



Santa Clara County Monthly Intergroup Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3

www.aasanjose.org

March 2007

SERVICE OR POLITICS?

My life changed the day a sober *volunteer in service* at Intergroup Central Office picked up the phone when I called asking for help with my alcohol problem. My life was a wreck. I was divorced, my only child was living with my ex spouse and I was on the brink of complete financial oblivion. I was hiding my car from the repossession crew, and I was close to default on my mortgage on my house. I was self-employed and hiding from clients (a difficult way to make a living), and I was filled with self-loathing, terror, and despair. I was incapable of not drinking at this point although I desperately wanted and needed to stop. The kind voice of the woman at the other end of the line assured me that help was available. She gave me directions to a meeting, and at noon on a Friday over two decades ago, I walked into a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and miraculously I have not had a drink since then.

That first meeting was well-organized. A greeter at the door saw to it that I had a cup of coffee and introduced me to some people who immediately saw to it that I had a seat with them. Someone gave me a meeting directory and people passed it around writing their names and phone numbers on the "notes" page with short messages that said things like, "call anytime," or "24hrs." They also circled meetings in the directory and agreed to meet me at those meetings over the week end and on into the next week. The secretary read the preamble and the "Secretary's Announcements" from the newsletter which included an announcement about an upcoming convention. (Now there was an intriguing idea for a brand-new newcomer – these folks had conventions!?) A group of AAs took me out for lunch after the meeting and talked with me about recovery and how to stay sober anywhere from one minute to 24 hours at a time.

As I attended meetings over the next few weeks, I noticed that sometimes members would make reports from meetings they had attended. Sometimes, group members would engage in vigorous debate over some topic that had been raised during one of these reports. I gradually came to understand that the opinions and views of individual A.A. members were respected and important when it came to topics that affected A.A. as a whole. At thirty days of sobriety, I volunteered to chair registration for one of the upcoming conventions I had heard about. I went from meeting to meeting asking for volunteers and chatting up the convention. (I also sat at home and calligraphied all the pre-registrations as they came in - I didn't *quite* understand the "we" part of A.A. yet!) My motive for volunteering was a poor one. I figured if I volunteered for this important job and did it well, that AA couldn't kick me out! (I also didn't understand our membership policy yet) What happened as a result of chairing registration for that convention, though, was nothing short of miraculous! It was *through* giving myself to service in A.A. that I felt myself become a true member of the fellowship of A.A. God blessed me with an active A.A. sponsor who encouraged sponsees to try each branch of A.A. service at least once. As a result, I have served as a Diverter Volunteer, a Daytime Telephone Volunteer, an Intergroup Representative, a General Service Representative, a Hospitals and Institutions Representative, a Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community volunteer and speaker and have served on the Intergroup Central Service Board. I could hardly wait for my first A.A. birthday to add my name to the list of 12-step volunteers (this felt like becoming a true "grown-up" in A.A.) and have been on the 12th step list since I first signed up. For my tenth A.A. birthday, Intergroup Council elected me to serve as daytime telephone coordinator, a position I held for two years. Each of these service commitments has given me opportunities to grow as an A.A. member and as a person. I remember being dismayed at my first Intergroup Council meeting by the small number of groups represented (about 10 %) of the groups registered with

Intergroup Central Office. I am still saddened when I hear an A.A. member say, "Oh, I don't do that Intergroup or General Service stuff – it's all just A.A. politics!" I know that this member is missing an important opportunity for personal and spiritual growth, and that A.A. is missing yet one more member's potential contribution to our common good. With enough individual A.A. members and groups opting not to participate in our service organizations, we may be less likely to reach true God-consciousness in our decision-making process and more likely to miss some important factor or viewpoint critical to our continued growth as a vital recovering community. Two definitions of "politics" are "the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy," and "the total complex of relations between people in society." I cannot see that participating in the politics of A.A. could be detrimental to any member or group, and yet not participating may be that one thing that Bill Wilson and Bob Smith thought might hurt us: that if we are to perish as an organization, it will be not because of forces from outside, but from within.

I wonder if members and groups who elect not to participate in service truly understand the structure of A.A. – that the voices of members in groups are communicated to service bodies which then carry out the will of the body of A.A. as a whole. Do these members who would never participate in "A.A. politics" ever visit Intergroup Central Office to buy a book or chat with the staff? Have they ever picked up a meeting schedule at a meeting? Do these members understand that it is through the directive of the groups, expressed through their Intergroup Representatives that Intergroup Central Office publishes a directory (AA politics)? Our service entities were created to facilitate carrying our message of hope and recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers and to make sure that the means of carrying that message does not disappear. As Bill Wilson says on page 6 of our Service Manual, "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."

