



FOCUS: Service

The first time I heard about “service” in Alcoholics Anonymous was when I was about 3 weeks sober. Someone at the meeting handed me a bag of books and said “bring these back next Friday”...I did this for a couple of weeks until the group voted me in as their literature person for the next term. That first commitment in AA helped me to feel a part of the group...and having a ‘job’ to do kept me from standing around the meeting before and after socializing, which was so painfully awkward for me early in sobriety.

Service at the group level continued to be part of my journey. From coffee to secretary to treasurer, each commitment helped me learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous and more about myself. When my home group, the Gay Men & Women Together Group, held elections a couple years ago for their General Service Representative I volunteered. The

thought of a 2 year commitment was somewhat frightening. I’d always had a ‘fear of commitment’ as evidenced by my lack of relationships, and a 6 month commitment in AA seemed just about right for me. I took the plunge anyway and what seemed like such a long commitment at the beginning passed very quickly.

When I attended my first General Service meeting in our district I felt like a newcomer all over again. I didn’t know anyone, I didn’t understand the format or anything the folks at the meeting were talking about. And just like my first meeting in AA, the people at the meeting made me feel welcome and made me want to come back. I will always be grateful for my DCM Miguel who took the time to explain to me what was going on and for sharing his experience on being a general service rep.

I know being a general service rep

continued on page 4

Monthly Topics

Here’s lookin’ at you!! Happy April to all you Spring-loving friends! This is National Humor Month, starting off with April Fool’s Day...and our very own Gratitude Gal will always be remembered on this day by everyone who enjoys her happy smile regularly.

This is also Records & Information Management Month (RIMM) as well as Organize your Files in Week 3 of April (sounds like housekeeping to me!), International Guitar Month, Lawn & Garden Month, National Poetry as well as Pecan Month, and Keep America Beautiful Month.

This month’s featured meeting is the Forged From Adversity Group in Sunnyvale. See story on pp.2-3.

In this issue we’re covering what Service is all about in AA, and our stories begin on this page and continue on Page 4. Our Tradition for April is Four: Each Group Should be Autonomous.

May’s Topic is How’d I Get Into This Predicament? Me? (Check out Step Four, then share it with a Step Five.) And along with the fifth month comes the fifth Tradition: Carry the Message to the Still-Suffering Alcoholic. Please submit your stories to ODAATCOIN@yahoo.com, and if you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please let us know. We’ll get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for all your writing!

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IN THIS ISSUE

Featured Article...2-3

Monthly Topic
Articles ...4, 5, 7, 8

Editor’s Bag...6

Archives...9

Calendar...10-11

Meeting Changes...12

Birthdays...13

Intergroup Minutes...16-17

Financials...18-19

Group Contributions...19-20

THIS MONTH’S ACTIVITIES

Local Events...10

Events around California...10

Events around the Country...10

FEATURE: FORGED FROM ADVERSITY GROUP CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



We named ourselves “Forged From Adversity” for good reason! It began with eviction. Our home church notified the eleven meetings at “Mary and Iowa” in Sunnyvale that they would no longer host AA after February 28. The hassles of dealing with eleven different secretaries, delinquent rents from some meetings, an ongoing problem with cigarette butts, and general disrespect for Church property were cited as reasons. Most of us came to meetings there nearly every day of the week. It had been our place, and we were losing our place. Newcomers and old-timers alike faced a future without our beloved meetings.

On the first Saturday of January, a meeting of all interested parties was called, and the first decision we made was to form a Group, so that the finances, literature inventories, and interactions with a future church home could be centrally coordinated. Group Officers were elected,

and structure for the Group began to evolve. A Site Search Committee was appointed, and it was decided we would meet weekly for the next few weeks for status reporting.

By early February, I was in a panic. No new location had been found yet, and I was disgusted and intolerant about the lack of action. Newly sober, I was fragile and hanging on by a thread. I needed my meetings! In a rage, I pulled out the Yellow Pages, turned to Sunnyvale Churches, and started calling. I left messages, explained the need, and was told repeatedly that the Board would consider our request at their next meeting. But finally, providence intervened. I called St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1025 The Dalles, at Wright, in Sunnyvale. The phone was answered promptly on the second ring. I was told this was the minister speaking, and after explaining the situation I heard the magic words, “We have a room available that we’ve

been wanting to use to serve the Community.” They thought they could handle all eleven meetings. My character defects had been put to good use.

March 1, 2003 was the first meeting, with a potluck dinner. There were originally early and late meetings most days. Over the years they consolidated. The church installed a sink in this large room so that we could make our coffee, and put lights in the parking lot so we’d be safe. They welcomed us, made their larger hall available for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Pot Lucks, came to visit us from time to time, and asked repeatedly if there was anything more we needed. In time, they asked us to move to a different room so they could create a space for their teenagers. We moved.

