



February 2016
Volume 11 | Number 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FINDING A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES...

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Upcoming COIN Deadlines

March 2016 Issue:

February 17th

Topics: *Step Three*
Tradition Three
Third Step Principle
(Faith)

April 2016 Issue:

March 23rd

Topics: *Step Four*
Tradition Four
Fourth Step Principle
(Courage)

May 2016 Issue:

April 20th

Topics: *Step Five*
Tradition Five
Fifth Step Principle
(Integrity)

Please email all COIN submissions to coin@aasanjose.org.

The COIN Team

Editor: Stephanie L.

Assistant Editor: Jessica B.



Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Members,

The principle of hope is, as we learn in Step Two, one of the cornerstones on which a solid foundation of recovery is built. In reading this month's articles, I'm reminded of the state of utter hopelessness I found myself in when I found my way to the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous seventeen months ago. I'd been living in such desperation for so long, and had long since abandoned any shred of hope that I could recover from my disease and be restored to sanity. In these rooms, in your stories, I found that hope again — and I clung to it like a drowning man clings to a lifeboat.

Just yesterday, I met a woman with seven days of sobriety and a story remarkably similar to my own. I was able to share with her my experience, strength, and hope, and through my story, shine that glimmer of hope that the women (and men) who came before me did for me in my darkest hour. That is the greatest gift of the program.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Stephanie L.



Bill W. on Tradition Two

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

Sooner or later, every AA comes to depend upon a Power greater than himself. He finds that the God of his understanding is not only a source of strength, but also a source of positive direction. Realizing that some fraction of that infinite resource is now available, his life takes on an entirely different complexion. He experiences a new inner security together with such a sense of destiny and purpose as he has never known before. As each day passes, our AA reviews his mistakes and vicissitudes. He learns from daily experience what his remaining character defects are and becomes ever more willing that they be removed. In this fashion he improves his conscious contact with God.

Every AA group follows this same cycle of development. We are coming to realize that each group, as well as each individual, is a special entity, not quite like any other. Though AA groups are basically the same, each group does have its own special atmosphere, its own peculiar state of development. We believe that every AA group has a conscience. It is the collective conscience of its own membership. Daily experience informs and instructs his conscience. The group begins to recognize its own defects of character and, one by one, these are removed or lessened. As this process continues, the group becomes better able to receive right direction for its own affairs. Trial and error produces group experience, and out of corrected experience comes custom. When a customary way of doing things is definitely proved to be best, then that custom forms into AA Tradition. The Greater Power is then working through a clear group conscience.

We humbly hope and believe that our

growing AA Tradition will prove to be the will of God for us.

Many people are coming to think that Alcoholics Anonymous is, to some extent, a new form of human society. In our discussion of the First Tradition, it was emphasized that we have, in AA, no coercive human authority. Because each AA, of necessity, has a sensitive and responsive conscience, and because alcohol will discipline him severely if he back slides, we are finding we have little need for manmade rules or regulations. Despite the fact that we do veer off at times on tangents, we are becoming more able to depend absolutely on the long-term stability of the AA group itself. With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous. Hence we can safely dispense with those exhortations and punishments seemingly so necessary to other societies. And we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere. In this respect, we may be, to a large degree, unique.

Therefore we of Alcoholics Anonymous are certain that there is but one ultimate authority, “a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience.”

– Bill W.

AA Grapevine Editorial, January 1948

Assets and Liabilities: Coming to Believe through Rationalization

The gentleman running our alcohol education class said, “Alcoholics are defiant.” My immediate thought, “Pffff! I’m not defiant!” I had to admit, he might know something, but what, I couldn’t say. I don’t remember most of his talk, but I heard him say something about assets and liabilities. What used to be an asset in staying drunk (dishonesty and rationalization, for example) would now prove to be a liability. Former liabilities (such as shame, guilt, and the suppressed desperation that helped fuel my self-destruction) would prove to be assets in this new life of sobriety. Frankly, I thought it was all a little far-fetched.

Many months later, I was still sober and actively working a program, but I secretly looked forward to the day I would get drunk. I had a suspicion that my lack of “getting it” had to do with a stubborn disbelief that the 12 Steps could work for me. Deep in my heart, I wasn’t afraid of

failing again – I was expecting it. I was holding out until I had a full year sober, until I could honestly say I had “done the deal,” and confidently say, “This solution just couldn’t work for me.” By then, I would have money saved up, and would go on a roaring, final bender. Unfortunately, this belief was more than wishful thinking: I was planning on not coming out of it alive. I had tried a number of avenues through which I could absorb Step Two, but I simply didn’t believe that the AA program could work for me. I just began to accept this as a fact of life.

One night, at a meeting, I heard someone else talking about assets and liabilities, and I started to wonder. Rationalization certainly seemed to fall under the category of a liability, but could it be turned into an asset? Was it possible that I could use this talent of mine to actually help me? It might be worth a



try... nothing else had worked. I got out a Big Book and started to examine the concept. There's a lot going on in that little sentence, so I began to rationalize my way into Step Two, one piece at a time.

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Had I ever really been sane? I'm not sure, but I hadn't always believed my life would end with a drunken suicide, so I figured I'd start there. OK, not planning to get drunk and die would serve as "sanity," for now.

How about "A Power greater than myself"? As much as I reject the God of my fathers, between the "Group of Drunks," "Good Orderly Direction," and a suspicion that I just didn't have enough intellectual capacity to process something that large, I supposed I had enough options that I could check this one off the list.

