

# Writing for the COIN

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who writes the COIN?**

**A: You do.**

This is a publication forum for your personal stories celebrating sobriety and recovery. We welcome your stories, opinion pieces, learnings, questions, thoughts and ideas.

**Q: What do I write about?**

**A: There are monthly newsletter topics that can be found on the front page of the COIN.**

Each month's topic is Step X, the Principle behind Step X, and Tradition X, where X is the number of the month. January=1 and December=12. For example, January's topics are Step One, Honesty, and Tradition One. Stories pertaining to a month's holidays or historic events are also accepted. For example, articles pertaining to a new year/new start in January, relationships and romance in February, stories about the founding of AA in June, independence in July, gratitude and giving thanks in November, etc. can all be fitting subject matter.

Write your stories in the first person (using "I" statements). Share your sobriety experience, strength and hope: the wisdom you've gleaned, the mistakes you've made, the fun, the troubles, and humor you've found in recovery. If you hear something at a meeting that makes you see things in a different light, write about it. If you've stayed sober through a difficult experience, write about it. Help us teach and learn from each other. Most importantly, help carry the message of AA.

**Q: What about sketches, photos, art and flyers?**

**A: These are all welcomed and appreciated.**

The COIN is currently printed in black and white. Think about whether the pictures you submit will look good in black and white.

**Q: What are the submission deadlines?**

**A: Deadlines are published on the front page of the COIN.**

If you miss the deadline, you may still submit materials, but they may be saved for inclusion in a future COIN publication. Stories and art are published at the discretion of the COIN editor and the Central Office executive director.

**Q: When is the month's published COIN available?**

**A: Usually by the first Wednesday of the month.**

A small print run of several hundred draft copies for the month is available at the monthly Intergroup business meeting; the print run is completed the following day. Mailing takes place two days after the Intergroup meeting. Volunteers are needed every month to help fold the COIN and prepare it for bulk mailing.

**Q: Anything else?**

**A: Yes.**

Please keep the 12 Traditions of AA in mind as you write, and take special care to respect other members' anonymity. Have fun!

Send your contributions to: [coin@aasanjose.org](mailto:coin@aasanjose.org)

Step 12



Service

# Tradition 12

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**COIN Editor: Mel M**

**Next Month's Issue (January 2020)**

Topics: Step One, Honesty, & Tradition One

Please email all submissions to [coin@aaanjose.org](mailto:coin@aaanjose.org) by Dec 18.

The COIN is published on behalf of the Santa Clara County Intergroup Service Group of Alcoholics Anonymous (Intergroup). Opinions expressed are the writers', and publication of any article, event, or other information does not imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous, Intergroup, or Central Office. Quotations from AA books and pamphlets and the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I am excited and thrilled to be trying a hand at this service position as your new COIN editor. The COIN exists as a forum for sober members of our AA community to share our experience, strength, and hope with each other. This month's newsletter wraps up 2019 with articles on Step Twelve, the principle behind Step Twelve (Service), Tradition Twelve, and sober holiday stories from AA members. As the dawn of the new year approaches, we are also stepping into a new decade. I look forward to hearing from hearing about your holidays and how you plan to celebrate and step into 2020. If you have never submitted material to the newsletter, I invite you to be open and willing to try something new. I hope you enjoy this month's publication. Best wishes to all for a safe, sober holiday season!



Sincerely,

Your COIN Editor

## An Alcoholic Twist on a Classic

*T*was the night before Christmas, I was on a bender  
 With no others around, I was the bartender  
 The empties were stacked to recycle tomorrow  
 I lamented my sad state with pity and sorrow

*The dog in her bed, and I with my booze  
 We were settling in for another night's snooze  
 When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter  
 I put down my drink to check out the matter*

*Now out of the covers, I crawled and then stumbled  
 I pulled back the curtain, I cursed, and I mumbled  
 Through red bloodshot eyes, now what did appear?  
 There stood a full Christmas sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.*

*Was I in DT's, did I need help real quick?  
 It wouldn't be, couldn't be. Was it St. Nick?  
 The worm in my drink, maybe that was to blame?  
 I heard St. Nick shout as he called out my first name.*

(continued from page 4)

*Then up to the chimney St. Nicholas flew  
Alcoholic I am, I snuck one more brew.  
He soon stood before me with bright twinkling eyes  
He brought me a gift, a Christmas surprise.*

*He gave me a Big Book and told me to read  
This beautiful gift was planting a seed  
For starters, he said, it's more than not drinking  
It's doing our best to fix our wrong thinking.*

*Step 1 is a start, a beginning anew  
Acceptance is needed, denial won't do  
One day at a time, we do this together  
No longer alone, a new path we weather.*

*Step 2 will take faith as we come to believe  
That God is amazing, with Him, we'll achieve  
With new hope for life, a decision we'll make  
In Step 3 we will trust, good care God will take.*

*Be open and honest, to thine own self be true  
Step 4 will take grit but once we get through,  
Step 5 will relieve us of burdens we've carried  
It's time we now purge all the secrets we'd buried.*