We are now in Kurtz Hall. For twenty years, as of March 1, the Forged From Adversity Group has enjoyed

continued on next page

ADVERSITY GROUP continued from page 2

the hospitality and support of this wonderful church host. Daily meetings are held here at 6 pm Monday thru Friday. On Wednesday another meeting is held at 581 E Fremont at Manet, and another Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 7 pm. Pot Lucks every Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, and a great July 4th Picnic at Las Palmas

Park. Everyone is welcome.

By sharing our story, we remember twenty years later how important it is to appreciate the host facilities that make our meetings possible. We remember that when we are rude to a church member, or delinquent in our rents, or careless in our respect for

property, it is AA as a whole that suffers in the impressions others form. And we remember to appreciate the magic of gatherings that happen all over the world, creating fellowship, refuge and recovery for millions of us every day.

Marilyn W

Just for Today...

When I sobered up in 1975, there was a card with nine guidelines for living in the today. That was a difficult concept to grasp, considering my brain raced forward and peace of mind was illusive. I was always worried about the future, and guilty about the past.

The card contained a daily program for living and was immensely helpful to me as I tried to recall everyday what I was supposed to be following [condensed]:

I will try to live through this day only

I will be happy

I will adjust myself to what is

I will try to strengthen my mind

I will exercise my soul in 3 ways

I will be agreeable. I will dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticize not one bit, not find fault with anything, and not try to improve or regulate anybody but myself.

I will have a program. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

I will have a quiet half hour all by myself

I will be unafraid

Point number two was to be happy just for today. It references Abe Lincoln as the source. This is funny because in 1984 I traveled to England for business and I picked up the same card from one of the Central Offices there, and it does not attribute any quote to Abraham Lincoln, rather it states "Just for today I will be happy. Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be."

This card still in my possession was published by Inter-Group Central Office in 1975. The address on the card is: 535 Race Street, Suite 130; San Jose, California 95126; 408 297-3555. I treasure the little card today, 37 years later, because its principles are simple and true.

Diane M.



SERVICE continued from page 1

may not sound very glamorous, but I've had the opportunity to travel to such far off places as Humboldt, Antioch, Cloverdale, San Jose and Daly City for our area assemblies. These were always a lot of fun and what kept me coming back and continues to keep me coming back are the people. I first volunteered for general service because I wanted to meet people outside of my home group who were actively involved in service and their own recovery. I've made new friends and feel 'a part of' like I never did before...I'm even

comfortable with all the socializing now.

As the end of my two year commitment drew to a close, I thought it was time to move on and try another area of service such as H&I or Intergroup. I attended the last assembly for the panel: The Fall Elections assembly. General service reps from all over northern California gather at this assembly every two years to elect our area delegate and officers for the next two years. What I found in that assembly changed my opinion about continuing on in General Service.

The energy was electric, and to hear people talk about dedication to service and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous inspired me. It was people such as these that ensured an open door and a seat for me when I was ready to reach out for help. I love service at all levels in AA because its one of my opportunities to pay back to the program that has given me so much...so I signed on for another 2 years in General Service as a DCM in District 40.

Paul D.

SERVICE; AKA: The Yum Yum Girl

Being an alcoholic, I've been called a lot of things in my life -- most I prefer not to repeat. However, since coming into AA's halls and rooms I've been called some rather sweet, funny and memorable things.

My last time back through AA's doors saw me throwing myself straight into service; I figured if I stayed busy I'd be more likely to stay sober! Since coming back into the accepting family of AA, I've realized what an important Service it is to my fellow AA comrades to simply attend and be present at meetings. I find it amazing how God works through His cadre of recovering alcoholics to allow messages to be: relayed, heard, delivered, conveyed, exchanged --- add your verb here.

One of my Service commitments is to clean-up the meeting room after the meeting is over. This is not difficult and allows me time to linger with purpose whereas before I thought I had no reason to linger and would therefore rocket out the door like a pebble shot from a sling shot. My clean-up duties rarely take more than 15 minutes. Another Service I have is to set up the meeting hall before the meeting begins. Again, this is simple to do and the time

requirement will be proportionate to the size of the meeting space. One of my simplest Service commitments is to buy a birthday cake for the end-of-the-month sobriety-birthday celebration from a nearby store, bring it to the meeting and get reimbursed for the expense. It is so easy and yet it brings such smiles to everyone's faces when they see the "Happy Birthday" cake.

I believe Service gives us a chance to acclimate to our new surroundings if we are newcomers or to more fully enrich our AA experience if we are not. It is also a way for us to gradually feel safer and allow ourselves to know the vast and expanding members of our AA family better. More than one of the members of my expanding AA family called me "The Yum Yum Girl" when I brought donuts to several meetings in a row. Playful nicknames, from people that only want good things for me, are just one of the perks of my life in AA. So many people are verbally appreciative; it is hard to leave a meeting where I have been Of Service without feeling better -- lighter somehow.

