



## I AM RESPONSIBLE

"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 Responsibility Statement is printed on the back cover of our meeting guides. For the month of February, when we might be tempted to despair over lost relationships or obsess over who will send cards and flowers, we instead have the opportunity to remember those who are reaching out for help after failed New Year's resolutions, DUI's and 30 day stays in detox facilities.

The Responsibility Statement was first introduced at the 30th International Convention, 1965, in Toronto, Canada by Al S., a former Grapevine editor. Bill W. expanded on the topic in an essay called "Responsibility Is Our Theme" for the July 1965 Grapevine. It became a regular feature of the Grapevine shortly thereafter. The theme of responsibility goes hand in hand with our 5th tradition,

which states that "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Where does the alcoholic suffer? Both inside and outside of the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.



anonymous. No one but another alcoholic can spot with such accuracy the face of another suffering alcoholic in a coworker, family member, friend, street person, the person in line at the grocery store looking demoralized as they are buying alcohol, the newcomer looking completely lost or the long-timer whose face is pained with struggle.

The hand of AA comes in many different forms: the voice at the end of the AA hotline, the meeting

whose doors are open, the phone number of a willing member, the donations that keep meetings, service organizations and H&I going, the rides given to those who cannot drive, the fellowship before and after meetings, taking the time to introduce yourself and other members to newcomers, saying yes to service requests, welcoming those who are new to the area, etc.

On page 419 of the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the author of the story "Empty on The Inside" relates how the hand of AA literally was the reason that she came back to her second meeting:

*"When it came time to hold hands and pray at the end of the meeting, I had no hand to hold on one side. I remember thinking 'I will never fit in here' and hanging my head. I felt my hand being taken—someone in front of me had taken the time to be sure that the*

Continued on page 2



### Inside this issue:

I am Responsible	1-5
General Service Article	3
Responsibility is our Theme	6-9
Letter From the Editor	10
Archive Corner	10
Calendar	11
Birthdays	12
Financials, IG Minutes	13





## General Service Article

PRAASA – What Is This All About?

Do you want to understand more about AA as a whole, and why your Group’s voice (conscience) is so important in AA’s “big picture”? Plan to attend the annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly for a day – Friday or Saturday. Its purpose is for General Service Representatives (GSRs) and other members of the Pacific Region (9 western states including Alaska and Hawaii) to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the areas of the Pacific Region.

PRAASA is comprised of a weekend of panel presentations, floor discussions on issues affecting AA today, the Pacific Region Trustee’s Report, and a Saturday night dinner followed by an AA speaker meeting. In addition, there are approximately 20 Round Table sharing sessions on Friday and Saturday night for participants in all areas of service in-

cluding Treatment Facilities & Corrections (H&I), Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community, Archives, District and Area officers and Intergroups. Meetings and some round tables are provided with Spanish interpretation.

We are fortunate that our Northern California Coastal Area is hosting PRAASA 2009 in Oakland – March 6-8, 2009, at the Marriott City Center Hotel and Convention Center. Go to [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org) to register and get more information.

Rose W  
DCMC, District 04



### I want the hand of AA to be there.

On page 5 of the Service Manual it states, “A.A. is more than a set of principles: it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.” This tells me that if I make a commitment to do a job in A.A. it is very important, both to me and to our Fellowship, that I exercise great care in fulfilling this commitment. I take this to mean that I must make every effort to fulfill my commitment and, if circumstances occur which make it impossible to do so, I need to go to great lengths to find someone to cover for me. The hand of A.A. will not be there if I fail.

And let’s not forget our old friend, Attitude. My attitude is all important in serving A.A. A bad attitude, a harshly spoken word, a dour look, will render all my good intentions to no avail. I’m reminded of a story (as I often am):

The patient told his Doctor, “Doctor, I feel horrible; I think I have the flu.”

“Well,” says the Doctor, “go over to that window, put your head out, and stick out your tongue.”

“Will that help me?” the patient asked.

“No,” says the Doctor, “but I hate the guy in the office across the street.”

Resentments and self-centeredness will deflect my attention and my intentions, ruining any good that I could do in fulfilling my commitment. My sole object in doing these jobs must be to help others and thereby maintain my own sobriety.

Chuck G., San Jose



## I am Responsible: Member Experience

The responsibility statement to me seems similar to the principle of anonymity, each person chooses what it means to them personally. It does not say that "I am the hand of AA" but includes me as "we are the hand of AA". I don't have to do everything but am responsible to do something, usually to pass the message the way it was passed to me. For me, that message included instruction on our three legacies, unity, service and recovery.

I found recovery by working the 12 steps, and my responsibility shows in working with others, taking the next man thru the steps exactly as my sponsor did with me.

I find, and help to create unity in the fellowship and meetings; I am one among many and my opinion, based on my experience matters, but no more than any other member, and perhaps less if they have been actively walking this path longer than I. I have a home group and I participate in the steering committee and vote when issues are presented and welcome newcomers, etc. That's my responsibility at meeting level.

That leaves service, which is what came to my mind first when thinking about our responsibility statement. Service is action and the longer I stay sober and active, the bigger my picture

of service gets. When I finally read the AA history books I became aware and very appreciative of the humble beginning of our program and how it's extended to today's world-wide service structure! Had it not been for the previous member's responsible service, AA may not have survived and worked when I desperately needed it.



