



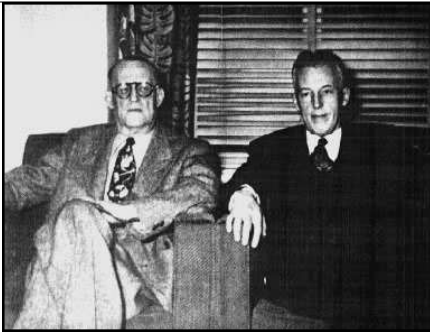
# Santa Clara County Monthly Intergroup Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6

www.aasanjose.org

June 2007

## Happy Birthday, AA! June 10, 1935



Dr. Bob & Bill

### A SPONSOR FOR ALL TIME

Dr. Bob may be the patron saint (though we are not saints!) of all sponsors. The statistic that he, with the help of Sister Ignatia, carried the message to over 5,000 alcoholics at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, is tribute to his untiring efforts and his dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous. But early in his sobriety, (nearly 4 years), when he penned "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" for the first edition of the Big Book in 1939, he tells us why he spends "a great deal of time passing on what I have learned to others who want and need it badly." Listen to the good doctor as if he is talking to us today at our home group meeting. Listen to his reasons for giving it away:

1. A sense of duty.
2. It is a pleasure.
3. Because in so doing I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

(Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 174-175)

Now, if 1939 seems too remote and it is hard to grasp the urgency and relevance of this message, consider this. Bud T., who died in September, with over 49 years of sobriety, was sponsored by Roy in Los Angeles. Roy was sponsored by Larry in Houston, Texas. Larry, who was a newspaper man, was sponsored by Clarence S. in Cleveland. Clarence S. took a train ride to Akron where he was sponsored by Dr. Bob. So if you ever received a marble or shook Bud's hand, or heard his story, there is a link of only three alcoholics between A.A.'s co-founder, Dr. Bob, and you!

### Sponsorship

Even the newest of newcomers finds  
undreamed rewards  
as he tries to help his brother alcoholic,  
the one who is even blinder than he.

This is indeed the kind of giving  
that actually demands nothing. . .

Then he discovers  
that by the divine paradox of this kind of giving  
he has found his own reward.

*Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, with*

*permission of AA World Services, Inc.*

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## SPONSORSHIP

### Local AA members share their experience with Sponsorship

#### SPONSOR OR FRIEND

My sponsor once told me “I’m not here to be your friend but we can be friends”.

And because I did all the things he “suggested” I do, today we are friends and my life is better than I could ever have imagined. When he made these suggestions my first reaction was to tell him to go jump in a lake.....or something like that (they didn’t sound like suggestions to me). It was the best thing that could have happened to me. I needed someone to get me into service and push me through the steps.

I believe that if you stick around long enough you will find exactly the right person to help you get through this program. Whether it’s someone to give you hugs and take you to coffee, which wouldn’t have worked for me at the time (eech), or someone to push you.

The other thing he told me was “if there’s one thing we owe each other around here it’s the truth”. And that’s exactly what I get. Sometimes I don’t really want to hear it, but if I come to him with a situation I need help with I know he’s not going to tell me something just to make me feel better.

These are just a couple of the tools he gave me to use with the men who come to me and ask me to sponsor them. I’m just glad I stayed long enough to find him.

And I hope that you do too because he or she just might be at your next meeting. **SO KEEP COMING BACK!!!!**

Mark M. , Santa Clara

#### SPONSORSHIP AS A FOUNDATION

Sponsorship has been the foundation to my sobriety. I have had four sponsors, I would have stayed with any of them had it been my choice; one moved, two passed on. My current sponsor and all before him have sponsored straight out of the Big Book. It stays very simple that way.

They have required that I stay current and know the difference between having a sponsor and being sponsored. This has saved me and people I have sponsored on many occasions. When your sponsor knows everything about you and something happens there is not a lot of time wasted explaining.

Also sponsorship has kept me involved in service. At first it was because I was told to, now it’s because I enjoy it. When I am involved in service, be it sponsorship, commitments at meetings or just doing what needs to be done in Alcoholics Anonymous, I am out of myself. When I am out of myself I can be filled with the spirit. When I am filled with the spirit the spiritual malady seems non-existent. I know it is laying in wait so I have to do this for the rest of my life, but as I do so I am filled with joy. Being filled with the spirit in Alcoholics Anonymous is much better than being filled with the spirit of alcohol. Service and sponsorship is an experience that must not be missed.

Jim A. San Jose



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*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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.*



### WOMEN SPONSOR WOMEN; MEN SPONSOR MEN

Ever since I got sober in 1978 I have heard this in meetings. Even though it is not actually found in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, I know first-hand the importance of its meaning.

When I was three weeks sober, I began an affair with a man who became my sponsor. 'Frank' had been in A.A. about 3 years and he was a charismatic, good looking cowboy who spoke of a loving God. He was also married. I knew that about him but was drawn to his charm and strong A.A. program. I fell hard and we became an 'item' early in my sobriety.

When I had a year of sobriety Frank got divorced and moved in with me. I was working part-time at a nursery school and when I came home Frank would be sitting in my kitchen reading the Big Book and then would talk to me about how much God loved me. These were my fondest memories of our time together. I had no idea of how it would end two years later.