Don't just take my word for it, though. Ask any one of us in AA and he/she will be happy to tell you that Service

is an important and meaningful part of our AA lives. Some members feel very strongly about Service. Some believe it is one of the best ways to stay sober.

There is simply something magical about being of service. I say "Of Service" instead of "In Service" as I hear two wholly different meanings between those two tiny two-letter prepositions. "In" Service says to me I MUST do something whereas "Of" Service says I have a choice and therefore I GET TO do something.

I don't know about you, but this alcoholic does not take kindly to "must". Must makes my teeth grind and my eyes squint (think Clint Eastwood in any Dirty Harry movie). "Harry C." and I would say "Make my day, punk" if Service were a must. Thankfully, and I mean this sincerely, Service is only a suggestion. If Service is merely a suggestion, then I have a choice as to whether or not I want to do it and if so, how often.

There is such a diverse array of Service choices I feel like a kid in a candy shop -- I hardly know where to point first. Some forms of Service require a certain length of consecutively sober days; however, there is still a plethora of choices for the newcomer (and old-timer), which may be done as early as one's first meeting.

continued on next page

The Yum Yum Girl continued from previous page

Each selfless act Of Service brings you closer to your AA family and (hopefully) a little farther away from that bottle.

In addition to the aforementioned ways to be Of Service there are far more avenues to explore and tasks that may be done. The person that makes the coffee is Of Service. Our Hospital & Institution representatives are Of Service as are our PI/CPC representatives. The individual chairing

the meeting you attend is being Of Service, as is the Secretary running the meeting you attend. If you've ever been asked to read: How it Works, The Promises, or The 12 Traditions, at the beginning of any meeting, then you have been Of Service.

These are only a meager few examples of Forms of Service available to any alcoholic. It is so easy to be Of Service -- plus it has the added benefit of making you feel good about

yourself while being a contributing member of AA. For an alcoholic like me, this is simply one of the best Win-Win situations in which I could put myself.

So remember, when it comes to Service there are tons of choices and they are all yours to make. If anything sounded interesting to you, I hope you will try it out.

Kat

WHAT IS YOUR SERVICE IN AA?

Service is defined as "an act of helpful activity; help; aid." It is the third legacy given to AA by its founders. In talking about that third legacy, Bill W. said that "AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action." I see a theme here... Action! Service is action. So you could ask, "What are your actions in AA?" It seems that everything we do in, for, and around AA and recovery could be considered service.

Well, I go to meetings. It'd be hard for one alcoholic to share his or her experience, strength and hope if there was no other alcoholic with whom to share it. And in those meetings, I offer my thoughts on the current topic when called on. Who knows? Even my crazy experience might resonate with someone yet to walk a path I've already trudged. I also hold service positions at meetings that I

attend regularly. There are a whole slew of things that need to be done to keep a meeting running. From set up and clean up, to secretary, to Intergroup Rep, GSR and more, our meetings won't happen if there aren't folks committed to doing the jobs needed to run them.

I'm a sponsee. Gosh, how could my sponsor be a sponsor without a sponsee? There's certainly a ton of action involved in being a sponsee. And it really is service to my sponsor for me to be a sponsee. I know this, because I'm also a sponsor. There are gifts I've been blessed with by sponsoring others that I'd have never known had my sponsees not signed up for their service. Service to me and to themselves.

My biggest service in AA, though, and my most benevolent action in and out of the rooms, is my behavior.

My behavior has changed considerably from that of both my drinking and my non-drinking days prior to becoming a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Through the processes of working the steps and working with others, my "standard mode of operation" has become less self-centered. I certainly have a soft spot in my heart for my fellow recovering alcoholics, but I also have compassion and tolerance with those I encounter outside our fellowship. Living by the principles of our program, I am able to serve all of my fellows by adding something favorable to their day at best, and by not being a negative influence at least.

Service has created a wonderful cycle in my life: Because I think better of myself, I think better of others. Because I think better of others, I feel better about myself. I think that's the greatest thing about service and the actions that it's comprised of... it's a win-win deal! -- Anonomous



Editor's Bag

Happy April to everyone! Spring is finally upon us and we're getting out of the doldrums (Christmas hangover, getting ready for taxes, and leaving winter behind!)

In April 1939, 5,000 copies of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous were printed, anticipating a strong reaction to a publication from the Reader's Digest as well as a radio announcement, which didn't materialize. Although the initial disappointment in the sales of the AA Big Book was great, they continued to persevere in spreading the word. The Jack Alexander story didn't appear in the Saturday Evening Post until March, 1941, when it generated a huge demand for the Big Book. In 1955 there were approximately 100,000 members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and by 2000, the estimate was 4,000,000. The promises do come true: "Sometimes quickly, sometimes, slowly, they will always materialize if we work for them."

