



What's the Scoop?

MARCH 2026

In this newsletter you can expect:

Serenity by the Sea Spotlight

How to Support SBTS

New Meetings!

What's Happening in the District

Alateen Events & Announcements

Events & Announcements

Looking Back

Darkness into the Light

Hey, everyone!

As a die-hard Al-Anon, I know it can be really, really hard for me to have fun (like, really hard). I need to “earn” my fun—and who has time for fun anyway?!

That's why I'm so excited for this edition of the Scoop to be all about Serenity by the Sea. It's the perfect mix of healing and lighthearted connection and dare I say... fun? This event reminds us that recovery isn't just about surviving—it's about rediscovering laughter, friendship, and peace. It's an opportunity to see people who have been through the horrors of alcoholism come out the other side—and sometimes even laugh about it.

I know conventions can feel intimidating (awkward even), especially if you're new. But if I've learned anything, it's that growth often hides just beyond discomfort.

I hope to see you at Serenity by the Sea—let's make space for both serenity AND fun.

*Natalie M.
Scoop Editor*

Dear Fellow Al-Anon Members,

It is an honor and privilege to be part of this latest Scoop edition featuring Serenity By The Sea. This is the Ventura County Roundup that through simplicity and love, persistence, and action has brought so many together in fellowship and recovery.

A Roundup like SBTS offers me an opportunity to experience Al-Anon's three legacies in action, Recovery through the 12 Steps, Unity through the 12 Traditions and Service through the 12 Concepts.

In such an environment, I know that I am not alone and that help and fellowship are always available. I am reminded it is safe to venture outside my comfort zone and when I do, I find the serenity and self worth I am looking for.

Serenity By The Sea has helped show me that I too have self-worth and deserve the recovery I am being given.

I hope to see you there.

Newt G.
District 12 District Rep.
There is joy in service (and growth too).





Serenity by the Sea Q&A

Q: What is the main purpose or vision behind Serenity by the Sea?

A: Our primary purpose for this event is for people coming together.

The first way we do this is through fellowship in Al-Anon. When you come to Serenity by the Sea, it feels like family—so many people are welcoming and inviting. When you show up, that's when you get pulled into the herd instead of staying on the periphery. You get to go deeper into your program through others. If you're normally sitting on the outside of the circle, Serenity by the Sea is a great way to get in the middle.

The second way we do this is by marrying the two programs, AA and Al-Anon. It's a family disease, it should be family recovery—Serenity by the Sea embodies that. The centralized theme is coming together—not just AA and Al-Anon on their own. We can see our disease more clearly by understanding the disease of alcoholism.

Serenity by the Sea was the first place that my partner and I were able to share our recovery programs with each other. We have continued to participate in SBTS each year and serve on our respective committees. It has become an annual reminder that alcoholism is a family disease and that we are on the same team.

-Pat D. Serenity by the Sea Al-Anon Co-Chair

Q: How would you describe this event to someone who has never been to an AA Round-Up before?

A: This is an opportunity for people to start diving deeper into their recovery. Most meetings don't have a speaker element, so a lot of people don't get the opportunity to hear a more complete version of someone's story. For someone who hasn't had the chance to hear a person's experience, strength, and hope outside of the 2-5 minute leads, this is a great way to go deeper.

This is a place to come to hear that it's going to be okay. Our obsessions can literally kill us. When we become too obsessed with someone else's choices, we can lose sight of our own mental, spiritual, and physical health. This is a place to break away from the obsessions and start to focus on the solutions.

"I was blessed to be invited to, and asked to speak on a panel at Serenity by the Sea after a year and half in program based on the growth and progress others saw in me during that time. This roundup is a special place where I have seen the best of program embellished in the fellowship that attends. It is a weekend for members of both Al-Anon and AA to celebrate what program has provided to them and their families, one day at a time. I am honored to be a part of it."

-Jason H. Serenity by the Sea Al-Anon Chair



Serenity by the Sea Q&A

Q: What types of meetings, workshops, or speaker sessions will be offered over the weekend?

A: **Hometown speakers:** Both programs provide a hometown speaker, sharing a message of recovery.

