



February, 2015  
Volume 10 | Issue 2

## Deposed AA Leaders Face a Choice: Do They Become Bleeding Deacons or Elder Statesmen?

Recently in our group, people were gossiping about my husband and me, saying that we were being the dictators of the group and that all decisions and events revolved around us. We do participate a lot in all the group activities and we thought that we were just being helpful and being of service. Then we heard that more than a few people were saying this. We didn't think that we were being overbearing.

People were saying things to the people we sponsor, and our sponsees were becoming upset, so we decided to make a stand. Our plan was to quit all of our commitments and not attend so many meetings because we were not being appreciated. Our feelings were hurt.

We took this situation to our higher power and prayed for those who had wronged us. And finally we each took the issue to our individual sponsors. Amazingly, our sponsors asked us if we thought we were "bleeding deacons" or "elder statesmen." We had to admit that we were being somewhat bleeding deacons, trying to run the group and influence them in their decisions and sway them to in our direction.

Upon further reflection, and through the passage of time, we have decided to not quit our group. We have decided to take lesser leadership roles and to be more

supportive of the newer members and encourage them to be more active in our group. We want to be the elder statesmen that our group looks to for direction. We will continue to do the footwork and ask our higher power to direct us and give us the right thoughts and actions. We will continue to look to our sponsors for enlightenment of our actions and checking our motives.

We have recovered from this setback, and at group level admitted to our group that we had heard the gossip, that it hurt our feelings. We told the group we are now over it and ready to move forward, with more consideration and empathy for the newcomer who wants to be of service.

I feel this is the essence of Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are trusted servants, they do not govern.

Anonymous

Editor's Note: for a definition of elder statesmen and bleeding deacons, see p. 135 of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.



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### This Month

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## Ravaged by Alcoholism: He Saw That If Others Found Sanity in AA, Maybe He Could Too

I found Step Two to be one of the least attractive elements of Alcoholics Anonymous. I came to AA ravaged by the disease of alcoholism, having tried many other solutions: therapy, getting higher-paying jobs, new relationships, and even not drinking. The idea that a Higher Power was going to solve my drinking problem seemed silly at best. My persistent self-reliance told me faith was a ruse, and God was simply a device to comfort the ignorant and weak.

In AA, however, I saw people living by spiritual principles, and these people believed spirituality had solved their drinking problem. In a moment of clarity, I began to think, “If they believe in a Higher Power and are sober, perhaps that can happen for me too.” So there it was. I too could be restored to sanity, if I did what the other sober members of AA were doing.

It was easy for me to accept that my drinking was insane. I was coming out of blackouts behind the wheel, I was stealing from my family and friends, and I was napping in the bathroom at work. The list could go on.

Although the things I did while drinking were not the acts of a sane person, they did not necessarily point to the kind of insanity discussed in Step Two. When I read the chapter of the Big Book, “More about Alcoholism,” it was clear the author was describing my own experience: the most baffling feature of my alcoholism was the inability to take it or leave it alone, no matter how great the necessity or wish.

No matter the consequences of previous drinking escapades, I convinced myself this time would be different. Most often, I skipped the thinking process entirely and told myself, “The heck with it, I NEED this drink.” No matter what the reasoning, the results were always the same – another drink, another drunk, another time I disappointed my family and friends, another troubling incident with my finances. The resulting crush of guilt and stress always convinced me the only way out was another drink.

There were a few times, earlier in my drinking, where I was able to postpone a drunk in certain situations, like being at a family gathering. The only time I was actually able to control my drinking was when I had been using other substances. Finally, I believed I had lost the power to choose whether I would drink or not.

Sober a few years now, I can still get stuck in my head, thinking of how the world needs to change to suit me.

**“ The idea that a Higher Power was going to solve my drinking problem seemed silly at best. My persistent self-reliance told me faith was a ruse, and God was simply a device to comfort the ignorant and weak. ”**

I am a master at manufacturing my own misery and frustration. If I remember to believe that my Higher Power can bring me a greater purpose, my sanity is restored. Due to the spiritual nature of the malady, I still have a living problem after the drinking problem is solved. Step Two addresses the spiritual malady and allows me to continue to grow.

Noah G.

## From Hopelessness to Hope Came to Believe That a Power Greater than Ourselves Could Restore Us to Sanity

The second step was and is a gift from Alcoholics Anonymous to me. I had no hope when I came to AA. In fact, when I stumbled into AA, crying and shaking, I was in the depths of incomprehensible demoralization and was planning to kill myself. In that bottom of despair, I had no problem admitting I was “powerless over alcohol - that [my life] had become unmanageable.”

The process of writing out the first step for me was not difficult. That first notebook, which I have kept to this day, is painful to read. Every aspect of my life was in the gutter, and my feelings were a swirl of anger, confusion, despair and frustration. (I could not name those feelings yet.) My best efforts at life had gotten me to a place where I drank every day, changed jobs and ended friendships the minute I thought I had been “disrespected.” I had confusing love relationships, was impatient with everyone, and was constantly in financial crisis.

The first step for me was the admission of total defeat

around alcohol and around managing my own life. AA provided a safe place to experience that defeat. I arrived at the emergency room of life and collapsed.