In 1981 my mother died. I was able to be with her (in another state) during her passing, an incredibly powerful time. Frank had gone there to support me, only he discovered her sleeping pills and started a downhill spiral. The pills led him back to the bottle and I soon had to ask him to move out. We never had much contact after that. I heard through the AA grapevine about short periods of recovery, but don't know if he ever really recovered.

In 2004 Frank died and I went back to Texas for his funeral, to say one last goodbye. I was filled with memories and feelings from our time together. But the one thing that stands out for me is the confusion I still feel after 28 years of sobriety when sex is combined with spirituality (sponsorship). I am still trying to come to terms with that and I understand why it is not recommended, especially for those in early sobriety. I did get a (more appropriate) sponsor after Frank who has helped me understand my actions at that time. I hope that sharing my experience can benefit others who may find themselves in a similar situation.

Linda D., Campbell

### A.A. IN A STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL

My introduction to A.A. was in the summer of 1980 while serving an involuntary commitment in the Camarillo State Mental hospital in Southern California. I thought that the A.A. members attending the H&I meetings

were wonderful, but their principle of sponsorship was not for me. I was different . . . not at all like them. I eventually got out of there and continued to attend meetings while drinking until 1992 when I was twelfth stepped back into the real program of A.A.

A man with nine years of sobriety appointed himself my sponsor . . . thank you God . . . and assigned about six or seven other men whom he was sponsoring to stay with me around the clock for four days while I was de-toxing. After that he asked me if I had any objections to taking the twelve steps of A.A. with him. I stuttered and stumbled an objection to him that I didn't believe in God or religion. He said "that's great because Alcoholics Anonymous was not a religion and didn't require a belief in anything. Our program of recovery only suggested taking the actions contained in the steps without any requirement to understand or believe."

So TAKE the twelve STEPS of A.A. is exactly what he and I did. Together. He also told me that the chapter in the big book of Alcoholics Anonymous that we were to become thoroughly immersed in was titled INTO ACTION, and that there were no chapters titled INTO THINKING or INTO BELIEVING.

Jim M., San Jose

### AN IMPORTANT PART OF RECOVERY

Sponsorship is a very important part of recovery. First, to get a sponsor who will walk you through the steps and "show you the ropes" of the program. Then later for you to become available to sponsor newcomers who need the same guidance you did when you first got involved. You cannot keep what you have without giving it away. Remember that! Your experience, strength and hope can be useful to someone new to the program.

My sponsor is someone to whom I can ask questions or call if I'm having a bad day or feeling squirrely or even call if I'm having a good day. My sponsor has walked me through the steps, helped me understand the concepts of each step, has helped me focus on how I can make these steps work in any situation and be successful in my recovery and in my life in general. Being a sponsor has great advantages as well. Helping a newcomer lay a good foundation for their own recovery and being enthusiastic about it is something every alcoholic should experience at one point or another. It is an amazing feeling when you see your sponsee overcome their fears and see the light go on in their eyes. It's a sign that they are really grasping what you have been sharing with them. How is sponsorship working in your life? It's never too late so get involved with sponsorship today! Lisa, San Jose

## A YOUNG WOMAN ALCOHOLIC

As a young woman alcoholic, I had been institutionalized because of my alcoholism, alcohol nearly took my life on more than one occasion, and I lost everything dear to me because of it. I had made a few cameo appearances in A.A. as the result of having no other place left to go. One time, when I was in a locked down psyche ward, and A.A. meetings were mandatory, those clean cut A.A.'s who brought the pink cans in told me that if I wanted to get better, I needed to go to meetings, work the steps with a sponsor, and get into service.

Well, being the arrogant, self centered dry drunk I was at the time, I figured I could just work the program by myself and when I got out of the psyche ward I would change my circumstances, make a geographic and life would be fine. My intentions were good, but as is with most drunks, we rarely follow through. I sure didn't (later found out, I couldn't because of the fatal nature of my disease). 5 months later I was released from the nut house, nothing changed, my great intentions flew out the window when I was presented with a bottle of Bacardi Rum and within three days I was drunk again and worse than before. After that, it took 3 years of beating my head against the prison wall of my living hell, and an overdose, which was the catalyst for my re-entrance into A.A.

It was there that I broke into a million pieces, I hit my knees and prayed for life like I never had before. My loving Higher Power, saw fit to give me one last chance and it was through the loving arms of A.A. that God's power came through. For me, it was specifically through the direction and guidance of a sponsor. Her name was Debbie B. and she was from Saturday Night Live. She and I were totally different. I had big tattoos, cussed like a sailor, and was very rough; she was soft, blond, cute as a bug's ear . . . a little health nut. But when it came to truth, and love and a program of recovery, this woman had it. She saw through my excuses and garbage, and regularly punctured my humongous ego. My ugliness, my rage, my deep seated self hate and fear of others did not sway her. It was the first time in my life I had ever experienced the feeling that someone else on the planet knew how I felt, knew why I drank, knew what it meant to live inside my head. She loved me in spite of myself

With her and God's help, I came to believe that I suffered from a disease that was completely

incurable and that NO human power could stop it. Deb, through her experience, strength and hope, made me realize that I was powerless and the only hope I had for a sane and useful life would lie in the practicing of the 12 steps, service, and abstinence. She was right, I haven't had a drink in over 15 years.

