version of the Big Book. The Pre Conference Assembly is this weekend in Auburn, CA.

Old Business: The Post Conference Assembly is coming up in May.

New Business: Allen will provide the committee with a pdf for registration for the Post Conference Assembly in May.

Seventh Tradition: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

DECLARATION OF UNITY: Read by all: "This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION: "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim K, Recording Secretary

## Group Contributions

3/21/22 Thru 4/20/2022

	Month	YTD
1st Friday Spkr Mtg	30	55
Alpha-Wed-Tulare		0
Anonymous Group	300	900
As It Is Outlined in Book		0
Breath of Fresh Air		0
Bridge St. "Drunks Only"	140.05	374.25
Civic Center Grp.	200	200
Clodbusters-Tulare		200
Crossroads-Tulare		0
CSO Meeting	20	108
District 47		413.24
Bill & Friends		0
Exeter-Quiet Trails	100	400
Exeter Sun Afternoon		50
Foundation Group		0
Freedom Fellowship		125
Fri. Recovery Club		0
Fri. Night Study Tulare		0
Half & Half		0
Hillman Group		0
Keep it Simple Sunday	250	250
Lindsay Fireside Grp		0
Men's Valley Book Study		150
Monday Men's Mtg.		200
Mon. Men's Stag	100	300
Mid Valley-Tulare		0
Mon Book Study-S'ville		0
Mon Lit Study-Visalia		245
Mon. Women's Reflections	275.36	275.36
Nooners Group-Visalia		0
Pine Recovery AA Mtg		0
Porterville Young People		0
Practicing The Principles		0
Rainbow Group	185.5	414.5
Rule 62-Visalia		100
Serenity Junction-Tulare		0
Serenity Seekers AM-Visalia		0
Sober Sisters		0
Wed. Sobriety Celebration		0
Sat Night Believers		0
Springville Gut Level		100
St. Ritas AA Group		0
Sun Bkfst Spkr Mtg		0
Sun PM Serenity Seekers		0
Tulare Young People		0
TUFYPAA		0

Tulare Fri. Book Study		0
Tulare Tuesday Night		0
Tulare Thur. Noon		0
Tulare Sunday Night		0
Tues. Men's-P'ville		0
Three Rivers-Monday		0
TWAG	123.52	405.71
Unity Thru Traditions		0
Valley Group		1800
Valley Speaker Series		484.54
Visalia Alano		839
Wed. Acceptance, P'ville		0
Weekend Attitude Adj.		0
Women's Amity-Visalia		0
Women's Changes-P'ville		75
Women's Fri. Night-P'ville		0
Women in Unity		0
Women's Sat AM 12x12		212.65
<u>Young &amp; Restless</u>		<u>0</u>
	1724.43	8677.25

## *Lighter Side of AA*

### When do we start?

He asks the first police officer he sees, "Why am I here?"

"For drinking," replies the officer.

"Great," says the man, "when do we start?"

### Q & A

What is an alcoholics least favorite part of a baseball game?

The bottom of the 5th.

Why was the alcoholic mathematician arrested by the police?

Drinking and deriving.

Why did the alcoholic go to the doctors office?

Because he heard there would be shots.

What do you say to a grouchy alcoholic?

