



WHEN THE BIG "I" BECOMES NOBODY

Why stress anonymity in AA? There is a profound psychological reason. Here a distinguished psychiatrist, an old friend of AA, and once a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee of our General Service Board gave his insight into it.

The AA program of help is touched with elements of true inspiration and in no place is that inspiration more evident than in the selection of its name, Alcoholics Anonymous. Anonymity is of course of great protective value, especially to the newcomer, but my present target is to focus on the even greater value anonymity has in contributing to the state of humility necessary for the maintenance of sobriety in the recovered alcoholic.

My thesis is that anonymity, thoughtfully preserved, supplies two essential ingredients to that maintenance. The two ingredients, actually two sides of the same coin, are first, the preservation of a reduced ego and second, the continued presence of humility or humbleness. As stated in the Twelfth Tradition of AA, "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions," reminding each member to place "principles before personalities."

Many of you will wonder what that word ego means. It has so many definitions that the first task is to clarify the nature of the ego needing reduction.

This ego is not an intellectual concept but a state of feeling--a feeling of importance--of being "special." Few people can recognize this need to be special in themselves. Most of us, however, can recognize offshoots of this attitude and put the proper name to it. Let me illustrate. Early in the AA days, I was consulted about a serious problem plaguing the local group. The practice of celebrating a year's sobriety with a birthday cake had resulted in a certain number of the members getting drunk within a short period after the celebration. It seemed apparent that some could not stand prosperity. I was asked to settle between birthday cakes and no birthday cakes. Characteristically, I begged off, not from shyness but from ig-

norance. Some three or four years later, AA furnished me the answer. The group no longer had such a problem because, as one member said, "We celebrate still, but a year's sobriety is now a dime a dozen. No one gets much of a kick out of that any more!"

A look at what happened shows us ego, as I see it, in action. Initially, the person who had been sober for a full year was a standout, someone to be looked up to. His ego naturally expanded, his pride flowered; any previous deflation vanished. With such a renewal of confidence, he took a drink. He had been made special and reacted accordingly. Later, the special element dropped out. No ego feeds off being in the dime-a-dozen category and the problem of ego buildup vanished.

Today, AA in practice is well aware of the dangers of singling anyone out for honors and praise. The dangers of reinflation are recognized. The phrase "trusted servant" is a conscious effort to keep that ego down, although admittedly some servants have a problem in that regard.

Now let us take a closer look at this ego which causes trouble. The feelings associated with this state of mind are of basic importance in understanding the value of anonymity for the individual--the value of placing him in the rank and file of humanity.

Certain qualities typify this ego which views itself as special and therefore different. It is "high" on itself and prone to keep its goals and visions at the same high level. It disdains what it sees as grubs who plod along lacking the fire and inspiration of those who are sparked by ideals which lift people out of the commonplace and offer promise of better things to come.

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Often the same ego operates in reverse. It despairs of man with his faults and his failings, and develops a cynicism which sours the spirit and makes of its possessor a cranky realist who finds nothing good in this vale of tears. Life never quite meets his demands upon it and he lives an embittered existence, grabbing what he can out of the moment but never really part of what goes on around him. He seeks love and understanding and complains endlessly about his sense of alienation from those around him. Basically, he is a disappointed idealist--forever aiming high and landing low. Both of these egos confuse humbleness with humiliation.

To develop this further, the expression "You think you're something" nicely catches the sense of being above the crowd. Children readily spot youngsters who think they are something and do their best to puncture that illusion. For instance, they play a game called tag. In it, the one who is tagged is called "it." You've heard them accuse each other saying, "You think you're it," thereby charging the other with acting as though he was better than his mates. In their own way, children make very good therapists or head shrinkers. They are skillful puncturers of inflated egos even though their purpose is not necessarily therapeutic.

AA had its start in just such a puncturing. Bill W. always refers to his experience at Towns Hospital as a "deflation in great depth" and on occasion has been heard to say that his ego took a "hell of a licking." AA stems from that deflation and that licking.

Clearly the sense of being special, of being "something," has its dangers, its drawbacks for the alcoholic. Yet the opposite, namely that one is to be a nothing, has little counter appeal. The individual seems faced with being a something and getting drunk, or being a nothing and getting drunk from boredom.

The apparent dilemma rests upon a false impression about the nature of nothingness as a state of mind. The ability to accept ourselves as nothing is not easily developed. It runs counter to all our desires for identity; for an apparently meaningful existence, one filled with hope and promise. To be nothing seems a form of psychological suicide. We cling to our somethingness with all the strength at our command. The thought of being a nothing is simply not acceptable. But the fact is that the person who does not learn to be as nothing cannot feel that he is but a plain, ordinary, everyday kind of person who merges with the hu-

man race--and as such is humble, lost in the crowd and essentially anonymous. When that can happen, the individual has a lot going for him.

People with "nothing" on their mind can relax, go about their business quietly and with a minimum of fuss and bother. They can even enjoy life as it comes along. In AA, this is called the twenty-four-hour program, which really signifies the fact that the individual does not have tomorrow on his mind. He can live in the present and find his pleasure in the here and now. He is hustling nowhere. With nothing on his mind, the individual is receptive and open-minded.

The great religions are conscious of the need for nothingness if one is to attain Grace. In the New Testament, Matthew, 18:3, quotes Christ with these words: "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Zen teaches the release of nothingness. A famous series of pictures designed to show growth in man's nature ends with a circle enclosed in a square. The circle depicts man in a state of nothingness. . . the square represents the framework of limitations man must learn to live within. In this blank state "Nothing is easy, nothing hard" and so Zen, too, has linked nothingness, humbleness and Grace.