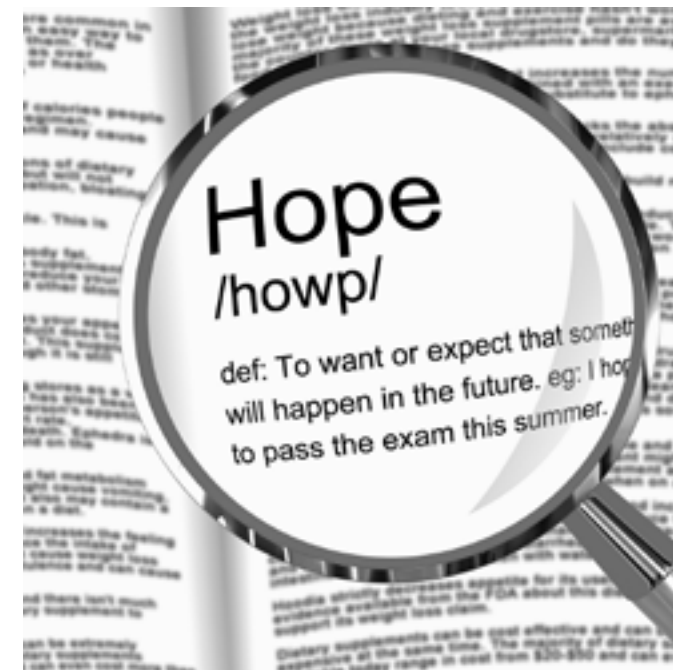
That’s when AA provided the next gift: hope. The second step is a process of developing hope. Without hope, a person has no energy to do the next right thing.

I had no concept of an okay life. But as I looked around the rooms of AA, I was being bombarded with facts I could not deny. The people in AA had at one time felt the way I was feeling. They were talking about their bottoms in a way that only people who had experienced fear, bewilderment, confusion and despair could understand. I trusted them because I had never heard such pain spoken aloud.

These people now had new lives. I could not deny it. Their attitudes and outlooks had changed, and good things were happening for them. They credited AA not only with saving their lives, but with giving them lives beyond anything they could have imagined.

Slowly, through showing up (attending meetings), being present (listening at meetings) and telling the truth (working with a sponsor), I came to believe that this thing that was helping the other people in the room might be able to help me, too. I came to believe a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity (anything but the life I used to have). AA itself was my first higher power.

I used to get hung up on the word “restore” because I did not understand how I could be restored to sanity if I had never been sane in the first place. I was insane before I ever took my first drink. So, I came to think of this step as, “Came to believe that a power greater than myself could bring me to sanity.” That keeps it simple for me. Sanity to me means is a life without drinking which is only made possible by practicing the principles of AA in all my affairs.



continued on page 8

## She Didn't Question the Use of the Word "Insane"

As I look back some 24 years I can recall that I always believed in God. I had always prayed and God had saved me from myself on too many occasions to even recall. Thank goodness many of my prayers went unanswered. My prayers were sometimes "if you get me out of this, then I won't do it again." But of course, the insanity of alcoholism had me right there again, soon.

**" I can still cause wreckage by walking from my bedroom to the kitchen, if I don't suit up and show up first with God. "**

The insanity was not difficult to see in my day-to-day life. It was, however, somewhat difficult to believe that my behavior was really "insane" because I worked in the mental health field. But thank goodness I didn't question the use of the word. For the first time in my life I was willing to do whatever was suggested, without any argument. And up until this point I was always willing to argue. So already willingness was my gift, and it would remain with me until my 20th year of sobriety. That, however, is a different story.

God did restore me to sanity, bit by bit. I stopped drinking and using and my life started to look like there might be hope for me. I worked the steps, did what was suggested and in those days suggestions seemed more like clear direction.

I became a worker among workers; a better person all around. I had met a man and he became my husband and still is, and if that isn't God I am not sure what is. My relationships have been restored, sometimes quickly sometimes slowly. God sent me a wonderful sponsor who has taught me about having a relationship with Him. He sent me to work in a jail for 18 years. I

used to say "my God has a sense of humor, He sends me to jail every day." Perhaps it is because I am the type of alcoholic who needs to see and hear daily that it still isn't working out there, in case I ever wonder. I have been blessed with an early planned retirement.

In my retirement I know that I am to continue to give back to Alcoholics Anonymous what was so freely given to me. And I want to! Today my life is simple; it has a regular pulse and heartbeat, a rhythm. Nothing fancy. I don't drink or use and I try to be of service to others, whatever that looks like on any given day. Each day I start with my time alone with God, because that's what I was taught and because I can still cause wreckage by walking from my bedroom to the kitchen, if I don't suit up and show up first with God.

I have met women who would give me the shirt off their back if it was necessary. Unselfish unconditional love is what I have received from AA, and I have been able to take what I have learned and pass it on to both those in and out of these rooms. I owe my life to AA and will spend the rest of my life repaying my debt. Thank you God, thank you.

Anonymous



## The Sleeper Step: Treasures of the Second Step Remain Hidden in Plain Sight

The second step to me is the great sleeper step of our program. In fact, for me, most of its treasures remained hidden in plain sight, only to be discovered much later as I went from being sponsored to sponsoring.

Since most true learning begins when information connects with reality and finds application in a person's life, I was unable to find much meaningful application in being restored to sanity, since I didn't believe that I was not sane.

Okay, some of my past actions were out of line, but now, without drinking? No, I thought I was pretty squared away. It was Albert Einstein who coined the famous quote, "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." He also said that we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that we used when we created them.

This, of course, makes perfect sense when we take into consideration that once the spiritual malady is overcome we straighten out mentally and physically. This is a profound truth displayed in our fourth step.

The ground work for this reality is being laid in the second step and therefore its focus is rightly placed on the topic of belief leading to faith. For me, the real meat of the step is found in the repetitive nature of my faulty thinking, as displayed in the five classic examples of common problems we have with faith in God.