Then there was "Came to believe." Well, using my old enemy, rationalization, I could see that little phrase as a process. It isn't that we have to all of a sudden believe, in an instant, just like that. "Coming" is an action, and actions take at least some period of time to take place. So "came to believe" is really a process, and if that was the case, then sitting up in the middle of the night, in a dark room, with my Big Book in my hand – could that be the beginning of the process?

Huh, maybe I was getting somewhere.

All that was left was the "could." Here was the biggest part of the problem, and I knew it. I still just didn't believe it could work for me. Right then, that rarely heard "inner voice of reason" spoke up. (Mine is sometimes sarcastic.)

"No way it *could*?" the voice in my head said to me, almost tauntingly. "There's no way this thing *could* work for you? You're

so special, that it's worked for more than a million people, but there's *no way* it could work for you, right? No chance?! You're that unique, that all-important?!"

Sitting there, alone in my room, I had to admit, "Well, I guess it *could*...."

And then it happened. Something fell into place. I had rationalized and reasoned my way into the whole concept. I was coming to believe that a Power greater than myself *could* restore me to sanity.

I got excited, very excited! If this AA thing *could* work for me, then I had a chance. All I'd ever really wanted was a shot at this thing, and it felt like a long shot, but it was my shot.

I poured my personal time into my local fellowship with a dedication and determination I had never shown before. I started to secretary a meeting. I started making the coffee, taking out the garbage, and shaking people's hands (the part I always despised). I started doing everything I could think of but had never done before. I had less than six weeks for this one, last shot to work before my year was up, and I was going to try harder than I had ever tried at anything.

An unexpected thing happened. The miracle. It worked! I wasn't necessarily loving every moment of life by my one-year anniversary, but I didn't look forward to death anymore, either. For the first time in several years, I began to have some hope for the future. I was not "set upon a better path," I had to find my own way, and that's what I set about doing – taking AA with me.

Like I said, the details of my life thereafter are not important to this story. What is important is that I came to believe in Step Two. I came to believe in myself. And after many, many years of misery, I came to believe in Hope.

– Mark L.

Finding God in the Rooms of AA

I know many come into the rooms of AA, see the word “God” and hightail it out! This was not the case for me at all. Besides the fact that I was completely broken and I could surely admit that my life was unmanageable, I had also been wandering the streets of life looking for a relationship with my Higher Power. My higher power has always been God, even before I knew who or what that was. I can recall my search for this Higher Power as early back as kindergarten! I can recall deeply contemplating and searching for this “God.” It is a scary and unmanageable world not having a Higher Power to rely on. That fear kept me searching.

I don’t think I really gave God much thought through my tumultuous childhood. Being the oldest of two children, with two parents deep into their disease of addiction, I was often left to take care of things. I was caring for my younger sister, myself, my parents in between benders, and often the household needs. I had to keep track of finances, including keeping track of paydays and often reminding my parents to pay bills. Along the way, I learned to depend on myself. This was a requirement for survival. Not once do I remember turning to God in all the chaos. I had learned that I was the only one I could depend on. Unfortunately, I took these survival skills into my adulthood. I have always had an overwhelming feeling that I was responsible for it ALL!

In my early thirties, I began my faith search. I found myself thinking about how

I should practice this faith. I was searching for something greater than myself, somewhere I could learn to depend on God, develop a relationship with Him, and maybe along the way learn to be a better person. That “thinking” was relentless and I found myself asking friends about their religions and how they practiced them. My typical motive of operation – I was doing research! After swearing that I would never become Catholic (little did I know, I had been baptized Catholic as a baby), I found

myself sitting with a nun at a Catholic Church and discussing what this journey might look like. After completing a lengthy process, I became a member of the Catholic Church. Seemed like a good place to grow my faith, learn to trust God, and even raise my children. That is exactly what I began to do.

I began attending church pretty regularly, but found myself feeling lost during services. I felt caught up in trying to keep up with what I was supposed to do or what prayer I was supposed to memorize, and I lost track of why I was really there. Then add dragging three kids into the mix of it, attending church became a chore. My faith search had landed me in a place where I felt like I was trying to remember if I was to sit or stand, trying to figure out how I could memorize all the prayers recited during Mass and shushing three small children! It certainly was not a time of meditation or an hour to connect with God.

By this time, I was beginning to find myself diving into my disease. Life was



catching up with me and I had NO tools. I was hoping I could fake it to make it, but the disease was even taking me away from that hope. Adding fuel to the fire, many of the Catholic school events and functions involved drinking. At the time, it seemed like I had struck gold! If these good people of the Church were partying, it must be ok for me to do it too. What better excuse to drink than a prayer group dinner party? But this is where I began to see that I drank differently, taking it much further than my fellow Catholics.

So, I came into the rooms thinking that I had a God. But, as I began to see the wreckage of my drinking shake out in a failed marriage and struggling children, I realized that I really had no relationship with this God of mine. Through the shares

at meetings, I learned that I could have a God of my own understanding. I was lucky enough to have a spiritual experience early on in my sobriety that reminded me what my original concept of God looked like. Prayer began to come more easily, and slowly but surely, I began to depend on Him. I was tired of trying to carry the burden myself and became ready to depend on something greater. Through the rooms, the fellowship, and the steps of AA, I now have a relationship with my God! I am so incredibly grateful for this connection, and it is a huge relief to know that I am not “in charge.” I have spent my entire life thinking I had to take care of it all. What I realize now is that He was with me all along. How else could I be here today?

— Jessica B.