I would not trade a single minute of my service experience in A.A. for anything. I would not be the person I am today if it were not for my service in A.A. I was truly "bankrupt as a going human concern" when I walked into my first meeting. Today I am blessed with a wealth of friends (many of whom I met in service groups) and a rich and useful life in every walk of my life. My sobriety hasn't been without its ups and downs (after all, life isn't without its ups and downs), but I firmly believe that my service life in A.A. keeps me firmly oriented so that no mere vicissitudes can knock me off God's course. Thank God for that volunteer in service on the day I decided to call A.A. What would I have done if she hadn't been in service that day? What if no one had chosen to be in service and there had been no A.A. hotline to call at all? Then what? I am deeply grateful for the opportunity I have to serve in A.A. I could never repay what I have been given even if I had several lifetimes to serve!

In This Issue

Page 1	Service or Politics
Page 2	Intergroup Service
Page 2	Founder's Day in Akron, OH
Page 3	Stepping Out in Sobriety
Page 4	Answer to last month's question
Page 4	Archives
Page 6	In Memoriam
Page 6	From the Intergroup Chair
Page 10	Calendar
	Intergroup Minutes and Financial Reports

WHY INTERGROUP SERVICE?

The question that was asked during the Intergroup Council meeting on 2/7/2007 was:

What contributed to your decision to become an Intergroup representative other than being nominated and voted into position by your home group?

My response was to suggest a show of hands to find out which people at the IGR meeting had actually taken the IGR position as a result of being nominated and voted into the position? When I posed the question "how many people here took the IGR position because they had been nominated into the position and didn't really know what an IGR was" my hand was not the only one to rise.

I stated that service was very important to my sobriety and that I simply accepted the nomination without really knowing what an IGR was. While there were a few laughs what's most important is that I am in service and I don't mind a little on the job training when it comes to contributing to my own sobriety.

Mike S.

During the year 2000, I had the honor of being elected to the Central Service Board. At that time I had been in the program for 17 years, and my experience had consisted primarily of being secretary of the meetings I attended regularly, sponsoring people, and chairing meetings when asked to. I was actually fairly ignorant of the inner workings of the program. Little did I know this was all a training ground.

As the result of these two years, it was suggested that I run for the Intergroup Chair position. When asked to go through my qualifications, I outlined my service stints pertaining to my home meetings, sponsorship, time in the program, and desire to continue to learn. I was honest and shared that I was not as literate in the inner workings, still, as maybe even some of the other candidates, however I did have a proven track record in the business community, and felt that this would be an asset in the business of the program. I was elected and this is when the learning really began. As an aside to this, I would like to thank Jim B, a former secretary of the Thursday night "Gorilla" meeting, and especially Mary G. who gave freely of their time and advice in helping me settle into the position. Mary was the recording secretary my first year, and I could not have done the position without her, literally at my side each meeting!

The years 2002-2004 were some of the best years of my life. I learned so much about the various groups that comprise the fellowship, how they interact, and most importantly, how important they are to us! Each month there was a new issue or something else for me to learn. My business leadership skills did come in handy, and knowing when to let the group run on a matter, and when to bring us back to center, sometimes was a challenging task. But respect and integrity were attributes the group operated under, and we usually moved forward on matters discussed. There is so much involved in running the program/fellowship, and my eyes were totally opened as the result of this service.

The years spent in these positions did rocket me into another dimension, as they kept me plugged into the program into yet another way, made me fess up when I did not know something, and ask for help when needed. But I think that the biggest thing that it did for me was to look at the various service reps at my meeting in an entirely different light, and to help get people around me to realize how important these announcements really are. After all, if the members of the fellowship are not doing the work, who is?

Michael R

Alcoholics Anonymous Birthplace



"The public will be able to view for the first time the tiny study room where admitted alcoholics Robert Smith and William Wilson formed the group that today has more than 2 million members worldwide. The home will be opened Saturday and Sunday as A.A. members mark Founders Day weekend, the annual event that honors the start of the organization that focuses on sobriety through faith and fellowship."

Celebrate Founders' Day!

72nd Anniversary of

Alcoholics Anonymous,

June 8,9,10, 2007

Akron, Ohio, Birthplace of AA

For more details contact:

Address: 775 North Main St. Akron, Ohio 44310 Telephone:

Intergroup Office: (330) 253-8181 Toll free (in Ohio): 1-800-897-6737

Fax: (330) 253-8292

Check out the website for complete details:

<http://www.akronaa.org/foundersday/>

STEPPING OUT IN SOBRIETY

RUNNING WITH GOD INSTEAD OF RUNNING FROM LIFE

I was a runner when I was in high school and picked it up again in my early twenties. I had a decent running career in mostly local events and races until my alcoholism took that away, like everything else in its path.

A few years into sobriety I started running again, mostly to lose weight, but discovered running as a time of enjoyment and not just an obsession to race and be fast. I also met friends in sobriety who enjoyed running and together we ran and trained and even completed a few marathons.

Today running is a form of a “quiet time” for reflection and even meditation for me. When I’m alone on the longer runs, after a while of getting warmed up and into a smooth pattern, I often experience the feeling that it’s just me and my Creator out there together.

The place where I run most of my long runs is along the Los Gatos creek trail. There’s a path that follows the creek about 10 miles each way, so I can get in 20 miles of running without any traffic interruptions or stops. It’s very peaceful and there are fewer distractions than running on city streets.