At my first approach of this step, I thought the God problem was no great obstacle. I was at this point the guy full of faith but reeking of alcohol, but I could quickly morph into the plumb disgusted one, tearing down other's belief systems and falling prey to negative thinking and a phony form of respectability.

Or, how frequent is it that I take pride in being the intellectually self-sufficient one, where I think I can float above the rest of the group on my brain power alone. But by now I know that I am in no way self-sufficient. The spiritual life is not a theory; it must be lived and I need God's power to live this spiritual way of life, I need it every day.

For me, the most painful of the five is the bewildered one. How often must I wander from my faith and fall back into indifference and yet another effort at self-sufficiency built on a strong foundation of prejudice against religion?

After dabbling in all the above, my strongest hand turns out to be the first of the five, the belligerent one. How often when I am challenged with the clear, simple direction of the steps and God's will do I feel like my whole philosophy is being threatened and am willing to defy God Himself?

So for, me the second step really is the great sleeper step of our program, so many simple truths about my need for restoration, just waiting for enough humility to connect to reality and find application in my life.

One of my great frustrations along this happy road to destiny has been how often I travel the same old ground fraught with the same old struggles. I left a lot of meat on the bone of the second step on my first pass, but that is okay. Every time I take a new man through the steps, I get another chance to check my thinking and see how I am doing.

I don't have to think long to understand why step two is the rallying point for all of us, all I have to do is pay attention to my thinking to verify that, even though the monkey is off my back, the circus is still in town. Thank God for the daily reprieve I have found in the steps and the ability to laugh at the sometimes painful truth instead of cry.

Lane K.



## Opinion: Why the Lord's Prayer May No Longer Belong in Alcoholics Anonymous

I love Alcoholics Anonymous. Our history inspires me, and the colorful characters that created this organization are my role models. The 12 Steps have guided me through the wreckage of my past into a joyous present. The 12 Traditions have protected me from my fears, shielded you from my defects of character, and guarded AA from the chaos created by people like me. I have escaped disaster with your support, and I've been bound to lifelong friends on this miraculous journey. My family life is repaired, my career is back on track, and my spiritual life is renewed.

But at the end of nearly every meeting I feel excluded because, all too often, meetings close with the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer does not appear anywhere in the Big Book or 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. The Lord's Prayer is a religious prayer found in the Christian gospels that – in my opinion -- has no place in a “spiritual, not religious” program.

AA claims no affiliation with any sect or denomination, yet in practice we ignore a variety of non-religious prayers in our literature. The practice of saying the Lord's Prayer precludes the spiritual convictions of every non-Christian. A prayer linked to one specific religion suggests we've endorsed that religion as the right one. I think most groups say the Lord's Prayer just because they've “always done it this way.”

I face two bad choices: conform to the practices of the group or risk standing out by not conforming. If I do say the Lord's Prayer, am I ignoring a God of my understanding? Does it mean my spiritual beliefs don't matter? The Third Tradition matters because it invites all forms of belief and non-belief into AA.

In early sobriety, I recited the Lord's Prayer along with the rest of the group because I wanted to fit in. Fortunately, I had a sponsor who taught me I did not have to do it if I didn't want to. I instead quietly close my eyes, join the circle, and whisper a prayer of my choice. Thus, I straddle the line between participating and not participating.

There are options. Some groups close their meetings with the Serenity Prayer, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer, or the Responsibility Statement. Since none of those prayers come from a specific religion, I feel free to participate.

The Lord's Prayer does have historical significance in AA. The 12 steps were derived from the six steps of the Oxford Group, an early-20th-century Christian sect. But AA has grown and changed since the 1930s. We have diversified and spread to 170 countries. Our membership here in Santa Clara County includes people of numerous spiritual traditions from all over the world. Yet most meetings continue to close with a Christian prayer.

I was taught that as I grew in sobriety I should strive to become a more inclusive and considerate member. Perhaps we should all question whether our meetings are inclusive, and whether members like me have an opportunity participate fully.

Anonymous



## The Reason I Still Go to Meetings

I myself still wondered why I still go to 12-step meetings. After all, I had some decent recovery under my belt and I really had no desire to go back to that way of life. Sure, I was getting along in years and I enjoyed the camaraderie that I usually felt there. They were a much-needed social occasion. We all had to feel part of a tribe somewhere. But why did I really attend them so often?

I got a partial answer at a large meeting that I normally don't go to. I don't care for larger meetings. I was asked to share and I didn't heed the voice inside me that said WAIT (Why Am I Talking). It was good advice to prevent me from trying to make an impression, to sound cool and clever when sharing at meetings. Nevertheless, despite this wise admonishment, I knew better. I tried to share from the heart as I hoped that would get me some decent feedback. Although my pontifications seemed to fall on deaf ears, a newcomer warily approached me as the meeting was dispersing.

She seemed to be a member of a group from a rehabilitation facility and she was in a hurry to leave with the other ladies. She offered herself and said a few words of understanding. I saw the perspiration on her forehead and she looked very uncomfortable. At first, I wanted to flee as she showed her sickness to me. She said, “I...I...really liked what you said, on how recovery although difficult, was worth it now.”

I saw that she was choosing life over death. Of course, it's difficult to change one's direction and forego that slippery slope to a bitter but easy end. And that was what made recovery heroic to me. I knew of some people who thought they had the process licked now that their life was so much better. They no longer felt the need for meetings and stopped “coming back.” They were now “cured.” A wise man once told me that the only thing that is really cured is a ham. Some found a new life and some went back to their old ways which had once seemed safe. Often they died. This is why I still go.