Poet's Corner:

Addiction Is a Furnace

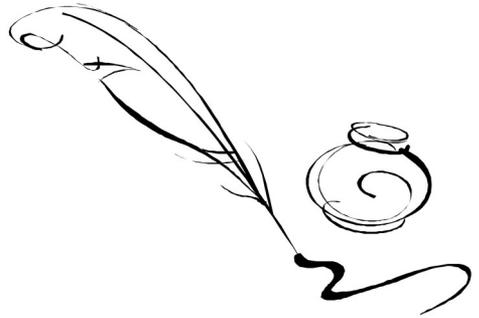
*In this place of shattered souls,
Illusions crushing illusions,
All vision is blind!*

*Lost dreams
And smothered hopes,
Burning on the fire of cruel indifference.*

*The cry of redemption seems so lost in the furnace roar
Where a man's soul is mere kindling.*

*Yet blindly we struggle, like crippled firewalkers
Across the coals of wasted youth and integrity,
For just a bit of meaning.*

*These tears of innocence, mocking, and regret
Hiss into the furnace roar.*



*The shimmering sun of what makes a man
Becomes obscured by the black smoke of smashed potential.*

*And still, the voices rise up, a droning whisper at first
Becoming a howling scream – for deep down we know
That there is better way.
And maybe we can find it,
Together.*

— Loren K.

A God of Evidence: Ceasing to Question

When I came to AA, I considered myself lucky that I didn't have a problem with "the God thing." I was raised with a God who is loving and compassionate as well as omnipotent and all-knowing. I had a relationship with Him. I knew and believed that He is real, and I'd even prayed to Him, at times. While I'd spent years "hiding" my disease from him – hiding *from* Him – I knew that He is, and I knew that He is a power greater than me. I read "We Agnostics" because my sponsor told me to, and I was so beaten and so desperate that I was willing to do anything she said, but it didn't really resonate, and for that I was grateful right out of the gate.

In breaking it down, I saw Step Two for its three parts. I didn't have to "come to believe" that there was a God, and I didn't struggle with Him being more powerful than I was. I had lost everything. Running my life on my own will had failed, miserably. I didn't even really take issue with my insanity. My life had become utterly insane – unmanageable doesn't even begin to cover it. But *how* was this power greater than myself going to "restore me to sanity"? Therein laid the problem. How in God's name (sorry for the bad pun) was *anything* going to restore me to sanity? I was (and am) an alcoholic of the truest variety.

I lamented to my sponsor ad nauseam. (Well, not really – she kyboshed me pretty quickly.) *How* was God going to restore me to sanity? What did I have to *do* to make that happen? What did it *mean*, what would it *look* like? Why did I even let myself "become" insane? I tied myself in knots trying to wrap my head around how I was going to "do" recovery. I'd been a very high-functioning alcoholic until I'd basically ceased to function at all, and I don't do anything half-baked. So my plan was to

dive head-first into recovery by pouring all of my intellectual resources at the problem.

My sponsor has this look – I call it her sponsor smile. It has many of the God qualities I listed when I did my Second Step, now that I think of it: It is wise, almost all-knowing; it is compassionate, loving; there's a little bit of gentle humor in it (which is not to say that God's humor is always gentle, but hers is). She told me two things that resonate with me still: 1) You cannot fix a problem with the same mind that it stems from, or the same mind that created it. (She borrowed that one from Albert Einstein.) And 2) you cannot heal your heart or your soul with logic.

Before I could come to believe that God could restore me to sanity, I had to come to realize that it wasn't for me to understand the how or the why. What I needed to do – and what I did – was just to do what was suggested of me: Go to meetings, work the Steps, stick with the women, work with others, and most importantly, as Step Eleven tells us, work every day to improve my conscious contact with God.

My God is a God of evidence. And in the year and a half (almost – no fronts) that I've been sober, I've had more than ample evidence of the program working in my life. God is everywhere; it is up to us to open our eyes to see Him.

When I was very new, I heard something powerful during a meeting: If we're wrestling with the Second Step, all we need to do is look around the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. In these rooms sit hundreds, thousands, now millions of alcoholics recovering from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. There can be no greater evidence that a power greater than ourselves can and does restore us to sanity.

– Stephanie L.

Finding Hope, One Day at a Time

What will ignite the spark within? I see a lot of people who have tons of drive to accomplish their goals, but when they realize it's not going to be just a walk in the park, they give up before they even start. Learn to discover happiness. It's different for everyone. What your dream is is not going to be the same as the next persons'. Discovering your motivation might be something brand new. It might be something you've worked on for years but that lost its luster along the way. So you might rediscover something that makes you passionate.

I've learned that pain does not have to be my only motivator. I don't have to wait until it's unbearable to make a change I know is inevitable. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it's clearer every step towards it.



That motivates me. Hope motivates me. I can say to myself that I'm not where I want to be right now, but if I give up I will never get there. I could tell you how I'm struggling in my life in many ways, but for me, giving up means not even getting out of bed. Giving up for me means being comfortable. It means pushing things under the rug and not facing my problems. It takes courage to change, and I respect anyone who strives for better in their life. With every setback I endure, I learn something. So I know I need the courage to get

up and go on one more day. It's easy to get overwhelmed, but if I tell myself "just one more," that I can do. Just one more step. Just one more day. Just one more try. One more chance. I know I can do that.

– Anonymous

Hope: Restoring Oneself to Sanity

HOPE is not a four letter word, but the first piece required for the recovery puzzle to come together. After arriving in the rooms of AA, hopeless and lonely, tired of all the promises to myself that I kept breaking, I was spiritually bankrupt. HOPE was the first thing that opened my alcoholic brain up to wanting a better life. The power, the people, and the program all are influential in creating HOPE.

HOPE is like a butterfly trapped in a

cocoon until its able to break out of its bondage and spread its wings, slowly being warmed by the sun's rays until it gets lifted up by a gentle breeze of faith and action.

