

God as He May Express Himself - God as we Understand Him

Alcoholics Anonymous came into existence in 1935 at a time when much of our society was centered around the churches in the communities where we lived. As a child in my home town, on Sunday morning I could look out the window and see a great majority of my neighbors walking to church. That was the way it was in the early 1940's. The book, Alcoholics Anonymous, was published in 1939, and it seems that it was highly influenced by the many early members of the program at that time. A.A. could have, very easily, become a religious program. Fortunately the elders of that time realized, by the mistakes of the Oxford Group and the Washingtonians, that they had to make it clear that *a desire to stop drinking was the only requirement for membership* and that the individual members could choose their own concept of a power greater than themselves, i.e., God as we understand him.

In Tradition Two it says, "As He may express Himself in our group conscience." When the word God is used in the remainder of the book, it is not always followed by the "as we understand him" qualifier. I believe that many members get the idea that somehow they are trying to push religion on them. I think that's understandable. When I was faced with that possibility, I personally found it easy enough to read the back part of the pages in the book and to not let myself become distracted by what I now recognized as a cultural norm at the time.

I had no problem setting aside my religious bias and recognizing the parts of the Big Book and the 12x12 that clearly state all of the options available when it comes to finding a "power greater than myself". I can name several right off top. 1) Alcohol itself was my Higher Power for a long time and still would be if hadn't gotten into the pro-

gram. 2) My ego ran my life for quite awhile until I got serious about life issues. 3) The A.A. program itself.

I found myself spiritually lost when I surrendered and entered the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was faced with the need to come to terms with the Higher Power issue. I now realize why it took such a long time to settle this subject - years of drinking and an underdeveloped thinking process made it hard to get up to speed right away. As I got more familiar with the Big Book, and the 12x12, I started to uncover all the evidence that debunked the idea that I had to conform to any religious doctrine.

In the 12x12, I read on page 26, "alcoholics anonymous does not demand that you to believe anything." On belief, "to acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could." (pg. 27) Also on page 26 it states, "Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think.... A one-time vice-president of the American Atheist Society ... got through with room to spare." Then on page 33 of the 12x12 it says "Therefore, Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this step."

Today I am very comfortable with my own concept of a Higher Power and I use the word God only to put a name on a concept that has no physical form and I might say that it expresses itself in *the collective conscience of the world we live in*. I can assure you that if you read these qualifiers and practice the rest of the principals of the program as enthusiastically as you can, you will come to terms with a personal concept of a Higher Power as well as any of us.

- Rick R.

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3rd Step Promises

When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed. We had a new Employer. Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs.

More and more we became interested in seeing what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow or the hereafter. We were reborn. AA p63

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The COIN Team
Editor Toni F.

Upcoming COIN Deadline

March 2019 Issue: February 20th
Topics: Step Three, Tradition Three, Third Principle - Faith
Please email all submissions to coin@asaanjose.org.

From Hopelessness to Hope

Thinking back to newcomer status, I remember early on when my grand sponsor's husband chaired an evening meeting at Santa Teresa Hospital and his topic was Step Two. After the meeting my sponsor

**I came in feeling
Hopeless.
The second Step gave me
Hope.**

asked, "What did you think?" My answer was that inasmuch as I came to AA to get sober, not "sane," I could not relate. She said, "Hmmm...you mean your behavior in various states of inebriation was all sane? Then you're not an alcoholic, but only you can decipher that." She went on, "When the chairperson was sharing, he was saying that he had come to believe that that power greater than himself had brought him out of the insanity of his drunken behavior and was in the process of restoring his sanity...one day at a time."

At the time, it was a lot for me to take in. She gave me an assignment which was to remember all the times my behavior stayed sane while in various degrees of intoxication. But of course, I could come up with nothing. However, after I was given reading to do and a lot of writing on how I related to that reading, I got a God Shot and Yesss I came to believe a **Power**

greater than myself could restore me to **Sanity**. To be honest, I thought it was really a lot to do but then came the **Hope** of the second Step right beside the **Help** she was so willing to give me.

It was like I really had had blinders on before my second Step God Shot. I came in feeling **Hopeless**. The second Step gave me **Hope**. My sponsor, who I believe was picked for me by God, gave me **Help**. From hope and help came **Change**. And through the first 9 Steps came **a New, Sober, Life!** As it says in the first forward of the first Big Book, "We are the first 100 who have recovered from a **seemingly Hopeless state of Mind and Body**." I always remember it does not say "recovered from the **Disease**."

**I came to believe a
Power
greater than myself could
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Sanity.**

"Thank you God for another day of sobriety." is my daily mantra, and I'm so grateful that God sent me the three ladies he did to teach me how to practice the gift of altruism in passing on the **Hope, Help, and Change of Step Two**. Thank you Bill W.