Lorin K.



## Golden Threads Deepen Her

I heard someone speak recently about the golden thread that weaves through the tapestry of Alcoholics Anonymous. We all probably have a library of coincidences or serendipity experiences that we may or may not recognize at the time, sometimes to say, “Wow”, or other times to see them as such through the perspective of time.

When I finally made my commitment to sobriety I let go of the folks I hung around with in my previous life. Sometime later, I was at a meeting I had never been to before, and remarked that I knew no one except the secretary. When the meeting was over, a gentleman came up to me to tell me his story.

His mom and I were pals when he was a teen. He remarked that one day I had just disappeared from their lives. When he started getting in trouble with drugs and alcohol, his mom said to him, “Why don't you try AA, it seemed to work for my friend.” He was there to tell me he did try AA and it is working for him.

You just never know. I look back at that experience as one of the golden threads that weaves through my AA story and strengthens my commitment to sobriety and passing it on (whether or not I'm aware of it).

Anonymous



## Editor's Notes

### 2nd Step, 2nd Tradition, ACYPAA and Conference Season

This month's topics are the second step and the second tradition. In our front-page story, a long-time AA group leader does an exceptionally honest self-appraisal using the standards set forth in the second tradition.

Page six has a new feature (for me, at least) of The Coin. A member questions the common practice of closing recovery meetings with the Lord's Prayer and states a personal opinion.

Group contributions to Central Office for 2014 revealed that only 30 percent of the meetings in Santa Clara County contribute to Central Office.

I'll be charitable and assume the remaining 70 percent are meetings that cannot afford to contribute after covering basic expenses like rent, insurance and coffee. If your group is short on cash, there are other ways to contribute that involve your heart and your brain instead of your wallet. There are many volunteer needs throughout the fellowship right now. The Intergroup minutes and fliers in The Coin and on the Central Office website, [www.aasanjose.org](http://www.aasanjose.org), are full of service opportunities. Listen to announcements from your Intergroup Representatives to find out more.

At the end of the month, a significant statewide AA event will happen here in San Jose. The annual All California Young People in AA (ACYPAA) Roundup will be held at the San Jose Hilton starting on

Thursday, February 26 to Sunday, March 1. For more information, visit [www.2015.acypaa.org](http://www.2015.acypaa.org). This event has no upper or lower age limit. If anyone attends the roundup and would like to write about it for the April issue, I would welcome your story.

It is General Service Conference season. What does that mean? It means your opinion is needed on matters that affect AA as a whole. Your General Service representatives (GSRs) will be holding group consciences in March and April to get ready for the Pre-Conference Assembly April 11-12 in Pleasanton. If you're interested in finding out about this year's topics, come to the Agenda Topics Workshop Saturday, March 14 at The Alano Club of San Jose, 1122 Fair Ave., San Jose. The workshop will last from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, see the Events tab on the [www.aasanjose.org](http://www.aasanjose.org) website.

If you would like to participate in the conference process and your group does not have a GSR, get one! The sobriety requirement is two years, and it is a two-year term. See your meeting secretary for more information.

Marianne G.  
Editor

As exhausted and defeated as I was I believed what I was seeing around me. The people in AA whose lives had been changed, and who kept coming back to meetings to share, gave me hope I had never had before in my life. With that I could do the next right thing. I am forever grateful.

### Hopeless continued from page 3

I am sane when sobriety is my number one priority. The brilliance of the second step is that it does not say, "Came to believe that I could have a good life, that I was loveable, that I was worthy of happiness, that I had choices, and that I no longer had to play the victim." There was no way I could comprehend that when I first came in! It was years of working the steps before I could understand any of that.

## The Day the Cage Door Almost Closed

What has happened to me? How did I get here?  
Countless are the days since I felt sane and my head  
was clear.

A long time ago I walked into a place where I felt  
confident, happy, and free from my rage.

If only I had known I was walking into my very own  
cage.

This cage hid me from my resentments, anger, and  
diseased spirit.

I was soaking in a liquid whose warnings I did not  
heed...I would not hear it.

Night after night from that cage I wished I would go  
running.

But again and again, its grasp was powerful baffling  
and cunning.

The shell of a former self, beaten, tired, worried, an  
alcoholic...this was my terrifying realization.

This explained the days, months, and years of  
incomprehensible demoralization.

My heart was breaking, as I wondered why God had  
allowed my life to become so lonely and grim.

The sadness grew greater as I was to remember it was  
me who did the forsaking, not him.

The day came when the cage door decided to close on  
me, to shut very tight.

Its only intention was to be done with me...to claim  
my very life.

Hooked to machines alone, fearful and in total  
despair.

Then a quiet whisper moved like a small breeze in the  
air.

It was the whisper of the Father who said, "Ask and I  
will let you use my strength."

So I asked, "Father please help, I am willing to go to  
any length."

At that moment I felt like I had been pulled from a  
horrible fate.

I lay there exhaling self-will and breathing in God's  
Grace.

In a few days I found a place I wanted I wanted to stay.

They said to keep this gift of grace you have to keep  
giving it away.

Today my faith comes with works and that I hope will  
never end.

For if it does, there is a cage waiting for me just  
around the bend.

Rick F.

March 2015

Deadline: Feb. 18, 2015

Humor issue: Submit your jokes and funny stories  
related to your own sobriety.