It's a wonderful thing, these steps we take for sobriety.... One step at a time, one foot in front of the other, we will be better than we have ever imagined by starting with a tiny seed of HOPE.

– Michael H.

Concept Two: Be It Therefore Resolved

There are a couple of small treasures buried in the middle of your GSR's service manual. One is the Resolution, passed at our 1955 International Convention, that approved the General Service structure that guides our corporate servants in New York. The other is the Conference Charter, which actually defines that structure. By "treasures," I mean that reading them will probably change you. And by "small," I mean that you can do it in about 15 minutes.

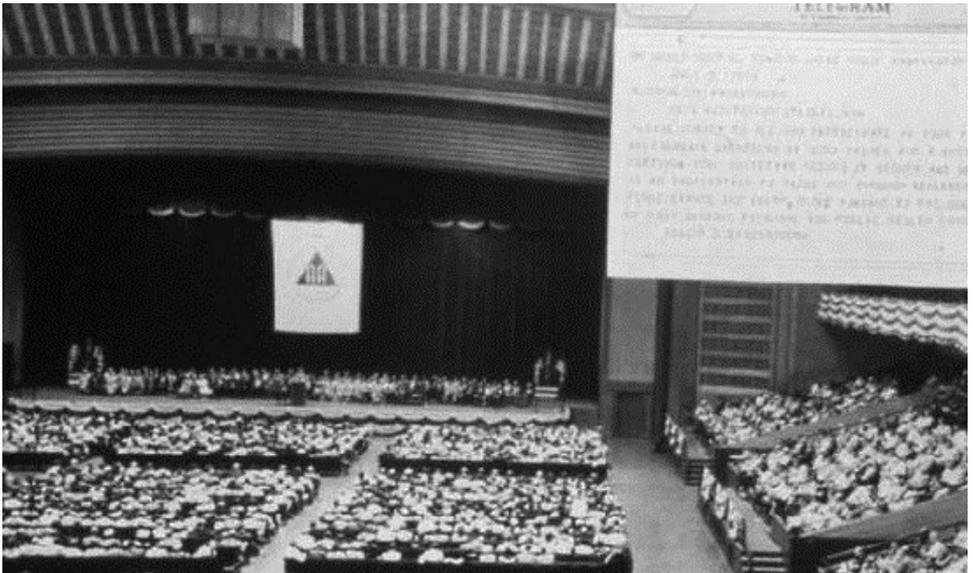
Here are a couple of tips, if you're considering it. First, the service manual includes both the original Charter and the current Charter, which has been significantly modified since 1955. I'd suggest reading the current version, which describes the system we have today.

Second, don't read all four pages in order, because there's no overview and the information will be hard to absorb. Instead, first read the headings a few times. They mention things like GSRs, area assemblies,

delegates, and the annual Conference in New York. Read them until you know that the Charter is just a thorough definition of the General Service structure, and more or less a set of rules for it. Then read the "articles" (i.e., short sections) in any order you like, and they'll make perfect sense.

Fair warning: In our service literature, the word "Conference" has several meanings. It can mean the annual week-long business meeting in New York, or the roughly 135 people who attend it, or the entire service structure from New York to the participating groups. So wherever it appears, ask yourself which of those makes the most sense, or if it means all three?

When you get to Article 12 of the Charter (yes, there are 12 articles, a huge surprise), it'll look familiar. It's just Concept 12, that is, the "Six Warranties" (discussed in the December 2015 issue of *The COIN*). This is protected text, just like the Traditions and,



since 1976, the Steps. The rest of the Charter has been amended multiple times, but this 12th article, like the Steps and Traditions, can only be changed by – well, you’ll see when you read it. Changing those, that’s something we don’t delegate.

After the somewhat dry Conference Charter, you may enjoy reading the six-paragraph Resolution that made the Charter official. You’ve seen two of the paragraphs before, so it’ll be a very quick read, starting with these dramatic words: “We, the members of the Twentieth Anniversary Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, here assembled at St. Louis in July of 1955, declare...”

This may seem like a long way of getting around to Concept Two, which is a simple, well, concept: Concept One gave the groups all responsibility and authority for our services, but since 65,000 groups can’t manage our business in any practical sense, we delegate that responsibility and authority to the Conference. It’s the Conference’s job to provide guidance to our corporate trustees, the way Bill and Bob did in the early days. The Conference gives voice to our collective group conscience. That’s it, that’s Concept Two. We delegate.

If you do feel that this article meandered unnecessarily, I’d ask you to forget all that other stuff and just read Concept Two in its long form, which goes like this:

When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

– Jim F.

“Drinkers:

Let Alcoholics Anonymous help you free yourself of the liquor habit. Nothing to buy, no fees to pay.”

This ad was first placed in the San Jose Mercury News on March 27, 1942. Now, do you know when Central Office stopped putting the AA ad in the Personals section of the same paper? (It was more than 12 years ago.) The wording changed over the years, but the message stayed the same. As I was nearing my bottom, I would sit at my kitchen table night after night looking at the ad, unable to pick up the phone and make that call.

The Archives Committee memorializes our county’s AA history. We have documents, photos, letters, and other items of interest that are an important part of our history. The most valuable component of our history, though, is our people. With that in mind, the committee is in the planning stages of capturing the oral history and remembrances of our old-timers.

Would you like to share your talent and some time in this committee? In addition to gathering oral histories, the committee’s charter is to appropriately preserve original documents, update our display to show at Unity Day and our fellowship events, and create a digital database of documents.

It’s enlightening to walk through the history of AA in Santa Clara County. Just to see how AA started in our county and learn about its growth in the past 75 years can’t help but foster a deep sense of gratitude for where it is today.