*In Step 6 we will search for our hearts to be willing  
To be rid of our flaws no longer fulfilling  
Our new way of life now requires humility  
Defect removal needs God's great ability.*

*Our past and relations will be on the mend  
In Steps 8 and Steps 9 through the love that we send  
As we fix and we patch all the damage we've done  
We now can go anywhere in freedom and fun.*

*We forgive and move on, and we do it each day  
Step 10 spells out clearly the why and the way  
We continue to seek conscious contact with God  
We use Step 11; the methods are broad.*

*And now we find ourselves at Step 12  
It's time to help others, into service we delve  
There's joy, and there's peace, and love in AA  
We have gifts we can share and show others the way.*

-Mel M



The COIN is always looking for new writers, artists, cartoonists, photographers. Any and all mediums to communicate the message of recovery are welcome! Please email submissions to [coin@asaanjose.org](mailto:coin@asaanjose.org).

# Anonymity is the Spiritual Foundation

## We Failed Idealists Need Attention

I came from a family that was riddled with alcoholic drinkers, and many of them had the problem as bad as I did. I recall the first month, or so, when I got sober, still hanging out with them at our favorite watering hole, drinking ginger ale. I would slip out every night at 8pm and go to the A.A. meeting at 8:30pm and return at 10:30pm without telling anyone where I was going. I didn't want anybody to know that I was checking out the A.A. program. I didn't want to face the ridicule at the time, and I wasn't sure it was going to work for me. If it didn't work, I wouldn't have put up with their mocking me. You might say that I was protecting my anonymity at the time and didn't even know it.

After thirty days of that, I didn't care who knew about it because I believed I had found the answer, and I did. Soon after that, I was one of them that wanted to shout it from the rooftops and try to sober up everyone around me, and you know how that turned out. As I dragged each of my five brothers to A.A. meetings, it seems that they each learned just enough to be able to rationalize precisely why they were not alcoholics, and they ridiculed me anyway. Two later died of alcohol-related symptoms, and a third committed suicide. That was among the experiences that gave me hard-earned lessons on respect for the principle of anonymity. Of the rest of my immediate family of ten members, only one sister saw something in me that she liked, and she got sober in the program and hasn't had a drink in over forty-eight years.

We are exposed to the discussions in A.A. meetings as the newer members complain about someone breaking their anonymity or the ones that want to shout it from the rooftops, like my former self, and

that will always be the case in A.A. as *that* is one of the symptoms of alcoholism. We are failed idealists that need attention, but as we get more and more experienced, we learn the real value of the spirit of anonymity.

We can always come up with some noble reason for tooting our own horn. We can dress it up in the altruistic motive of sacrificing one's anonymity to save someone's life, but that sometimes destroys the chance of being a good example and often turns out doing just the opposite, and I have personally witnessed that. In Tradition Twelve, it talks of Anonymity as "The spiritual foundation of all of our Tradition ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." There is a difference in the "Spirit of the law" and the "Letter of the law." We who have been diligent with the program have been highly influenced by the Spirit of what the founders learned and introduced us to in the form of the 12 steps and the 12 traditions, and they all come in the form of the unselfishness of the spirit. I have yet to find one prayer or principle in the two books that we use, as reference guides, that are material *or selfish motives*. This tells me that the things I do that are as the result of practicing the principles of the program should be done unselfishly and *without fanfare*. So long as I needed the attention that I was always seeking when I was looking for the photo opp., I was still only following the letter of the law. When I came to understand the Spirit of Anonymity, I was able to rein in my EGO and my selfish motives. I try to be a good role model and do it quietly. It seems to work better that way.

- Rick R

## Relapses and Chronic Recovery

Lately, I have heard a lot about relapse in meetings. Most of the shares around relapse are surrounded by remorse and guilt, some with gratitude.

I have also heard narratives at meetings from sober members of AA who have been lucky enough not to experience a relapse. These members sometimes express anger around the relapse of close friends as if it is a personal betrayal. I have heard things like the doors of AA are not revolving doors, and although we have many relapses, we may not have another recovery.

Although I agree with these sentiments, I cannot help but want to change the narrative around relapse.

As someone who has collected a year, or two, or three and then relapsed, I can say the following with certainty:

The first few painful weeks of sobriety are challenging to avoid. Hurdling these few weeks is a task and miracle in itself. However, shortly after the pain stops, the memory of the pain of those first few

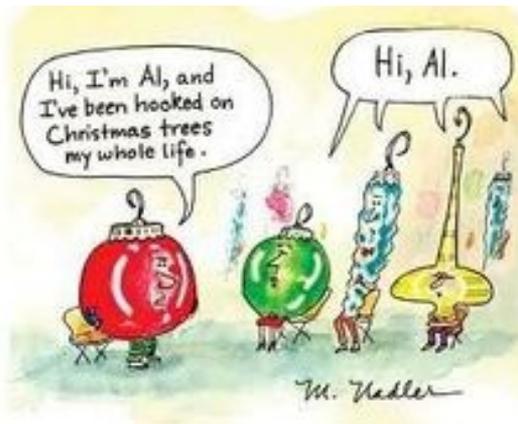
weeks seems to disappear. The forgotten pain makes it look like no big deal to drink/use and then come back.