- Danette G.

Would you like to receive The COIN via email???

It's FREE! Go to www.aasanjose.org and enter your name and email address on the lower left hand side of the page and you will receive the COIN each month.

The G-d Problem

I was raised Jewish, a fact that is utterly irrelevant to my alcoholism and to my sobriety, except inasmuch as it sidestepped for me what I call the “G-d problem” when I came into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

By “G-d problem,” I mean that so many people, when they come into the rooms, struggle with the notion of a Higher Power. (I am basing this solely on what I’ve heard from the podium.) Some were raised Catholic or Christian, with a punishing G-d, and somewhere along the way rejected the notion completely. Some lived through tragic or traumatic events and found themselves mired in the age-old quandary, Why do bad things happen to good people? Some are agnostics, or even (gasp) atheists, and can’t stomach even the existence of a deity, let alone the mention of G-d in the steps and the Big Book and the Lord’s Prayer at the end of meetings. I will confess: When I came in, I really struggled with the Lord’s Prayer myself. I certainly didn’t *know* it, for one thing – it being (in my mind at the time and per my upbringing) a “gentile” prayer. I soon realized that there was nothing problematic whatsoever about my reciting it. In fact, after hearing a member do so early in my sobriety, I now say a slightly different version that resonates with me personally:

“Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. You give us this day our daily strength, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from fear. For Thine is

the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.”

My point is that I feel fortunate not to have come in with a thorny concept of G-d, so to speak. Not to say that my concept of G-d, my Higher Power, hasn’t grown and evolved immeasurably. The connection to and relationship with Him that I have today is something I never could’ve imagined – and it is *the* direct result of having a spiritual awakening as *the* result of working the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. That is my experience. My G-d is a G-d of evidence. As our beloved Johnny O. (may he rest in peace) once said about Step Two: “If you need evidence that this program works, just look around the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.” As the first line of the prologue to the First Edition of the Big Book says, we have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. Back then, it was hundreds of us; now, it’s *millions*. And coming to believe that a power greater than ourselves could (and does) restore us to sanity is precisely how the miracle begins.

Early in my recovery, I heard my sponsor break it down in beautiful simplicity (as she is so apt to do): Albeit not to me specifically, she said: If you struggle with G-d – if you have a problem with the idea of a power greater than you – go to the beach. Watch the tide come in. Watch the sun rise magnificently over the horizon. And then ask yourself if you had *anything whatsoever* to do with it.

That’s it, right there.

– Stephanie L.

Reprinted from February 2007 COIN.

LOCAL EVENTS

March 14	ACYPPA All California Young People in AA Annual Roundup, Embassy Suites, San Rafael
March 8-10	NCCAA 72nd Annual Spring Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Dr., Foster City
March 15	Monterey Bay Area Roundup online registration: www.montereybayarearoundup2019.org
March 16	Agenda Topic Workshop, 1122 Fair Ave., San Jose - 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
April 27	Chili Cookoff, Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave., San Jose, CA
May 3-5	46th Annual H&I Conference, McCormick Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds

Godless Sobriety: An Atheist's Point of View

I am an atheist. A sober, alcoholic atheist. I reject god on an ecumenical level as an equal opportunity dissenter. Although I heed the call of love and tolerance, I am indifferent and dismissive of all higher powers, heavens, supreme beings, celestial spirits, empyreal ghosts, supernatural entities, angels, prophets, and religious miracles. I renounce healing crystals, rocks, trees, and oceans as higher powers. I heard once that a door handle can be a higher power. No, it can't. To be fair, I repudiate astral travelers, poltergeists, psychokinesis, channeling the dead, Ouija boards, Lucifer, lower powers, hell, possessions, exorcists, and The Flying Spaghetti Monster as well.

Now that we got that straight, how does an atheist work Step Two and the other god-filled steps? In this piece, I will share how I identified a personal power to help solve my problems. My motivation is NOT to debate or negate anyone's version of god. Conversely, I appreciate there are as many concepts of a higher power as there are people. My motivation is to show other skeptics, humanists, agnostics, and atheists that godless sobriety is divinely practical.

Newcomers often find this an inconceivable proposition and resume their addictions, as I did. It need not be that way for them. My hypocrisy encumbered my ability to stay sober.

I overtly conformed to the "godly" overtone of the steps and program, but covertly shrouded my atheism under the veil of fitting in. I was not true to myself. I was an unwary actor, thrust into an audition ad libitum, to perform under the proscenium arch of recovery. I didn't get the part and I

didn't stay sober. I considered recovery groups like AA Beyond Belief, AA Agnostica, SMART Recovery, and Rational Recovery. Regrettably, besides the lack of meetings, these organizations embody the core principles of which they claim caused their defection from AA. They are separatists.