Please call Bruce at Central office (408-374-8511) or email him at bruce@aasanjose.org to find out more or to volunteer your time. You’ll be glad you did!

– Rose W.

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE WORKSHOP: 7pm	3 INTERGROUP MEETING: 7:30pm Trinity Church, 3151 Union Ave., SJ OUTREACH MEETING: 6:30pm	4	5	6 SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office
7 PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1224 N. Winchester Blvd. at Tulip, SC	8	9	10 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MTG: 7:30pm	11	12	13
14	15 BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING: 7pm Central Office Closed	16 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm	17	18	19	20 DIVER/12 th STEPPERS WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office
21	22	23 H&I COMMITTEE MEETING: 7pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE WORKSHOP: 7pm	2 INTERGROUP MEETING: 7:30pm Trinity Church, 3151 Union Ave., SJ OUTREACH MEETING: 6:30pm	3	4	5 SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office
6 PI/OPC MEETING: 6pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1224 N. Winchester Blvd. at Tulip, SC	7	8	9 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MTG: 7:30pm	10	11	12
13	14	15 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm	16	17	18	19 DIVERTER/12 th STEEPERS WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office
20	21 BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING: 7pm	22 HRI COMMITTEE MEETING: 7pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MEETING CHANGES

NEW

Off the Top: Thursday, 8 am, 14376 Saratoga Ave., (The old post office building), Saratoga.

Jaywalkers Literature Review: Wednesday,, 6pm, Alano Club West, 1555 S. 7th Street, Building K, near Alma, San Jose.

Secular Step Takers: Thursday, 8 pm, Cornerstone Fellowship Group, 1600 Dell Ave., (2nd Floor), San Jose.

Sobriety First: Monday, Noon, Conxion Community Center, 749 Story Rd., St #10, San Jose

University Beginners: Wednesday, 5 pm, University of Santa Clara: 500 El Camino Real, Brannan Hall, **Rm 331** Santa Clara.

Women's Meeting: Sunday, 4:30 pm, Serenity First Fellowship: 304 N. 6th St. at Julian (upstairs), San Jose.

10:10 Tuesday/Thursday: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:10 am, Covenant Presbyterian Church: 670 E. Meadow Dr., at Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto..

CHANGED

Bowers Fellowship: Sunday, 11 am, **Moved temporarily to Machado Park**, 3360 Cabrillo between Lawrence and Calabazas.

Sunday Early Evening: Sunday, 7 pm, **Moved temporarily to Machado Park**, 3360 Cabrillo between Lawrence and Calabazas.

The Happiest Hour Group: Friday, 6 pm, Alano Club West, 1555 S. 7th Street, Building K, near Alma, San Jose. **Changed its name to Old West meeting**

Third Tradition: First Christian Church, 80 S. 5th St., San Jose **Changed from Mon, Tues, Wed @ 7 am to Tues, Wed., Thurs., @ 11:30 am.**

Desi's In Recovery: Saturday, 4 pm, Covenant Presbyterian Church: 670 E. Meadow Dr, Palo Alto **Meets in room #5.**

NO LONGER MEETING

The Seeker's Group: Thursday, 7:30 pm, Fair Avenue Fellowship: 1122 Fair Ave. @ McLaughlin, San Jose.

Los Gatos Tuesday Night: Tuesday, 8 pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 16548 Ferris & Spencer, Rm 14, Los Gatos..



January 2016 Statistics

Daytime Phone Calls to Central Office.....392

Daytime 12-Step Calls.....6

(Evening 12-Step call information is not available.)

The Central Office website
receives an average of
8,000 hits each month!

I AM RESPONSIBLE...

WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE,

REACHES OUT FOR HELP,

I WANT THE HAND OF AA

ALWAYS TO BE THERE.

AND FOR THAT:

I AM RESPONSIBLE.

To all the members and groups who support us,

WE THANK YOU!

Birthday Contributions



Birthday Celebrant	Years	Contributions	Birthday
Jennifer F.	34	Anonymous	12/24/1981
Dave K.	3	John S.	01/01/2013
Tommy O.	9	John S.	01/01/2007
Chris H.	16	John S.	01/01/2000
Kathleen H.	16	Kathleen H.	01/01/2000
Paul C.	37	Robbie R., Anonymous	01/10/1979
Angie B.	25	Rob B.	01/12/1991
Ginny R.	30	Ginny R.	01/15/1986
Tom K.	46	Tom K.	01/15/1970
David R.	24	Dale L.	01/16/1992
Tobias T.	9	Anonymous	01/18/2007
Bob S.	53	Bob S.	01/24/1963
John S.	24	John S.	01/25/1992

326 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!

If you would like to participate or honor a friend, please use the birthday forms at your meeting or at Central Office. Birthdays are listed in recognition of contributions made to Central Office on a member's behalf for a sobriety milestone, either by themselves or for a friend, and will be listed in this section unless requested otherwise.

In Memoriam

Maureen C. passed away on December 21, 2015, after 25 years of sobriety.

Chris V. passed away on January 13, 2016. It was his one year milestone.