Anonymity is a state of mind of great value to the individual in maintaining sobriety. While I recognize its protective function, I feel that any discussion of it would be one-sided if it failed to emphasize the fact that the maintenance of a feeling of anonymity--of a feeling "I am nothing special"--is a basic insurance of humility and so a basic safeguard against further trouble with alcohol. This kind of anonymity is truly a precious possession.

Harry M. Tiebout, MD

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Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle

The Santa Clara County Monthly Intergroup Newsletter is published by Intergroup Central Office of Santa Clara County, Inc. Opinions expressed are the writers', not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Publication of any article does not imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous of Santa Clara County Central Office, except when Conference-approved publications are quoted. Quotations from AA books and pamphlets and the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.; quotations and cartoons from *The Grapevine* are reprinted with the permission of AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from AA members are welcome and will be printed as space allows. Submissions can be sent via email or should be typed or neatly handwritten. The editors reserve the right to edit content for length, clarity, and relation to AA Traditions. All material, including announcements, should be submitted by the 25th of the month prior to publication.



Members Share . . .

Anonymity

Do you remember, unexpectedly, meeting a fellow member of our AA program in the aisle of the supermarket, or anywhere in public, and finding it to be a very pleasant and safe experience? Even if, at the time, you were with other friends or acquaintances, who were not aware that you are a member of our program, you did not fear being “exposed”. You were confident that our tradition of anonymity would be honored.

At that moment, and throughout our lives, we are experiencing the gift of the principle of anonymity which is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions.

Situations that I have personally encountered have proven to me how we conscientiously take the concept of anonymity to our hearts: Work obligations and some civic activities will find me in front of gatherings giving a speech or participating on a public panel with other individuals who are not in our program. Often, these sessions involved question and answer periods where the audience would be asked to speak out. Sometimes I would see a member of our program in the audience. It may be someone whom I had never met, but had only seen at AA meetings. We would make eye contact, smile and nod to each other. I had a warm feeling inside that that person, perhaps for a moment, knew me even better than my mother did. Never once, did any of you, no matter how controversial the topic at the moment, stand up and shout, “I know that guy – he’s the town drunk!” Whew! The tradition of anonymity held strong.

Of course our families would know of our active AA participation. And we may determine to share that knowledge with close friends, clergyman, and our doctor. We may or may not break our anonymity with associates at work. Personal judgment, and perhaps a talk with our sponsor, comes into play here.

Here’s a phrase that I heard recently that I just love. We’ve all been faced with that awkward (annoying?) moment when, in a social or business situation where alcohol is available, someone outside our program will ask why you’re not having a drink. “Oh, it’s a personal preference”, is my new response. That kind of ends follow-up questions about my health and things like that.

The special bond that exists among us has its origins in the formative years of our program. The concept of

anonymity was instilled by our wise founders, Bill W, Dr. Bob S and others. They realized early-on that identifying ourselves as alcoholics in the press and publicity only led to controversy. There was a time when, at meetings that Bill Wilson himself would address, the press was on hand to write it up in the newspapers. The principle that we are a program of attraction rather than promotion soon became one of our foundations. You’ll notice that thousands of us gather in Santa Clara County each week and there’s not a single flashing neon sign outside our meeting places announcing “AA Meets Here!”

Personal anonymity at the public level is a cornerstone that continues to safeguard the integrity of our fellowship. But, please, any of us who are comfortable in introducing ourselves at meeting level by our first and last names, I feel, should be respected in doing so.

Because of anonymity we enjoy a sense of safety and comfort. The several principles of our traditions that guard our anonymity have been forged by trial and error – and a lot of prayer. They contribute to the long lasting stability and continuity of our program, keeps us unified in the fellowship, and helps us to remain sober this day.

Don W., Saratoga

Anonymity

When Alcoholics Anonymous was started there were concerns that members would be overwhelmed with appeals for help. They were fearful of their names being used as there existed a much greater stigma about alcoholism versus the current state of knowledge about the disease.

But anonymity grew to be a larger spiritual principle as the fellowship grew in number.

The principles and customs of Alcoholics Anonymous were the items to be spread and shared not any individual members' identity.

In the knowledge that any individual is free to describe his own experience to fellow members and ' what is said here, let it stay here' is respected, the member can share within the group how he chooses to.

That the ego is kept in check is an additional benefit because the importance of the message of recovery from the seemingly hopeless state of mind and body is the payoff not the individual recognition or prestige of the member.

Steven J, San Jose



Anonymity

The following statement came from the 2nd Annual Archives Workshop in Akron in 1997, "Being anonymous is having a name that is unknown and actions that are unacknowledged as we serve others with a power that is not our own." Powerful! Having said this I share with you that at AA meetings I still introduce myself by my first and last name. The reason is that after denying that I was alcoholic for over 40 years I need to hear me say out loud, so that it is unequivocal to me, that I am an alcoholic. My introduction has nothing to do with me not being humble, which is one of the definitions of anonymity in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, it has everything to do with me being honest to myself..

I need to remain "nameless" to outside agencies, and within AA as well, however I cannot remain unknown and survive. I cannot remain sober by myself, I need God and YOU. I cannot remain sober if I don't reach out and help others. I cannot remain sober if I am not actively trying to improve my spiritual condition. I cannot remain sober if I don't execute the principles of AA in my daily life. If I practice what I have learned in AA, people outside the program will know that they can approach me if they have a drinking problem, and people within the program will know that I am available and will do anything to help them stay sober. I need to carry the message and not be the message. They don't need to know my name they just need to know I am there and that I care. *John P., San Jose*

Anonymity

When I got sober I was one of those people who wanted to shout it from the rooftops. Having the bondage of alcoholism lifted from me made me feel exhilarated. What I wasn't aware of was that not everyone I knew could understand how I felt; how happy I felt to crawl out from under that lonely, desperate life I had been leading for years. And so, shouting that from the rooftops could be taken as boasting, or perhaps accomplishing something that I should have been doing all along - not drinking too much. My talking about it publicly could have been taken as naiveté or foolishness, depending on whom I was sharing it with.