How does an atheist work

Step Two and the other god-filled steps?

They segregate, not integrate. AA is inclusive, not exclusive.

So, I found a sponsor and tried to follow good orderly direction. But prostrating myself during the Third-Step prayer felt like poison oak was creeping toward my most tender parts. But I proceeded, because that's what was suggested. I adhered to the Big Book's emphasis on finding a god of my own understanding. That is, until chapter four, which implies how irrational we are to doubt a superintending deity. "Actually we were fooling ourselves, for deep down in every man, woman, and child is the fundamental understanding of God." This persuasive recovery parlance reminded me of the proselytizing "Good News" of which I heard from fundamentalist family members and door-knockers alike. More chicanery, and another intoxicating departure from AA.

But I wanted to stay sober. As an insurance policy to avoid the highway to hell-fire in perpetuity, I placed a Pascal's Wager. Pascal argued that a rational person should

live as if god exists, and forgo temporal worldly pleasures in order to receive eternal life in heaven. Tragically, this bet guarantees a losing hand. Because if there exists the triple-Omni-god, he would know of my inauthenticity. Regardless of my submission and conformity, I would sizzle like a ribeye on Satan's Weber forever. I might as well devolve and enjoy life as a debaucherous wretch. But that wasn't an appealing option either. My only choice was to transform how I viewed the paradigm of recovery if I earnestly desired lasting sobriety, happiness, and relationships – but without god.

First, I got a new sponsor, who inquired, "Are you the most important being in the universe?" "No!" I admitted. "I am one of the smallest beings. Galactically speaking, I barely exist. My existence is a spark between the vacuity before birth, and the void upon my death." "And you believe there is a power outside yourself?" I agreed. "OK. I can work with that."

Second, we augmented the steps and literature to eliminate all forms or pronouns of god and a higher power. The Big Book avows, "We have ceased fighting anything or anyone – even alcohol." Like alcohol, we need not fight the concept of god or a higher power if we don't have that "fundamental understanding." Simply dismiss "The God Thing." Fugettaboutit!

Third, I had to create my own inspirational, yet godless, power if I sought permanent sobriety. I am not Theist, Deist, or Pantheist, so who was I to be? How could I define my power? When I drank and used, my sole purpose was to stay anesthetized, unaccountable to myself and others, unable to work and function. My purpose was to

feed my addictions with not only substances, but pride, greed, gluttony, envy, lust, gluttony, anger, and sloth. Yes, I overindulged on gluttony. (It's not a typo.) I had no purpose. I was detached. I was a Me-ist.

In contrast, I named that power my "Higher Purpose." With Purpose, I am connected. With Purpose, I am a We-ist. I can do all things with Purpose that strengthens me. My purpose is to be humble not prideful, generous not greedy, temperate not gluttonous; complimentary not envious, loving not

**Without god, I purposefully
practice mindfulness, loving
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lustful, peaceful not angry, and ambitious not slothful. With Purpose, I utilize my strengths in the service of others in the program, in my personal endeavors, and in my professional interactions. Outing myself as an atheist in AA was a liberating act. Staying true to my disbelieving self makes me fully responsible for my sobriety. I believe that within every man, woman, and child are fundamental morals, ethics, and virtues that deteriorate with addiction. I have faith in our collective healing, but not faith healers. I don't participate in meeting prayers. Instead, I mediate and visualize with our hands clasped in unity. Without god, I purposefully practice mindfulness, loving kindness, empathy, equanimity, and compassion.

• Clint G.

Reprinted from February 2017 COIN

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office, 274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D., Campbell
3 PI/CPC WORKSHOP: 5:30pm, PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1224 N. Winchester Blvd. at Tulip, SC	4	5 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE WORKSHOP: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church,	6 OUTREACH MEETING: 6-45pm INTERGROUP MEETING: 7-30pm Trinity Church, 3151 Union Ave., SJ	7	8	9 SCCPAA BUSI MTG: 12-1pm, Calvary Church, Brick House, Los Gatos
10	11	12	13 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MTG: 7:30pm Trinity United Methodist Church 583 E. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale	14	15	16 DIVERTEK/12 th STEPPERS WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office, 274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D., Campbell
17	18 BRIDGING THE GAP MTG: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave. at Leigh, SJ Central Office Closed	19 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., SJ	20	21	22	23 SCCPAA BUSINESS MTG: 12-1pm, Calvary Church, Brick House, 16330 Los Gatos Blvd.
24	25 Central Office Closed	26 H&I COMMITTEE MEETING: 7pm, 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	27	28		