This month's Tradition Four is "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." Well, what the heck does that mean, anyway?

It means independent, self-directed, self-sufficient, self-governing, self-ruling, or sovereign. Which means, GROW UP. Pay your own way. Don't rely on others. Take care of business in all things, just like our parents (or perhaps our sponsors) taught us, and how we teach our own children -- to become adults. We set up the guidelines and have everyone follow them as a unit. We govern ourselves.

I just had the privilege of witnessing my younger daughter's wedding on a beach in Maui this month, and I was so proud of that "child" of mine. She truly did it her way -- no big money spent for a wedding, just a simple ceremony



performed on the beach by a Hawaiian "kahuna" blowing a conch shell to announce the marriage. It was delightful, and she was radiant. I was honored to be invited, and grateful this child turned out, after a few attempts at frog-kissing, to find exactly the right guy for her. Both families are entranced at their union, which didn't cost anyone a right lung, and we all got to vacation where we may never have planned to be otherwise. I am blessed to be sober and always grateful for exactly what I have. Thank you to my Higher Power through AA

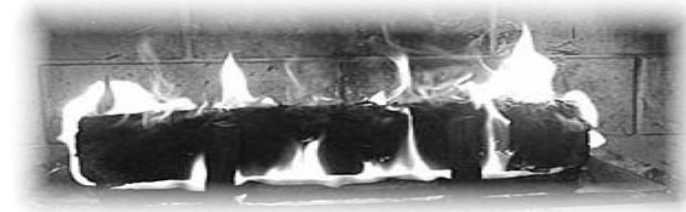
From

Topics Upcoming & Deadlines

- | | | |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| May | How'd I Get into This Predicament? Me?* | 4/17/2013 |
| | Tradition 5: Our Primary Purpose: Carry the Message | |
| June | Coping with Loss in Sobriety | 5/22/2013 |
| | Tradition 6: No Outside Help or Promotion | |
| July | Becoming Your Best in Sobriety | 6/20/2013 |
| | Tradition 7: Fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions | |

* Hint: Step Four

Thanks go out to Al S. for this "Glimpse of Reality."



MAUI AA



On the island of Maui there are many meetings in other cities, as well as other meetings in Lahaina, but for the sake of expediency (photo included) these are just the meetings at the Alano Club in Lahaina. We went to a beach meeting in Kihei that was canceled due to rain, but what's to tell? We hear there is good AA on this island.

Maui AA Alano Club, 582-C Front Street, Lahaina, HI

Sun-Saturday	7:00 am	Ku'e
Sunday	9:00 am	Acceptance
	7:30 pm	Living Sober
Monday	9:00 am	Coffee Break Daily Reflections
	6:30 pm	Beginners Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 am	Coffee Break Daily Reflections
	8:00 pm	As Bill Sees It
Wednesday	9:00 am	Coffee Break Daily Reflections
	5:30 pm	Big Book Study
Thursday	9:00 am	Coffee Break Daily Reflections
	8:00 pm	Young People Q&A Format
Friday	9:00 am	Coffee Break Daily Reflections
	5:15 pm	T.G.I.F.
Saturday	8:00 pm	Prime Time Steps & Traditions
	9:00 am	Lighten Up
	6:30 pm	Joe & Charlie Big Book Study
	11:00 pm	Batteries Not Included



COIN Production —

Editor: Fran D.; Layout & Design: Brian M.;
 Photography: Richard U.; Archives: Nicole L

MY HIGHER POWER

On Page 63 in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, it reads:

“When we sincerely took such a position (quit playing God), all sorts of remarkable things followed. We had a new Employer. Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs. More and more we became interested in seeing what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow of the hereafter. We were reborn.”

“We were now at Step Three. —Many of us said to our Maker, as we understood Him: ‘God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do they will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!’ We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.”

When I was a kid between the ages of eight to ten, we went to church, and the stories in the Bible weren’t personal enough for me; I couldn’t relate to a God. My dad had been an athlete all his life, and I was expected to do well in school, since I had a high IQ and was a straight A student.

When I was about 11, I worked in a pool hall as a janitor (to improve my pool game.) Right around that time, my folks got divorced, and I started sniffing glue in junior high, which progressed into other things, and I

immediately got into trouble. Quit going to church. I took more drugs.

I still was a straight A student before high school; I took pre algebra in summer school. By the end of my freshman year I was the kid in back of the room, sleeping. Didn’t care about school; didn’t want to face my parents being divorced. Took meth-amphetamines all day, smoked marijuana, and drank.

Went to college, took mechanics, switched to business, got a job in computer sales, and made a lot of money. In 1976 I got married, doing great in my own business. Continued to take drugs and drink. In 1980, our daughter was born in April and in June of that year I was in an auto accident on my way home from a game of golf.