I also discovered in AA that it was fine for me to tell people *I* was not drinking, but not to 'out' other people. That's the individual's privilege and right. More than a few times when I've run into an AA friend in public and someone with me asks later where I know them from, I'll

say they're a friend of a friend. The other person has yet to ask which friend.

I also believe in the eleventh tradition concerning maintaining personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. It irks me these days to see a celebrity talk in public about being sober. They come across to me as someone who is either prideful about their latest conquest or, God forbid, as an authority/spokesperson for AA. But at any rate, I have little respect for them talking publicly and thus violating (being ignorant of) the traditions.

In addition, if they have a slip and it's known, the public might think AA doesn't work. People in AA are sometimes funny to me. A couple of times I have asked about a certain person after a meeting, using their last name, and the other person said, "We don't use last names in AA", to which I replied, "Do you see any press here?" It's fine among ourselves, just not printed in the newspaper, on TV or radio. *Linda D., San Jose*

Ego Ego Ego Ego Ego Ego



Nothing matters more to A.A.'s future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.

Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego manifestations of our own people.

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WE GET LETTERS



The Pink Cans

Of late, I have noticed that some meetings make a big announcement about the Pink Cans and what the money is used for. I think that is a good thing. Explaining anything about AA as a whole is a good thing. However, sometimes (if not most times) the 'explainer' neglects to explain that those cans are for loose change and NOT for bills.

This all may sound weird to some so let me explain. In Area 71 of H.&I. (our over-all H.&I. committee) there is a yearly accounting of funds. Currently, that balance is in the \$500,000.00 range and has been for a number of years.

That's just books, folks. H & I passes the basket for rent and cookies at their own meetings, just like the rest of us.

Not that you asked but my opinion is that Area 71 has more than enough books and certainly enough money (from those same Pink Cans) to continue the excellent job that they have been doing all along. We should NOT be putting bills in those cans.

Central Office, by that same token, is always looking for funds. They run the Diverter Program, answer phones, create and provide up to date Meeting Guides and many other services that, sadly, few know about and which costs money.

I have often seen people put a dollar in the basket and a Five dollar bill stuffed into the can. Sometimes, it is two quarters in the basket and a bill stuffed into the can. Note that I use the word "stuffed." That is because the can is designed for spare change and NOT bills.

I wish that, if an announcement is made, it is mentioned that the cans are for change. Nothing more need be said.
NY John, Los Gatos

P.S. John F. (NY John) was Area 71 Chair for two years.

AA Thought for the Day

The Lesson

I spent most of my life worrying about myself, thinking that I was unwanted, that I was unloved. I've learned since being in AA that the more I worry about me loving you, and the less I worry about you loving me, the happier I'll be.

I discovered a fellowship of human beings that I'd never seen before.

I learned how to have self-respect through work that AA gave me to do.

I learned how to be a friend. I learned how to go out and help other people

-- there was nowhere else I could have done that.

I have learned that the more I give, the more I will have; the more I learn to give, the more I learn to live.

c. 2003 AAWS, *Experience, Strength and Hope*, p. 218
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Archives

In 1945 a lady named Dorothy was the secretary of the first group in San Jose. Dorothy was the first woman to become a member of A.A. in San Jose in 1943. In June of 1944 Ruth H. joined the group but felt that many of the men didn't accept women in the group. In 1950 the first closed women's meeting was started with twenty members. Dorothy L. was the first secretary. The group met on Wednesdays at the YWCA.

On January 24, 1971 Bill W. passed away in Miami Beach, Florida. He died of pneumonia. Seven months earlier he had delivered an address at the 35th Anniversary International. His last words to fellow A.A.s were,
"God bless you and Alcoholics Anonymous forever."

Bill was "one of the few laymen to address such professional groups as the Medical Society of the State of New York and the American Psychiatric Association."

From Central Office . . .

We are truly grateful to you for your support and kindnesses this past year. We go into 2008 buttressed by this support and spurred to a new enthusiasm to serve you.

We have goals:

- To become fully self-supporting
- To register all Secretaries and Treasurers
- To attain at least 50% registration of IGRs (and see them at our Intergroup meetings)
- To offer quality training to our new Diverters and 12th Step volunteers
- To offer fun, educational, and unifying activities in Santa Clara County

These goals (only partially listed) might seem unattainable, but they're not. They do, however, require your assistance—Central Office cannot accomplish these things on its own. So, this is the challenge each of us must face: Are we productive members of Alcoholics Anonymous, or merely bench warmers? The real glories of this program are never appreciated by the bench warmers. Please don't cheat yourself.

What's new at Central Office?

You've probably already noticed that the pamphlets are getting a face lift. GSO has provided new art work for the outside of the pamphlets and should be done converting all of them this year. Some have been revised inside as well.

We continue to get new materials, especially books, from the Grapevine. "Emotional Sobriety" has been a big hit. Members young and old have appreciated "In Our Own Words", stories by and about our younger members.

Slowly but surely we are seeing all those popular old tapes getting converted to CDs. Of course, we already have the Big Book and our 12 & 12 on CD. There's some entertaining, educational, and inspirational stuff on CD now; come by for a look.

We hope our landlord will accommodate a modest face lift in the office this year. We're in negotiations now and will keep you posted. We'd like to get the office as close to the 21st century as possible. We're delaying our open house this year, hopeful we'll have a great new face for you.