March 2019

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24/31	25 H&I COMMITTEE MEETING: 7pm, 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	26	27	28	29	30

MEETING CHANGES

Moved

Monday Night Chip
Monday, 7pm
First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto
1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Saturday Nite Live
1954 Camden Ave., Ste. 5
San Jose

Closed Meeting

Young At Heart
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
1305 Middlefield Rd.
Palo Alto

January 2019 Statistics

Daytime Phone Calls to Central Office....203

Daytime 12-Step Calls.....7

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

The Central Office website
receives an average of
15,000 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	Contributor	Birthday
Kanaka S.	32	Kanaka S.	11-25-1986
Kim S.	18	Carol B.	1-1-2001
Dave K.	6	John S.	1-1-2013
Tommy O.	12	John S.	1-1-2007
Chris H.	19	John S.	1-1-2000
Herse N.	1	Louie R.	1-3-2018
Mary Mc.	35	Anonymous	1-6-1984
Louie R.	28	Anonymous	1-8-1991
Paul C.	40	Paul C., Robbie R.	1-10-1979
Tom K.	49	Tom K.	1-15-1970
David R.	27	David R.	1-16-1992
Ben N.	12	Anonymous	1-18-2007
Tobias T.	12	Tobias T.	1-18-2007
John S.	27	John S.	1-25-1992
Mary M.	1	Julie K.	1-29-2018

319 Years of Sobriety!

If you would like to participate or to 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.

INTERGOUP MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2018

- Frances, Intergroup Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:30 pm followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Definition of Intergroup (Anthony) & Twelve Traditions (Kim) were read.
- New Intergroup Reps: (New IG Rep meeting tonight by Alt Chair Jaye S. - Thanks!)
 - David S., We Have Arrived, Monday 8:00 pm, San Jose
 - Andrea SB, R&B, M-F noon, Sunnyvale
 - Paul G., There is a Solution, Thursday 8:00 pm, Morgan Hill
 - Brad B., Faith & Freedom, Wednesday 5:30 pm, Morgan Hill
 - Anthony B. Strong Desire, Monday 7:00 pm, Palo Alto
 - Greg, Fireside Big Book Study, Tuesday 8:15 pm, San Jose
 - Valerie, Happy Destiny, Tuesday noon, Los Gatos
 - Kim, Saturday Nite Live, San Jose
- Visitors: Maricela, Scott, from Santa Clara General Service, Karen
- Birthdays:
 - Michael, 12/4, 1 year
 - Joey, 12/30, 7 years
 - Paul, 12/27, 2 years
 - Michelle O., 12/13, 17 years
 - Andrea, 12/1, 1 year
 - Larry, 12/7, 13 years
 - Mary, 12/26, 2 years
- Observation of 7th Tradition - \$95 tonight (Mary, treasurer)
- Corrections or additions to the agenda or minutes – none
- Tonight's voting member count is 39.

Reports

Intergroup Chair – Frances

- Thanks to Larry for the setting up the PA system and to Michelle for the coffee. In the spirit of service rotation, three committee need chairs, Outreach, Secretary Workshop, and Twelfth Step. Please tell your groups about these opportunities.

Central Service Board (CSB) – Gloria V.

- Happy holidays! The Central Service Board met on Thursday, Dec 27 with a focus on reviewing the human resources policies. Contributions are up about 5%; many thanks to groups' contributions. The rest of the financial report can be found in the COIN. The Board continued its discussion of the development of a survey for Intergroup representatives.

Central Office – Bruce K.

- 2018 was a good year for your Central Office. All events were attended at record levels, the digital basket was launched, and our services were capably provided with no interruptions. And, despite a 35% increase in our rent, we closed the year in good financial health – due in no small part to your continued support. Thank you.

The two most recent pamphlets – The “God Word” and “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues” are now available at Central Office. These have proven popular and we believe they’re exceptional tools for carrying our message. Central Office fares well.

Website – Priya (no report)

Activities Committee – Carole R.