Stop wineing

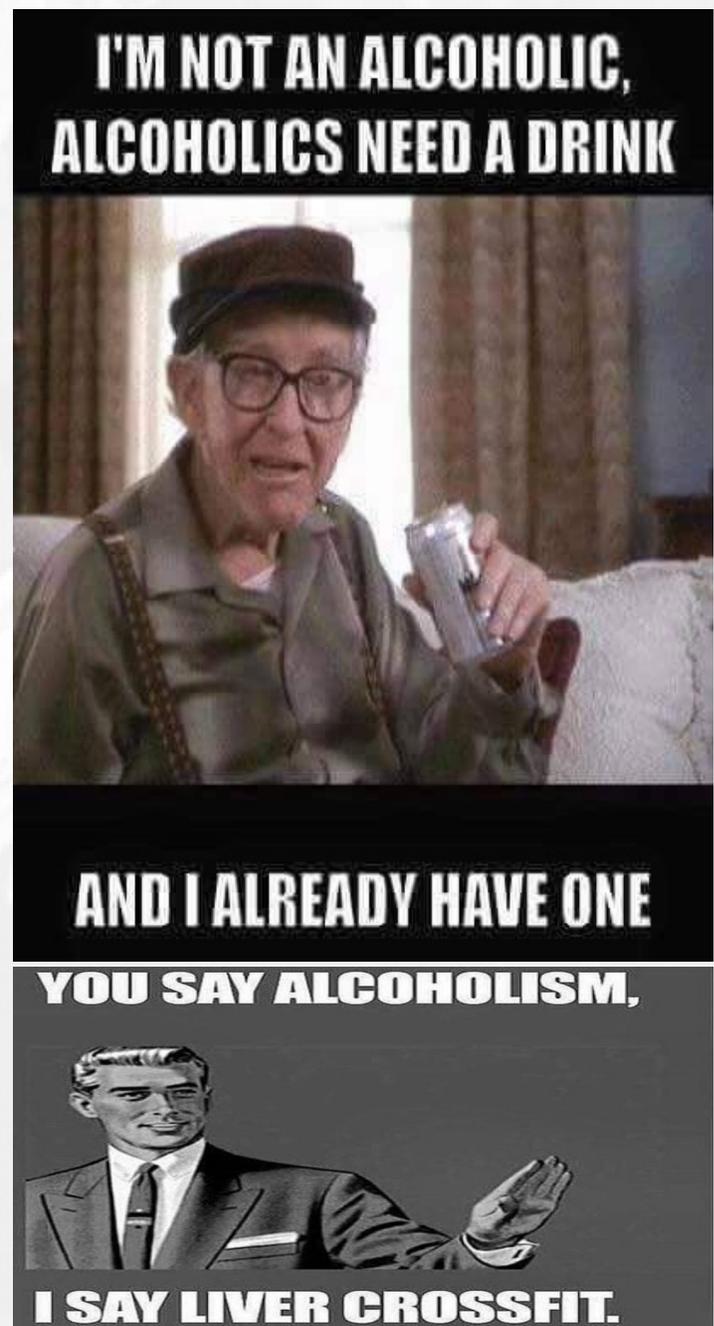
My dad was an alcoholic who wanted to be a lawyer.  
But he could never pass the bar.

Did you hear about the alcoholic medium?  
He made all the spirits disappear.

What do you call an overweight alcoholic?  
A heavy drinker.

What do alcoholic insects drink?  
Molt liquor.

Do alcoholics run in your family?  
No, they usually drive.





**Don't Forget!**

**NO Sunday Speaker Breakfast  
In  
Springville**

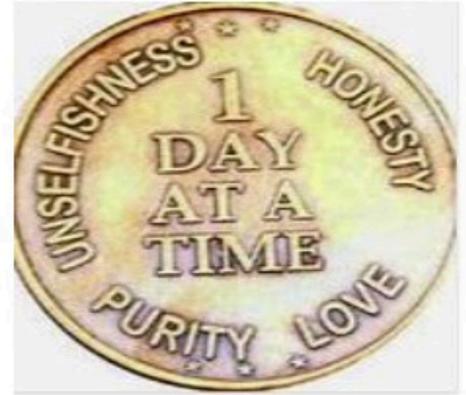
**Until June 12, 2022**

**Our Speaker that day**

**Beverly M.  
Lancaster, CA**

# 87<sup>th</sup> FOUNDERS' DAY

# PICNIC



**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Mooney Grove Park**

**Arbor #9**

**52700 S. Mooney Blvd. - \$5.00 Entry Fee**

**Family – Fun – BBQ – Volleyball – 50/50 – Raffle & More**

**Speaker: Greg G. with 23 years**

**From: Porterville, CA**

**Lunch from 11:00am to 12:30pm – Speaker 1:00pm**

**Adults: \$8.00**

**Children under 12: \$2.00**

**Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips, Macaroni Salad, Water, Soda, Coffee**

**EARLY BIRDS HELP SET AT 8AM – PICNIC KICKS OFF AT 9AM**

# *Your Content Here!!!*

Have an event????

New group starting up?????

Have a story to share???

Take some amazing photos around our district???

Want to be of service????

All this can be accommodated-we are available to help! Simply reach out to us here at Central News and we will do all we can to get the word out!!!

Carrying the message to the Alcoholic who still suffer is our primary purpose. What better way to do it then to get involved!!!!

Send your content to:

[centralintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:centralintergroupnews@gmail.com)

... and we will help you communicate to district 47!!!