And to our volunteers - Thank you is too little, but it comes from our hearts.

*Thoughts for the New Year*

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their chair at a meeting...

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors...

It is easier to preach the steps than it is to live them...

When you get to your wit's end,
you'll find God lives there...

People are funny; they want the front of the bus,
the middle of the road, and the back of the meeting...

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation
bangs on your front door forever...

Quit griping about your group; if it was perfect,
you couldn't belong...

The Meeting wants a better Chairperson, it only needs to
pray for the one it has...

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is
dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete - thoroughly mixed up
and permanently set...

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous...

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage...

He who angers you, controls you!!!

If God is your Co-pilot - Listen to the Directions!!!

And remember Peace starts with a smile...

Alcoholics
Anonymous . . .
How may we help you?



Telephone Calls Received

During December

Daytime at Central Office 522

Daytime 12 Step Calls 11

Evening and Weekend calls 412

Evening 12 Step Call information is not available.

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

Groups contributing to your Central Office make it possible to provide telephone service and coverage so that someone is always available to the caller in need. We also have a listing in the white and yellow pages of the phone books for all the cities in Santa Clara County. **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

449 Acceptance, Tues. noon, Sunnyvale

Road to Recovery, Fri. 8:00AM, Alano Club of San Jose

Saturday Nite Live, Fri, 6:00AM, Bascom at Stokes

Rigorous Honesty, Wed. 7:00PM, 850 Agnew Rd, Santa Clara

Changed

Living With Others, Fri. 8:15PM, has moved to Almaden Hills United Methodist Church, 1200 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose

Gay/Lesbian Big Book Discussion, Tues., 7:30PM, moved to St. Francis Episcopal Church, Whickam Rm., 1205 Pine, San Jose.

Sunday Early Evening, Sun., 7:00PM, moved to Bowers Park, 2582 Cabrillo, Santa Clara.

Living Sober, Sun., 10:30AM, moved to Kaiser Conference Center, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara.

Gay Reflections on the Solution, Sun, 8:30AM, moved to Kaiser Conference Center, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara.

New

Cup of Coffee Group, Tues—Fri . 9:00AM, Alano Club of San Jose, 1122 Fair Ave.

Something Better, Mon. 8:00PM, 22 Quimby Rd., San Jose

Recovery Ryders, Thurs 8:00PM, 22 Quimby Rd. San Jose

Upstairs Group Wed, 7PM, 13335 Monterey Road (above Rocca's), San Martin

Veterans of Alcohol, Wed, 6PM, 278 N. 2nd St., San Jose

The Gal in the Glass, Sun, 10AM, Women, Mid-Peninsula Alano Club, 1155 Reed Ave.

Alano Club West, 1344 Dell, Campbell:

Monday, 7:30AM, Getting Started Group

Wednesday, 7:30AM, Morning Show

Thursday, 7:30AM, (name to be announced)

Friday, 7:30AM, Just Do It

Saturday, 7:30AM, (name to be announced)

Mine, Yours, Ours, Mon. 12:00 noon, Mid-Peninsula Alano Club, 1155 Reed Ave., Sunnyvale

Titanic Group, Sat., 10:00AM, (men's group), Alano Club of San Jose, 1122 Fair Ave., San Jose.

IN MEMORIAUM

Joe G, San Jose, 16 years

Joe R, 4 years, San Jose

Andrea, Alano West, San Jose

Birthdays Contributions

Name	Years	Gift From	Birthday
Ernie B	21		12/02/1986
Julie S.	31	Rita M.	12/07/1976
Gwen S.	11	Pat C.	12/12/1996
Michelle P.	6	Pat c.	12/13/2001
Patty H.	2	Pat C.	12/14/2005
Chuck W, Jr.	18	Pat C.	12/14/1989
Myrtle F.	20		12/15/1987
Lester	10		12/16/1997
Elfriede S.	25	Aileen B., Rita M., Mary Pat P, Evelyn M.	12/17/1982
Butch M.	31	Rita M., Pat C.	12/18/1976
Megan S.	8	Pat C.	12/18/1999
Wilda C.	36	Bob C.	12/18/1971
Myrtle	4	Pat C.	12/18/2003
Jim O.	28		12/20/1979
Lee C.	23		12/24/1984
Don R.	35	Aileen B.	12/28/1972

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

For a total of

299 YEARS OF SOBRIETY

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



February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Secretary's workshop 10:00AM Central Office
3	4	5	6 Intergroup Meeting 8:00 PM	7	8	9 PI/CPC Workshop 10:00AM Central Office
10	11	12	13 North County General Service	14	15	16 Archives Workshop 10:00AM Central Office
17	18	19 South County General Service	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 H & I Meeting	27	28	29	

LOCAL EVENTS

Intergroup Chili Cookoff, Saturday, Feb. 23, 1PM—4PM,
Prince of Peace Church, 12770 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

EVENTS AROUND CALIFORNIA

37th Annual H & I Conference ("Carrying The Message"),
April 25-27, 2008, Burlingame

EVENTS OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

WACYPAА XI. Rocketed into a Fourth Dimension. Boise, ID, Jan.
18-20. More info at www.wacypaa11.org.

2008 Spacecoast Round Up, Cocoa Beach, FL, Jan. 31– Feb.3

Email: intergroup@aaspacecoast.org.

44th International Women's Conference, Portland, OR, Feb. 14-17.

More info at www.intlwomensconf.org.