The Big Book says that we are generally people who would not mix, but there is magic in one drunk talking to another. And when one drunk talks to another about the miracle of sobriety, neither of them are ever the same. Years of A.A. experience has proved this. What is true now for us was true over 60 years ago when our wise co-founder, Dr. Bob. uttered these words, "Nothing so much insures immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics."

Val C

## WILL YOU BE MY SPONSOR?

The woman leaned anxiously across the table. We were sitting in a coffee shop finishing a lengthy conversation about . . . well, everyone and everything that was on her mind. "OK, then," she said, "Will you be my sponsor?" I said "yes," with the usual caveats of: "Call me, go to meetings, read, pray, eat, breathe, see you next week."

Then I couldn't resist saying to my new sponsee: "You know, I have been sponsoring for over 20 years, and I have a 100% success rate!" She stared back at me, maybe a bit skeptical (I like that in a sponsee).

"Yes," I said, "**I** have been sober the entire time that I have been sponsoring."

Now, please understand, I was not bragging or making my sobriety any more important than her tender time in the program. It had just really hit home that I **do** have to give it away in order to keep it. "It" is precious to me. As I work with another alcoholic, my "it," my sobriety, is polished and increased in value. And what I give away is freely given to me, by countless men and women in the fellowship of A.A., and by my own sponsors. I have awakened to the loving and powerful reality of my Higher Power because A.A.'s **do** share their experience, strength and hope with each other, that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. That is probably the best definition of sponsorship for me today.

Marilyn H, San Jose

## STEPPING OUT IN SOBRIETY



### THE VENTURA OVERHEAD

As a young man growing up in southern California, it is not surprising that I caught the “surfing bug”. Forty two years later, this passion still haunts me. Having spent six months learning the basics in the drab beach breaks of Santa Monica, it was time to head north to the legendary points of Ventura county. We ended up at world renowned Rincon point. The surf was epic, but not suited for this band of thirteen year old kooks. We headed south to a beach with campsites, by the name of Emma Wood State Beach. What a mouthful! To the local surfers it was simply called “Overhead”.

It was a classic fall day, with warm temperatures and only a breath of the Santa Ana winds, leaving a sparkly texture on the solid six foot breakers. We watched for over an hour and I think we all must have been scared out of our minds. Finally, the lure of these perfect waves won me over. I grabbed my clunky nine foot, forty five pound surfboard and paddled out into perfect waves. I was lucky, a lull had allowed me to get out into the “line-up” with my hair still dry! My heart was in my throat as I saw a set of waves approach. Being still a novice, it was a miracle that I was able to stroke into a beautiful Pacific grinder. As I stood up, the wave passed over a sand bar and began to take the shape of a large tunnel. I experienced ecstasy and terror almost at the same moment. Seconds later I came flying out of this tunnel. I heard my buddies screaming on the beach.

Within a few minutes we were all together, hooting each other on as we rode the perfect “Overhead” barrels.

Fast forward thirty-six years, I am battling to salvage my life that had included sixteen years of sobriety . After a nearly four year drunk, I had managed to scrape together a year or so. I decided to head to L.A. to visit my mom. As I drove thru Ventura, I made the mandatory stop to check the surf. I got to Overhead in the late afternoon. As I sat in my car, studying the ocean, I became overwhelmed with feelings of that first day I had surfed Overhead. The feelings grew stronger and I felt paralyzed. I tried to make a deal with God - Please God, I will trade the rest of my life, if you only let me have that day back, so I can live it again. I began to tremble and weep. What was it about that day? I could not escape these thoughts and feelings. I continued my journey.

Weeks had passed since my trip south. It took a while for the answer to come. Looking back I realize that even though my youth was tainted with an array of drugs and alcohol, that day at the Overhead I was actually sober!! I was able to experience the majesty of God’s creation. The experience was so pure and real that it was burned into my soul .When I realized the true nature of that dreamlike day, long ago, it began a turning point in my sobriety. I can’t bargain with God to recapture yesterdays joys, but I can accept God’s love and the gifts of sobriety, freedom and joy....Thank you....

chris, Los Gatos



### NAME THE NEWSLETTER

Central Office has received a few suggestions for a formal name.

Among them:

Spirit of Pen and Tongue

The Sobriety Variety

The Safety Net

The Great Paradox

Changed Outlook

The Last Promise

Living it Up

The Upward Faith

AWOL in Santa Clara County (A Way of Life)

Do any of these appeal to you? Do you have an interesting newsletter title? Cast your email vote or idea with Central Office: [office@asaanjose.org](mailto:office@asaanjose.org)

## From the Archives

1. In June of 1953 the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was published. Bill says, "This small volume is strictly a textbook which explains AA's twenty-four basic principles and their application, in detail and with great care." The book sold well as soon as it was published.
2. On June 10, 1935, Dr. Bob had his last drink from Bill's own hands. Bill gave him a beer so that he would be able to perform surgery without being quite so shaky. Dr. Bob had gone on a drunk when he left for a medical conference. On his return he revealed that he had to do an important surgery in a couple of days. Bill sobered him up and gave him a bottle of beer to quiet down the shakes before he went into surgery. This was eight months after Bill and Dr. Bob's first meeting.
3. The first local closed men's meeting was organized in June of 1946. This meeting was the result of some men objecting to women coming to the meetings. They were finding that some wives were becoming jealous of the women who were attending with their husbands.
4. In June of 1982 the "Thru the Big Book" meeting was formed at Santa Teresa Hospital. It was started by Larry L. and Jim P. The group went through the whole Big Book including reading one story each month. The group is still meeting but was moved from the conference room to the main hospital to the class rooms in building 275. Al E. was asked to speak on the traditions once a year and Jack H. spoke on the twelve steps once a year.