Last year was one of our wettest winters ever here and while on one of my long runs during preparation for a marathon, it seemed to be more like a river than a creek.

As I ran along, I noticed how different the river appeared depending on where I was on the trail. At times it was wild and swift with the water rushing along and rapids created by the rocks hidden below the surface. It was noisy and powerful – fiercer than I’d ever seen; especially compared to the little creek I was used to.

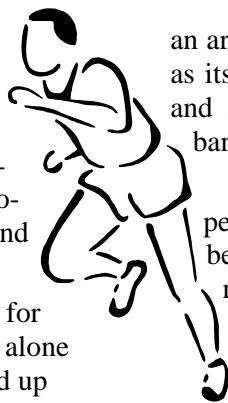
I went around a few more turns and came upon an area where the “river” widened. It spread out as wide as its banks would allow, and there the water was calm and smooth, almost as peaceful as a lake, you could barely tell it was moving at all.

I think the river is like my life in AA. Depending on where I am at any given moment, life can be rushed, exciting and dangerous, creating fear in me. The feeling of not knowing what to expect and not sure if things will turn out like I hope, or if I’ll even survive! But if I persevere, even when it’s rough, just around the next turn it may suddenly become easier and more peaceful than it’s ever been before! Had I not continued on through the rough spots, I would have missed out on some of the most enjoyable moments of my life!

Early in my sobriety I heard someone say in a meeting, “don’t quit 5 minutes before the miracle happens”. I’m glad they said that, and that I listened and stayed, because I can say with absolute certainty that it truly does get better and better, one day at a time.

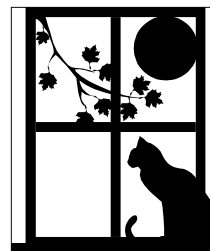
JS

Santa Clara



Thought to Ponder...

I had to get sober to be amazed.



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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 25th of the month prior to publication.



Answer to last month's question

Twenty prayers in the Big Book.

Prayer	Page	Prayer	Page
3rd Step Prayer	63	9 th Step Prayer	79
4 th Step Prayer (resentments)	67	Change Prayer	81
Fear Prayer	68	Morning Prayer	83
Sex Prayer	69	10 th Step Prayer (Growth)	84
Forgiveness Prayer	70	Daily Prayer	85
Sanity and Strength Prayer	70	Morning Prayer	86 164
5 th Step Prayer	75	11 th Step Prayer (at night)	86
6 th Step Prayer	76	Decision Prayer	86
7 th Step Prayer	76	During the Day Prayer	87
8 th Step Prayer	76	A Blessing	164

Archives

A man Named Dr. A. Weis Hammer had mentioned the A.A. fellowship to Curtis Bok, one of the owners of the Saturday Evening Post. Mr. Bok had seen some A.A. recoveries first hand. The Post sent Jack Alexander to check out A.A. Jack had just done an exposition of the Jersey rackets. Bill W. reported that because of the expose which Mr. Alexander had just done, A.A. gave Jack the "most exhaustive briefing on Alcoholics Anonymous any writer has ever had". The Post insisted that they had to have pictures. Our members objected but the Post said no pictures, no article. Many members protested to the pictures but Bill and Dr. Bob said to go ahead. The article appeared in the March 1, 1941 issue. Jack's extensive report

on our fellowship resulted in thousands of inquiries. In those days most people who could type were woman so they rounded up every A.A. wife who could type answers to the inquiries. The upper floor of the twenty-Fourth street club was used for this project. They thought about using form letters but decided against it.

Jack Alexander is quoted to have said about Bill W. "a very disarming guy and an expert at indoctrinating the stranger into the psychology, psychiatry, physiology, pharmacology, and folklore of alcoholism." Bill's candor was described by the reporter as being "either incredibly naive or a bit stupid". Bill showed Jack Alexander everything about A.A. He opened the books to him. It was not long before Jack's cynicism evaporated.

From the Grapevine:

Day Counting

If you haven't had the chance to count your sobriety days on our Sobriety Counter, now is the time. Or, tell a newcomer about it:

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/countyourdays.php>



"One of the hardest things in life to learn is which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn."

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

But for the Grace of God. At this point in my recovery this is a very powerful quote to me. I thought I needed to stop drinking for everyone ELSE in my life EXCEPT me, but it didn't take long to realize that I needed to stop drinking FOR ME! I hated the fact that those closest to me saw me at my worst, especially my mother whom I now live with after 12 years of a turbulent and addicted (in more ways than one) marriage.

After spending 21 hours in the psychiatric ward at the county hospital last August, I had finally arrived at that "never again" point in my life! After I left the hospital I knew that I couldn't stop drinking by myself and I was willing to give rehab a try. I then knew that AA was my next stop.

I KNOW that God has always been MY Higher Power (and my constant companion) throughout my drinking "career" because there were MANY could'a, should'a, and would'a's that were eventually inevitable. Since I've come into the fellowship, met people that are the same as me, got a sponsor, and am working the steps, it has enriched the meaning and quality of my life. I brought myself to AA voluntarily but I have stayed here willingly, only, but for the Grace of God!