Step Three, Tradition Three

Third Step Principle: Surrender

April 2015

Deadline: March 18, 2015

Step Four, Tradition Four

Fourth Step Principle: Honesty

May 2015

Deadline: April 15, 2015

Step Five, Tradition Five

Fifth Step Principle: Courage

### COIN Production

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## February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm OUTREACH MTG: 6:30pm Trinity Church 3151 Union Ave., SJ INTERGROUP MTG: 7:30pm	5	6	7  SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
8  ACYPAA BUSINESS MEETING 12 noon 222 Keyes St., SJ	9	10	11  NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:30pm	12	13	14  PI/CPC Workshop 10am, Central Office
15	16  BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING: 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ  Central Office Closed	17  SO COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm	18	19	20	21  DIVERTER/12TH STEPPERS WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office
22 ACYPAA BUSINESS MEETING 12 noon 222 Keyes St., SJ	23	24  H & I Committee 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave.,SJ	25	26	27	28

### LOCAL EVENTS

- March 14 Agenda Topics Workshop: 12pm - 3pm, The Alano Club of San Jose, 1122 Fair Ave., San Jose
- March 28 S.C.C. Intergroup Chili Cookoff: 12pm - 3pm, Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave., San Jose

### CALIFORNIA EVENTS

- Feb. 26 - March 1st ACYPAA XLIII: The Hilton, 300 Almaden Boulevard, San Jose, CA [www.2015.ACYPAA.ORG](http://www.2015.ACYPAA.ORG)

### EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND GLOBE

- February 20-22 Yuma Round Up: AWC Main Campus: 2020 S. Avenue 8E, Yuma, AZ [yumaroundup@yahoo.com](mailto:yumaroundup@yahoo.com)

## March 2015

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22	23	24  H & I Committee 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave.,SJ	25	26	27	28 Chili Cookoff 12-3pm Lincoln Glen Church 2700 Booksin Ave. SJ
29	30	31				

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](mailto:aasanjose@comcast.net)

**Telephone Calls Received  
During January 2015**

Daytime at Central Office..... **372**

Daytime 12 Step Calls..... **9**

(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**

**Serenity Speaker Meeting**

Sundays at 6:15 p.m.

West Valley Presbyterian Church: 6191 Bollinger Rd., Cupertino

**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.

2634 Union Ave., San Jose

**Saturday Morning Fellowship**

Saturday at 10 a.m.

United Presbyterian Church

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

**MEETING CHANGES**

**NEW**

**Early Fresh Start:** Sat., 10AM, Oak Grove Baptist Church: 479 Blossom Hill Rd., upstairs, San Jose.

**Mandarin Alcoholics Anonymous Group:** Sun., 11AM, AACI, 2400 Moorpark Ave., Room 202, San Jose. (Starts January 4th)

**Happy, Joyous, Free (Transwomen):** Fri. 7PM Billy DeFrank LGBT Center: 938 The Alameda, near Race St., San Jose. (2nd and 4th Fridays only)

**Morning Reflections:** Thurs., 6:45AM, We Care Group: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1989 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas.

**Big Book Study:** Sat., 10:30AM, Cornerstone Fellowship Group: 1600 Dell Ave., (2nd Floor), Campbell.

**Desi's In Recovery:** Sat., 4PM, Covenant Presbyterian Church: 670 E. Meadow Dr. @ Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. (Languages used include most from India and Pakistan)

**The Family Afterwards:** Wed., 6PM, Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte, Los Altos (Room 8).

**Fireside Drunx's:** Mon., 8PM, Change of Recovery House, 526 Page St., San Jose.

**CHANGED**

**Signs of Sobriety (ASL & English):** Mon., 6:30PM, Now meets in Collins Room at Grace Baptist Church: 484 E. San Fernando St., San Jose. (entrance off of 10th street)

**Freedom Fellowship:** Has moved to: Trinity United Methodist Church, 748 Mercy St., Mountain View. (Monday - Friday meetings only)

**Back to Basics:** Wed., 12 noon, Gilroy Groups changed name to **Serenity at Noon.**

**New Live and Let Live:** Sun., 4:30PM, Moved from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to Alum Rock Covenant Church, 218 Kirk Ave., San Jose.

**Open AA:** Thurs., 6PM, Alano Club West. Name changed to Good Men and Women.

**As Bill Sees It Book Meeting:** Sun., 5PM, We Care Group: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1989 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas. Time changed to 5PM from 6PM.

**The Survivors:** Wed., 7PM, Veteran's Housing Facility, San Jose. Now a Step Study.

**NO LONGER MEETING**

**Completely Out of Context:** Wed., 6PM, Billy DeFrank LGBT Center: 938 The Alameda, near Race St., San Jose.

**Los Gatos Chips:** Sat., 6PM, Faith Lutheran Church: 16548 Ferris Ave., Los Gatos.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Christopher M., died on January 31, 2015**

**Peggy P., died on February 2, 2015**

**Birthday Contributions**

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT	YEARS	CONTRIBUTIONS	BIRTHDAY
Adam S.	4	Anonymous	08/09/2010
Lee C.	30	Anonymous	12/25/1984
Dave K.	2	John S.	01/01/2013
Chris C.	15	John S.	01/01/2000
Paul C.	36	Robbie R. and Paul C.	01/10/1979
Tom K.	45	Tom K.	01/15/1970
Tobias T.	8	Tobias T.	01/18/2007
Bob S.	52	Bob S. and Joel F.	01/24/1963
John S.	23	John S.	01/25/1992
Mary Pat P.	32	Joel F.	01/27/1983



**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







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**Intergroup Central Office**

of Santa Clara County, Inc.

274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D

Campbell, CA 95008

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Non-Profit Org.