- Reported on three events planned for 2019. Updates will be available via the website (www.aasanjose.org), the COIN Newsletter and by Newsletter email notifications (flyers). The events are contingent upon finding locations for the events.
- In March, plan for the 12th Annual Chili Cook-off with a theme of “Home Groups.” In 2018, there were 18 chili home group teams and seven other volunteer home groups for a total of 25 groups. The seven groups provided setup, coffee service, root-beer floats, cornbread, ordered trophies, decorations, bussing tables, breakdown and clean-up. There were 500 plus people in attendance.
- In August, plan for the 33th Annual Old Timers’ meeting with a focus on “Celebrate the ‘Old Timers’ at your meetings!” In 2018, there were 300 plus celebrating and supporting the old timers in our community.
- In October, plan for the 13th Annual Take Your Sponsor to Brunch. In 2018, 318 plus attendees in our fellowship participated. The event could not be possible without the approximately 48 volunteers who helped with setup, cooking, breakdown and cleanup.
- Locations being sought include Westhills Church. The capacity needed is between 500-600 individuals. Previously we have used the Lincoln Glen Church and they are uncertain about availability.
- The Activities Committee is seeking volunteers! You are invited to join our fantastic group of sober volunteers that put on three annual events to support service in our community and encourage fellowship participation by attraction not promotion. To volunteer contact Carole.

Twelfth Step – (no report)

Day Time Office – (no report)

Nights and Weekends Diverter Coordinator – Carol B.

- I am the new Diverter Coordinator, assuming this role from Louis, who has served our county so well. Our Responsibility Statement states: When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. That is the purpose of the diverter—when our Central Office is closed, incoming calls are diverted to a person who is on call. Diverter volunteers provide after-hours phone coverage. The sobriety requirement is one year. The service term is at least one year but many serve longer. I have been a diverter since 2007. Each diverter volunteer goes through a training workshop before assuming a diverter shift. The workshop is held the third Saturday of each month (this month it’s January 19) at 10:00 a.m. at Central Office. In addition to the sobriety requirement, it is also important that the diverter have a working knowledge of the 12 steps and the 12 traditions.

- Please encourage group members to attend the diverter workshop to understand how this service helps the alcoholic who still suffers. Please also remind your groups that diverter shifts are only once a month for an average time of 3-4 hours. You can take your shift wherever you happen to be: at home, at a meeting, at dinner, or out of town. This is an easy way to make a big difference. Right now we have one open shift: The 5th Saturday of the month from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (This happens only 4 times a year!) Do I have a volunteer right now to take this shift? The next shift will be March 30. Thank you for enabling me to be of service.

Secretary Workshop – Kathy R.

- The secretary Workshop is the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at Central Office. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the secretary's role as the facilitator of the meeting, making sure it starts and ends on time, and choosing the chairperson. We discuss how to handle difficult situations as they may come up, how to deal with disruptive people, etc. We go over the Twelve Traditions and discuss how they are to the meeting what the Twelve Steps are to an individual; without them there would not be meetings. Encourage new secretaries to come to the workshop on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. My term is over, please consider chairing this workshop.

Outreach Committee – Kevin

- The purpose of the committee is to serve as the ambassadors for Intergroup. We do this by the following:
 - Educating local A.A. groups about the purpose, activities and service opportunities of Intergroup and Central Office.
 - Encouraging all A.A. groups to participate in Intergroup.
 - Ensuring the accuracy of Santa Clara County A.A. Meeting Directory.
- We are currently working on a few of the bigger groups in the area to attend their business meetings and present the importance of Intergroup reps for them. As always we are looking for volunteers to attend meetings for outreach. We meet at 6:45 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month here before the Intergroup meeting. If someone is interested but cannot come to the meeting, I am willing to meet with them privately. My name and number are on the agenda; please contact me.
- Take Away. Looking for volunteers who would like to attend different meetings.

Newsletter Committee – Toni

- The deadline for the February issue (topics: Step 2, Tradition 2, 2nd principle of hope) is January 23, 2019. Anyone interested should email coin@aansjose.org. Also, friendly reminder to please encourage your groups to write and submit stories.

North County General Service – Julie N. for Lori R.

- Our new alternate is Lori R. She is unable to make it tonight but will be with us next month. Last month we heard the experience, strength and hope from our new panel 69 delegate, Teddy, at our holiday potluck to end the year. Our District Workshop on agenda topics has been planned and will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019, at Alano Club East, Fair Avenue, from noon to 3:30 pm. All are welcomed.

South County General Service - Scott (Alternate)

- We had a December potluck and Cory chaired out and became an Area Officer. (We now have 3 of the 8 Area Officers). General Service deals with agenda topics which are informed by groups' opinions. For instance, the pamphlet just released, "The God Word", went through this process and was voted on last year.

Hospitals & Institutions – (no report)

Bridging the Gap – Michelle O.

- H&I serves those within hospitals and institutions while Bridging the Gap introduces them to AA on the outside of H&I. Bridging the Gap meets at 7 p.m. the 3rd Monday on Hamilton and Leigh We need volunteers and committee members.