20th Annual Big Island Bash, Kailua-Kona, HI, Apr 25-27. More infor-
mation at www.BigIslandBash.com

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

*Please check the GSO website at
www.aa.org for a full listing of gatherings
in the United States and around the
world.*

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP COUNCIL

MINUTES MONTHLY MEETING

January 2, 2008

- Bill, Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8:00 pm, followed by a Moment of Silence, and the Serenity Prayer.
- Peter read the short Definition of Intergroup.
- There were 39 voting representatives and 13 visitors in attendance.
- Larry read the Twelve Traditions.
- No corrections or additions to the agenda.
- No corrections or additions to the pervious month's minutes.
- Intergroup Council Treasurer's Report: Chuck G.

Beginning Balance:	12/05/07	\$56.00	Prudent Reserve \$300.00
Contributions:	12/05/07	\$91.00	
Refreshments:	12/05/07	\$13.00	
Rent for 1 st Quarter	01/01/08	\$90.00	
Balance:	01/01/08	\$44.00	Prudent Reserve \$300.00
- Birthdays: Chris 2 yrs; Lee 23 yrs; Linda 13 yrs; Sam 2 yrs.
- Announcements:
 - Justin - SCCYPAA: looking for anyone that can create logos and graphics for SCCYPAA.
 - Justin – Signs of Sobriety Group, 6 pm Mondays at Grace Baptist Church on 10th street, *needs your support!* This is the only meeting that has sign language interpreters.

Reports

1. Intergroup Chair – Bill D.
 - Bernadette P. appointed as the new newsletter editor. **Intergroup representatives asked to and did approve selection.**
2. Central Service Board – Rose Mary
 - Donations in December were higher than past months.
3. Central Office – Bruce K.
 - o No report.
4. PI/CPC – Darcy A.
 - o Meetings held 6pm-7pm, 1st Wednesday of the month, at St. Timothy's, Grant Rd, and Mtn. View. Everyone welcome!
 - o Elections: Erin - Recording Secretary, Vice Chair - Peter, Chair – Jennifer G.
 - o Presentations to upcoming health fair at Pioneer High School; DUI classes
 - o Sending anonymity letters to local media.
5. Twelfth Step Committee – Maxine
 - Daytime – Bruce K. daytime shift open, Friday 6-9 am. Always looking for subs/alternates.
 - Nights and Weekends – Saturday shift open, 9 am – noon.
 - Most have 1-year sobriety to serve and it is a 2yr commitment. Contact Maxine or Central Office if interested.
 - Holiday shifts went well.
6. Outreach Committee – Lee
 - 645 meetings to attend; 275 meetings visited; 46 meetings no longer exist.
7. Newsletter – Bernadette P.
 - o November 3rd held newsletter committee meeting.
 - o Newsletter is looking for people to write small articles on the following topics:
 - February – complacency ; March – Service; April - sponsorship
 - o Make sure secretaries are registered at Central Office so they can receive the newsletter.
8. Activities Committee – Marilyn H.
 - o Chili Cook-off – “Celebrating the Home Group”

February 23rd, 1pm to 4pm, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saratoga
Planning meeting – January 21st, 6:30 pm at Marilyn's house

9. Other Service Committee Reports

- Unity Day – No report
- Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous – Dennis
 - Conference will be held in March
- Hospitals & Institutions – No report.
- Bridging the Gap – Bill M.
 - Have held 8 presentations at treatment centers.
 - Goal of BTG: within a week of getting out of jail or treatment center, a BTG representative will contact the person and meet them at a meeting.
- North County – Jeanne H.
 - Thanks to North County for the tamales at the December potluck and for helping with set-up/clean-up.
- South County – No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

OPEN FORUM –

- What's on your mind?
 - One new rep, one new alternate rep.
 - Peter – Founders Day Picnic in June, held in Mtn. View. Contact Peter if you are interested.
 - Chuck – Archives chair for Santa Clara County; archives workshop at Central Office, 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 am.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy H.

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Profit & Loss

December 2007

	<u>Dec 07</u>	<u>Dec 06</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 07</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3030 · Contributions-General	17,959.89	12,104.75	133,880.48
8010 · Literature Sales	4,638.70	4,121.15	58,093.44
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	963.50	707.00	13,348.70
8060 · Newsletter Subscriptions	25.00	30.00	245.00
Total Income	<u>23,587.09</u>	<u>16,962.90</u>	<u>205,567.62</u>
Cost of Goods Sold			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold	3,331.74	2,426.56	39,815.52
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories	469.70	324.97	4,714.30
Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	<u>3,801.44</u>	<u>2,751.53</u>	<u>44,529.82</u>
Total COGS	<u>3,801.44</u>	<u>2,751.53</u>	<u>44,529.82</u>
Gross Profit	19,785.65	14,211.37	161,037.80
Expense			
6010 · Alarm Service	0.00	0.00	708.00
6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	81.52	187.89	3,957.28
6060 · Amortization of Improvements	3.25	3.25	13.00
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	31.82	55.39	1,023.12
6120 · Computer Expenses	0.00	125.00	1,298.66
6140 · Conferences - Office Manager	0.00	0.00	893.79
6150 · Unity Day Expense	0.00	0.00	650.00
6160 · Copier Expense	144.65	153.06	1,508.17
6190 · Depreciation Expense	1,434.25	819.50	5,524.00
6220 · Insurance - Worker Compensation	460.50	514.00	971.60
6230 · Insurance - General Liability	399.75	289.75	1,650.41
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	639.37	549.70	8,792.88
6245 · Internet Access Charges	19.95	19.95	239.40
6330 · Office Expense	384.87	514.90	3,685.01
6360 · Archives (Archives)	0.00	0.00	318.70
6380 · Payroll Taxes	522.18	532.59	6,313.88
6410 · Postage	176.44	78.00	2,309.16
6480 · Rent	2,280.60	2,217.25	27,303.85
6510 · Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	0.00	65.00
6540 · Salaries - Office	6,766.09	6,882.90	76,424.56
6600 · Signing Services	200.00	200.00	2,250.00
7010 · Taxes and Licenses	0.00	0.00	130.00
7050 · Telephone	283.50	303.82	3,637.39
7060 · Travel	0.00	0.00	34.42
9080 · Sales Tax (Sales tax paid on purchases)	0.00	8.21	0.24
9090 · Loss on Asset Disposal	62.00	0.00	62.00
Total Expense	<u>13,890.74</u>	<u>13,455.16</u>	<u>149,764.52</u>
Net Ordinary Income	5,894.91	756.21	11,273.28
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
8030 · Interest Income	267.88	200.00	3,160.76
8050 · Activities Committee	-300.00	0.00	809.49
Total Other Income	<u>-32.12</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>3,970.25</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-32.12</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>3,970.25</u>
Net Income	<u><u>5,862.79</u></u>	<u><u>956.21</u></u>	<u><u>15,243.53</u></u>