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



# ***REMEMBER ...***

PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL OFFICE  
(any amount, to a maximum of \$3000.00 per year, please)  
ARE CHEERFULLY RECEIVED AT:

**INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE**

274 E. HAMILTON AVE., SUITE D

CAMPBELL, CA 95008

*(\*your contributions are tax deductible)*

## InterGroup Minutes

January 7, 2015

- Carol B., Intergroup Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. [Ross explained the PA system in its initial dry run this evening] followed by a Moment of Silence and the serenity prayer.
  - Laura read the definition of Intergroup.
  - Lisa read the 12 traditions.
  - 11 New Intergroup Reps:
    - Judith, 3<sup>rd</sup> Stepper's Study Group meeting
    - Mary Jo, Gay Living Sober group meeting
    - Jenny, Lesbians Living the Promises meeting
    - Rick, Remington and Bernardo meeting
    - Laura, Spiritual Step meeting
    - Nora, 10 O'clock High meeting
    - Bill, Gay Men and Women Together meeting
    - Laurent, Men's Single Problem Topic meeting
    - Lisa, Women's 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition Group meetings
    - Ed, Men Seeking Guidance meetings
    - Jeffrey, We Have Arrived Men's meeting
  - Visitors
    - Beth
    - Allison
  - Birthdays:
    - Mary, 26 yrs.
    - Mike, 18 mos.
    - *Indiscernible\**, 3 yrs.
    - Tommy, 8 yrs.
    - Maddie, 27 yrs.
    - Mary, 26 yrs.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition
  - Corrections or Additions to the agenda (None)
  - Corrections or Additions to the previous month's minutes (None/Minutes approved)
  - Treasurer's Report – Joe
- Year started with Prudent Reserve of \$300, 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition for the year \$1,225, rent for the year of \$600. Coffee was gratis from Gavin. \$500 to Central Office leaving remaining balance of \$125. A 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collected balance will now be given at the end of each Intergroup Meeting.
- 65 voting Intergroup representatives in attendance.

### Reports

#### Intergroup Chair, Carol B.

Happy New Year! This year is going to be great, we'll be celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> year of Alcoholics Anonymous. Katie volunteered for coffee prep for the Intergroup Meeting!

Committee Chairs, please keep reports to two to three minutes and provide one take away item for reps to take back and report to their meeting. David W. has volunteered to write a bullet-point summary to be read at the end of the meeting.

#### Central Service Board, Ross J.

The Central Service Board met December 18 and reviewed the Treasurer's Report; group contributions were essentially even with the previous year. A big screen monitor has been installed at Central Office, displaying Public Service Announcements, calendar events, etc. We plan to use our prudent reserve overage to replace the printer/copier. GSO literature prices have increased, but Big Book and 12 and 12 cost increases will be underwritten. The Board discussed increasing our Office Staff. Bruce is looking for additional staff for 1 day a week.

#### Central Office, Bruce

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual tamale party was a great success, with 170+ attendees!

We had a few notices of Alcahons, etc. this last holiday season; if you have information about an upcoming event, let us know, Diverterers are asked frequently for details but they can't impart information they don't have. We're here to serve!

We could use volunteers for Central Office, specifically for 3 different positions--but we can always utilize help. Please get the word out:

- Friday morning following the Intergroup meeting we need help assembling and mailing the COIN. There is a sign-up sheet this evening.
- Help for staffing the table at the ACYPAA Annual Roundup in February. More details are forthcoming, but contact Bruce at [bruce@asaanjose.org](mailto:bruce@asaanjose.org) or call Central Office.
- 1 day a week part-time assistant. Flexibility is desired as this position will also fill in when Julie and Bruce are gone simultaneously. 5 years' sobriety and comfortable understanding of our Traditions are required. Send your resume to me by mail/email/personal delivery or town crier.

Central Office fares well.

#### **PI/CPC, Chris**

Still seeking nominees for a CPC chair; it is a 2-year commitment with 2 years of sobriety.

The PI/CPC workshop is the second Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM at Central Office.

We have 2 upcoming CPC presentations (January 26, 5:30 PM at Santa Clara University and Feb 23, 10:30 to 11:35 also at SCU).

Sobriety requirement for presentations is 6 months.

#### **12th Step Committee, Bill D.**

The 12<sup>th</sup> step list is people willing to take folks to a meeting, give a ride, do a 12<sup>th</sup> step call, or meet people. We meet at Central Office the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 10:00 AM for a 12<sup>th</sup>-Step/Diverter workshop.

#### **Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator, Tommy O.**

The Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator is still seeking a replacement: 5 years of sobriety are required, a positive attitude, good communication skills, a love for talking to alcoholics, and familiarity with Excel.

Diverter training is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM.

Diverter shifts available or coming up are:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month (once a quarter!) from 4:30 to 7:00 PM
- 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month from 7:00 to Midnight
- 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month from 4:30 to 7:00 PM

Phone 408-963-3233

A new Daily Coordinator (Rich W.) has stepped in for Colin.

Looking for 2 Daily Coordinators for after Central Office hours. The volunteer length is open-ended unless you say so.

New diverter packets are due out soon.

#### **Daytime Coordinator, Bruce (for Mike).**

Mike has done the job for 3 years and is a great asset, but he cannot make it to the Intergroup meeting. An understanding of how AA works and our Traditions is critical. We have a shift open: Friday morning (every other week) from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Two years' sobriety required.

#### **Outreach Committee, Laura**

Laura explained that Outreach makes certain that meetings listed in the Meeting Directory are in fact meeting and encourages each meeting to have an Intergroup Rep and get the benefits of what we do here at Intergroup. If you know of a meeting without a rep, tell them about Intergroup and have them send a representative.