I came into AA through a recovery hospital. I found a home in the program such as I had never had before. I embraced what I was taught. And I didn't know how well I had learned what I needed.

Three months after leaving the hospital and started going to meetings, I was invited on a two day white water rafting trip. This was my first time on white water. The first day I was thrilled beyond words. We landed on a beach to spend the night and unloaded the boats. Of several large coolers, which I thought were filled with food, I found two were filled with booze of various descriptions. I immediately thought to celebrate the day with a beer (or ten, or twenty, or . . .). Then I reminded myself that I no longer drank. I carried a water bottle around in a white knuckled grip to substitute for that beer

I waited until dinner was done. Then I walked down the beach a couple of hundred yards and lay down

on the sand. I remembered the statement that some day nothing would stand between me and my next drink but my connection to my Higher Power. This was the time to check that statement out. As I lay there I prayed to God, asking for the compulsion to take a drink to be lifted. About twenty minutes later I suddenly felt the strangest feeling. I had to think for a moment about what I was feeling, it was so unusual. I realized that the compulsion was gone. I was at complete peace. I believe I was touched by the hand of God that day.

Since then I have never had a desire to take a drink, even in the most difficult of times. I still remember that feeling and know that God is with me at all times, even when I forget Him.

Dennis F



I was raised knowing God. However, during my drinking days, I let Him become a distant acquaintance. He heard a very different, and not too frequent type of prayer. I understand that God only gives us what we can handle, and if not for His grace, I could have been in far worse situations. My drinking, at times, put myself and others in danger, my health could have been irreparably damaged, my mind ruined, loved ones lost, along with a host of other unfortunate events.

God puts us through various experiences for a purpose. Maybe we have touched a life that we know about, but more often than not, I believe we touch many lives and never know the differences we have made. Our experiences, good, or bad, may be exactly what that person needs to make a difference in their life. I feel that God has put me here for a reason - and to be present for that experience, I must remain sober.

With the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have once again become close to God, and am learning to allow my Higher Power to lead, while I follow. I am filled with gratitude that God has chosen a better path for me than I chose for myself. I might not have made it this far. . . **but, for the grace of God.**

Joni

In Memorium Nell Wing

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Nell Wing died on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. after a lengthy illness. Nell was 89 years old. Nell was Bill W's secretary and assistant for 17 years and a close friend and long-time companion to Lois W. She worked at the General Service Office of A.A. from the beginning of 1947 until her retirement at the close of 1982, starting as a receptionist and later becoming secretary of A.A. World Services, Inc. Additionally, she served as G.S.O.'s first archivist for the last ten of her years at the office. The Archives opened in 1975.

Condolences may be sent to Nell's nephew, William (Bill) Wing at the following:
William Wing
52 Northwood Dr.
West Milford , NJ 07480

We would like to take a moment to celebrate Nell's life and share the following, which our G.S.O. Archivist, Amy Filitreau, provided:

From *Markings*, November/December 1983, when Nell announced her retirement in print:

"...I hope to stay nearby; and never lessen interest in this fellowship, nor loosen the close bonds of friendship with my A.A. and Al-Anon friends. I'm forever grateful for this marvelous experience that began for me on March 3, 1947, at 415 Lexington Ave., New York City, in 3 small rooms of the Central Terminal Building. I have enjoyed and treasured every moment of it. I won't say 'goodbye:' just want to extend my love and thanks to each one of you dear friends."

In Memoriam

Judy T., Los Altos, 29 years Sobriety

From the Intergroup Chair

Recently a friend e-mailed me a flyer about the 49th anniversary meeting at St. Mark's. Thank God for good friends. If I heard about it I forgot I heard. It was in the Newsletter, but I forgot. I do that a lot. If I had another half brain I would be a half wit.

But it reminded me of my early days in A.A. I was a lot worse then. I forgot everything. I had to carry a meeting directory with all my meetings circled in it. I looked at the day of the week if I could remember it. Sometimes I got the day of the week wrong, but got to a meeting anyway. When it got close to noon I found out where to go and went. I did the same thing at night. I had a hard time reading too. I got lost in the sentences in the Big Book and newspapers were out of the question.

In those days, meeting secretaries made announcements at every meeting. So if there was a conference, a new meeting, any A.A. event, even I knew about it. Sometimes they had flyers with directions on how to get there. I liked that. And I showed up at Unity Day, and Days of Sobriety, and service things and I became a member of A.A. And I stopped thinking there were secret meetings that I was not invited to.

I wonder what happened to announcements at meetings. They must have taken that group conscience when I was at a different meeting. I must have missed a lot of group consciences. I wonder how new people hear about what's happening in A.A. Gee, I wonder how all of us know what's going on. Maybe we need to talk about this. Maybe we could ask our home group secretaries to read the announcements from Intergroup.

Is this a great idea, or what?