INTERGROUP MINUTES

January 6, 2016

- Carol B., Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- Kathy read the definition of Intergroup.
- Ryan read the Twelve Traditions.
- Eight New Intergroup Reps:
 - Ryan, Winchester Fellowship
 - Kathy, Happy Destiny Women's Meeting, Tuesday @ Noon
 - Anthony, Bowers Sunday Morning
 - Linda, Gay Grab Bag Solutions
 - Lisa, Gathered Together for Sobriety, Sunday Night, Alano Club West
 - Tamlyn, Monday Midday Women's, St. Marks
 - John, Sunday 10:30, Living Sober, Kaiser Hospital, Santa Clara
 - Michelle, Second Tradition, Saturday Night
- **Visitors**
 - Lisa
- **Birthdays**
 - Gary, 3 years
 - Gavin, 7 years
 - Larry, 10 years
 - Raymond, 7 years
 - Steve, 11 years
 - Mary, 27 years
- **7th Tradition**
- **Corrections or Additions to the Agenda** (none)
- **Corrections or Additions to the Previous Month's Minutes** (minutes approved as submitted)
- **Treasurer's Report, Joe**
 - The year started with \$125 cash and \$300 in prudent reserve; 7th Tradition for the year \$1,230, rent for the year \$600, refreshments were \$191. We donated \$200 to ACYPAA and \$300 to Central Office, leaving a balance of \$64.
- 45 voting Intergroup representatives in attendance

Reports

Intergroup Chair, Carol B.

- Thanks to Bradley for making our coffee and Ryan, our cleanup person. In response to our Group Inventory on how to help new Intergroup reps, Robby, alternate Intergroup chair and the person who runs the New Intergroup Rep orientation, has developed a new Intergroup Rep Operations Guide. It explains more about Intergroup and our meeting and also provides an outline for note taking.

Central Service Board, Laura

- Last month, we mostly discussed the meeting guide app, the website, and a few financial items. Bruce created a graph that shows the last four years of contributions and expenses. It is not unusual for December contributions to go down. We are not talking about making any budget cuts now. We are selling ~10% less literature. Eventually we will have to look at how to handle that 10% income downturn.

Central Office, Bruce

- The Tamale Party was hugely successful. We ran out of tamales twice, and that's a good problem.

- Central Office is often are the recipients of AA books and other paraphernalia and is overloaded with these things. If you have a good use for them, they're yours if you'll come by and pick them up.
- Central Office will be staging a Founders' Day play again this year in June, written by our own Joel F., called "Faith and Fellowship: A Musical Celebration." Auditions will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. and on Saturday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. More information, including contact information, is available on the flyer. Being an experienced actor is not required. Our last play was a production by a San Francisco troupe and it was terrific, but too many of us missed it. We need to promote this new play.

PI/CPC (no report)

12th Step Committee (no report)

Nights and Weekends Diverter Coordinator, Dominic

- The diverter is our 24/7 outreach to connect those looking for sobriety and/or finding a 12th Step committee member to work with them. The sobriety requirement is one year, with knowledge of the Steps and Traditions and participation in our local fellowship. We have two open shifts: the first Wednesday, 6 to 9 a.m. and the first Sunday, 11 p.m. to 6a.m.
- Strongly encourage your group members to attend the Diverter Workshop on the third Saturday at 10 a.m. at Central Office or on the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. before this meeting. Those who cannot attend either of those workshops can contact Dominic directly.

Outreach Committee, Susan P.

- Susan P. is our new Outreach Committee Chair. Susan hopes to be meeting with folks soon. In the short term, if you hear of any meetings that are dark, she would like to know about them so we can update our master meeting list. We are going to approach this in a methodical way. Pass on any information you have to her.

The COIN, Stephanie L.

- *The COIN* always needs articles; the February issue will feature Step Two, Tradition Two, and Concept Two.

Website, Josh (no report)

Activities Committee, Linda and Ken

- Tentative dates have been set for the Old Timers' Meeting and the Sponsor Brunch. The Chili Cook-Off is March 26; ask your groups to form a team and get the heat on! Central Office gives \$75 per team to help defray chili costs. Contact Linda if your team wants to participate. We had 20 teams last year and were completely full by the end of January. We donate our proceeds after expenses to Central Office; last year we donated \$3,500.

Old/Ongoing Business

- Last month our webmaster briefed us on the web-based and native meeting apps available on our website and asked you to check out the app and let your groups know about it. We have two new apps on our website – the Apple App and the Android App. We have a web-based app, and Josh added a native app, one for Apple and one for Android. We need to talk about the native apps and determine if they are appropriate to be on our website. A motion was made to take the native apps off the website while we continue to discuss the ramifications of having them. The motion passed.

Old/Ongoing Business (continued)

- Phil discussed listing the Primary Purpose Beginners Big Book Workshop in our meeting guide. A motion was made to reinstate the AA Beginners Big Book Workshop in the meeting directory. After discussion, the motion passed.

New Business (none)

Other Service Committee Reports

Unity Day 2016

- The Unity Day liaison will be appointed in February.

NCCAA (no report)

Hospitals & Institutions (no report)

Bridging the Gap (no report)

North County General Service

- The Agenda Topics Workshop will be held March 12.

South County Central Service (no report)

SCCYPAA (no report)

Sober & Free Conference, Lavone

- The Sober & Free Conference is in its 31st year. This year it will be at the Hyatt downtown San Jose. This is a three-day conference; we have speaker meetings on Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning. The dates will be March 25-27. Our website is soberandfree.org. We finance the conference through fundraisers throughout the year. Our next one is on January 30 at the Billy de Frank Center—a Honkey Tonk Auction. If you would like to donate items to auction off, we would love it (anything from services, paintings, timeshares).

Open Forum

- The 7th Tradition collection this evening was \$72.

The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement at 8:40.

LOCAL EVENTS

March 26 Santa Clara County Intergroup Chili Cookoff, Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Avenue, San Jose, 12-3 p.m.