A drunk driver rear-ended me, sending me into the windshield and through the rear-view mirror. I was in a coma for six months and in the hospital for a year, having to learn how to walk and talk and eat and help my brain to work in every way. My mom prayed for me every day to recover. During that time and when I was released from the hospital, my wife divorced me.

For twenty years I was angry, but dry (I couldn’t take medication and drink) so I continued to be inappropriately angry at everyone. One day I really wanted to harm a stranger, and I heard God say, “Stop; Go to AA.” That was the beginning of my sobriety.

Went to church after divorce; I couldn’t make sense of what I was hearing due to medication and not being able to connect. When I got to the point that I WAS making sense of it, people started to notice that I was doing better. Today I have thirty-three years of sobriety.

I hear God speak to me (yes, I know it sounds loony, but I do.) Every morning I ask, “Where do you want me to go?” And I listen; whatever appears to be the answer before me, I do. Sometimes I hear, “Go to Santa Cruz.” And I’ll go there; one day I did the opposite, and got on a bus and heard, “The woman next to you is having an affair with a guy in Oakland.” I started a conversation with her, and she said she’d gotten on in Oakland, and I KNEW this was where I needed to be. God had whispered, “Don’t mention the affair.” So I listened to her tale, then I told her my history that related to her story as her life unfolded in front of me. When we were just about at the end of the bus trip, I asked if she’d like to pray with me, and she said, “I would. I was seriously considering killing myself today when I got home.” We prayed and the feeling was removed from her. Is this God?

One day it was San Francisco: “Shall I go?” “Just go.” (It takes a couple of hours.) Bus/train/walking. I walk by this guy who’s standing on the sidewalk. I tell him: “God loves you.” And the guy says, “Tell me more” so I said, “Okay. Are you hungry?” He said he was, so we went into Subway to get a sandwich, and he told me he was considering stepping in front of a bus that day, but I stopped that thought for him.

I think it’s my Higher Power. At the Rincon meeting one day, I met a new guy, and after I’d talked to him for a while, he said he had lost the desire to kill himself. Now he has four years of sobriety.

This one is about patience: a lady in a wheelchair wants to board the Santa Cruz bus I’m on, and I’m impatient because I’ll miss my connecting bus. We get five minutes down the road, another wheelchair boards the bus,

continued on next page

ARCHIVES

As Archives Chair, I am starting the process of recording group histories. Did you know that the 2nd longest running AA meeting in Santa Clara County meets on Saturday night (8:00pm) at Trinity Episcopal Church in Downtown San Jose? The first meeting at this location was held on November 9th 1946. It is currently known as the Trinity Group, but was initially called the Saturday Night Group. It was an open meeting where family members and friends of the alcoholic were encouraged to attend and participate. The meeting moved a couple of times in the first few years, but returned to Trinity Episcopal Church in 1952 and has remained there ever since.

If you are interested in seeing your group history in the COIN, let me know! I can be reached at nicholelee4@aol.com.

The Group History Details I would need are as follows:

Group Name:

Town:

Date Founded:

Location:

Founders:

Primary Format/Type of Meeting

(Speaker, Big Book, Discussion, etc.):

Early Group Members:

Active Longtimers:

Name Changes and Dates:

Other Changes (Location, Time, Day, etc.):

Group Highlights (Any Interesting Details

About the Group):

Submitted By:

If you'd like to help us sort through the Santa Clara County Archives, please join us at the Central Office on Saturday, May 4th at 11:15am.

Nichole L.

Archives Chair

Association

Umbrella

That

Operates

Neutral

Of

Management

Or

Uniform

Statues

Cheyenne - SJ_ @2013

continued from previous page

so we need to wait again; and now to make room for the wheelchairs, I need to change seats on the bus, and this is MY BUS, don't they KNOW????! I am furious. So to calm myself, I go to sit next to a young woman and begin to regale her with my story of

being ticked off, even though I'm in recovery and should know better. She said she'd been thinking the very same thing. She thanked me for voicing her thought process. We get so annoyed because no one is moving fast enough for us, yet we really need

to be of service to others. That's the bottom line. Higher Power? Ah, yes. Am I being of service ... yes.

Barry S.

May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 2013 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 2013 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1 PI/CPC WORKSHOP: 5:30 PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm OUTREACH MTG: 5:45pm INTERGROUP MTG: 7:30pm	2	3	4 SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office ARCHIVES WORK DAY 11:15am, Central Office
5	6	7 SCCYPAA BUSINESS MEETING 6:30pm	8 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:30pm	9	10	11 PI/CPC Workshop 10am, Central Office
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18 DIVERTER/12TH STEPPERS WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
19	20 BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING: 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	21 SO COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28 H & I Committee 7:00pm	29	30	31	

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND GLOBE

- May 10-12** 2nd Annual Coeur d'Alene Convention, Coeur d'Alene Convention Center, Coeur d'Alene, ID www.cdaconvention.org
June 7-9 Founder's Day Herald 78th Anniversary of A.A. www.akronaa.org
July 11-14 55th ICYPAA, Arizona Biltmore, 2400 East Missouri Ave., Phoenix, AZ 55th.icypaa.org

WE WANT TO HELP YOU SPREAD THE WORD!!