Write your experience on any  
of these topics and send to:  
[office@aaanjose.org](mailto:office@aaanjose.org)

**UPCOMING NEWS LETTERS**

July—Freedom  
Freedom to . . . Freedom from  
Home Group . . . Do you have one? Why?  
How does your group support AA as a whole?

August- AA Literature  
Who needs it and why? . . . What's your favorite AA book?

Sept—Young People in AA

Alcoholics  
Anonymous...  
How may we help you?



### Telephone Calls Received During

Daytime at Central Office - 478

Daytime 12 Step Calls - 7

Evening and Weekend calls - 502

**From May 20 to May 31 we've had 1985**

visits to our website.

**WHEN ANY ALCOHOLIC, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR HELP, I WANT THE HAND OF A.A. 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

### ALANO CLUB WEST MEETINGS

Are now being held at different locations, pending re-opening of the club.

Please see their meeting schedule online at [www.alanowest.org](http://www.alanowest.org).

### Deleted -

Lifelong Friends, Saturday 6:30PM, 2011 Little Orchard, San Jose

Surrender with Grace (men), Friday, 6:00PM, Pueblo de Dios Church, 3257 Payne Ave., San Jose

Big Book Discussion, Saturday, 5:00PM, Alano Club of San Jose

New Beginnings, Sunday, 3:00 PM, Freedom Fellowship, Moffett Central Shopping Center, 327 B Moffett Blvd., Mountain View

Sub "21", Friday, 8:15PM, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Willow Glen

Willow Glen AA, Friday, 8:00PM, St. Francis Church, Willow Glen

Freedom From Bondage, Thurs, 12:30PM, Unity Church, Morgan Hill

### Changed -

H.O.W. Group, Wednesday 6:30PM, moved to Sunnyvale Church of the Nazarene, 636 W. Fremont at Hollenbeck

Men's Basic Step Study, Tuesday 8:00PM, moved to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 41 W. Rincon, Campbell

Basic Big Book, Thursday 6PM, Alano Club West, now meeting at St. Francis Episcopal Church (basement), 1205 Pine, San Jose

In the Solution, Saturday 7:30AM, Alano Club West, now meeting at 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., San Jose

AA Topic Healing Circle (Women's), is now an OPEN meeting for men and women, with chips

Saturday Night Promises, Saturday, 7:00PM, new address at 1st Christian Church, 2890 Middlefield, Palo Alto

Basic AA Text Study, Tues., 7:00PM, Ujirani Resource Center, address changed to 591 King Rd, at Las Plumas

Happy Hour, Friday, 5:30PM, address changed to Willow Glen Baptist Church, Minnesota & Hicks

### New -

Seeking Guidance (men), Friday 6:00PM, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3675 Payne at San Tomas

Happy Joyous. & Free Topic Mtg. 4:00PM, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 41 W. Rincon (St. Lawrence Hall), Campbell

As Bill Sees It Book Mtg. Sunday, 6:00PM, We Care Group, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1989 E. Calaveras Blvd., near Evans Rd.

Women's 12 Step Survival, Tuesday 7:30PM, Sobrato Family Transitional Center, 9345 Monterey Rd, Gilroy

Queer and Sober, Saturday 10:30AM, Billy DeFrank LGBT Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose

Spiritual Awakening Group, Saturday 9:00AM (breakfast) 9:30AM meeting, Calvary Church, 16330 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos

Basic 12 & 12, Monday, 6:00AM, Dennys Rest., 1390 1st St., at Cline.

The Way Out Big Book Study, Friday, 7:00 PM, Pueblo de Dios Church, 3257 Payne Ave.

Open A.A., Wednesday, 7:15 PM, St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Ave.

Mad Hatters, Tues., Noon, Saratoga Retirement Center, 14500 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga

# Birthdays Contributions

Name	Years	Gift From	Birthday
Ariana B	16	Christopher B	03/01/1991
David C	17		04/10/1990
Christopher B	20	Ariana B	04/18/1987
Curt Foster	3	In Memory of Maureen K	04/20/2004
Elaine H	10	Pat C.	05/03/1997
Walt P	MEMORIAM	“His Poker Pals”	05/08/1987
Carrie G	2	Doris G.	05/31/2005
Eugene B	40		05/18/1967
Marian F	23	Aileen B, Rita R	05/18/1984
Deenise K	4	Pat C.	05/20/2003
Barbara S	10		05/21/1997
Bud T.	MEMORIAM	Pat C.	05/27/1957
Kimberly G.	5		05/27/2002
Peggy Z	33	Aileen B, Pat G, Pat C, Rita R	05/29/1974



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

For a total of

**183 YEARS OF SOBRIETY**

and for a total contribution of **\$233.00**

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

The Birthday Plan has been a part of the AA Tradition since the 1955 Conference. Individual contributions help ensure that the AA message is carried from one member to another.