National circuit speakers: These are more practiced messages of recovery. It brings a new spiritual perspective, one we haven't heard before. You won't cross paths with them on a weekly basis—these are speakers from outside our area and may articulate a message you've never heard before.

Luncheon: A great opportunity to fill the room with Al-Anons as a group. That's the most Al-Anon concentrated event we have. So many people get together, it feels like our prom every year. In fact, some people just come to the luncheon. It's sort of the Al-Anon apex of the weekend. If you're going to come to one thing, come to this.

Panel: The panel is a family panel this year, including both Al-Anon and AA members. You get to hear two sides of the same coin, an embodiment of the same disease and all sides of one story. These messages of recovery are an opportunity to see how similar we are versus our differences.

Fellowship! Other fun activities include the ice cream social, bingo, morning recovery stretch, and other ways to connect with Al-Anon. One thing you can expect... a lot of food!

Spanish-speakers: The convention has its own Spanish program, including Spanish marathon meetings all day. This is a very strong and well-attended aspect of the event.

Q: How much does it cost?

Serenity by the Sea began as an affordable yet high-quality conference. AA has kept prices low through year-round fundraising—\$25 for tickets, \$25 for the BBQ (with tri-tip!), and \$25 for the luncheon—so the full experience costs \$75. But there are plenty of free options, too! Join the marathon meetings, the men's pancake breakfast, and enjoy the hospitality area's hot dogs, nachos, and more.

Register Today!

www.vcaaroundup.org/etn/2026-serenity-by-the-sea-round-up/

SCHEDULE

MARATHON MEETINGS

Friday 5pm-9pm
Saturday 10am-8pm

AL ANON SPEAKERS

Friday 5:15pm-6:15pm Al-Anon Hometown Speaker
Robin N. (Carpinteria)
Saturday
10:00AM-12:00PM Al-Anon Speaker Luncheon, Chris C. (Temecula)
2:30pm-4:00pm Al-Anon Speaker Family Panel
Connie, Mark, and their daughter Carissa
Sunday 9:00am-10:30am Al-Anon Spiritual Speaker
Bear W. (Ventura)

AA SPEAKERS

Friday
6:30pm-7:30pm AA Hometown Speaker
7:45pm-8:45pm AA Friday Night Main Speaker
Saturday
12:45-2:15 AA Long Timers Panel
5:30pm-6:30pm AA Hospitals and Institutions Speaker
6:45pm-7:45pm AA Young people Speaker
8:00pm-9:00pm AA Saturday Night Main Speaker
Sunday
11:00am-12:30pm AA Spiritual Speaker & Sobriety Countdown

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Friday 7:00am SBTS Golf Tournament (Sterling Hills Golf Course)
9:00pm-10:15pm Afterglow with ice cream & music
Saturday 10:30am-12:00pm Trivia!
4:00pm Santa Maria BBQ 5:00pm Gift Basket Drawings
9:15pm-10:45pm Bingo!
Sunday 7:00am-10:00am Pancake breakfast presented by The Back to Basics AA Men's Stag Group
11:00am 50/50 Drawing



Subject to change.



"DARKNESS INTO LIGHT"
2026

SERENITY BY THE SEA

**VENTURA COUNTY AA ROUNDUP
W/ALANON PARTICIPATION**

**FELLOWSHIP, MEETINGS, FOOD, MUSIC, AND
MORE....**

SAVE THE DATES: APRIL 24-26, 2026

**OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA**

**PRE-REGISTRATION: \$25
ON-SITE REGISTRATION: \$30
AA BBQ: \$25 ALANON LUNCHEON: \$25**

WWW.VCAAROUNDUP.ORG

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How to Support Serenity by the Sea

It's Basket time!

The 39th Annual Serenity by the Sea is happening April 24th - 26th at the OPACC.

Al-Anon's Planning Committee needs baskets from as many meetings as possible to sustain our 7th tradition.