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Profit & Loss

January 2016

	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 16
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3030 · Contributions-General	20,553.13	18,034.87	20,553.13
3050 · Group Insurance (Group premium payments)	127.00	0.00	127.00
8010 · Literature Sales	3,832.38	5,915.13	3,832.38
8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	372.50	692.50	372.50
8060 · Newsletter	0.00	10.00	0.00
Total Income	24,885.01	24,652.50	24,885.01
Cost of Goods Sold			
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold			
5100 · Cost of Inventory Sold	3,160.63	4,581.57	3,160.63
5150 · Cost of Meeting Directories	109.00	260.16	109.00
Total 5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	3,269.63	4,841.73	3,269.63
Total COGS	3,269.63	4,841.73	3,269.63
Gross Profit	21,615.38	19,810.77	21,615.38
Expense			
6010 · Alarm Service	0.00	207.00	0.00
6025 · Central Office Events Expense	1,200.00	200.00	1,200.00
6070 · Bank Credit card charges (Credit card costs and fees)	34.72	160.29	34.72
6160 · Copier Expense	52.00	65.04	52.00
6225 · Insurance - Emp. Health Plan	483.95	0.00	483.95
6240 · Employee HRA Plan	601.60	1,167.42	601.60
6245 · Internet Access Charges	0.00	25.95	0.00
6320 · Newsletter Expense	55.17	0.00	55.17
6330 · Office Expense	106.73	315.93	106.73
6370 · Office Paper Supply	0.00	117.45	0.00
6380 · Payroll Taxes	522.05	983.48	522.05
6410 · Postage	4.90	765.76	4.90
6480 · Rent	2,368.25	2,153.90	2,368.25
6510 · Repairs & Maintenance	137.29	0.00	137.29
6540 · Salaries - Office	4,261.50	7,280.36	4,261.50
6560 · Payroll Expenses	105.51	164.15	105.51
6600 · Signing Services	200.00	300.00	200.00
7050 · Telephone	169.48	161.60	169.48
9080 · Sales Tax (Sales tax paid on purchases)	-0.75	-0.42	-0.75
Total Expense	10,302.40	14,067.91	10,302.40
Net Ordinary Income	11,312.98	5,742.86	11,312.98
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
8030 · Interest Income	0.00	24.30	0.00
Total Other Income	0.00	24.30	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00	24.30	0.00
Net Income	11,312.98	5,767.16	11,312.98

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2016

	Jan 31, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · Petty Cash	225.00
1020 · First Republic Bank (Checking account)	17,967.47
1021 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 0429 (12 M.o. CD @ .5%, 08/12/16)	17,686.20
1023 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 3228 (12 M.o. CD @ .35%, 02/05/16)	16,545.33
1027 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 7681 (3 M.o. CD @ .1%, 4/29/16)	15,086.68
1028 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 6955 (12 M.o. CD @ .35%, 04/30/16)	20,094.17
Total Checking/Savings	87,604.85
Accounts Receivable	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-2,085.90
Total Accounts Receivable	-2,085.90
Other Current Assets	
1250 · Literature Inventory	20,080.78
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	2,832.97
13700 · Payroll Service Customer Asset (Payroll Service Customer Asset)	-384.65
1499 · Undeposited Funds	5,455.15
Total Other Current Assets	27,984.25
Total Current Assets	113,503.20
Fixed Assets	
1630 · Office Equipment	29,106.42
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	7,757.80
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-17,721.97
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Am ortization	-300.00
Total Fixed Assets	19,142.25
Other Assets	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
Total Other Assets	1,993.85
TOTAL ASSETS	134,639.30
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities (Payroll Liabilities)	-2,215.87
2111 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	-2,816.19
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (due quarterly)	354.95
2500 · Group Deposits for Literature (Group Literature Accounts)	18.53
2600 · Unity Day	1,212.31
Total Other Current Liabilities	-3,446.27
Total Current Liabilities	-3,446.27
Total Liabilities	-3,446.27
Equity	
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	124,555.34
Net Income	13,530.23
Total Equity	138,085.57
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	134,639.30

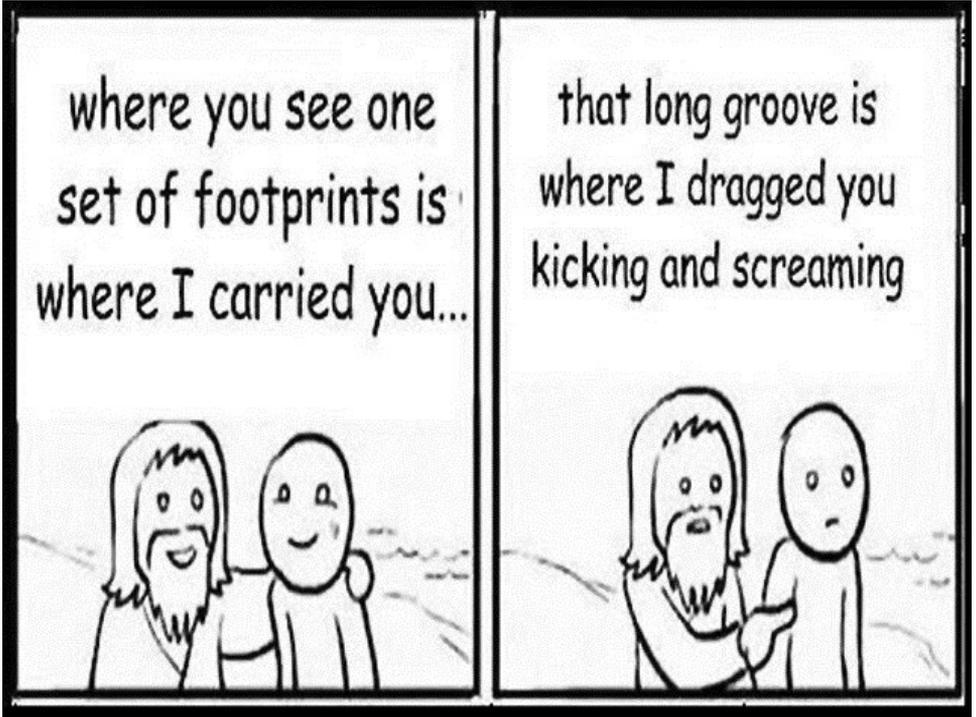
INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Group Contributions