# June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Secretaries 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	30

### LOCAL EVENTS

**June 8-10 San Jose:** NCCAA, Parkside Hall, [www.ncc-aa.org](http://www.ncc-aa.org)

### EVENTS NEARBY

**July 12-15 South Lake Tahoe:** Greater Reno Regional AA Campout, AACampout@aol.com.

**July 13-15 Tehachapi, CA:** Tehachapi Mountain Roundup, [www.tehachapiroundup.com](http://www.tehachapiroundup.com).

**Aug. 30-Sept. 2 Los Angeles, CA:** ICYPAA Conference, Westin Bonaventure Hotel, [www.49thICYPAA.org](http://www.49thICYPAA.org)

**Aug. 31-Sept. 2 Monterey, CA:** Monterey Bay Area Roundup, Conference Center, [www.mbar.org](http://www.mbar.org)

**Oct. 19-21 Santa Clarita, CA:** 4th Annual Santa Clarita Valley Convention of A.A., [www.scvaaconvention.org](http://www.scvaaconvention.org)

### OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

**June 8-10 Pahrump, NV:** Sober Fun in the Old West, Nugget Hotel, email Kay at [nobbycat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nobbycat@sbcglobal.net)

**June 15-17 Merlin, OR:** OCYPAA Campout 2007, contact Scott at 541-520-2975

**August 4-6 College Station, TX:** 21st Annual Aggie-land Convention, [inform@AAggieland.com](mailto:inform@AAggieland.com)

### INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

*Please check the GSO website at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for a full listing of gatherings in the United States and around the world.*

### IN MEMORIUM

**Fred A., formerly of Cupertino - 57 years**

**Jim W., Los Altos - 24 Years**

(See his meditation article in May newsletter)

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP COUNCIL

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2007

- Bill, Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8:01pm, followed by A Moment of Silence, and the Serenity Prayer.
- Stefan read the Definition of Intergroup.
- There were 43 voting representatives in attendance, 6 of whom were new reps.
- Peggy read the Twelve Traditions.
- There were no corrections or additions to the Agenda.
- There were no corrections or additions to the Previous Month's Minutes.
- Intergroup Council's Treasurer's Report: Chuck G.

Beginning Balance:	05/02/07	\$180.00	Prudent Reserve	\$90.00
Contributions:	05/02/07	\$ 77.00		
Refreshments:	05/02/07	\$ 18.00		
Transfer to Reserve	05/03/07	\$210.00		
Balance:	06/06/07	\$ 29.00	Prudent Reserve	\$300.00

IG's prudent reserve has been increased to \$300, as approved by IG last month.
- Announcements:
  - Peter announced the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Founder's Day" Potluck and BBQ on June 10 in Mountain View, sponsored by the In the Basement Group and the Freedom Fellowship Group.
- Birthdays: Peggy, 36 yrs; Sally, 13 yrs; Susan, 31 yrs; Glenda, 9 yrs; Bill, 13 yrs; John, 10 yrs.

#### Reports

1. Intergroup Chair: Bill D. reminded everyone that the next IG meeting would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of July, since the first Wednesday is July Fourth. He also described a fun outing he, Bruce and their wives had at the SCCYPAA "Bigger Balls" event last month, and encouraged everyone to consider attending future SCCYPAA events.
2. Central Service Board: Robbie R. discussed the financial difficulties of one meeting and wondered if IG could benefit such groups by forming an advisory committee that would be available to provide advice on how to negotiate lower rents and manage finances. He also remarked on the high number of birthdays last month, but noticed that they are not listed on the birthday contributions list in the newsletter.
3. Central Office, Bruce:
  - a. The website continues to be upgraded with the addition of the newsletter. Tom, the Webmaster, has figured out how to maintain a website hit count, including what pages, how long the visitor has been on the site, and from what countries. Since May 22, 1,985 persons have visited the site from all over the world. The next step is to put events on the site. Mike, IG rep from the Second Tradition Group, said that he could help determine a way to count the number of hits to the newsletter on the site.
  - b. He also discussed the idea of IG being a clearinghouse for events in Santa Clara County from an event-planning standpoint as well as for people looking for events to attend. This would include lists of speakers for speaker groups.
  - c. He attended the Post-Conference Assembly in Cloverdale for Area 06. Motions to eliminate literature discounts and shipping costs were defeated. Bruce will e-mail our delegate Sharon for detailed clarification. Another motion to publish a brochure about Central Offices did not get out of committee and is still under review.
  - d. Donations to Central Office may now go as high as \$3,000, following the increase approved by GSO.
  - e. Sharon's General Service Conference Report may be heard this Saturday morning at the NCCAA conference in San Jose.
4. PI/CPC, Darcy: Distributed flyers describing upcoming workshops and that committee's monthly meeting. She also listed upcoming engagements at the Teen Male Facility in Alum Rock, Hellyer Park Health Festival on June 29, Starlight Teen Help, Unity Day, and the Gilroy Senior Center. Recent engagements were at Prieto Primavera (DUI class), and the Healthy Living Fair in San