QUICK START GUIDE

- Pick a Theme**
Spa • Game Night • Sports Nut • Gift Cards • Beach Fun • Staycation • Be Creative! Not into baskets? Think out of the box - beach cruiser, event tickets, or ????
- Wrap it Up**
Gather donations, whip up an amazing basket! Wrap it up, attach a label with meeting name and location, & include an itemized list of contents along with the total estimated value.
- Drop it Off**
Bring baskets to the OPACC on Friday, April 24th, 2026

Questions? Contact Us
Si Si (805) 701-5672
Reina (805) 794-8169





Serenity by the Sea

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, April 24, 2026

Arrive 7:00am for 8:00am shotgun start
Entries must be received by April 17

Sterling Hills Golf Course
901 Sterling Hills Dr, Camarillo

4-player Texas Scramble * Lunch to be served

Fee includes: Green Fees, Golf Cart, Food and Team Awards, Longest Drive and Closest to Pin Awards + Tee Prizes & more!


Note: Field is limited to 140 players. Must be pre-paid to play

Form your 4-player team or submit separate entries below

Make check payable to Serenity by the Sea
Mail completed form to:
340 Rosewood Ave, Suite O, Camarillo, CA 93010
Questions? Call Billy Hart 805-701-2069

Team Captain and/or			
Player 1	Phone	Fee \$	
Address	City	St	Zip
Player 2	Phone	Fee \$	
Player 3	Phone	Fee \$	
Player 4	Phone	Fee \$	
Cost is \$120.00 per player		Total fees paid \$	

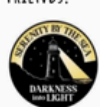
Great Friends
Great Service



The Serenity By The Sea Al-Anon Volunteers Needed

WE ARE LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WILLING TO SERVE IN DIFFERENT CAPACITIES AT THE SERENITY BY THE SEA CONVENTION! COME BE PART OF THIS GREAT FELLOWSHIP, STRENGTHEN YOUR PROGRAM, AND MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REACH OUT TO JASON H.
(805) 570-5636 OR HENDRICKA@MSN.COM



AL-ANON VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

How do they keep ticket prices low?
Through year-round fundraising. Events like the New Year's Eve Party, Spring Fling, Procrastinator's Ball, Bingo Nights, and the Golf Tournament (just to name a few) not only raise funds but also provide great opportunities for fellowship, which is the heart of this event. Jump in now to support the cause—and your recovery!

Alateen Meetings

Current Meetings Include:

- 4 school meetings
- 3 community meetings
- The Monday "Keep it Simple" meeting at Trinity Lutheran has been inactivated and removed from the directories... for now!

A Day at a Time Alateen

In Person at Nate's Place
3840 W Channel Islands Blvd.
Oxnard, CA 93035

TUESDAYS at 7:15pm-8:15pm

This is a meeting for teens from ages 12-18 whose lives have been or are being affected by the effects of anyone's drinking. This meeting has no dues or fees.



For more information contact Bear at (805)766-7401 or visit the QR Code

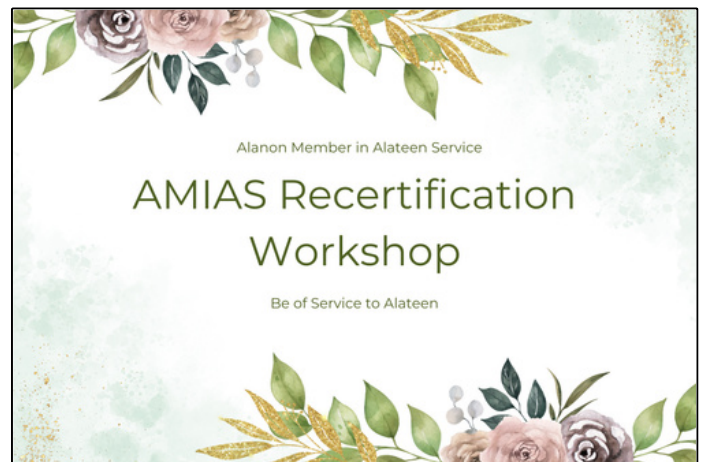


APRIL 12 7-9PM

MAY 12 7-9PM

Zoom ID: 898 0165 9827

Passcode: AMIAS2026



APRIL 14 7-9PM

APRIL 25 9-11AM

MAY 3 7-9PM

MAY 9 9-11AM

ZOOM ID: 898 0165 9827

PASSCODE: AMIAS2026

Ventura County Announcements & Information

By the Numbers

Our district currently hosts 69 meetings each week

- Agoura Hills - 14
- Camarillo - 5
- Fillmore - 2
- Ojai - 4
- Oxnard - 13
- Santa Paula - 4
- Simi Valley - 6
- Thousand Oaks - 5
- Ventura - 11
- Westlake Village - 5