#### **COIN, Marianne**

I hope you like the January issue of the Coin. Next month's issue will be about the Second Step and the Second Tradition--it's traditional to feature stories about relationships as well. How has sobriety affected the way you are in relationships and/or how have you dealt with problems in relationships that you used to deal with by drinking? The Central Office web site now has a new page under the COIN tab called "Writing for the Coin"--please have a look!

Thanks to all who wrote stories for the January Coin; you have no idea how happy I get when I see a new story show up in the COIN email inbox. Topics are on Page 9 of the COIN and also on the Web site. Submit your stories to

[coin@asaanjose.org](mailto:coin@asaanjose.org)

#### **Website, Josh**

I made a mistake this month on the web-app resulting in meetings not loading for people visiting for the first time. If there is a problem with the app or the website, I may or may not know so please email [app@asaanjose.org](mailto:app@asaanjose.org)

### **Activities Committee, Linda**

The Chili Cook-off is coming up March 28. Please announce it at every meeting--assemble a team and get hot! Central Office reimburses a portion of the chili costs.

### **Old/Ongoing Business, Carol B.**

Liz raised a motion re the ACYPAA Roundup: "A donation from Intergroup is requested to provide compensation assistance for ASL interpreters for the upcoming conference in February."

After spirited discussion a motion was passed donating \$200 in Intergroup funds to support ASL interpreters at the ACYPAA Roundup in February.

Eric raised a motion: "Replace the 'Lord's Prayer' at the end of the Intergroup meeting with the Responsibility Statement." After a spirited discussion the motion was tabled for further discussion next month

### **New Business**

Jackie B. has a play, "Our Experience Has Taught Us." The play will be performed in Atlanta during the International Conference. Is there interest in having this play performed in conjunction with Founder's Day in Santa Clara County? June 13/14<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> are possible performance weekend dates; please take this information back to your groups for discussion. Tickets would be \$15. A motion was made but tabled in accordance with our Procedure Guide.

Beth stated that Al-anon and Alateen requirements state Safety and Behavioral Standards must be adhered to for participation in the upcoming ACYPAA Roundup Conference in February.

Fliers with the Al-anon name on them must state "The [conference name] abides by the NCSSA requirement for Alateen safety," which involves having qualified/certified Al-anon individuals attending the conference at something like a 1:10 ratio of adults to teens. It was a misunderstanding that Intergroup was associated with the upcoming conference coordination, and the ACYPAA representative (John) invited Beth to the ACYPAA Business meeting to meet with the Al-anon Alateen coordinator to best address those needs.

### **Other Service Committee Reports**

#### **Unity Day,**

No Intergroup liaison yet

#### **NCCAA, Dennis**

No report for time consideration.

#### **Hospitals and Institutions, Sandy**

H&I meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the First Congregational Church of San Jose, 1980 Hamilton Ave. at Leigh, San Jose 95025. Next meeting is January 26

Area 71 contributions to the Pink Can for November totaled \$4,559.07

Year-to-Date Total from Dec 2013 to Nov. 2014 was \$61,376.01

#### **Bridging the Gap, Cindy**

[For Mike D.] Nothing to report for time consideration

#### **North County General Service, Marianne**

Will submit report in writing.

#### **South County General Service, Paul**

Nothing to report for time consideration.

#### **ACYPAA, John**

The ACYPAA Annual Roundup conference is coming to San Jose on February 26 through March 1st at the Hilton. Pre-register for the conference at acypaa.org. Lots of different meetings, a big deal, please get involved for this great event.

#### **Open Forum**

Report from the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition collection: \$97.00

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:46.

## Profit &amp; Loss

January 2015

	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 15
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
3030 · Contributions-General	18,034.68	21,378.64	18,034.68
3050 · Group Insurance (Group premium payments)	0.00	200.00	0.00
8010 · Literature Sales	5,915.13	5,474.47	5,915.13
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	692.50	1,087.50	692.50
8060 · Newsletter Subscriptions	10.00	40.00	10.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>24,652.31</b>	<b>28,180.61</b>	<b>24,652.31</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold	4,581.57	3,875.38	4,581.57
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories	260.16	591.26	260.16
<b>Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>4,841.73</b>	<b>4,466.64</b>	<b>4,841.73</b>
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>4,841.73</b>	<b>4,466.64</b>	<b>4,841.73</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>19,810.58</b>	<b>23,713.97</b>	<b>19,810.58</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
6010 · Alarm Service	207.00	207.00	207.00
6025 · Central Office Events Expense	200.00	0.00	200.00
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	114.45	127.58	114.45
6160 · Copier Expense	65.04	50.16	65.04
6230 · Insurance - General Liability	0.00	85.33	0.00
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	1,167.42	419.90	1,167.42
6245 · Internet Access Charges	25.95	369.60	25.95
6320 · Newsletter Expense	0.00	211.19	0.00
6330 · Office Expense	315.93	72.42	315.93
6370 · Office Paper Supply	117.45	115.01	117.45
6380 · Payroll Taxes	983.48	936.08	983.48
6410 · Postage	765.76	303.54	765.76
6430 · PI/CPC	0.00	46.51	0.00
6480 · Rent	2,153.90	2,090.55	2,153.90
6540 · Salaries - Office	7,280.36	7,518.63	7,280.36
6560 · Payroll Expenses	216.90	149.52	216.90
6600 · Signing Services	300.00	200.00	300.00
7050 · Telephone	161.60	155.62	161.60
9080 · Sales Tax (Sales tax paid on purchases)	-0.42	0.00	-0.42
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>14,074.82</b>	<b>13,058.64</b>	<b>14,074.82</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>5,735.76</b>	<b>10,655.33</b>	<b>5,735.76</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
8030 · Interest Income	16.94	11.75	16.94
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>16.94</b>	<b>11.75</b>	<b>16.94</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>16.94</b>	<b>11.75</b>	<b>16.94</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>5,752.70</b>	<b>10,667.08</b>	<b>5,752.70</b>



## Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2015

	<u>Jan 31, 15</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1010 · Petty Cash	225.00
1020 · First Republic Bank (Checking account)	28,562.74
1021 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 0429 (12 Mo. CD @ .45%, 08/12/15)	17,617.73
1023 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 3228 (12 Mo. CD @ .3%, 02/05/15)	16,489.60
1026 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 7619 (12 Mo. CD @ .45%, 06/21/15)	15,114.92
1027 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 7681 (10 Mo. CD @ .1%, 07/29/15)	15,074.76
1028 · (OA) First Rep. Bank CD 6955 (12 Mo. CD @ .35%, 08/29/15)	20,023.42
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>113,108.17</u>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-2,068.45
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>-2,068.45</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1250 · Literature Inventory	21,874.99
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	1,583.17
1499 · Undeposited Funds	3,231.75
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>26,689.91</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>137,729.63</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1630 · Office Equipment	31,899.00
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	7,757.80
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-35,837.97
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-300.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>3,818.83</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>1,993.85</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>143,542.31</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (due quarterly)	567.08
2600 · Unity Day	2,132.30
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>2,699.38</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>2,699.38</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>2,699.38</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
2740 · Temporarily Restricted Funds	10,842.08
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	124,248.15
Net Income	5,752.70
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>140,842.93</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>143,542.31</b></u>

11:10 AM

## INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

02/03/15

## Group Contributions

Accrual Basis

January 2015

	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>
1 INV One Day at a Time 70903	852.85	852.85
1 INV R and B Group 70972	980.00	980.00
1 INV Saturday Nite Live Group 70905	70.00	70.00
1 INV Serenity Discussion 210 (Wed.)	165.00	165.00
1 INV South County Fellowship 70954	300.00	300.00
1 INV Spiritual Progress Group 70979	2,300.00	2,300.00
3rd Steppers Book Study (Wom) 610 (Thur.)	352.59	352.59
A.B.C. Women's Group 58 (Mon.)	30.00	30.00
Big Book Speakers Group 289 (Fri.)	346.50	346.50
Bill's Basement 384 (Fri.)	21.04	21.04
Birthday Contribution 00951	145.00	145.00
Bon Air Siding BB Study 202 (Wed.)	168.00	168.00
Chip Winners (Chips) 168 (Wed.)	263.87	263.87
Completely Out of Context 127 (Wed)	23.26	23.26
Early Monday Night 68 (Mon.)	255.50	255.50
Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	287.98	287.98
Eleventh Step Meditation Mtg 276 (Thur.)	70.00	70.00
Entire Abstinence 467 (Mon.)	233.54	233.54
Firing Line (The) 404 (Mon.)	646.98	646.98
Friday Big Book Study 702 (Fri)	151.41	151.41
G Primary Purpose Group 70910	100.00	100.00
G Remember We Deal With Alcohol 70938	286.27	286.27
G Sunrisers Group/Dennys 70932	647.44	647.44
G Third Tradition Women's Gp, The 70979	114.74	114.74
Gay Men & Women Together 85 (Mon.)	427.80	427.80
Gay Men's Freedom 262 (Thur.)	263.02	263.02
Grace Group of AA 352 (Sat.)	689.50	689.50
Happy Destiny (Women) 109 (Tues.)	510.00	510.00
In the Solution 647 (Sat.)	173.60	173.60
Lesbians Living the Promises 349 (Fri.)	47.00	47.00
Los Altos Group 225 (Thur.)	149.70	149.70
Los Altos Men's Group 59 (Mon.)	560.00	560.00
Los Gatos Chips 413 (Sat.)	201.48	201.48
Meditation Meeting LA 39 (Sat.)	66.00	66.00
Men's Big Book (Caveman Gp) 659 (Sun.)	449.00	449.00
Men's Single Problem Study Gp 220 (Thur.)	286.26	286.26
Men's Topic Meeting 137 (Tues.)	111.00	111.00
New Nooners 808 (Mon.)	70.00	70.00
Personal 00911	267.00	267.00
Recovery Roulette 326 (Thurs.)	82.60	82.60
Saturday Night Promises 847 (Sat.)	650.00	650.00
Second Tradition Group Spkr 721 (Sat.)	521.00	521.00
Serenity Speaker Meeting 533 (Sun)	463.45	463.45
Single Problem Topic (Men's) 582 (Mon.)	560.00	560.00
Sizzler Group 27 (Sun.)	214.00	214.00
South Valley Men's 845 (Thur.)	109.90	109.90
Spiritual Awakening 813 (Tues.)	125.20	125.20
St. Luke's Group 113 (Tues.)	490.00	490.00
Trinity Group 370 (Sat.)	140.00	140.00
Tuesday Night Men's Mtg 525 (Tues.)	653.00	653.00
Unknown	252.00	252.00
Villages Group of AA, The 406 (Mon.)	190.00	190.00
We Are Not Saints 12 & 12 520 (Tues.)	60.00	60.00
Women's Brunch 640 (Sat.)	240.00	240.00
Women on the Move 570 (Wed.)	200.20	200.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>18,034.68</u></b>	<b><u>18,034.68</u></b>