- Jose. There is a constant need for Big Books to be donated to libraries and high schools as books disappear on a regular basis. Groups wishing to donate Big Books to this effort may bring their donations to CO, and Bruce will put the books in a box for distribution.
5. Twelfth Step Committee
    - a. Daytime Office Volunteer Coordinator: Bruce reported that all shifts are filled, but alternates are always needed.
    - b. Nights and Weekends Diverter Coordinator: Maxine was absent, but Peter reported that there are 3 open shifts on Saturdays.
  6. Outreach Committee: Sally reported that of the 608 groups to visit, 141 have been visited, and 16 no longer exist.
  7. Newsletter Committee: Rose reported that since IG will meet the second week of July, the newsletter would be delayed. Next month will feature articles about home groups. The newsletter will be named by popular vote at Unity Day in August. Rose's 2-year term ends in July, so be thinking about nominations for her replacement.
  8. Other Service Committee Reports:
    - Unity Day: Tom K. reported that everything is in place. A motion was made to contribute \$650 to Unity Day. The motion was 2nded, and approved unanimously.
    - Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous: No Report.
    - Hospitals & Institutions: No Report.
    - Bridging the Gap: No Report.
    - North County General Service: Jeanne H. reported that the Summer Assembly is scheduled for August 11 in Petaluma.
    - South County General Service: Erica reported that the bid to host the Summer Assembly next year was not successful, as the bid went to San Mateo County. South County will try again for the following summer.
    - Take Your Sponsor to Brunch Committee: Rina reported that this event is taking place on July 21 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Santa Clara. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. A suggested donation is \$10 per person. The next planning meeting is on Monday, June 11 at 5pm in Central Office.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- Better Communications – should we revise the meeting guide to request secretaries to read IG and CO announcements? A discussion followed resulting in a motion to approve adding a line to the Suggested Order of Meeting in the meeting directory. The motion was seconded, and approved.

#### **New Business**

- IG Liaisons to other service bodies – Just as service bodies such as General Service send liaisons to Intergroup to report on their activities, should we reciprocate by sending liaisons to their meetings to report on IG activities? During the discussion that followed, many liaisons reported that they report both ways, from their service groups to IG, and from IG to their service groups. Officially, however, the reporting is only one-way. Liaisons have no voting privileges and are for information purposes only. A concern was made about lack of volunteer time, and that a two-way liaison makes sense in this regard. Liaisons from GS and SCCYPAA said that there is room in their agendas for IG reports, and that such reports would be welcome. The topic was tabled for further discussion next month.
- Presentations by other service bodies – A proposal was made to make room in the IG meeting agenda for a 5 – 10 minute presentation from one other service body per month to help in demystifying what other groups do. There was great interest in this; a motion was made to include such presentations. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **Open Forum** - None

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison S.

**INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**May 2007**

	<u>May 07</u>	<u>May 06</u>	<u>Jan - May 07</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
3030 · Contributions-General	8,410.43	8,156.93	58,526.94
8010 · Literature Sales	5,810.07	5,811.96	28,251.73
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	1,312.00	0.00	5,466.70
8060 · Newsletter Subscriptions	40.00	15.00	135.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>15,572.50</u>	<u>13,983.89</u>	<u>92,380.37</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold (Excl. Mtg. Dir. after 6/1/06)	3,741.94	4,023.81	18,581.77
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories (After 6/1/06)	673.25	0.00	2,119.37
<b>Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<u>4,415.19</u>	<u>4,023.81</u>	<u>20,701.14</u>
<b>Total COGS</b>	<u>4,415.19</u>	<u>4,023.81</u>	<u>20,701.14</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	11,157.31	9,960.08	71,679.23
<b>Expense</b>			
6010 · Alarm Service	0.00	0.00	354.00
6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	145.26	120.56	2,449.43
6060 · Amortization of Improvements	0.00	0.00	3.25
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	0.83	0.00	323.33
6120 · Computer Expenses	411.34	0.00	1,260.69
6140 · Conferences - Office Manager	0.00	0.00	96.27
6150 · Unity Day Expense	0.00	-60.00	0.00
6160 · Copier Expense	101.94	66.98	552.35
6190 · Depreciation Expense	0.00	0.00	1,363.25
6230 · Insurance - General Liability	500.00	0.00	819.16
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	708.37	549.70	3,737.07
6245 · Internet Access Charges	19.95	19.95	99.75
6330 · Office Expense	474.19	71.17	1,785.05
6360 · Archives (Archives)	0.00	0.00	-100.00
6370 · Office Paper Supply	0.00	138.11	0.00
6380 · Payroll Taxes	558.44	349.01	2,887.35
6410 · Postage	583.58	401.40	1,462.28
6480 · Rent	2,280.60	2,217.25	11,339.65
6540 · Salaries - Office	6,514.66	6,135.93	31,816.42
6600 · Signing Services	200.00	200.00	800.00
7010 · Taxes and Licenses	0.00	0.00	60.00
7050 · Telephone	313.57	21.75	1,571.59
7060 · Travel	0.00	0.00	0.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>12,812.73</u>	<u>10,231.81</u>	<u>62,681.39</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-1,655.42	-271.73	8,997.84
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
8030 · Interest Income	267.01	193.78	1,239.35
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>267.01</u>	<u>193.78</u>	<u>1,239.35</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	267.01	193.78	1,239.35
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-1,388.41</u></u>	<u><u>-77.95</u></u>	<u><u>10,237.19</u></u>