SECRETARIES

PLEASE READ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS
FROM CENTRAL OFFICE TO YOUR GROUP

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Permit me, please, to share with you some observations and a vision I have for our Fellowship in Santa Clara County. I offer these, not as your special worker, but as a fellow A.A. member.

It's always a kick to talk to our oldtimers and I get very envious when they tell me "what we used to be like" as a Fellowship. They tell me of picnics, pot lucks, dances, anniversary celebrations, and other gatherings where they celebrated their sobriety and the sheer fun of hanging out with our diverse membership. They tell me of the nearly total involvement of each member in the service of A.A.: the formation and operation of Central Office, the work of H&I and General Service, and Diverter service, to name just a few. And my heart soars when they talk of sponsorship and the emphasis on our Traditions and commitment to A.A. unity. The picture they paint is a brightly colored tapestry of enthusiasm, of involvement, and of hope.



Have we lost some of this richness of unity? Almost daily I hear laments about the failure of sponsorship, the lack of volunteers, the poor understanding of our Traditions, how Silicon Valley grew too fast, our isolation from one another, and the problems thought to be caused by treatment programs and court referrals. Are these observations true?

For those of us who might believe these observations to be true – or some of them, at least - we might then play the blame game. This is not a particularly helpful exercise, but, I must admit, it's one I've vigorously participated in over the years myself.

There might be a better way, maybe even an "easier, softer way" in the long run.

If these observations have merit (and I fear they do) it occurs to me that it doesn't matter how we got where we are or who or what got us here. The point is that we can change. The chasm existing



between those few of us exploring and realizing the possibilities presented in this Fellowship and those of us who may not even know of the possibilities needs a bridge. I suggest we build that bridge. It must be a wide, strong bridge, and it can't be built overnight, so I suggest we start soon.

Here's my simple vision – that we find our way back to our unity and an understanding of our Traditions, that we re-energize our activities and commitment to service, that we paint our own "brightly colored tapestry of enthusiasm, of involvement, and of hope".

Most of you will have far more creative solutions and suggestions than I can muster. But, as a starting point, may I suggest the formation of an "Activities Committee", a standing committee of Intergroup. It would be this committee's charge to load itself up with energetic volunteers who would suggest activities (limited only by our imaginations) and, with the approval of Intergroup *and the help of all of us*, implement these activities. And we need more ideas. Please give this some thought, and, if you share this vision, bring your ideas and solutions to Intergroup. This might even be fun.

But, if we do nothing, we don't get to complain. What fun is that?

Bruce



Alcoholics Anonymous...
How may we help you?



Telephone Calls Received During February

Daytime at Central Office 501

Daytime 12 Step Calls 8

Evening and Weekend calls 579

Evening 12 Step Call information is not available.

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.

Deleted -

Sweet Sobriety, Sunday, 2:00PM, Alano Club of San Jose, 1122 Fair Ave., 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 Episcopal Church, Willow Glen

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

Moved -

Young & Sober, Saturday Nite Live, Thursday 10:00 PM, moved to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

Sunlight of the Spirit, Saturday Nite Live, Tuesday, 10:00 PM, moved to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

Changed -

Women's Topic Discussion, Saturday Nite Live, Sunday

Time changed to 10:00 AM

Men's Single Problem Discussion, Thurs., Campbell. Time changed to 8:00 PM

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 -

AA Literature Discussion Group, Tues. Noon, United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos

Courage to Heal, Mon. 6:00 PM, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 651 Broadway, Gilroy

The Way Out Big Book Study, Friday, 7:30 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
John S.	15		01/25/1992
Tom B.	18	Mike Mc	01/30/1989
Corvus M.	12	Aileen B., Rita R.	02/12/1995
Scott G.	5		02/13/2002
Mike H.	19	Addnl. Cont. Pat G, Gene M. & Pat C.	02/15/1988
Nancy S.	31	Aileen B., Rita R., Mary Pat P. & Evelyn M.	02/17/1976
Domoni C.	18	Aileen B.	02/21/1989
Jerry R.	18		02/21/1989
Jim B.	31	Rita R.	02/21/1976
Curtis H.	19	Addnl. Cont. Gene M. & Pat C.	02/23/1988
Sue S.		IN MEMORIAM, Pat C.	03/02/1974
Jack H.		IN MEMORIAM, The Colonel & Pat C.	03/06/1958
Hugh B.	24	Maggie McGee	03/08/1983



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

For a total of

208 YEARS OF SOBRIETY

and for a total contribution **\$224.00**

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.

				1	2	3 Secretary's Workshop
4	5	6	7 Intergroup	8	9	10 PI/CPC
11	12	13	14 North County General Service	15	16	17
18	19	20 South County Gen- eral Service	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 H&I	28			

LOCAL EVENTS

March 17: Corned beef and cabbage dinner, Saturday Nite Live, 1388 S. Bascom Ave., Doors open at 3:45 PM

April 27-29 San Jose: 22nd Annual "Sober and Free" Conference, Hilton San Jose, 300 Almaden Blvd., www.soberandfree.org.