Please send news and information about your group's activities before the end of the month so we can get them in the COIN. We accept them in any form, But emailing a flyer is best: aasanjose@comcast.net

Telephone Calls Received During March 2013

Daytime at Central Office.....**331**

Daytime 12 Step Calls.....5

(Evening 12 Step Call information is not available.)

An average of just over 8,000 hits are made on our website each month!!

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

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

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Grapevine Speakers Meeting

Fridays at 8 p.m.

United Presbyterian Church

728 W. Fremont Ave. (at Hollenbeck), Sunnyvale

Second Tradition Group of AA

Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave, 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

NEW

Let's Talk About Recovery: Wed., 10:30AM, Serenity First Fellowship, 304 N. 6th Street (at Julian), San Jose.

Sobriety First Big Book Study: Tues., 10:30AM, Center for Training and Careers, Day Worker Center, 749 Story Rd., San Jose.

South Side Group: Thurs., 8PM, The Father's House Church, 133 Bernal Rd., San Jose.

Waves of Healing: Mon., 7:45PM, Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, 5755 Cottle Rd., Bldg. 3, Rm. 2, San Jose.

CHANGED

Serenity at Noon: Mon.-Fri., 12 Noon, Comunidad Cristiana de San Jose, 2371 Ringwood Ave., San Jose. Please note: As of April 1st, all Serenity at Noon meetings will move to a new location at Red Cross, 2731 N. 1st Street, San Jose.

ALL Meetings Held at Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital: Central Office has received word that meetings will no longer be held at the Kaiser location on Santa Teresa. We have information on some of these meetings. Please see below. And, will keep you posted as we receive updates. Also, check the website for latest news.

Starting the Steps: Fri., 6:45PM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, 5755 Cottle Rd., Bldg. 3, Rm. 2, San Jose.

Gathered Together for Sobriety: Sun., 8PM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to St. Edward's Church, 15040 Union Ave., San Jose.

Positive Outlook Group: Sat., 8PM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to Calvary Church, 16330 Los Gatos Blvd., Red Brick Bldg., Los Gatos.

South Valley Men's: Thurs., 7:45PM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, 5755 Cottle Rd., Bldg. 3, Rm. 3, San Jose.

Humbly Asked: Sun., 8AM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to San Jose Masonic Temple, 2500 Masonic Dr., San Jose.

Thru the Big Book: Fri., 8PM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, 5755 Cottle Rd., Bldg. 3, Rm. 2, San Jose. Also, time has changed now to 7:45PM.

****Newcomers, Oldtimers (Women):** Sat., 6PM, Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital, 275 Hospital Parkway, San Jose. Location has moved to St. Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Ave., San Jose.

Underground Book Study (Men's): Sun., 7PM, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church: 41 W. Rincon at Winchester Blvd., Rincon Room. Meeting has changed to men's only, open meeting.

Grateful Live Group: 12 Noon, Mon., Jerusalem Baptist Church, 398 Sheridan Ave., Palo Alto. Location has moved to Mental Health Services, 231 Grant Ave., Palo Alto, in the Dayroom.

Women's Step Topics: 6:30PM, Thurs., First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., San Jose. Meeting has moved to Room #14.

How It Works: 7:00PM, Sat., Saturday Nite Live Group, 1388 S. Bascom Ave., San Jose. Time of meeting is actually at 6:30PM.

NO LONGER MEETING

Fast Start Group: 5:30PM, Fri., Fremont & Manet Group, St. John's Lutheran Church, 581 E. Fremont Ave. (at Manet)

Basic Big Book Study: 7PM, Tues., 591 N. King Rd., San Jose.

Promises Kept (Women's Mtg.): 7:00PM, Mon., East Valley United Pentecostal Church, 2715 S. White Rd., San Jose.

T.G.I.S.: 6:30PM, Sun., Alano Club of San Jose, 1100 Fair Ave., San Jose

Birthday Contributions

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT	YEARS	CONTRIBUTIONS	BIRTHDAY
Angela R.	Unknown	Aileen B.	April 1st
Evelyn M.	12	Aileen B.	04-01-2001
Aileen B.	10	Anonymous	04/06/2003
Pat G.	38	Aileen B.	04/01/1975
Mike R.	30	Mike R. & Bill D.	03/01/1983
Bill D.	31	Bill D.	03/13/1982

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!! 121 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!!

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

In Memorium

Longtime member, Kevin C., passed away on March 15. The fellowship has lost a beloved member and he will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held at Peninsula Bible Church, 3505 Middlefield Rd. in Palo Alto on April 27 from 1 - 3PM.