In summary I believe my greatest demonstration of responsibility to what I've been given is helping the next man who walks in the rooms, or calls for help. That's still how AA works, one alcoholic helping another on our proven path of recovery. Then it extends to my home group, where I am being responsible just by regular attendance and participation, but even more

when I am in action in whatever capacity I am needed; whether cleaning up after a meeting or taking a traditional service position or even just greeting newcomers at the door.

I also have a financial responsibility, which also starts with my \$2 donation at my home group and any other meetings I attend. My sponsor also taught me to make an annual birthday donation to the GSO in New York to help AA as a whole. That's important today as many groups can only meet their own expenses and don't have the surplus to donate to the GSO. There is a birthday contribution envelope available that explains how the birthday donation began and works today.

And the payoff for being responsible in unity, service and recovery is that each year I am more comfortable and get to enjoy life instead of endure it as I used to! Funny because my dad used to scold me and say something like "when are you going to grow up and be responsible?" Had I known it would make me this comfortable, I might have sooner!

Anonymous, Santa Clara



## The Anvil of Experience

"When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." The first time I read those words they brought tears to my eyes. They have come to have real meaning to me.

I wasn't sober long before I wanted to know everything about this wonderful Fellowship—the Steps, Traditions, history—everything. I was hungry for anything that AA had to offer—still am. About the time of my first AA anniversary, I attended a general service workshop that was sponsored by my district. The weather was bad and it was poorly attended, and the man who was chairing the gratitude meeting said, "I hear people in meetings talk about how grateful they are but the people here tonight are the ones who are truly grateful." I knew him; we were members of the same group. This man soon became my second sponsor. One of the first things he told me to do was to shut up and learn to listen so that I could listen to learn. It was one of the most powerful suggestions I have ever taken in AA. I realized that, at a year sober, I had no clue how to live sober. Alcoholics Anonymous didn't need me but I desperately needed Alcoholics Anonymous.

I had been active at the group level from the time I was three months sober—first coffeemaker, then secretary, then treasurer. Now my sponsor suggested that I

become active in general service. I became a GSR (general service representative) for my group. I attended district and area meetings, assemblies and conferences, and it took a good year before I was able to actually hear what was going on.

My sponsor now took on a new dimension, and became my service sponsor. In order to serve my group responsibly as a trusted servant, I needed guidance and direction in the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. I trusted that my sponsor's experience in service would provide that. It did and still does. We talk weekly, we write to each other, and we constantly exchange AA information.

When I was three years sober I moved back here to the San Francisco Bay area to be near my family. I continue to be active and serve as delegate to the central office for my home group. Each time I attend a delegate's meeting, I have to ask myself if I am acting responsibly for my group. Do I have the group conscience in mind or do I have my own agenda? If I have my own agenda I cease to be a trusted servant. When I am at my home group I ask myself if we are acting in accordance with the Traditions. That is our responsibility as an AA group.

I found out early on that I couldn't trust my own thinking. I had to become willing to surrender my

thinking and replace my ideas and beliefs with the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am responsible as a trusted servant to be informed—my group expects and deserves that. This responsibility requires me to take action, to do some reading, and to find out what the principles say—not what I think. Simple, not easy. The beautiful thing about AA is that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We have directions and guidelines that we can follow; they were hammered out on the anvil of experience by those who have gone before us.

I am a free woman today—free from booze. It is my individual responsibility to continue to grow, with the help of a Higher Power, a sponsor, and the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is our responsibility—both individually and collectively—to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous (especially the message embodied in the first 164 pages of our Big Book) and to give back that which has so freely been given to us.

I recently said to my sponsor, "How do you pay back something that can't really be repaid?"

"Pass it on," he said, "and help keep this thing together."

Lee J., San Carlos, CA

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October 1994, Vol 51, No. 5



## Responsibility Is Our Theme Grapevine Article, by Bill W., July 1965

Marking AA's thirtieth year we shall, in this month of July, 1965, hold our International Convention at Toronto. It is most fitting that the chosen keynote for this gala occasion will be "AA's Responsibility." There we shall review the three decades of AA life that are now history. Stirred by gratitude beyond expression, we shall give thanks to God whose Grace has made it possible for us to achieve the quality of responsibility, individual and collective, that has brought our Fellowship into its present state of well-being and world-wide reach.

Looking back through the years, we shall be unable to conceive more than a mere fraction of what God has wrought among us. None will be able to imagine the sum of the suffering that was once ours, or the misery borne by those near and dear. Who will really understand the inner nature of our transforming spiritual experiences, those gifts of God, that opened to us a new world of being and doing and living? Indeed our blessings have been quite beyond any human comprehension.

At our international gathering, we shall look into new faces. Many from afar will be heard to speak in other tongues. We shall see that the sun never sets upon AA's Fellowship, that 350,000 of us have now recovered from our malady; that we have everywhere begun to transcend those formidable barriers of race, creed and nationality. This assurance that so many of us have been able to meet our responsibilities for sobriety and for growth and effectiveness in the troubled world where we live, will surely fill us with the deepest joy and satisfaction. But as a people

who have nearly always learned the hard way, we shall certainly not congratulate ourselves. We shall perceive these assets to be God's gifts, which have been in part matched by an increasing willingness on our part to find and do His will for us.

Then we shall remember, too, how the pains of our illness literally drove us to what for most of us was the first responsible act of years--that of joining AA. Alcoholism had literally lashed us to such a point of collapse that we became willing to do whatever was necessary to get well; it

was a matter of life or death.