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

	<u>May 31, 07</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1010 · Petty Cash	225.00
1035 · Bank of America (Bank account)	8,921.59
1040 · Bank of America CD 5718 (8 mo. CD @ 4.79%, 9/24/07)	30,458.64 *
1041 · Bank of America CD 5931 (18 mo. CD @ 4.26%, 1/28/08)	14,891.71 *
1042 · Capital Preservation Fund (Treas. fund currently @ 4.45%)	24,581.27 *
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>79,078.21</u>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-711.77
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>-711.77</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1250 · Literature Inventory	15,243.63
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	1,191.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>16,434.63</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	94,801.07
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1630 · Office Equipment	38,150.80
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	2,197.84
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-18,217.25
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-137.25
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>22,294.14</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>119,089.06</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (Sales Tax Payable)	1,028.33
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,028.33</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,028.33</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,028.33
<b>Equity</b>	
2740 · Unrestricted Funds	95,777.91
3900 · Retained Earnings	12,045.63
Net Income	10,237.19
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>118,060.73</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>119,089.06</u></u>

<p>* Our Prudent Reserve Accounts total: <b>\$69,931.62</b> This represents 5.7 months of operating expenses. The Board established goal is 6 months operating expenses.</p>
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3:45 PM  
06/01/07  
Accrual Basis

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Group Contributions

May 2007

	May 07	Jan - May 07		May 07	Jan - May 07
1 INV Freedom Fellowship 70940	0.00	140.00	Sat. Get Up and Go (Women) 187	0.00	563.65
1 INV Fremont & Hollenbeck Group 70907	0.00	1,623.18	Sat. Grace Group of AA 352	0.00	375.00
1 INV R and B Group 70972	88.10	1,013.53	Sat. Gratitude Group 339	0.00	156.00
1 INV Saturday Nite Live Group 70905	0.00	2,699.21	Sat. High Hope 239	0.00	225.60
1 INV Spiritual Progress Group 70904	0.00	700.00	Sat. In the Solution 647	0.00	262.00
Birthday Contribution 00951	233.00	1,871.00	Sat. Living in the Solution (Women) 33	0.00	30.00
Fri. 12 Steps at Noon 303	0.00	140.55	Sat. Meditation Meeting 39	0.00	70.00
Fri. Big Book Study 8.00P Cupt 284	0.00	100.00	Sat. Mountain View Group 350	0.00	175.00
Fri. Easier Way Group 290	0.00	630.00	Sat. Positive Outlook Group 368	373.80	373.80
Fri. East Valley Group 322	0.00	150.00	Sat. Saturday Morning Los Gatos 777	0.00	1,540.00
Fri. Fireside Group 297	0.00	36.92	Sat. Second Tradition Group Spkr 721	0.00	404.50
Fri. Happy Hour 652	0.00	200.00	Sat. Think Tank (Men) 361	700.00	1,400.00
Fri. In the Chapel 13	0.00	78.38	Sat. Trinity Group 370	0.00	100.00
Fri. Lesbians Living the Promises 349	0.00	70.00	Sat. Women's Brunch 640	0.00	607.45
Fri. Living with Others 319	174.10	174.10	Sun. Almaden Valley Discussion 30	0.00	41.31
Fri. Men's 4th Step Group 320	0.00	44.10	Sun. Attitude Adjustment 446	110.00	260.00
Fri. New Nooners 859	0.00	110.00	Sun. Early Bird 429	0.00	36.89
Fri. Saratoga Group 328	0.00	165.00	Sun. Early Spiritual Progress 7	0.00	175.00
Fri. Saratoga Serenity Group 329	0.00	144.20	Sun. Get Well Group 17	0.00	210.00
Fri. T.G.I.F. Speaker/Discussion 298	0.00	697.75	Sun. Humbly Asked 8.00A 87	0.00	248.50
Fri. Women Preparing for the Weekend 691	0.00	159.60	Sun. In the Basement 545	0.00	100.00
G Agnews Noon Meetings 70921	0.00	1,050.00	Sun. Invaders Group 44	100.00	200.00
G Forged From Adversity Group 70957	0.00	482.50	Sun. Living Sober 21	260.55	260.55
G Gilroy Groups 70906	126.00	336.00	Sun. Men's Underground Book Study 401	0.00	318.00
G Seeking Guidance Group 70976	0.00	2,238.00	Sun. New People's Group 3	0.00	157.61
G South County Fellowship 70954	175.00	893.00	Sun. New Steps for Living 20	146.65	632.95
G Sunrise Group of Palo Alto 70963	0.00	270.00	Sun. Pass It On Group Los Altos 418	350.00	700.00
G Sunrisers Group/Carrows 70932	445.70	2,480.91	Sun. Progress Not Perfection 229	140.00	140.00
G Third Tradition Women's Grp(The 70979	0.00	1,652.00	Sun. Sober in the Park 688	0.00	70.00
G Winchester Fellowship 70960	136.00	478.44	Sun. Speaker Meeting 18	0.00	277.00
Memorial Contributions	0.00	55.00	Sun. Spiritual Progress Group 8	0.00	73.65
Mon. A.B.C. Women's Group 58	0.00	140.00	Sun. Spiritual Step Study Group 233	0.00	568.40
Mon. As Bill Sees It 6.00P 518	0.00	375.00	Sun. Step by Step Group 5	0.00	70.00
Mon. Attitude Adjustment/Tradition 321	0.00	350.00	Sun. Sunday Early Evening 682	336.00	336.00
Mon. Basic 12 & 12 00662	163.53	163.53	Thurs. Attitude Adjustment 861	888.80	888.80
Mon. Downtown Steppers (Men) 392	0.00	130.90	Thurs. Basic Big Book 710	0.00	100.00
Mon. Early Monday Night 68	0.00	614.92	Thurs. California Avenue Supper Group 715	0.00	461.00
Mon. Grateful Live Group 535	0.00	517.30	Thurs. Eleventh Step Meditation Mtg 276	0.00	115.50
Mon. HOW Group 71	0.00	210.00	Thurs. Evergreen Group 884	0.00	70.00
Mon. Joy of Living Meeting 92	0.00	494.54	Thurs. Gay Men's Freedom 262	0.00	684.99
Mon. Los Altos Men's Group 59	0.00	63.00	Thurs. Higher Power Hr Big Book Topic 871	0.00	630.00
Mon. Men's Group 97	178.62	178.62	Thurs. Just For Today 238	66.42	305.35
Mon. Men's Single Problem Study 89	0.00	465.00	Thurs. Los Altos Group 225	0.00	70.00
Mon. Men's Single Topic Discussion 582	0.00	1,108.00	Thurs. Men's Single Problem Study 220	0.00	875.00
Mon. Midday Women's Group 91	0.00	415.00	Thurs. Mountain Miracles 882	0.00	735.00
Mon. New Direction 12 x 12 90	200.00	200.00	Thurs. South Valley Group See 1 INV 267	0.00	70.00
Mon. Shared Gift (The) (Women) 61	0.00	263.40	Thurs. South Valley Men's 845	0.00	280.00
Mon. Signs of Sobriety 402	0.00	25.00	Thurs. Spiritual Progress 269	700.00	700.00
Mon. Villages Group of AA (The) 406	266.00	451.00	Thurs. St. Mark's Group 270	200.00	734.22
Personal 00911	9.00	773.26	Thurs. Sunshine Group 243	0.00	315.00
Sat. Big Book Study Group 503	0.00	100.00	Thurs. There Is a Solution (Men) 732	0.00	180.00
Sat. Cambrian Saturday Night 376	0.00	643.00	Thurs. What's Happening Today 552	0.00	321.22