CLASSIFIED – HELP WANTED – ON-GOING

YOU ARE NEEDED !!!

Bill Wilson learned that in order to stay sober he had to work with other alcoholics. My sponsor sent me down to Central Office on the day I had six months, and told me to sign in as a 12th Step volunteer. I did, and I stayed sober.

Please pass the word at your meetings and to your sponsees that A.A. needs 12th Step volunteers with six months or more of sobriety willing to 12th Step and to return calls from suffering alcoholics asking for the hand of A.A.

Note the importance of this service: Recently a suffering alcoholic called the hotline at 7:00 a.m. The diverter worker who took the call spent two hours trying to find someone to take his call. The 12th Step worker was able to take the individual to his first meeting. We need YOU!



A. A. Needs Your Help!

We are in need of 12-Step volunteers. If you are available to take 12-Step phone calls and/or go out on a 12-Step call (although, never alone!), come to the workshop and sign up!

We are especially in need of Women 12-Step Volunteers

Every 3rd Saturday of each month
10 AM
Central Office
274 E. Hamilton Ave. Suite D., Campbell
408-374-8511

InterGroup Minutes: March 6, 2013

- Gloria V., Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, followed by a Moment of Silence and the serenity prayer.
- Fernando read the definition of Intergroup.
- Wendy read the 12 traditions.
- New Intergroup Reps: Sam, SCCYPAA, Tuesday 6:00 Group; David, Serenity at Noon Group; Fernando, Lucy Stern Friday 7:30 Group; Heather, Thursday 7:30pm Group; Wendy, Friday 7:30 Group; Jordan, Thursday Gay Men's Freedom 8:00pm Group; LeeAnn, Saturday Get Up and Go Women's Group; Lucy, DIVA; Linda, Midweek Spiritual Progress Wednesday 8:00pm Group; Tim, Monday Night Villages Group
- Visitors (None)
- Birthdays: Susan S, 8 yrs.; Tom, 7 yrs.; Christine, 9 yrs.; Larie, 30 yrs.
- 7th tradition.
- Corrections or Additions to the agenda (None)
- Corrections or Additions to the previous month's minutes (None)
- Treasurer's Report – Laura: As of February 6, our cash balance was \$216.50 plus our prudent reserve of \$300. We paid our 2012 rent, and in March we will pay our rent for the first quarter.
- 67 voting representatives in attendance.

REPORTS

Intergroup Chair, Gloria V.

We have a good number of voting InterGroup reps here tonight. Our previous "coffee guy" Brian is no longer able to make coffee for us. Now Gavin will be our coffee service person through October.

Central Service Board, Annie

The Board met last week, and it was a quiet meeting. The Board met with our CPA, and the books look good. Our Prudent Reserve is where it needs to be. Our rent lease was renewed at the rate of \$1.65/square foot. Obtaining insurance for meetings has been a topic of discussion.

Central Office, Bruce

- I remember InterGroup meetings when only 17 voting InterGroup Reps were in attendance, so tonight truly is a good night.
- Our beloved Chuck had triple bypass surgery March 5 and is doing well at the VA hospital in Palo Alto. At this point he probably needs our prayers more than our visits.
- I'll be attending the next meeting of the Northern California Central Office Managers Friday, March 8, in Monterey as well as the CNCA Pre-Conference Assembly in Antioch in April.
- Chili cook-off fliers are on the table; help us get the word out.
- We're having a big Founder's Day event June 8 at Central Office. We'll show the video of our 2011 play, "In Our Own Words. . ." followed by a discussion of the play, the Traditions, and the history of AA, all starting at 1:30. Plenty of ice cream and, I'm told, brownies will be available.
- I must, once again, thank all of you for assisting us in reaching our Prudent Reserve goal (we have about \$84,000 in a CD). Remember, we still need your support to pay our ongoing operating expenses. When "a buck in the basket" first came about, a well drink was 50 cents or less; might I suggest we contribute accordingly?
- And Central Office fares well.

PI, Ramon

- Thanks to Susan for filling in for me the past 6 weeks.
- On February 14 we presented at Christopher High School in Gilroy.
- On February 26th we presented at Santa Clara University. Both events went well, and we've been invited back to present at Santa Clara University again on May 21 from 1:45-3:15. We need four speakers for the May event.
- On March 14 we're presenting again at Project Homeless Connect in Sunnyvale from 1:30-3:30.
- April 28th we'll have a literature table at the Healthy Living Fair held at Our Lady of Refuge Church at 2165 Lucretia Avenue in San Jose from 9am-2pm.