Thus propelled we finally did join the AA Fellowship and there had our first glimpse of its quite new world of understanding and

loving concern. Soon we took a look at AA's Twelve Steps for recovery but many of us promptly forgot ten of them, as perhaps not needed. We bought only the concept that we were alcoholics; that attendance at meetings and a helping hand to the newcomers would be sufficient to solve the booze problem, and probably all problems. We looked with approval on that dear old cliché which says that "Drinking is but a good man's fault." Once off the grog, life should be as pleasant as eating cherries. By happily warming our hands at the AA fire, all seemed well.

But by degrees certain dissatisfactions set in, even with our own group: it was not as wonderful as we had first supposed. There was, perhaps, some rock-throwing at a scandal, or a distressing row over who would become the group's next chairman. There were people we simply did not like, and the ones we

did admire failed to give us the attention we thought we deserved. At home we were also shocked. After the pink cloud had departed from the household, things seemed as bad as ever. The old wounds weren't healing at all. Though impressed with our sobriety, the bank nevertheless asked when were we going to pay up. Our boss likewise demanded in firm tones that we "get with it."

So each of us looked up his sponsor and regaled him with these woes. Our resentments, anxieties and depressions were definitely caused, we claimed, by our unfortunate circumstances and by the inconsiderate behavior of other people. To our consternation, our sponsors didn't seem impressed either. They had just grinned and said, "Why don't we sit down and take a hard look at all of AA's Twelve Steps? Maybe you have been missing a lot--in fact, nearly everything."

Then we began to take our own inventories, rather than the other fellow's. Getting into the swing of self-examination, we finally began to discover our real responsibilities toward ourselves and toward those around us. Though a tough assignment, it did by degrees get easier. We began to make restitution to those we had harmed, grudgingly at first, and then more willingly. Little by little, we found that all progress, material or spiritual, consisted of finding out what our responsibilities actually were and then proceeding to do something about them. These activities began to pay off. We found that we didn't always have to be *driven* by our own discomforts as, more willingly, we picked up the burdens of living and growing.

Then, most surprisingly, we discovered that full acceptance and

**"Little by little, we found that all progress, material or spiritual, consisted of finding out what our responsibilities actually were and then proceeding to do something about them. "**



## Responsibility Is Our Theme...continued

action upon any clear-cut responsibility almost invariably made for true happiness and peace of mind. Moreover these durable satisfactions were redoubled when we realized that our now better quality of willingness made it possible in meditation to find God's will. At last we discovered that we joyfully wanted to live responsibly.

Such has been the course of spiritual unfoldment in AA; our Pilgrim's Progress, if you like.

As it has been with each AA member, so it has been with each group, and with AA as a whole. I have often seen our Society timid and fearful, angry and prideful, apathetic and indifferent. But I have also seen these negatives fade, as the lessons of experience were learned and gladly applied.

Let us recall a few instances:

In the early days we were so timid that we were sure AA should be a secret society. We shunned publicity because we still labored under the stigma of alcoholism--also because we might be overwhelmed by an influx of so-called undesirable people. We have often been angered at criticism from within, and from the outside world. We have generally been far better at dishing out criticism than taking it. Sometimes we have boasted of AA as the know-all and do-all of alcoholism, so alienating our friends. Quite understanding the perils of accumulated wealth, we have converted this fear into an alibi for failing to meet our trivial group, Intergroup and World Service expenses--those vital arms of service

so indispensable to carrying AA's message into the world about us. By poor sponsorship we have sometimes failed the needs of newly arrived sufferers.

Then at certain great turning points of our history, we have, in anger or sheer indifference, backed away from what should have been clearly visible responsibilities. Disastrous results were on a few occasions barely averted. Old-timers can recall that the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* might never have been printed because some avowed that we did not need it, while others shrank from the risks of preparing that invaluable



text. There was a great outcry against formation of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, that indispensable body of Delegates which today links our Society with the AA Trustees of our World Services. There was almost no belief that such a linkage could be

effectively forged; even an attempt at such a project would ruin us, many thought. In consequence, this utterly vital undertaking nearly fell by the wayside from the sheer burden of indifference, heavy attack and little faith.

Yet, in God's time, our spiritual assets have invariably come to exceed even such large liabilities. AA recovery goes forward on a large scale.

Practice of AA's Twelve Traditions has amazingly cemented our unity. Our Intergroup Associations and our World Service Conference have made possible a wide spreading of our message, at home and abroad. Our pains and our necessities first called us reluctantly to responsibility. But in the latter years, a joyous willingness and a confident faith have more and more permeated all the affairs of our Fellowship.

Despite this happy transcendence of the difficulties of yesterday and of today, we nevertheless deeply realize that our negative traits are still with us, and always will be. Therefore our constant responsibility should be that of taking a fearless inventory of our defects as we go along, the better to undertake their mending.

At Toronto, we shall therefore be asking ourselves, "What sort of heritage are we leaving, for the use of all those future generations that will people our Society? Is this heritage as good as we can make it? While there is yet time, what can we still do that may multiply our assets and decrease our liabilities?"

In so surveying our Society of today, I hope that I shall not be regarded as the wise and righteous elder who would admonish and exhort his fellows. If I inventory AA's shortcomings, be also assured that I am also taking stock of my own. I know that my errors of yesterday still have their effect; that my short-comings of today may likewise affect our future. So it is, with each and all of us.

Therefore, let us together take a look at the more important areas in the life of our Fellowship where the call for improvement will always be insistent.