Note: some of these are Zoom only

Fast Facts

- All meetings have a CMA
- 18 meetings need a Group Representative
- ... but that means 51 meetings have a Group Representative!
- 6 meetings have an Alt. Group Representative



Join the Group Representative Workshop on May 2 at 10-12PM

Reach out to your Group Representative for more information!

Open Service Positions

- Alternate District Representative
- Alateen Member Coordinator
- Public Information Coordinator
- Round Robin Coordinator
- Volunteer to run district-level workshops, including sponsorship workshops.

For more information, contact Newt G. at (310)704-9223 or click [here](#).

Committee Meetings:

All on Zoom, ID: 895 8040 4416; Password: 121212

- **LDC Committee** - 2nd Monday of every month 1-2:30PM at the LDC and on Zoom
- **Finance** - 3rd Tuesday of the month, reach out to treasurer@alanonventura.org for meeting time and place
- **Budget** - 1st Tuesday of even months at 2:30 PM
- **Website** - 1st Wednesday of even months at 7PM
- **Service Coordinators & Officer Committee Meeting**- 3rd Thursday of odd months at 7PM
- **General Board Meeting**- 3rd Thurs of even months 7PM

WANTED!

Seeking a straight shooter with a sharp eye
for detail and a heart for service!
Think you got what it takes?

- A love for the ADR code of honor (aka the guidelines).
- Ride alongside the trusty District Representative, Newt G
- Take the reins organizing the Annual Gratitude Fair — the rootin' tootin'-est event this side of the district!
- Track down and share the "Ask It Basket" questions, bringing knowledge and curiosity to every campfire circle.
- Give a hearty welcome to all new Group Representatives, helping them saddle up and register with SCWS.

If you've got spirit, organization, and a love for community,
saddle up — this district needs YOU!

**FUTURE
DISTRICT REP**



REWARD

Immense serenity, fellowship,
love, and a closer relationship
with your fellows and program

Report sightings to Newt G. at 310-704-9223

Ventura County Announcements & Information

A review of the District 12 Budget Process:

District 12 operates on a calendar year basis pursuant to a budget approved by the Group Representatives. On January 1st of this year the budget that was approved by the Group Representatives at the General Board Meeting in October 2025 became effective.

The budgets for District 12 are created by the Service Coordinators. The Service Coordinators decide on what activities they want to undertake in the coming year and estimate the required costs. They submit their Budget Request form to the Budget Committee during the early part of August. The Budget Committee is composed of the District Representative, the District 12 treasurer, their alternates and two Group Representatives.

Per our Bylaws, the primary purpose of the Budget Committee is to see that District 12 remains solvent. It deals only with the finances. It does not pass judgment on the merits of the activities. That is the responsibility of the Service Coordinators and Group Reps.

The Budget Committee reviews and discusses the activities and budgets presented by the Service Coordinators. The Budget Committee then estimates the costs of the following year's General Expenses, and that amount is added to the Service Coordinators amount to become the requested budget for the following year.

The Budget Committee organizes the information and presents the budget to the Group Representatives during the October General Board Meeting. The Budget is discussed; the Group Representatives agree on what the budget should be and approve the budget by vote. The approved amount of the budget is increased by a 20% reserve as required by the bylaws.

Service Coordinators can request changes to their budget anytime by submitting a request to the Budget Committee. Any change to the budget exceeding 20% of the Service Coordinator's approved amount must be approved by the Group Reps.