EVENTS NEARBY

March 9-11 Victorville, CA: 23rd Annual "Sunshine of the Spirit" Convention. www.highdesertconvention.org

March 16-18 Foster City, CA: NCCAA 60th Annual Spring Conference. WWW.NCC-AA.ORG

April 26-29 Los Angeles, CA: ACYPAA XXXV "Commence Shoulder to Shoulder", www.accypaa2007.org.

May 8-11 Sedona, AZ: Seniors in Sobriety
Contact: WCGould@aol.com or 11203.jfs@earthlink.net

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

April 6-8 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: 36th Annual North Shore Roundup. www.northshoreroundup.com

April 27-29 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii: 19th Annual Big Island Bash. www.bigislandbash.com

Also, 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

March 7, 2007

- Bill D., Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8:02pm, followed by A Moment of Silence, and the Serenity Prayer.
- John V. read the short Definition of Intergroup.
- Of the 46 people attending, 35 were voting representatives.
- Susan read the Twelve Traditions.
- There was one addition to the agenda under new business.
- There was one correction to the previous month's minutes: Tom C. is Tom K.
- Intergroup Council Treasurer's Report: Chuck G.

Beginning Balance:	02/04/07	\$148.00	Prudent Reserve: \$90.00
Contributions:	02/04/07	\$ 64.00	
Refreshments:	02/04/07	\$ 20.00	
Rent is paid to:	04/01/07		
Balance:	03/07/07	\$192.00	Prudent Reserve: \$90.00
- Announcements: Dennis announced that there were NCCAA flyers for everyone to pick up.
- Birthdays: Larry, 16yrs; Frank, 20yrs; Dom, 3yrs; and Renee, 19yrs.

Reports:

1. Intergroup Chair – Bill D. No Report
2. Central Service Board – Robbie R.
 - a. At the monthly board meeting Intergroup's accountant reported to the board its fiduciary responsibilities.
 - b. The board voted to reduce the prudent reserve from 9 months to 6 months.
 - c. Intergroup is in good shape financially. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report.
3. Central Office – Bruce
 - a. Reminded all reps to sign in on the sign-in sheet to keep attendance records accurate.
 - b. Reported on his trip to Monterey to attend the Northern California Office Manager Meeting. He senses from the reports of the other office managers that our own Intergroup has grown and matured significantly.
 - c. Discussed the need for diverters. The 24 hour hot-line is the most important work that Intergroup does.
4. PI/CPC – Dennis for Darcy
 - a. PI had a table at the meeting of the California State School of Nurses Association last month.
 - b. PI is asking for Intergroup funds to help cover the cost of Big Books distribution to all high schools in the county. Discussion was tabled until next month.
 - c. CPC – Pete reported on the work with Spanish language DUI classes. The group made 9 presentations last week, and 6 more are scheduled for next week.
5. Twelfth Step Committee
 - a. Daytime Office Volunteer Coordinator: No report.
 - b. Nights and Weekends Diverter Coordinator: Not report, although an information sheet was available for all reps to take to their groups.
6. Outreach – Sally
 - a. She made available to all reps specially printed invitations to hand out at meetings that do not currently have Intergroup reps.
 - b. There are a total of 198 groups that do not at present have contact with Central Office or participate in Intergroup. Of those, 118 still need to be visited by someone on the Outreach Committee. Fifteen meetings have been found to no longer exist.
7. Newsletter – No report.

8. Other Service Committee Reports

- Unity Day – Tom K. All service organizations have elected reps. A meeting is scheduled for next week.
- H&I – Paul C. A flyer with meeting information and clearance requirements is available for all reps. The list of meetings changes from month to month, but the clearance requirements remain the same. The pink cans have collected at least \$4,000 for literature and books for distribution in hospitals and institutions. He further reported that it is an opportunity and a pleasure to serve; that H&I reps are happily received, whereas a year or so ago long waits to get into institutions to hold meetings were more than the norm.
- BTG – No report.
- North County General Service – Jeanne. There is a one hour Service Manual Study prior to the monthly General Service meetings. She recently attended PRAASA, a regional conference of 9 western states. An Agenda Topics workshop is scheduled for this Saturday in preparation for the Pre-Conference Assembly in Ukiah next month.
- South County General Service – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS - In the interest of time at each meeting, should Intergroup replace the Introduction of Group Representatives and Visitors at the beginning of each meeting with having everyone just wear nametags? A discussion followed, and a vote was taken. The majority of those voting voted in favor of keeping the Introduction in its present format.

OPEN FORUM – Why I am an Intergroup Representative

The Intergroup Chairman invited Arianna, Jeanne Marie, Lizz, and Chuck to discuss why they decided to become reps.

There were a total of 5 new Intergroup reps attending tonight's meeting.

Last month's Open Forum presentation was about how to unite the fellowship through various activities. The idea of potlucks (Fourth of July?) and other activities were discussed as a possible way of attracting people to Intergroup.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison S.