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2007

	Dec 31, 07
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · Petty Cash	225.00
1035 · Bank of America (Bank account)	9,985.58
1040 · Bank of America CD 5718 (4 mo. CD @ 4.88%, 1/24/08)	31,333.75 *
1041 · Bank of America CD 5931 (11 mo. CD @ 4.26%, 1/28/08)	15,268.31 *
1042 · Capital Preservation Fund (Treas. fund currently @ 4.45%)	29,250.97 *
Total Checking/Savings	86,063.61
Accounts Receivable	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-919.42
Total Accounts Receivable	-919.42
Other Current Assets	
1250 · Literature Inventory	17,925.49
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	491.75
Total Other Current Assets	18,417.24
Total Current Assets	103,561.43
Fixed Assets	
1630 · Office Equipment	29,796.02
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	2,197.84
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-13,373.00
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-147.00
Total Fixed Assets	18,773.86
Other Assets	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
Total Other Assets	1,993.85
TOTAL ASSETS	124,329.14
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (Sales Tax Payable)	1,262.07
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,262.07
Total Current Liabilities	1,262.07
Total Liabilities	1,262.07
Equity	
2740 · Temporarily Restricted Funds	18,773.86
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	89,049.68
Net Income	15,243.53
Total Equity	123,067.07
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	124,329.14

<p>* Our Prudent Reserve Accounts total: \$75,853.03 This represents 6 months of operating expenses, which is the Board established goal. Thank you.</p>
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INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Group Contributions