CPC, Larry

- We received word from the General Service Office that the Association of American Indian Physicians will meet July 29-August 4 at the Santa Clara Convention Center.
- One of the conference agenda topics is discussion of changing the wording of Tradition 11 to expand the public media mentioned.
- The Spanish District in San Francisco is working with the Mexican Embassy to help Mexican nationals understand what AA is.
- While attending PRAASA in Boise I attended one workshop for CPC and one workshop for PI. It costs \$1500 to run a PSA in a movie theater.

12 Step Committee, Bill

- The 12th Step workshop is going on the road in April! The 12th Step workshop is typically held the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 at Central Office. On January 19 an additional workshop was held at 11:00 at Central Office; a women's group brought 32 women to this special workshop. Our plan is to now take the workshop to the Alano Club of San Jose, which

has a large Saturday morning meeting. If at least 10 people are interested in attending the workshop, the workshop will come to them. It is not appropriate for the Alano Club to subsidize this meeting expense. A motion was made and seconded that InterGroup pay the Alano Club \$20 to cover the meeting expense (this is a one-time event). The motion passed.

Daytime Coordinator, Mike M.: All is well.

Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator, Tommy O.: Bill reported for Tommy – All is well for diverter coordination.

Outreach Committee, Kathy Ann C.: Kathy Ann C. will become the new chair effective May 1 after tax season.

COIN, Fran

- The March issue features the Men's Think Tank Meeting. We need articles about meetings in Santa Clara County. Fran encourages everyone who wants to write anything about AA to submit an article. The April issue will focus on Service. The May topic is How Did I Get to AA? June features Coping with Loss in Sobriety. Fran asked that if any members are ill, or if there is a death in our fellowship, please notify Central Office so we can announce information re the memorial service.

Activities Committee, Robby W.

- We have 13 teams for the March 16 Chili Cook-off and 3 teams for cornbread. Robby has a list of volunteers. The suggested donation is \$10. There will be root beer floats for dessert. Robby's email address is RobertDWillis@gmail.com.

Communications Committee

- We need a new website and a new lead for this committee, someone with webmaster experience and web development skills. Leona volunteered to chair this committee. Gloria and Bruce will bring Leona up to date on volunteers and project progress to date.

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion re a blanket insurance policy to provide comprehensive general liability coverage. Insurance is becoming an issue when trying to find meeting sites. \$290/year is the least expensive premium found so far. Gail reported that the Happy Destiny Group purchased a policy with a \$460/year premium. The carrier can cover multiple groups at multiple locations as long as they are under the Happy Destiny Group umbrella. Happy Destiny would like to share the premium expense with other groups. Bill commented that Saturday Night Live must have insurance and could be an information resource. Central Office is the corporate arm for doing AA business in Santa Clara County; if a meeting is sued, Central Office would get involved as the corporate arm. NIAC (Nonprofits' Insurance Alliance of California) put Bruce in touch with a local agent. Bruce will continue to research options for extending insurance to meetings in Santa Clara County.

OTHER SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Unity Day, Josh: Josh will begin reporting in April.

NCCAA, Open: NCCAA's summer conference will be held June 7-9 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City. The website is norcalaa.org.

Hospitals and Institutions, Open: Kelly reported that H&I will appoint an InterGroup liaison

Bridging the Gap, Kate R.: The purpose of Bridging the Gap is to help people make the transition from jails and facilities to AA. The next meeting will be April 15 at 7:00

North County General Service, Eric L

- Though Santa Clara submitted a bid to host the 2025 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, it is not one of the five finalists (the 49ers Stadium has not yet been completed). On February 15, Agenda Topics for discussion at the 63rd annual General Service Conference in New York were distributed to GSRs across the United States and Canada. Hot topics this year include adding an index to the Big Book and publishing a commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition exactly replicating the First Edition, First Printing of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- On March 16 Districts 04 and 40 will co-host an Agenda Topics Workshop for GSRs and anyone else interested in learning about some of these topics at the Alano Club at 1122 Fair Avenue from 2-5pm.
- At PRAASA one of the conference themes was rigidity within AA (traditions are not rules to be obeyed but principles to be honored).

South County General Service, Miguel

- I and 80 other people from Area 06 attended PRAASA 2013 in Boise last weekend—it was great. South County General Service needs a Liaison for Unity Day, to be held August 18 in Milpitas; we are also working to have more participation from the Spanish community at round tables, etc.
- If you are attending the Agenda Topics Workshop, please bring an FM radio for translation, as sessions will be held in both English and Spanish.

SCCYPAA, Caitlyn

- The ACYPAA roundup will be held March 14-17 in Fresno at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.
- SCCYPAA elections will be held April 20. Our website is <http://www.sccypaa-ca.com>.

OPEN FORUM

There was discussion of streamlining the InterGroup Rep sign-in process. We will use a master list for sign-ins starting next month. The Serenity First Downtown Fellowship is now meeting Monday through Friday at 10:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Intergroup Central Office
of Santa Clara County, Inc.
274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D
Campbell, CA 95008

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