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Profit & Loss

February 2007

	<u>Feb 07</u>	<u>Feb 06</u>	<u>Jan - Feb 07</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3030 · Contributions-General	7,932.12	11,917.97	29,012.72
8010 · Literature Sales	5,387.31	5,201.65	11,618.28
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	964.00	0.00	2,096.97
8060 · Newsletter Subscriptions	30.00	280.00	65.00
Total Income	<u>14,313.43</u>	<u>17,399.62</u>	<u>42,792.97</u>
Cost of Goods Sold			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold (Excl. Mtg. Dir. after 6/1/06)	3,645.71	3,819.37	7,761.95
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories (After 6/1/06)	171.50	0.00	632.43
Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	<u>3,817.21</u>	<u>3,819.37</u>	<u>8,394.38</u>
Total COGS	<u>3,817.21</u>	<u>3,819.37</u>	<u>8,394.38</u>
Gross Profit	10,496.22	13,580.25	34,398.59
Expense			
6010 · Alarm Service	0.00	0.00	177.00
6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	185.76	808.96	1,711.15
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	73.96	0.00	168.44
6120 · Computer Expenses	353.28	0.00	478.28
6140 · Conferences - Office Manager	0.00	218.25	0.00
6160 · Copier Expense	89.94	0.00	189.87
6230 · Insurance - General Liability	0.00	0.00	867.00
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	668.37	0.00	1,336.74
6245 · Internet Access Charges	19.95	19.95	39.90
6330 · Office Expense	490.78	266.43	849.21
6360 · Archives (Archives)	0.00	0.00	-100.00
6380 · Payroll Taxes	613.06	642.94	1,293.62
6410 · Postage	50.22	61.34	538.70
6480 · Rent	2,280.60	2,217.25	4,497.85
6540 · Salaries - Office	6,125.38	5,920.73	12,754.84
6600 · Signing Services	200.00	250.00	400.00
7010 · Taxes and Licenses	0.00	0.00	50.00
7050 · Telephone	317.86	21.25	638.96
7060 · Travel	0.00	0.00	0.50
Total Expense	<u>11,469.16</u>	<u>10,427.10</u>	<u>25,892.06</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-972.94	3,153.15	8,506.53
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
8030 · Interest Income	179.61	142.51	361.38
Total Other Income	<u>179.61</u>	<u>142.51</u>	<u>361.38</u>
Net Other Income	<u>179.61</u>	<u>142.51</u>	<u>361.38</u>
	<u>-793.33</u>	<u>3,295.66</u>	<u>8,867.91</u>

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2007

	<u>Feb 28, 07</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · Petty Cash	225.00
1035 · Bank of America (Bank account)	13,059.82
1039 · Bank of America CD 5717 (12 mo. CD @ 3.73%, 1/23/07)	14,988.48 *
1040 · Bank of America CD 5718 (12 mo. CD @ 3.73%, 1/23/07)	15,003.56 *
1041 · Bank of America CD 5931 (18 mo. CD @ 3.39%, 2/28/07)	14,732.42 *
1042 · Capital Preservation Fund (Treas. fund currently @ 4.45%)	16,329.19 *
Total Checking/Savings	<u>74,338.47</u>
Accounts Receivable	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-117.06
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-117.06</u>
Other Current Assets	
1250 · Literature Inventory	17,543.29
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	543.16
Total Other Current Assets	<u>18,086.45</u>
Total Current Assets	92,307.86
Fixed Assets	
1630 · Office Equipment	38,150.80
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	2,197.84
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-16,854.00
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-134.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>23,660.64</u>
Other Assets	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
Total Other Assets	<u>1,993.85</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>117,962.35</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (Sales Tax Payable)	1,070.90
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,070.90</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,070.90</u>
Total Liabilities	1,070.90
Equity	
2740 · Unrestricted Funds	95,777.91
3900 · Retained Earnings	12,045.63
Net Income	8,867.91
Total Equity	<u>116,691.45</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>117,762.35</u></u>

<p>* Our Prudent Reserve Accounts total: \$61,053.65 This represents 4.97 months of operating expenses. The Board established goal is 9 months operating expenses.</p>