Ventura County Announcements & Information

District 12 Ventura County Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups Approved District 12 Budget 2026

	<u>Budget</u>
Expenditures	
Activity Expenses	
Alateen Activities	
District Alateen Liaison (DAL)	1,200.00
Total Alateen Activities	\$ 1,200.00
Archives	250.00
CPC	800.00
Gratitude Fair	750.00
Public Information	4,000.00
Round Robin Meeting	200.00
Scoop Editor	600.00
Social Media Coordinator	1,200.00
Spanish Coordinator	600.00
Telephone Answering	325.00
Website Coordinator	3,000.00
Total Activity Expenses	\$ 12,925.00
Board Expenses	
Chair / Co-Chair	250.00
Secretary	125.00
Treasurer	125.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ 500.00
General Expenses	
Bank & Transaction Fees	
Holiday Party	300.00
Liability Insurance	200.00
Licenses, Permits & Filing Fees	200.00
Miscellaneous	150.00
Postage & PO Box Rental	325.00
Professional Fees	550.00
Software Licenses	500.00
Storage	960.00
Website Maintenance	3,000.00
Zoom Meeting Costs	175.00
Total General Expenses	\$ 6,360.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 19,785.00
20% Budget Reserve Per By-laws	3,957.00
Total with 20% Budget Reserve	\$ 23,742.00

Service Area Announcements

ALATEEN

Fosters the growth and development of Alateen in the District. Works with current and new meetings and attracts and certifies Volunteers (AMIAS).

- Volunteers needed; Zoom certifications monthly
- Recertifications are ongoing
- De Anza Middle School- new meeting

ARCHIVES

Records and preserves all District 12 Al-Anon memorabilia, designs the displays of Al-Anon's history at local events.

COOPERATING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Communicates with local professionals to develop name recognition and credibility for Al-Anon so that professionals may be willing to inform those they serve about Al-Anon.

- Distributing copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to all meetings for members to pass out
- Arranging a mailing campaign to local professionals with Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and other Al-Anon information

GROUP RECORDS

Maintains a local listing of all group records, meetings, GRs, AGRs, CMAs, Officers and Coordinators.

- Speaker Bureau site will be live on 4/2—speakers are needed!
- Email announcements will be sent to Group Representatives to spread the word

INSTITUTIONS COORDINATOR

Works to provide Al-Anon meetings and Panels along with Al-Anon Literature and Meeting Directories in local institutions.

- Looking into new Institutions including military camps, mental health facilities, etc.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Provide District 12 Al-Anon members with Al-Anon Conference-Approved Literature for sale and display literature for sale at Al-Anon conventions and other outreach events. Open Thursdays 11-3 and Saturdays 10-12. 505 Poli Street, suite 307, Ventura

- The 2026 Service Manuals will be in stock April 1. Come get yours!

PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR (OPEN POSITION)

Assists the membership in bringing information about Al-Anon to the general public, including how, when and where they can attend a meeting.

ROUND ROBIN COORDINATOR (OPEN POSITION)

Fosters community fellowship by encouraging Round Robins, special meetings where one group hosts and invites all members of the community to come and share.

SCOOP NEWSLETTER

Produces and distributes the district's Scoop newsletter.

- Volunteers/writers/journalists/photographers needed
- Calling all color printers! We need you/your printer's help to distribute the Scoop to all our meetings
- Working to translate The Scoop for Spanish meetings

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Creates and uses social media for public outreach and communication to members of any Al-Anon news and events. All to be done in accordance with WSO guidelines.

SPANISH LIAISON

Acts as a liaison between the Al-Anon Spanish community and the District at large; encourages the Spanish community to participate in District activities and encourages the District to include the Spanish community in all District activities and public outreach.

- Working on opening up more meetings

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Maintains the District 12 Website.