PI/CPC – Louisa

- Several actions including talking with public defenders and Brown Bag city of Cupertino group. They train on what does AA does and doesn't do. Presenter Info training will be provided on January 6th from 6 to 7 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church at 1224 N. Winchester in Santa Clara. Joey N. will be running the training – it helps us to communicate our message to the non-A.A. community.

Sober and Free

- A flyer is available for a fundraiser for the event, "Switch Hitters" to be held January 26, 2019, at the Billy De Frank Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA. Please see the website (www.soberandfree.org) or email info@soberandfree.org for tickets.

SCCYPAA – (no report)

Old/Ongoing Business – (none)

New Business

- We need new volunteers to provide cleanup after Intergroup monthly meetings.

OPEN FORUM –

- Bruce reminded us that four service positions are available, Unity Day representative, Outreach, Secretary's Workshop, and Twelfth Step Committee chairs. Please examine your heart if you can serve, or bring these opportunities back to your home groups. For instance, to underscore the importance of having a Unity Day representative, a joint committee with representatives from District Offices (04, 40 and 17), H&I Committee, Alanon, and Intergroup create a Unity Day each year. Last year, we did not have an Intergroup representative to this committee and there was no Unity Day in 2018. We felt the loss!



AGYPAA XLVI



OUR CHANCE TO LIVE

**ALL CALIFORNIA YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
ANNUAL ROUND-UP**

**EMBASSY SUITES SAN RAFAEL
101 MCINNIS PARKWAY, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
MARCH 1ST - 4TH 2018**

★ ★ ★ PRE-REG ★ ★ ★

Name (First and Last): _____

Phone Number: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Sobriety Date: _____

YPAA Committee: _____

Member Of:

AA:	Al-Anon:	Al-Ateen:	Other:
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Special Needs:

Deaf/Hard of Hearing:	Seizures:	Blind/Low Vision:	Wheelchair Access:	Other:
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Payment:

Sponsor a Newcomer:	Cash:	Card:
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BE OF SERVICE!!!

Volunteer at conference:

Outreach conference:

FEBRUARY 1-3, 2019 SYMPOSIUM ON **A.A. HISTORY**

**SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA**

El Retiro San Inigo
300 Manresa Way
Los Altos, California



A weekend gathering that brings together researchers and lovers of A.A. history to share the experience, strength and hope of the members and groups who came before us.

All Inclusive Registration

Shared Room \$325 / Private \$400

Housing & Meals included

\$25 discount code expires Aug 1: EARLYBIRD25

www.aahistorysymposium.org

A.A. on Reservations
San Quentin Group
Bill's "Spook" Sessions
Debate over Special Purpose Groups
The Spanish Big Book
Al-Anon Pioneers
AND A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY THE G.S.O. ARCHIVIST

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP 2019 PRESENTS

12th Annual

Chili Cook-off

DATE & TIME

Saturday, April 27
12:00 – 3:00 PM

LOCATION

Lincoln Glenn Church
2700 Booksin Ave San Jose, CA



CONTESTANTS:

BRING THE HEAT!

TROPHY Winners & **BRAGGING**
Rights! For the

**Best Homegroup
Chili Teams**

1ST, 2ND, 3RD Place



ATTENDEES:

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

- Doors open at 12 PM
- Suggested donation \$10.
- Sample & vote for your favorite chili
- Enjoy cornbread, dessert, coffee
- Get to know your fellowship
- Fantastic AA speaker meeting

To register a chili team or volunteer
contact: Carole R. [REDACTED]
Central Office (408)374-8511

SIGNUP TODAY!

NCCAA
72nd Annual
Spring Conference

Northern California
Council of
Alcoholics Anonymous

Foster City, CA

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404
March 8, 9, & 10, 2019

Friday, March 10, 2017	
2:00 PM	Registration Opens
3:30 PM	Early Bird Meeting
5:30 PM (Al-Anon)	Dell O. Half Moon Bay, CA
8:00 PM	Open Speaker Meeting
	Ralph W. Los Angeles, CA
Saturday, March 11, 2017	
9:30 AM	H & I Panel
11:00 AM	Group Delegates open business meeting
1:00 PM	General Service
3:30 PM	Young People's Meeting
	Joey N. Menlo Park, CA
5:30 PM (Spanish)	Jose Z. Parlier, CA
8:00 PM	Open Speaker Meeting
	Brian F. Norfolk, CA
10:00 PM	Dance Following Drawing
Sunday, March 12, 2017	
9:00 AM	All A.A. Services Panel Meeting
10:30 AM	Open Speaker Meeting
	Emily C. Redwood City, CA

With Al-Anon and Spanish Participation
Fellowship - Panels-Speakers - Marathon Meetings