December 2007

	Dec 07	Jan - Dec 07		Dec 07	Jan - Dec 07
1 INV Freedom Fellowship 70940	70.00	840.00	Early Bird 129 (Tues.)	0.00	140.76
1 INV Fremont & Hollenbeck Group 70907	0.00	2,064.18	Early Bird 244 (Thur.)	0.00	62.00
1 INV Fremont & Manet Group 70975	420.00	945.00	Early Bird 414 (Sat.)	0.00	50.00
1 INV R and B Group 70972	0.00	1,692.31	Early Bird 429 (Sun.)	0.00	36.89
1 INV Saturday Nite Live Group 70905	70.00	3,388.50	Early Monday Night 68 (Mon.)	0.00	1,084.32
1 Inv Seeking Guidance Group 70976	0.00	3,020.00	Early Spiritual Progress 7 (Sun.)	0.00	175.00
1 INV Spiritual Progress Group 70904	0.00	1,050.00	Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	0.00	493.46
12 Steps & HOW (Women) 25 (Tues.)	0.00	70.00	Easier Way Group 290 (Fri.)	0.00	1,971.68
12 Steps at Noon 303 (Fri.)	70.00	440.55	East Valley Group 322 (Fri.)	0.00	550.00
449 Acceptance Group 157 (Tues.)	72.00	72.00	Eastside Step Study 45 (Sun.)	60.00	165.00
A Vision for You Women's 802 (Tues.)	0.00	80.97	El Camino Group 108 (Tues)	0.00	256.78
A.B.C. Women's Group 58 (Mon.)	0.00	307.00	Eleventh Step Group 167 (Wed.)	0.00	420.00
AA Literature Discussion Grp 700 (Tues.)	0.00	105.50	Eleventh Step Meditation Mtg 276 (Thur.)	0.00	255.50
Almaden Valley Discussion 30 (Sun.)	0.00	41.31	Evergreen Group 884 (Thur.)	0.00	350.00
As Bill Sees It 6.00P 518 (Mon.)	0.00	1,005.00	Fireside Big Book Study 809 (Tues.)	0.00	53.31
Attitude Adjustment SJ 258 (Fri.)	0.00	443.00	Fireside Group 297 (Fri.)	0.00	36.92
Attitude Adjustment SJ 861 (Thur.)	0.00	888.80	Fireside Men's Book Study (Thur.)	0.00	51.67
Attitude Adjustment SJ 886 (Tues.)	0.00	727.46	Free to Be Me (Women) 736 (Thur.)	0.00	210.00
Attitude Adjustment SJ 198 (Wed.)	0.00	690.34	Freethinkers of the Valley 29 (Tues.)	0.00	210.00
Attitude Adjustment SJ 321 (Mon.)	0.00	782.60	G Agnews Noon Meetings 70921	0.00	2,240.00
Attitude Adjustment SJ 446 (Sun.)	0.00	543.65	G Cornerstone Service Group 70908	200.00	200.00
Attitude Adjustment SJ 443 (Sat.)	0.00	729.74	G Forged From Adversity Group 70957	2,100.00	2,582.50
B.F.E. Book Study (residence) 837 (Wed.)	0.00	400.00	G Gilroy Groups 70906	0.00	616.00
Basic 12 & 12 00662 (Mon.)	0.00	373.53	G Milpitas We Care Group 70934	1,050.00	1,470.00
Basic Big Book 710 (Thur.)	0.00	100.00	G South County Fellowship 70954	0.00	1,943.00
Basic Big Book Cupertino (Fri.)	0.00	28.00	G Sunrise Group of Palo Alto 70963	0.00	485.00
Bedmakers Group (Men) 812 (Thur.)	0.00	88.00	G Sunrisers Group/Carrows 70932	329.61	5,480.28
Berryessa Group 527 (Wed.)	0.00	630.00	G Third Tradition Women's Grp(The 70979	0.00	1,652.00
Better Way of Living 197 (Wed.)	0.00	385.00	G Winchester Fellowship 70960	0.00	628.44
Big Book & Doughnuts (Men) 106 (Tues.)	0.00	360.00	Gathered Together for Sobriety 43 (Sun.)	253.29	488.21
Big Book Discussion Group LA 107 (Tues.)	0.00	110.00	Gay & Lesbian AA Big Book Disc146 (Tues.)	0.00	140.00
Big Book Study 8.00P Cupt 284 (Fri.)	0.00	100.00	Gay & Lesbian Sober Experience 896 (Mon.)	0.00	280.00
Big Book Study Group SJ 503 (Sat.)	0.00	100.00	Gay & Lesbian Step & Tradition G 221(Fr	0.00	171.50
Big Book Study Mlpts 8.00P 347 (Sat.)	0.00	200.00	Gay Alcoholics Living/Sobriety 742 (Wed.)	0.00	301.00
Birthday Contribution 00951	221.00	4,410.00	Gay Men & Women Together 85 (Mon.)	257.40	257.40
Bowers Fellowship 46 (Sun.)	234.14	234.14	Gay Men's Freedom 262 (Thur.)	0.00	1,054.59
California Ave. Supper Group 715 (Thur.)	0.00	948.90	Get Up and Go SC (Women) 187 (Sat.)	0.00	1,023.65
Cambrian Saturday Night 376 (Sat.)	0.00	1,924.00	Get Well Group 17 (Sun.)	210.00	561.40
Campus Group 234 (Thur.)	0.00	261.00	Grace Group of AA PA 352 (Sat.)	0.00	925.00
Candlelight Group 282 (Fri.)	366.00	366.00	Grateful Live Group 535 (Mon.)	0.00	1,229.90
Candlelight Meeting SC 380 (Sat.)	0.00	180.00	Gratitude Group SJ 339 (Sat.)	0.00	156.00
Caring & Sharing 148 (Tues.)	0.00	148.00	Happy Destiny (Women) 109 (Tues.)	0.00	969.93
Caveman Group) Men's Big Book 659 (Sun.)	1,796.50	1,796.50	Happy Hour Campbl 652 (Fri.)	0.00	200.00
Childish Emotions 767 (Thur.)	0.00	70.00	High Hope SJ 239 (Sat.)	0.00	523.80
Chip Winners Group 168 (Wed.)	0.00	634.90	Higher Power Hr Big Book Topic 871(Thur.)	0.00	1,120.00
Chips and Dyps 559 (Tues.)	1,150.00	1,150.00	HOW Group 71 (Mon.)	0.00	560.00
Courage to Change 145 (Wed.)	0.00	546.09	Humbly Asked 8.00A 87 (Sun.)	0.00	486.50
Daily Reflections 432 (Thur.)	0.00	98.00	In the Basement 545 (Sun.)	0.00	209.98
Design for Living 200 (Tues.)	0.00	419.00	In the Chapel 13 (Fri.)	0.00	78.38
Down to Earth Group 563 (Tues.)	0.00	175.17	In the Solution 647 (Sat.)	0.00	559.00
Downtown Steppers (Men) 392 (Mon.)	0.00	130.90	Intergroup Council 80909	80.00	154.00
Dr. Bob's Nightmare 360 (Sun.)	0.00	600.45	Invaders Group 44 (Sun.)	0.00	350.00