January 2016

	Jan 16	Jan 16
1 INV Fremont & Manet Group 70975	490.00	490.00
1 INV One Day at a Time 70903	2,024.34	2,024.34
1 INV South County Fellowship 70954	300.00	300.00
3rd Steppers Book Study (Wom) 610	90.00	90.00
A Vision for You Women's 802 (Tue)	160.00	160.00
Basic Big Book 710 (Thur.)	14.00	14.00
Big Book Men's Group (Men) 106 (Tu)	140.00	140.00
Big Book Study MIpts 347 (Sat.)	98.00	98.00
Birthday Contribution 00951	672.00	672.00
Bowers Fellowship 46 (Sun.)	1,233.60	1,233.60
Cambrian Saturday Night (Chips) 376	420.00	420.00
Conscious Contact Meditation Grp L	276.96	276.96
Desi's in Recovery (723)	128.87	128.87
Early Monday Night 68 (Mon.)	166.88	166.88
Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	227.45	227.45
Easier Way Group 290 (Fri.)	1,149.32	1,149.32
East Enders Group 720 (Thur.)	170.00	170.00
Firing Line (The) 404 (Mon.)	842.15	842.15
Friday Friends 568 (Fri.)	50.00	50.00
G Cornerstone Fellowship Group 70	50.00	50.00
G Fair Avenue Fellowship 70901	424.78	424.78
G Sunrisers Group/Dennys 70932	280.42	280.42
G Third Tradition Women's Gp, The 7	29.14	29.14
Gay & Lesbian Step & Trad GP 221 (F	70.00	70.00
Grace Group of AA 352 (Sat.)	700.00	700.00
Happy Destiny (Women) 109 (Tues.)	618.10	618.10
Higher Power Hour (Men) 872 (Mc	1,365.00	1,365.00
HOW Group 71 (Mon.)	1,449.70	1,449.70
Intergroup Council 80909	300.00	300.00
Lesbians Living the Promises 349 (f	69.44	69.44
Living Solutions 728 (Fri.)	578.73	578.73
Los Altos Men's Group 59 (Mon.)	100.00	100.00
Los Gatos Big Book 664 (Mon.)	40.32	40.32
Men's 4th Step Group 320 (Fri.)	75.00	75.00
Men's Single Problem Study Gp 220 (580.96	580.96
Mountain View Group 350 (Sat.)	61.84	61.84
New Nooners 808 (Mon.)	55.00	55.00
Old West Meeting 697 (Fri)	116.00	116.00
Other Wednesday Nite, The (Men) 209	490.00	490.00
Personal 00911	100.00	100.00
Primary Purpose Beginners Big Book	57.43	57.43

	Jan 16	Jan 16
Second Tradition Group Spkr 721	1,172.50	1,172.50
Serenity Speaker Meeting 533 (S	221.00	221.00
Single Problem Topic (Men's) 582	690.90	690.90
Sisters Seeking Serenity 858 (We	334.00	334.00
South Valley Men's 845 (Thur.)	233.80	233.80
South Valley Women's Surrender	119.00	119.00
Spiritual Awakening 813 (Tues.)	208.60	208.60
Spiritual Step Study 233 (Sun.)	722.10	722.10
Step Study (Women) LG 820 (Wed	205.80	205.80
Tuesday Noon Step Study 556 (Tue	280.00	280.00
Veterans of Alcohol North 338 (T	100.00	100.00
TOTALS	20,553.13	20,553.13



AA won't open the gates of heaven to let you in, but it will open the gates of hell to let you out.

- Unknown

In 2005, the 25 millionth copy of the Big Book was presented to whom? Why?

Be sure to pick up next month's COIN for the answer!

Get it right and get a free subscription!

Answer to last month's trivia question: Dr. Bob



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2 0 1 6

S A T U R D A Y

1 2 - 3 : 0 0 P M

Santa Clara County Intergroup

Chili Cook-off

Lincoln Glen Church
2700 Booksin Ave
San Jose



For more information on how to register your team or volunteer
Contact Linda [REDACTED] or
Ken M [REDACTED]

\$10 donation suggested

Bring your home group for the
annual Serenity Chili Cook-off
Sat, March 26th

Bring on the heat !

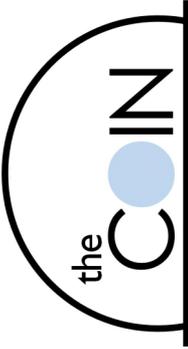
12-3pm

12-2PM Chili tasting and
Cornbread feast

2-3PM AA Speaker Meeting

Pack your sombrero and see if your homegroup can win the bragging rights!!!

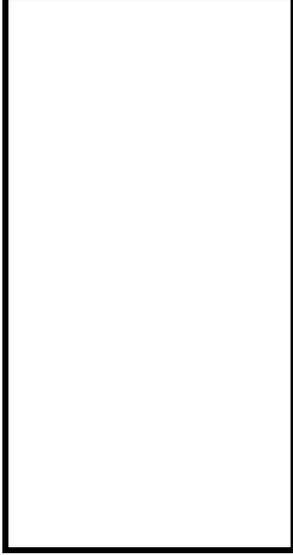




Intergroup Central Office

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274 E. Hamilton Avenue, Suite D
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