Continued on page 8



## Responsibility Is Our Theme...continued

Our first concern should be with those sufferers that we are still unable to reach. Let's first humbly realize that throughout the world of today there are 20,000,000 alcoholics, 5,000,000 of these being in the United States alone. Of course, these vast numbers are in all stages of sickness. Some cannot be reached because they are not hurt enough, others because they are hurt too much. Many sufferers have mental and emotional complications that seem to foreclose their chances. Yet it would be conservative to estimate that at any particular time there are 4,000,000 alcoholics in the world who are able, ready and willing to get well—if only they knew how! Clearly, all these sufferers need to know what alcoholism is and to recognize that they are so afflicted. Being thus readied, they need to be brought within our reach by every resource of public information and word of mouth that will tell them exactly what steps they can take in finding the road to recovery. When we remember that in the thirty years of AA's existence, we have reached less than ten per cent of those who might have been willing to approach us, we begin to get an idea of the immensity of our task, and of the responsibilities with which we will always be confronted.

These facts point straight to our next responsibility: that of intelligently and lovingly sponsoring each man and woman who comes among us asking help. The care and concern with which we individually and collectively do this can make all the difference. Besides, this is the greatest expression of gratitude that we can give for what we ourselves have received. Without much doubt, a million alcoholics have approached AA during the last thirty years. We

can soberly ask ourselves what became of the 600,000 who did not stay. How much and how often did we fail all these?

In no circumstances should we feel that Alcoholics Anonymous is the know-all and do-all of alcoholism. We have in the United States and Canada alone perhaps one hundred agencies engaged in research, alcohol education and rehabilitation. Research has already



come up with significant and helpful findings, and can still do far more. Those engaged in education are carrying the message that alcoholism is a definite illness and that something can be done about it. All these workers can make our efforts more effective. It is a statistical fact that rehabilitation agencies in the U.S. and Canada treat something like 50,000 alcoholics annually. True, their approach is often different from our own. But what does that matter, when the greater part of them are, or could become, entirely willing to cooperate with AA? Too often, I think, we have deprecated

and even derided these projects of our friends just because we do not always see eye to eye with them. We should very seriously ask ourselves how many alcoholics have gone on drinking simply because we have failed to cooperate in good spirit with these many agencies—whether they be good, bad or indifferent. No alcoholic should go mad or die merely because he did not come straight to AA at the beginning.

Now let's look at the matter of criticism—criticism of AA that is made in the world about us. For years AA has been amazingly exempt from those barbs, which society pitches at all endeavors of any consequence, whether they be social, medical, religious or political. So we register surprise, shock and anger when people find fault with AA. We are apt to be disturbed to such an extent that we cannot benefit by constructive criticism. Nor are we able to be good-natured about criticism, which isn't so good. While these attitudes are not general among us, it is nevertheless a fact that many AAs do so react when they are hit where they live. Surely this sort of resentment makes no friends and achieves no constructive purpose. Certainly this is an area in which we can improve.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not a religion, nor is it a medical treatment, nor does it profess expertise in respect of unconscious motivations for behavior. These are facts all too often overlooked. Here and there we hear our members proclaiming AA as the great new religion. Except for strictly sobering-up operations, we are also apt to underrate medical contributions to our welfare. The fact that psychiatry does not yet sober up many alcoholics sometimes inclines us to think in unflattering terms of that profession.





## Responsibility Is Our Theme...continued

Again we are forgetting that to religion and to the medical arts we owe our very existence. In its cardinal principles and attitudes AA has made great use of all of these resources. It is chiefly our friends who first gave us the principles and attitudes that enable us to live and to move today. Therefore, the credit of all these vital contributors should stand aces high among us. Certainly we drunks did put AA together, but all of its basic components were supplied by others. Here, especially, our maxim should be "Let's be friendly with our friends." It is an historical fact that practically all groupings of men and women tend to become more dogmatic; their beliefs and practices harden and sometimes freeze. This is a natural and almost inevitable process. All people must, of course, rally to the call of their convictions, and we of AA are no exception. Moreover, all people should have the right to voice their convictions. This is good principle and good dogma. But dogma also has its liabilities. Simply because we have convictions that work well for us, it becomes very easy to assume that we have all the truth. Whenever this brand of arrogance develops, we are certain to become aggressive; we demand agreement with us; we play God. This isn't good dogma; it's very bad dogma. It could be especially destructive for us of AA to indulge in this sort of thing.

Newcomers are approaching AA at the rate of tens of thousands yearly. They represent almost every belief and attitude imaginable. We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In AA we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or

therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of AA, so long as he or she so declares.

Some of our more obvious perils will always attach to money, to controversies within AA, and to the ever-present temptation to scramble within AA and outside it for distinction, prestige and even power. The world around us is today shattered by these untoward forces. As drinkers we have been more subject to these forms of destruction than most other people. Here, thank God, we do have, and I trust we shall continue to have, a tremendous amount of awareness of our responsibilities for improvement.

However, the fear of these forces should not deceive us into absurd rationalizations. In the fear of accumulated wealth and bureaucracy, we should not discover an alibi for failure to pay AA's legitimate service expenses. For fear of controversy, our leadership should not go timid when lively debate and forthright action is a necessity. And for fear of accumulating prestige and power, we should never fail to endow our trusted leaders with proper authority to act for us.

Let us never fear needed change. Certainly we have to discriminate between changes for worse and changes for better. But once a need becomes clearly apparent in an individual, a group, or in AA as a whole, it has long since been found out that we cannot stand still and look the other way. The essence of

all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever the responsibility.