Marathon
Meetings



PRE-REGISTRATION CUT OFF DATE IS FEBRUARY 22nd 2019
HOTEL CONFERENCE PRICE CUT OFF IS FEB 8th 2019



Juntas en
Español

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Profit & Loss

January 2019

		Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 19
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
	3030 · Contributions-General	25,668.36	27,457.30	25,668.36
	3050 · Group Insurance (Group premium payments)	25.00	50.00	25.00
	8010 · Literature Sales	4,104.15	4,713.69	4,104.15
	8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	485.50	425.50	485.50
	8060 · Newsletter	300.66	106.80	300.66
	Total Income	30,583.67	32,753.29	30,583.67
Cost of Goods Sold				
	5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	3,577.85	3,861.17	3,577.85
	Total COGS	3,577.85	3,861.17	3,577.85
	Gross Profit	27,005.82	28,892.12	27,005.82
Expense				
	6015 · Activities Committee Expense	650.00	0.00	650.00
	6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	775.00	0.00	775.00
	6225 · Insurance - Emp. Health Plan	600.59	552.52	600.59
	6240 · Employee HRA Plan	778.95	0.00	778.95
	6330 · Office Expense	2,248.92	1,188.66	2,248.92
	6380 · Payroll Taxes	1,003.68	984.45	1,003.68
	6480 · Rent	3,384.50	2,537.95	3,384.50
	6540 · Salaries - Office	9,730.95	9,823.31	9,730.95
	6560 · Payroll Expenses	242.50	171.25	242.50
	Total Expense	19,415.09	15,258.14	19,415.09
	Net Ordinary Income	7,590.73	13,633.98	7,590.73
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
	8025 · Rebate	0.00	63.14	0.00
	8030 · Interest Income	19.49	36.99	19.49
	Total Other Income	19.49	100.13	19.49
	Net Other Income	19.49	100.13	19.49
	Net Income	7,610.22	13,734.11	7,610.22

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

Balance Sheet

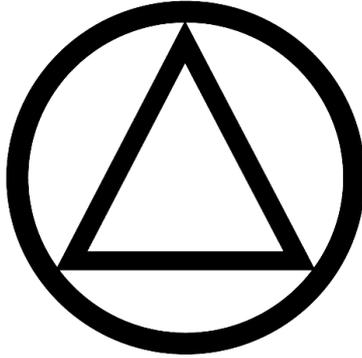
As of January 31, 2019

	Jan 31, 19
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · Prudent Reserve	
1021 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 0429 (12 Mo. CD @ 1.49%, 08/12/19)	18,034.63
1023 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 3228 (12 Mo. CD @ .7%, 02/05/19)	16,814.34
1027 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 7681 (12 Mo. CD @ .7%, 4/29/19)	15,306.16
1028 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 6955 (12 Mo. CD @ .6%, 01/02/20)	20,394.81
1029 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 8182 (10 Mo. CD @ .6%, 8/8/19)	15,296.20
1031 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 9158 (20 Mo. @ 1.98%, 11/7/19)	13,376.57
Total 1000 · Prudent Reserve	99,222.71
1010 · Petty Cash	92.89
1020 · First Republic Bank (Checking account)	39,390.68
Total Checking/Savings	138,706.28
Accounts Receivable	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-1,704.19
Total Accounts Receivable	-1,704.19
Other Current Assets	
1250 · Literature Inventory	18,919.98
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	912.50
13700 · Payroll Service Customer Asset (Payroll Service Customer Asset)	-0.01
1499 · Undeposited Funds	1,789.06
Total Other Current Assets	21,621.53
Total Current Assets	158,623.62
Fixed Assets	
1630 · Office Equipment	33,821.66
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	7,757.80
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-32,688.97
1680 · Leasehold Improvements	300.00
1681 · Less Accumulated Amortization	-300.00
Total Fixed Assets	8,890.49
Other Assets	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
Total Other Assets	1,993.85
TOTAL ASSETS	169,507.96
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
2075 · American Express	2,747.88
Total Credit Cards	2,747.88
Other Current Liabilities	
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (due quarterly)	375.44
2340 · Accrued Vacation	8,038.27
2600 · Unity Day	3,921.28
Total Other Current Liabilities	12,334.99
Total Current Liabilities	15,082.87
Total Liabilities	15,082.87
Equity	
3100 · Prior period adj. - vacation	-11,704.67
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	158,519.54
Net Income	7,610.22
Total Equity	154,425.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	169,507.96

INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.
Group Contributions
 January 2019