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Group Contributions

December 2007

	Dec 07	Jan - Dec 07		Dec 07	Jan - Dec 07
Joy of Living 464 PA (Wed.)	0.00	288.57	Saratoga Group 328 (Fri.)	0.00	515.00
Joy of Living Meeting 92 (Mon.)	0.00	494.54	Saratoga Serenity Group 329 (Fri.)	0.00	144.20
Just For Today 238 PA (Thur.)	0.00	554.82	Saturday Morning Los Gatos 777 (Sat.)	0.00	2,240.00
Ladies Amethyst AA Study Group 749 (Wed.)	0.00	268.75	SCCYPAA	0.00	292.60
Lesbians Living the Promises 349 (Fri.)	0.00	140.00	Second Tradition Group Spkr 721 (Sat.)	3,349.50	3,754.00
Liquor Was But A Symptom 203 (Thur.)	0.00	147.00	Serenity Discussion 210 (Wed.)	0.00	1,042.10
Live and Let Live 24 (Sun.)	0.00	200.00	Shared Gift (The) (Women) 61 (Mon.)	420.00	683.40
Living in the Solution (W) MH 33 (Sat.)	0.00	63.00	Signs of Sobriety) 402 (Mon.)	0.00	25.00
Living Sober 21 10-30A (Sun.)	0.00	603.20	Sisters in Sobriety Milpitas 548 (Thur.)	0.00	70.00
Living with Others 319 (Fri.)	0.00	174.10	Sizzler Group 27 (Sun.)	413.00	413.00
Living with Serenity (Chip) 599 (Wed.)	155.00	155.00	Sober and Free Convention 70928	0.00	318.50
Lodestar Group/Sober Thoughts 499 (Wed.)	125.00	485.00	Sober in the Park 688 (Sun.)	0.00	70.00
Los Altos Group 225 (Thur.)	0.00	175.00	Sober Thoughts 499 (Wed.)	0.00	154.00
Los Altos Men's Group 59 (Mon.)	0.00	258.00	Source of Strength (Women) 501 (Mon.)	0.00	60.00
Los Gatos Big Book 664 (Mon.)	0.00	186.55	South Valley Men's 845 (Thur.)	300.00	580.00
Los Gatos Tuesday Night 110 (Tues.)	0.00	140.00	South Valley Women's Surrender 88 (Mon.)	580.00	580.00
Mad Hatters Tuesday Noon 661 (Tues.)	0.00	183.00	Speaker Meeting PA 18 (Sun.)	0.00	659.00
Meditation Meeting LA 39 (Sat.)	0.00	112.00	Spiritual Progress 269 (Thur.)	230.55	1,595.55
Memorial Contributions	0.00	55.00	Spiritual Progress Group 8 (Sun.)	0.00	73.65
Men's 4th Step Group 320 (Fri.)	140.00	384.10	Spiritual Step Study Group 233 (Sun.)	0.00	1,458.40
Men's Basic Step Study Group 891 (Tues.)	252.90	707.97	St. Luke's Group 113 (Tues.)	0.00	1,698.00
Men's Freedom from Alcohol 606 (Wed.)	0.00	420.00	St. Mark's Group 270 (Thur.)	0.00	1,334.22
Men's Group 97 (Mon.)	0.00	178.62	Starting the Steps 753 (Fri.)	0.00	537.00
Men's Honesty Group SJ 26 (Sat.)	0.00	1,461.44	Step Along (Women) Cupt 638 (Wed.)	0.00	42.00
Men's Single Problem Study 220 (Thur.)	0.00	2,485.00	Step by Step Group LosAltos 5 (Sun.)	0.00	140.00
Men's Single Problem Study 89 (Mon.)	0.00	1,236.00	Step Study (Women) LG 820 (Wed.)	0.00	202.37
Men's Single Topic Discussion 582 (Mon.)	0.00	1,108.00	Steps & Traditions 893 (Wed.)	0.00	414.80
Men's Topic Discussion 635 (Tues.)	0.00	161.81	Sunday Early Evening 682 (Sun.)	350.00	686.00
Men's Underground Book Study 401 (Sun.)	0.00	413.00	Sunday Night Recovery 23 (Sun.)	0.00	100.00
Midday Meeting PA 714 (Mon.)	0.00	70.00	Sundowners' Dinner Meeting 768 (Wed.)	0.00	109.51
Midday Women's Group 91 (Mon.)	28.00	791.70	Sunshine Group noon 243 (Thur.)	0.00	315.00
Midweek Spiritual Progress 213 (Wed.)	0.00	140.00	T.G.I.F. Speaker/Discussion 298 (Fri.)	400.00	1,097.75
Mountain Miracles 882 (Thur.)	0.00	1,348.20	There Is a Solution (Men) MH 732 (Thur.)	0.00	394.24
Mountain View Group 350 (Sat.)	0.00	385.00	Think Tank (Men) SJ 361 (Sat.)	700.00	2,800.00
New Direction 12 x 12 90 (Mon.)	0.00	200.00	Thurs. South Valley Group See 1 INV 267	0.00	70.00
New Life Start 444 (Sun.)	0.00	448.00	Trinity Group 370 (Sat.)	0.00	150.00
New Nooners 859 (Fri.)	0.00	236.00	Tuesday Night Saratoga Group 152 (Tues.)	0.00	130.00
New People's Group 3 (Sun.)	0.00	446.01	Unknown	297.00	1,184.87
New Steps for Living 20 (Sun.)	0.00	1,478.68	Up the Creek-Daily Reflections 745(Tues.)	0.00	275.00
Newcomers, Oldtimers (Women) 769 (Sat.)	0.00	280.00	Veterans of Alcohol (Open) 874 (Tues.)	0.00	546.00
No Bull Big Book 655 (Fri.)	0.00	210.00	Villages Group of AA (The) 406 (Mon)	0.00	809.00
Noon Discussion 177 (Wed.)	0.00	75.00	Way Out Big Book Study (The) 772 (Fri)	0.00	70.00
Noon Step Study 0555 (Tues.)	0.00	70.00	We Care Step Study 128 (Tues.)	0.00	564.70
Open A A 00660 (Wed.)	0.00	47.32	What's Happening Today 552 (Thur.)	0.00	548.27
Other Wednesday Nite (Men) 209 (Wed.)	0.00	2,137.10	Women's Brunch PA 640 (Sat.)	0.00	1,386.06
Palo Alto Men's Meeting 525 (Tues.)	0.00	1,157.80	Women's Topic Disc. Group 103 (Tues.)	0.00	258.91
Palo Alto Step Study 752 (Tues.)	0.00	295.69	Women on the Move 570 (Wed.)	0.00	195.00
Pass It On Group Los Altos 418 (Sun.)	350.00	1,050.00	Women Preparing for the Weekend 691(Fri.)	0.00	159.60
Personal 00911	803.00	4,872.27	Women Sharing the Solution 519 (Thur.)	56.00	570.50
Plaza Del Rey Group 52 (Sun.)	0.00	105.00			
Positive Outlook Group SJ 368 (Sat.)	0.00	373.80			
Progress Not Perfection 229 (Sun.)	0.00	315.00			
				17,959.89	133,880.48