3:45 PM  
06/01/07  
Accrual Basis

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.  
**Group Contributions**  
May 2007

	<u>May 07</u>	<u>Jan - May 07</u>	<u>May 07</u>	<u>Jan - May 07</u>
Thurs. Women Sharing the Solution 519	0.00	242.90		
Tues. 12 Steps & HOW (Women) 25	70.00	70.00		
Tues. A Vision for You Women's 802	0.00	80.97		
Tues. AA Literature Discussion Group 700	0.00	87.50		
Tues. Attitude Adjustment 886	0.00	416.00		
Tues. Big Book Discussion Group 107	30.00	70.00		
Tues. Design for Living 200	0.00	196.00		
Tues. Down to Earth Group 563	0.00	175.17		
Tues. Early Bird 129	0.00	140.76		
Tues. Early Tuesday Group 119	297.50	493.46		
Tues. El Camino Group 108	0.00	108.66		
Tues. Freethinkers of the Valley 29	0.00	210.00		
Tues. Happy Destiny (Women) 109	0.00	287.01		
Tues. Los Gatos Tuesday Night 110	0.00	70.00		
Tues. Men's Topic Discussion 635	0.00	79.80		
Tues. Men's Basic Step Study Group 891	197.12	197.12		
Tues. Noon Sstep Study 0555	70.00	70.00		
Tues. Palo Alto Men's Meeting 525	0.00	630.00		
Tues. Palo Alto Step Study 752	0.00	295.69		
Tues. St. Luke's Group 113	0.00	783.00		
Tues. Tuesday Night Saratoga Group 152	0.00	130.00		
Tues. Up the Creek - Daily Reflection 745	25.00	125.00		
Tues. Veterans of Alcohol (open) 874	0.00	371.00		
Tues. We Care Step Study 128	0.00	424.70		
Tues. Women's Topic Disc. Group	0.00	180.04		
Unknown	0.00	515.30		
Wed. Attitude Adjustment 198	190.34	470.34		
Wed. Berryessa Group 527	420.00	420.00		
Wed. Better Way of Living 197	175.00	175.00		
Wed. Chip Winners Group 168	67.20	242.90		
Wed. Courage to Change 145	211.00	371.09		
Wed. Eleventh Step Group 167	0.00	70.00		
Wed. Gay Alcoholics Living / Sobriety 742	0.00	91.00		
Wed. Ladies Amethyst AA Study Group 749	0.00	268.75		
Wed. Lodestar Group / Sober Thoughts 499	90.00	260.00		
Wed. Midweek Spiritual Progress 213	0.00	140.00		
Wed. Open A A 00660	0.00	47.32		
Wed. Other Wednesday Nite (Men) 209	0.00	1,251.60		
Wed. Serenity Discussion 210	0.00	459.00		
Wed. Step Study (Women) LG 820	0.00	118.37		
Wed. Steps & Traditions 893	0.00	187.20		
Wed. Sundowners' Dinner Meeting 768	0.00	109.51		
Wed. Women on the Move 570	0.00	110.00		
	<u>8,410.43</u>	<u>58,501.94</u>		