In conclusion, it is only fair to say that we of AA have been able in most areas of our lives together to make substantial gains in both our willingness and our capability for the acceptance and discharge of responsibility, something that our great gathering in Toronto will symbolize and demonstrate.

As we look into the future, we clearly see that an ever greater willingness will certainly be the key to that progress which God intends for us as we move toward His appointed destiny.

**Bill W.**

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July 1965 Volume 22 No. 2





## **Letter From the Editor**

Hello everyone,

**Here is a list of upcoming COIN topics for the next few months:**

**March - Emotional Sobriety**

**April - We Will Not Regret The Past**

**May - Online Fellowship**

**June - Willingness**

If you would like to share a story, article, resource, or poem please email your submissions to me by the 15th of the preceding month to:

**cathyann5116@yahoo.com**

*- Cathyann*

## **ARCHIVES CORNER**

The first Santa Clara County newspaper ad regarding AA and getting help for drinking appeared in the Palo Alto Times on December 24, 1941. The first ad in the San Jose Mercury News followed shortly thereafter on March 27, 1942. In the years that followed, AA grew slowly in the county. In 1959 there were 26 meetings listed and Intergroup had been meeting for several years at the Alano Club of San Jose, then located on Minnesota Ave. The Intergroup "Librarian" sold literature from her home by appointment and telephone calls were handled by an answering service who then dispersed them to AA volunteers.

In May, 1963, after many months of debate, a final vote was taken and, with \$350 in seed money, Central Office became a reality. After a brief stint in the Alano Club, the first permanent location was in the old Porter Building on Santa Clara Street, between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. A telephone was installed and all furniture was donated by members. The phone and some of the chairs are on display in the Archives at Central Office. Jane C. was the first Manager, at the meager pay of \$200.00 per month.

There is a letter in our local Archives written by Cora Louise Belford, July 28, 1972, a nonalcoholic employee of the General Service Office in New York. She answers a question about the referral of "nonalcoholic addicts" to A.A. by treatment facilities, stating in part, "A.A.s are not unsympathetic to the problems of drug addicts, we just don't have any experience to share on that subject, and the very name of our Fellowship limits our field. ... However, at least in large cities, the numbers of people who are addicted to alcohol and some other drug as well are staggering. Several years ago, the New York Intergroup estimated that at least 75% of new people coming in were addicted to alcohol and some other drug." Almost certainly these numbers have not diminished over the years. Thankfully, there are other programs available to drug addicts, while those with both illnesses continue to find the help they need for their alcoholism in A.A.



# March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 <i>PI Comm.</i> 6:00PM  <i>Outreach Comm. Mtg.</i> 6:15PM  <i>Intergroup Meeting</i> 8:00PM	5	6	7 <i>Secretary's Workshop</i> 10:00AM Central Office
8	9	10	11 <i>North County General Service</i> 7:30PM	12	13	14 <i>PI/CPC Workshop</i> , 10:00AM Central Office
15	16	17 <i>South County General Service</i> 7:00PM	18	19	20	21 <i>Archives Work Day</i> 10:00AM Central Office  <i>Diverter Workshop</i> . 1980 Hamilton Ave., 10:00 am
22	23	24 <i>H &amp; I Meeting</i> 7:00PM	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### LOCAL EVENTS

- Feb. 14: SNL's Valentine's Topic Discussion Meeting and Dance, 1388 S. Bascom Ave.
- Feb. 21: SCCYPAA Valentine Speaker Meeting & Celebration, Masonic Hall, 131 E. Main, Los Gatos
- March 6-8: **PRAASA**, Oakland, CA. This is the PACIFIC REGION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY, and we're calling it "local" because we need lots of you to volunteer. Call Central Office.
- Apr. 17-19: Sober & Free 2009 Conference, San Jose

### EVENTS AROUND CALIFORNIA

- Feb. 20-22: 32nd Annual Spring Fling, Sacramento, CA
- Mar. 12-15: 37th Annual ACYPAA Round-up, Irvine, CA

### EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

- Feb. 12-15: 45 International Women's Conference, Salt Lake City, UT
- May 21-24: 51st ICYPAA Conference, "Carry the Vision", Atlanta, GA



Alcoholics Anonymous . . .  
How may we help you?



**Telephone Calls Received  
During November**

Daytime at Central Office	479
Daytime 12 Step Calls	5
Evening and Weekend calls	513
Evening 12 Step Call information is not available.	

**WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR HELP, I  
WANT THE HAND OF A.A. TO ALWAYS BE THERE.  
AND FOR THAT: I AM RESPONSIBLE.**

To all the members and groups who support us,  
**WE THANK YOU!**

**SPEAKER MEETINGS**

**Weekender Speaker Meeting**

Sundays at 6 p.m.  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1735 Hecker Pass Road, Gilroy

**Grapevine Speakers Meeting**

Fridays at 8 p.m.  
Presbyterian Church  
San Tomas & Homestead, Santa Clara

**Second Tradition Group of AA**

Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave, San Jose

**Saturday Night Speakers—8 p.m.**

Alano Club of San Jose  
1122 Fair Avenue, San Jose

**Remember We Deal With Alcohol**

Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
St. Mark's Church  
1957 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara

**Saturday Nite Live Group**

Fridays at 8 p.m.  
1388 S. Bascom at Stokes, San Jose

**Speaker Meeting—VA Hospital**

Sunday at 11:15 a.m.  
3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto

**Saturday Morning Fellowship**

Saturday at 10 a.m.  
United Presbyterian Church  
Fremont & Hollenbeck, Sunnyvale

**MEETING CHANGES**

**Deleted**

1-2-3 Step, Tues. 8:00PM, Alano Club West  
Road to Recovery, Sun., 8:00PM, Alano Club of San Jose

**Changed**

Tell It Like It Is, Tues., 6:00PM, Sunnyvale, is now a 12 Step Study Mtg.  
H.O.W. Group, formerly Wed., 6:30, Sunnyvale, is now Wed., 6:00PM, 581 E. Fremont Ave., at Manet  
Serenity at Noon Group, Mon—Fri, Noon, formerly at Agnews, moved to Comunidad Cristiana de San Jose Church, 2371 Ringwood Ave. @ Tradezone, San Jose  
East Valley Group, Fri., 8:15PM, moved to the Parish Office Center  
Queer and Sober, Sat. 10:30 AM, moved to Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1948 The Alameda, at McKendree, downstairs  
University Beginners, Wed., 5:00 PM, Santa Clara, meeting room changed to 207A  
Big Book Men's Group, formerly Big Book & Donuts, now meeting at Whole Foods, 4000 El Camino Real, Los Altos, Tues., 7:00AM  
10th Step Meeting, now at 6:00PM, 651 Broadway, Gilroy  
Entire Abstinence, Monday, 8:00PM, moved to Meterrainian Apts., 550 Kiely Blvd, The Club House.

**New**

We Are Not Saints, Tues., 7:30 PM, Women, Cornerstone Fellowship, Alano Club West, 1344 Dell Ave., Campbell  
10:00AM Meeting, Friday, 10:00AM, Alano Club West, 1344 Dell Ave., Campbell  
Came to Believe, Thurs., 12:00PM, 7787 Monterey St., Gilroy  
Meeting 23, Tues., 6:00PM, 210 San Jose Ave., #12  
Walk Through the Big Book, Tues., 6:00PM, 2000 Monterey Rd., Community Room  
No Hurry Big Book Study, Friday, 6:00PM, 7787 Monterey St., Gilroy



## BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT	YEARS	CONTRIBUTIONS BY	BIRTHDAY
Jim O.	29	Jim O.	Jan, 1980
Lester W.	11	Lester W.	Jan, 1998
Paul C.	30	Paul C.	01/10/1979
Keith E.	10	Keith E.	01/16/2004
Caesar G.	32	Caesar G.	01/25/1977
David R.	17	David R.	01/16/1992
Mary Pat P.	26	Mary Pat P., Elfriede, and Pat C.	01/28/1983
Bob S.	46	Bob S.	01/24/1963
Tobias	3	The Colonel & Pat	01/18/2006
Mary H.	1	Pat C	01/19/2008
Gene M.	26	Pat C.	01/20/1983
Harry T	8?	Anonymous	Jan, 2001
Baryl W.	29	In Memoriam	01/20/1980
Anonymous	20	Anonymous	01/30/1989



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

The January total is:

**288 YEARS OF SOBRIETY**

If you would like to participate or honor a friend, please use the birthday forms at your Meeting or Central Office.





## INTERGROUP MINUTES

January 7, 2008

- Paula L., Alt. Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8:00 pm, followed by a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- Doug read the short Definition of Intergroup.
- There were 48 voting representatives and 13 visitors in attendance.
- Cami read the Twelve Traditions.
- Corrections to the agenda: Mark Rice phone number added; Barbara B. phone number is incorrect, Steven Falk area code incorrect; Barbara N. phone number incorrect. No additions to the agenda
- No corrections or additions to the previous month's minutes:

Intergroup Council Treasurer's Report: Mike M.

Beginning Balance:	12/03/08	\$87.00	Prudent Reserve \$300.00
Contributions	12/03/08	\$80.00	
Rent for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	01/01/09	\$90.00	
Refreshments	12/03/08	\$0.00	
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- Birthdays: Linda 14 yrs; Lee 24 yrs; Jennifer 3 yrs.; Jo 21 yrs.; George 40 yrs.

Announcements:

SCCYPAA: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 speaker and dance to follow. Theme: "You have to give it away if you want to keep it." Masonic Center, Los Gatos.

### Reports

Intergroup Chair – Paula L. – No Report

Central Service Board – Mike D. for Lexy

Meeting held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussed formulation of goals for board members, reviewed financial data for new board members, and updated the draft of 2009 health reimbursement arrangement.

Central Office – Bruce K.

Contributions were down in December. The bottom line for the year was still good.

Christmas Eve- 4 new people walked in the door for help

Volunteers are always needed to help around Central Office. Any time is a good time.

4. PI/CPC – Jennifer G

Elections were held: Jean Marie is the new CPC chair.

Four people needed to do presentations at DUI classes. If you are interested, attend the training workshop held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.

Presented at Branham High School.

CPC chair will be liaison to Intergroup and PI will be putting on the Saturday workshops.

5. Twelfth Step Committee –

Daytime – Bruce K. – Shifts are filled. Alternates are always needed.

Nights and Weekends – Peter – Shifts are filled. Putting together a workshop to help diverters with phone skills. Thanked those doing service as diverters.

6. Outreach Committee – Lee C.

Handed out form for all groups to update location and secretary information to turn into the Central Office. Those groups that have multiple meetings, Outreach would like to make a presentation to the business meeting to update information.