- Speaker Bureau on the website as of 4/2
- Committee meeting April 1 7PM (see page 6 for zoom details)





*Spring
Into
Recovery*

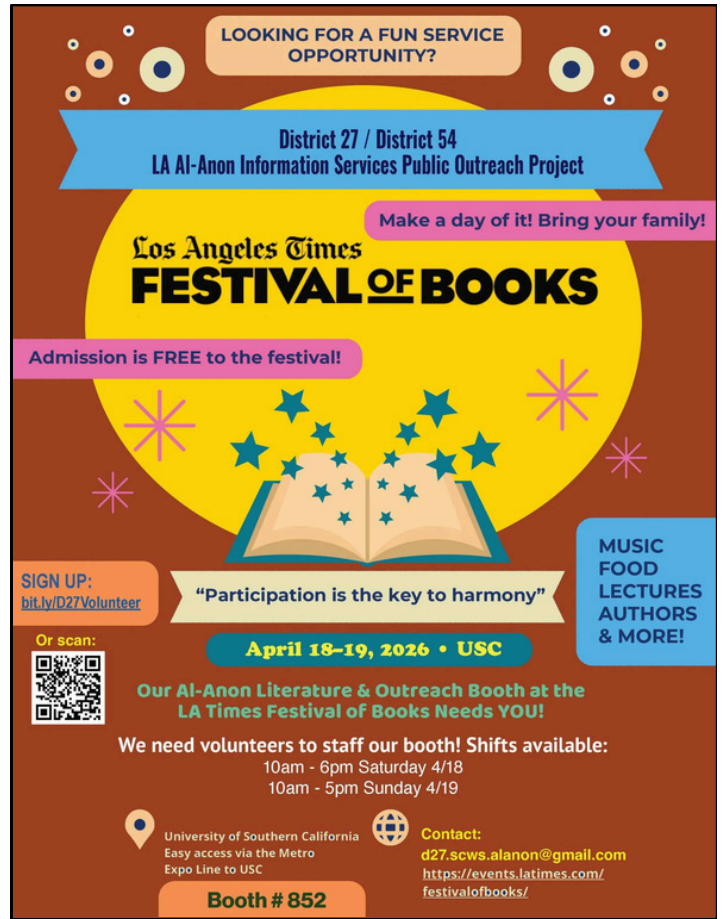
District 30
ALATHON

**FREE EVENT BRING A NEWCOMER
SPEAKERS • SHARING • POTLUCK**

MAY 2, 2026
10am-4pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3740 E. Sierra Madre blvd.
Pasadena 91107

Contact Greta d30alathon@gmail.com



LOOKING FOR A FUN SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?


District 27 / District 54
LA Al-Anon Information Services Public Outreach Project

Make a day of it! Bring your family!

Los Angeles Times
FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Admission is FREE to the festival!

SIGN UP:
bit.ly/D27Volunteer

Or scan:


"Participation is the key to harmony"

April 18-19, 2026 • USC

Our Al-Anon Literature & Outreach Booth at the LA Times Festival of Books Needs YOU!

We need volunteers to staff our booth! Shifts available:
10am - 6pm Saturday 4/18
10am - 5pm Sunday 4/19

MUSIC
FOOD
LECTURES
AUTHORS
& MORE!

University of Southern California
Easy access via the Metro
Expo Line to USC

Contact:
d27.scws.alanon@gmail.com
<https://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/>

Booth # 852



GR WORKSHOP

May 2, 2026 10am-12pm
(On Zoom)

This workshop helps Group Representatives (GR) and Alternate Group Representatives (AGR) learn helpful information for their role. Anyone is welcome to join, whether you are a GR, an AGR, or simply want to learn more on what they do.

Zoom ID: 851 4949 0717
Passcode: Service2026

Looking Back



Spring Fling

"Such a beautiful and appealing visual experience from the fliers and tickets to the event layout! This stylistic presentation followed by superb speakers that gave full substance to the recovery mission of the 12 Steps along with sumptuous desserts as a crescendo, made for much to be remembered. I was a delight to see the excitement in people's eyes as they entered the room. There was lots of room to move around and really engage with my fellows. Everybody seemed to be having a good time."

-Connie Ann

Thank you for reading!

AL-ANON/ALATEEN FAMILY GROUPS VENTURA COUNTY	<u>805-253-7188</u>
<u>www.AlanonVentura.org</u>	P.O. Box 728 Camarillo, CA 93011-0728