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Group Contributions

February 2007

	Feb 07	Jan - Feb 07		Feb 07	Jan - Feb 07
1 INV Freedom Fellowship 70940	70.00	140.00	Sun. In the Basement 545	100.00	100.00
1 INV Fremont & Hollenbeck Group 70907	0.00	1,050.00	Sun. Invaders Group 44	0.00	100.00
1 INV R and B Group 70972	289.93	713.43	Sun. Men's Underground Book Study 401	108.00	318.00
1 INV Saturday Nite Live Group 70905	0.00	2,246.24	Sun. New People's Group 3	0.00	157.61
1 INV Spiritual Progress Group 70904	0.00	350.00	Sun. New Steps for Living 20	0.00	486.30
Birthday Contribution 00951	224.00	576.00	Sun. Pass It On Group Los Altos 418	0.00	350.00
Fri. 12 Steps at Noon 303	0.00	70.55	Sun. Speaker Meeting 18	0.00	180.00
Fri. Big Book Study 8.00P Cupt 284	0.00	100.00	Sun. Spiritual Progress Group 8	0.00	73.65
Fri. East Valley Group 322	0.00	50.00	Thurs. Basic Big Book 710	0.00	100.00
Fri. Fireside Group 297	0.00	36.92	Thurs. California Avenue Supper Group 715	0.00	461.00
Fri. Lesbians Living the Promises 349	70.00	70.00	Thurs. Eleventh Step Meditation Mtg 276	0.00	115.50
Fri. Men's 4th Step Group 320	0.00	44.10	Thurs. Evergreen Group 884	70.00	70.00
Fri. New Nooners 859	0.00	110.00	Thurs. Gay Men's Freedom 262	0.00	425.29
Fri. Saratoga Group 328	0.00	165.00	Thurs. Higher Power Hr Big Book Topic 871	0.00	630.00
Fri. Saratoga Serenity Group 329	0.00	144.20	Thurs. Just For Today 238	60.00	191.25
Fri. T.G.I.F. Speaker/Discussion 298	0.00	237.85	Thurs. Men's Single Problem Study 220	0.00	875.00
G Agnews Noon Meetings 70921	420.00	420.00	Thurs. Mountain Miracles 882	0.00	367.50
G Forged From Adversity Group 70957	76.00	482.50	Thurs. South Valley Group 267	70.00	70.00
G Gilroy Groups 70906	210.00	210.00	Thurs. South Valley Men's 845	0.00	280.00
G Seeking Guidance Group 70976	978.00	978.00	Thurs. Sunshine Group 243	0.00	315.00
G South County Fellowship 70954	263.00	403.00	Thurs. There Is a Solution (Men) 732	0.00	180.00
G Sunrise Group of Palo Alto 70963	0.00	270.00	Thurs. What's Happening Today 552	0.00	246.25
G Sunrisers Group/Carrows 70932	475.80	1,040.67	Thurs. Women Sharing the Solution 519	0.00	194.60
G Third Tradition Women's Grp(The 70979	1,652.00	1,652.00	Tues. A Vision for You Women's 802	80.97	80.97
Mon. Early Monday Night 68	0.00	614.92	Tues. Attitude Adjustment 886	0.00	416.00
Mon. Grateful Live Group 535	309.40	309.40	Tues. Big Book Discussion Group 107	40.00	40.00
Mon. HOW Group 71	210.00	210.00	Tues. Design for Living 200	0.00	196.00
Mon. Joy of Living Meeting 92	494.54	494.54	Tues. Early Tuesday Group 119	195.96	195.96
Mon. Los Altos Men's Group 59	63.00	63.00	Tues. El Camino Group 108	0.00	37.46
Mon. Men's Single Topic Discussion 582	0.00	618.00	Tues. Los Gatos Tuesday Night 110	0.00	70.00
Mon. Midday Women's Group 91	135.87	135.87	Tues. Palo Alto Step Study 752	0.00	140.69
Mon. Villages Group of AA (The) 406	0.00	70.00	Tues. St. Luke's Group 113	0.00	503.00
Personal 00911	22.45	220.77	Tues. Tuesday Night Saratoga Group 152	0.00	130.00
Sat. Big Book Study Group 503	0.00	100.00	Tues. Up the Creek - Daily Reflection 745	25.00	50.00
Sat. Cambrian Saturday Night 376	293.00	293.00	Tues. Veterans of Alcohol (open) 874	192.50	192.50
Sat. Get Up and Go (Women) 187	0.00	399.65	Tues. We Care Step Study 128	0.00	280.70
Sat. Gratitude Group 339	96.00	96.00	Unknown	0.00	515.30
Sat. High Hope 239	0.00	124.80	Wed. Chip Winners Group 168	175.70	175.70
Sat. In the Solution 647	0.00	262.00	Wed. Courage to Change 145	0.00	160.09
Sat. Living in the Solution (Women) 33	0.00	30.00	Wed. Gay Alcoholics Living / Sobriety 742	91.00	91.00
Sat. Meditation Meeting 39	70.00	70.00	Wed. Lodestar Group / Sober Thoughts 499	0.00	70.00
Sat. Mountain View Group 350	175.00	175.00	Wed. Midweek Spiritual Progress 213	0.00	140.00
Sat. Saturday Morning Los Gatos 777	0.00	700.00	Wed. Other Wednesday Nite (Men) 209	0.00	1,251.60
Sat. Trinity Group 370	100.00	100.00	Wed. Serenity Discussion 210	0.00	259.00
Sat. Women's Brunch 640	0.00	242.20	Wed. Step Study (Women) LG 820	0.00	118.37
Sun. Almaden Valley Discussion 30	0.00	41.31	Wed. Steps & Traditions 893	0.00	161.00
Sun. Early Spiritual Progress 7	0.00	175.00	Wed. Sundowners' Dinner Meeting 768	0.00	109.51
Sun. Get Well Group 17	0.00	210.00			
				7,907.12	28,987.72