7. Newsletter Committee – No report

8. Activities Committee – Marilyn H.

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Chili cook-off at Prince of Peace. Theme has something to do with celebrating the home group.



## **MINUTES, cont.**

### 9. Other Service Committee Reports

Unity Day – No report

Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous – No report

Hospitals and Institutions – No report

Bridging the Gap – Bill

Monthly meetings held 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month, 7 pm at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregation Church.

New women's phone coordinator- Gloria

North County – Mark R

Outreach needed in area. Currently, there are very few representatives.

Monthly GSR meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every month at 7:30, St. Johns Lutheran Church, 581 Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale.

42<sup>nd</sup> PRAASA assembly, March 6-8, Oakland, Marriott City Enter Hotel and Convention Center, 1001 Broadway. For more details: [www.CNCAO6.org](http://www.CNCAO6.org)

South County – Steven F.

Monthly meeting needs a new facility. Place must be East of Winchester Blvd.

New budget committee

DCMs not filled: Milpitas, Downtown San Jose, Willow Glen, Los Gatos, Cambrian Park, and Santa Theresa.

1<sup>st</sup> GSR sharing session discussion of the year: "How to collect a group conscience"

Reviewed the district 2 year calendar and made updates.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Intergroup Inventory Responses Committee – Michael B.:

Meeting will be held January 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 am at Central Office. A report will be given at the next Intergroup meeting. Anyone that would like to participate is welcome to attend the meeting.

Sponsorship workshop – Barbara :

Committee meeting will be held January 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>. Call Central Office for time and date. All are welcome to attend. A report will be given at the next Intergroup meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Set-up position replacement: Renate

### OPEN FORUM:

Doug: Sober & Free will be held April 17-19 at the Hilton, San Jose. All are welcome to attend.

Fundraiser on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Dinner and Bad Dinner Theater. Dinner at 6-7:30 and Play starts at 8:00. 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church.

SCCYPAA: Young at Heart has reached out to areas outside our area. Now the group is going to concentrate on reaching out to young people within our area. Would like to do as much service as possible at PRASSA

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy H.

**Get Your own Newsletter Subscription! Makes A Great Gift, Too!**

Only \$5 a year!

Yes, please enter a subscription to *The Intergroup Newsletter*:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Send a gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

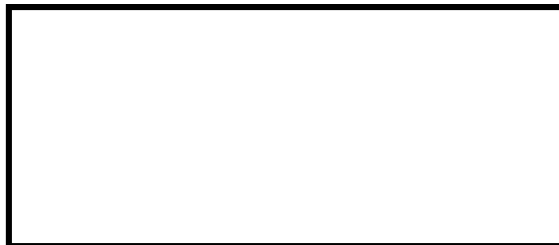
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Intergroup Central Office  
of Santa Clara County, Inc.  
274 E. Hamilton Ave. Suite D  
Campbell, CA 9500/8

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Jose, CA  
Permit No. 3556





**INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January 2009

	<u>Jan 09</u>	<u>Jan 08</u>	<u>Jan 09</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
3030 · Contributions-General	16,927.03	15,964.16	16,927.03
8010 · Literature Sales	5,717.16	4,624.00	5,717.16
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	1,119.00	1,149.25	1,119.00
8060 · Newsletter Subscriptions	15.00	25.00	15.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>23,778.19</u>	<u>21,762.41</u>	<u>23,778.19</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold	4,432.86	3,373.71	4,432.86
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories	639.41	129.70	639.41
<b>Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<u>5,072.27</u>	<u>3,503.41</u>	<u>5,072.27</u>
<b>Total COGS</b>	<u>5,072.27</u>	<u>3,503.41</u>	<u>5,072.27</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	18,705.92	18,259.00	18,705.92
<b>Expense</b>			
6010 · Alarm Service	177.00	177.00	177.00
6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	481.67	438.71	481.67
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	43.01	110.87	43.01
6160 · Copier Expense	55.99	86.47	55.99
6220 · Insurance - Worker Compensation	480.22	0.00	480.22
6230 · Insurance - General Liability	125.00	0.00	125.00
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	817.36	719.79	817.36
6245 · Internet Access Charges	19.95	19.95	19.95
6330 · Office Expense	-3.95	1,128.99	-3.95
6370 · Office Paper Supply	194.58	0.00	194.58
6380 · Payroll Taxes	0.00	646.25	0.00
6410 · Postage	320.00	82.00	320.00
6480 · Rent	2,280.60	2,280.60	2,280.60
6540 · Salaries - Office	0.00	6,648.70	0.00
6560 · Payroll Expenses	8,214.53	0.00	8,214.53
6600 · Signing Services	200.00	0.00	200.00
7050 · Telephone	320.56	291.04	320.56
9080 · Sales Tax (Sales tax paid on purchases)	-0.34	-0.07	-0.34
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>13,726.18</u>	<u>12,630.30</u>	<u>13,726.18</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	4,979.74	5,628.70	4,979.74
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
8030 · Interest Income	84.08	233.93	84.08
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>84.08</u>	<u>233.93</u>	<u>84.08</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>84.08</u>	<u>233.93</u>	<u>84.08</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>5,063.82</u></u>	<u><u>5,862.63</u></u>	<u><u>5,063.82</u></u>

**INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of January 31, 2009

	<u>Jan 31, 09</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1010 · Petty Cash	225.00
1020 · First Republic Bank (Checking account)	13,991.53
1021 · First Republic Bank CD 3202 (4 Mo. CD @ 3.75%, 02/04/2009)	15,415.64 *
1022 · First Republic Bank CD 3210 (6 Mos. CD @ 2.75%, 02/04/2009)	20,478.44 *
1023 · First Republic Bank CD 3228 (12 Mos. CD @ 3.5%, 02/04/2009)	15,390.93 *
1024 · First Republic Bank CD 2608 (8 mos. CD @ 3.8%, 07/26/2009)	13,081.29 *
1042 · Capital Preservation Fund (Treas. fund currently @ 2.68%)	15,739.84 *
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>94,322.67</u>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-508.33
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>-508.33</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1250 · Literature Inventory	16,382.97
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	725.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>17,107.97</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	110,922.31
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1630 · Office Equipment	28,857.02
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	7,097.67
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-18,174.00
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-160.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>17,920.69</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>1,993.85</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>130,836.85</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (due quarterly)	532.29
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>532.29</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>532.29</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	532.29
<b>Equity</b>	
2740 · Temporarily Restricted Funds	17,920.69
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	1.14
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	107,318.91
Net Income	5,063.82
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>130,304.56</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>130,836.85</u></u>

* Our Prudent Reserve Accounts total: <b>\$80,106.14</b> This represents the Board established goal of 6 months of operating expenses.
---

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.  
**Group Contributions**  
January 2009

	<u>Jan 09</u>
1 INV Fremont & Hollenbeck Group 70907	370.98
1 INV Fremont & Manet Group 70975	508.00
1 INV R and B Group 70972	398.52
1 INV Saturday Nite Live Group 70905	70.00
A.B.C. Women's Group 58 (Mon.)	350.00
Attitude Adjustment SJ 886 (Tues.)	37.30
Attitude Adjustment SJ 198 (Wed.)	135.00
Bedmakers Group (Men) 812 (Thur.)	47.00
Bill's Basement 384 (Fri.)	126.00
Birthday Contribution 00951	201.00
California Ave. Supper Group 715 (Thur.)	369.60
Chip Winners Group 168 (Wed.)	222.00
Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	257.08
Easier Way Group 290 (Fri.)	178.39
East Valley Group 322 (Fri.)	50.00
Eleventh Step Meditation Mtg 276 (Thur.)	140.00
End of the Line Men's Group 147 (Tues.)	433.31
G Fair Avenue Fellowship 70901	57.51
G Serenity at Noon (fka Agnew) 70921	1,750.00
G South County Fellowship 70954	665.00
G Sunrisers Group/Carrows 70932	615.73
G Third Tradition Women's Grp(The 70979	277.74
Gay Grab Bag Solution 41 (Sun.)	119.30
Gay Men's Freedom 262 (Thur.)	161.00
Get Well Group 17 (Sun.)	140.00
Happy Hour Campbl 652 (Fri.)	269.50
High Hope SJ 239 (Sat.)	129.00
Inspiration Big Book 195 (Wed.)	50.00
Living with Others 319 (Fri.)	272.57
Los Altos Group 225 (Thur.)	105.00
Los Altos Men's Group 59 (Mon.)	99.00
Los Gatos Big Book 664 (Mon.)	210.00
Meditation Meeting LA 39 (Sat.)	105.00
Men's Basic Step Study Group 891 (Tues.)	367.50
Men's Group 97 (Mon.)	191.80
Men's Honesty Group SJ 26 (Sat.)	560.00
Men's Single Problem Study 89 (Mon.)	603.00
Men's Single Problem Study 220 (Thur.)	1,050.00
Mountain Miracles 882 (Thur.)	269.50
Mountain View Group 350 (Sat.)	70.00
New People's Group 3 (Sun.)	413.00
Noon Discussion 177 (Wed.)	75.00
Palo Alto Men's Meeting 525 (Tues.)	282.80
Personal 00911	202.00
Positive Outlook Group SJ 368 (Sat.)	108.00
Rincon Men's Fellowship 567 (Thur.)	350.00
Saturday Morning Los Gatos 777 (Sat.)	700.00
Saturday Night Promises PA 847 (Sat.)	214.20
Shared Gift (The) (Women) 61 (Mon.)	185.00
Single Problem Topic 582 (Mon.)	581.70
Spiritual Step Study Group 233 (Sun.)	307.55
T.G.I.F. Speaker/Discussion 298 (Fri.)	100.00
Trinity Group 370 (Sat.)	80.00
Villages Group of AA (The) 406 (Mon)	560.00
Women's Brunch PA 640 (Sat.)	322.75
Women's Topic Disc. Group 103 (Tues.)	174.00
Women Sharing the Solution 519 (Thur.)	238.70

TOTAL

16,927.03

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP COUNCIL

### MINUTES MONTHLY MEETING

January 7, 2008

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- There were 48 voting representatives and 13 visitors in attendance.
- Cami read the Twelve Traditions.
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- No corrections or additions to the previous month's minutes:
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- Announcements:
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#### Reports

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  - Meeting held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussed formulation of goals for board members, reviewed financial data for new board members, and updated the draft of 2009 health reimbursement arrangement.
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  - Contributions were down in December. The bottom line for the year was still good.
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  - Volunteers are always needed to help around Central Office. Any time is a good time.
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  - Elections were held: Jean Marie is the new CPC chair.
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  - Bridging the Gap – Bill
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  - New budget committee
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