	Jan 19	Jan 19
1 INV Early Bird Group 70968	350.00	350.00
1 INV Fremont & Manet Group 70975	700.00	700.00
1 INV Gilroy Groups 70906	375.00	375.00
1 INV One Day at a Time 70903	2,379.28	2,379.28
1 INV Rand B Group 70972	689.19	689.19
1 INV South County Fellowship 70954	900.00	900.00
1 INV Winchester Fellowship 70960	620.91	620.91
3rd Steppers Book Study (Wom) 610 (Thur.)	254.32	254.32
A.B.C. Women's Group 58 (Mon.)	255.90	255.90
Big Book Study Mlpts 347 (Sat.)	140.00	140.00
Birthday Contribution 00951	447.00	447.00
Boiled Owls (Men's) 816 (Wed)	634.00	634.00
Bowers Fellowship 46 (Sun.)	571.68	571.68
Campus Group 234 (Thur.)	85.69	85.69
Chip Winners (Chips) 168 (Wed.)	102.90	102.90
Desi's In Recovery (723)	70.00	70.00
Design for Living 200 (Tues.)	227.50	227.50
Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	322.48	322.48
Fireside Big Book Study 809 (Tues.)	167.00	167.00
Friday Big Book Study 702 (Fri)	132.30	132.30
G 10 10 Group 70951	714.65	714.65
G Attitude Adjustment Hour (965)	659.74	659.74
G Cornerstone Fellowship Group 70908	200.00	200.00
G Forged From Adversity Group 70957	115.50	115.50
G Sunrise Group of Palo Alto 70963	784.85	784.85
G Sunrisers Group/Dennys 70932	598.01	598.01
G West Valley Fellowship 70942	722.41	722.41
Gay & Lesbian Sober Experience 896 (Mon.)	192.50	192.50
Gay & Lesbian Step & Trad GP 221 (Fri.)	60.00	60.00
Gay Men's Freedom 262 (Thur.)	159.64	159.64
Get Well Group 17 (Sun.)	275.10	275.10
Happy Destiny (Women) 109 (Tues.)	560.00	560.00
Higher Power Hr BB (Chips) 871 (Thur.)	705.85	705.85
In the Solution 647 (Sat.)	251.30	251.30
Live and Let Live 85 (Mon.)	124.00	124.00
Los Altos Big Book 860 (Thurs.)	259.43	259.43
Men's Big Book (Caveman Gp) 659 (Sun.)	456.00	456.00
Men's Single Problem Study Gp 220 (Thur.)	1,292.00	1,292.00

	Jan 19	Jan 19
Midday Women's Group 91 (Mon.)	236.04	236.04
Mountain View Group 350 (Sat.)	235.65	235.65
Off the Top 371 (Thur.)	330.00	330.00
One Big Tent (Wednesday) 537	35.00	35.00
Other Wednesday Nite, The (Men) 209 (Wed)	700.00	700.00
Personal 00911	1,150.00	1,150.00
Positive Outlook Group SJ 368 (Sat.)	152.00	152.00
Saturday's Reflections 622 (Sat.)	388.16	388.16
Saturday Night Promises 847 (Sat.)	487.43	487.43
Saturday Night Young People (142) PA	443.99	443.99
Simply AA 301 (Tues.)	151.05	151.05
Single Problem Topic (Men's) 582 (Mon.)	890.00	890.00
Sisters Seeking Serenity 858 (Wed.)	166.60	166.60
Society of the Second Chance 305 (Tues.)	200.00	200.00
There Is a Solution (Men) MH 732 (Thur)	143.40	143.40
Think Tank (Men's) 361 (Sat.)	198.10	198.10
Tuesday Night Men's Mtg 525 (Tues.)	385.25	385.25
Tuesday Night Saratoga Group 152 (Tues.)	17.00	17.00
Tuesday Noon Step Study 556 (Tues)	317.00	317.00
Veterans of Alcohol 874 (Tues.)	70.00	70.00
Villages Group of AA, The 406 (Mon.)	126.00	126.00
We Care Step Study 128 (Tues.)	40.00	40.00
We Have Arrived (Men's) 819 (Mon.)	281.00	281.00
What's Happening Today 552 (Thur.)	267.40	267.40
Wisdom to Know 651 (Mon.)	69.39	69.39
Women's Brunch 640 (Sat.)	469.77	469.77
Women on the Move 570 (Wed.)	162.00	162.00
TOTAL	25,668.36	25,668.36



Do you enjoy reading The COIN

Consider writing for us...

The pages of *The COIN* don't fill themselves.

Lately, we're finding it a challenge to fill the pages, and we'd love to hear more about the experience, strength, and hope of our local membership.

We appreciate articles with divergent viewpoints and ask that they be kept to no more than 500 words. It is, of course, editorial policy.

Email your contribution to coin@aasanjose.org today!