Every time I have returned: I have always regretted the time in sobriety lost. Each time I relapsed, I never regretted all the time I missed being out in the relapse. That did not happen in my experience.

No one can keep me sober but me. The program is Alcoholics Anonymous, not Utopia Anonymous, not Eden Anonymous. Tradition twelve talks about personalities because they are many in this program. The good news is that the better I run my program, the more personalities with which I get along. I will not have an opportunity to get along with those personalities if I do not stay sober.

Lastly, I am chronically in recovery. I have returned a dozen or so times, and I am here. My seat has been loyal to me waiting, and it has always gotten better: sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.

- Rimi K



## The Sweet Sound of Service

### *A Sonnet to Service*

*Listening to God, I heard the request in his voice  
Trying to understand I say it doesn't seem fun  
Looking at them I feel I don't have a choice  
Sometimes I yell out, "This sucks I want to run."  
Me thinking I'm doing a lousy job, he says, "I disagree."  
Service done in love is cause for joyful celebration  
Thanking me, he says, "Because of my GED, I can now be free."  
He says he no longer has to live a life of degradation  
AA has taught me to be a man I could never have been  
Watching them pass their final test, all our tears flow  
The service I do, their growth is their own decision  
Service I think is much better than my old life of sin  
In service, I see lives of darkness start to glow  
Service you have given me a life, a truly happy vision.*

*-Rahul A*



## The Principle Behind Step Twelve

Long, long ago, when things were somewhat different in the rooms of AA meetings, I was snagged very early on to do a job, which I figured they gave to newcomers to do because it was a dirty job requiring a lot of effort and considered the right way for the newbie to "get into service."

What might that be? Well, when I first came in, people could smoke in the rooms. I was a social smoker, and members would jokingly say to me, "don't you wish you were a social drinker instead of a social smoker?" I would say, "It is what it is. I never really thought about it." And Viola...at 30 days, I was appointed to be the metal ashtray cleaner for the Tuesday, 8pm "Cahalan AA Mtg."

This service position entailed emptying all the ashtrays into garbage cans first, then putting them in a box which I kept in the trunk of my car and taking them home. After wiping them out with spray-on formula 409 and wiping then dry with paper towels wearing rubber gloves outside my house, I'd take them back and set them out on some of the chairs 15 minutes before the meeting started, week after week for six months.

I had no qualms and never thought, "Ick," being willing to be willing to be of service, taking it in my stride even though I was only a "social smoker", because I wanted what the people at Cahalan & all my other meetings had, "if you want what we have, do what we do," and I wanted sobriety just like them!

When I got six months, was promoted to the coffee person at the same Cahalan Meeting. We had no storage area, so the two large coffee makers and coffee and

supplies were transported back and forth every week in boxes in the trunk of my car. Interesting tidbit: in those days, the meetings supplied honey for newcomers because it was considered to help with the sugar cravings, one of the side effects of going cold turkey off alcohol. There was also one person who did cookies and literature both.

Next, at 13 months, I got to be secretary of that very meeting! Scouting around for speakers every week was fun, and it was terrific, and I was on my pink cloud.

Giving women rides to meetings was considered "service" as was being a greeter at specific meetings for which all you had to do was put out your hand and say, "Welcome, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm an alcoholic." In those days, we handed newcomers who showed up a meeting directory.

Once a month, I worked as the divorter for NCADD on Friday evenings from 10pm to 8am Saturday mornings for a year and a half (National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency)). I started writing articles for the Central Office newsletter before it was named the COIN and continue to love doing it. I have been a meeting secretary about twenty two times. I have held offices on steering committees. The best service is working with others, taking women through the 12 Steps at my kitchen table. Working the steps with other women has helped me spiritually and kept the steps fresh in my mind; it has helped me experience the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension of living.

- Danette G

## A Slippery Time of Year



Well, it's that time of year again: 12th step month and the holiday season! My memories of the holiday seasons before my 12-step spiritual awakening have stayed with me, and I am grateful to remember those times of hustle, bustle, chaos, and craziness for me between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. The most wonderful time of the year, right? Wrong. It was the most slippery time of the year for me.

I never want to forget what happened and where King Alcohol took me in the name of fun between Thanksgiving and New Year's. My husband was on-board all the way, having no idea how much I was imbibing to make the current season even better than the last one. It took a lot of energy. I relied on King Alcohol to supply me with that energy. Whew!

Times were very different back then. Through my teen years, my friends and I participated in holiday drink social experimentation. Our parents also participated, teaching us the names & ingredients of what we were drinking. They taught us to

"sip like a lady," with each other and the adults, never gulping or abusing alcohol and never drinking more than one drink when alone.

The mall decorations were enchanting, the beautiful music was playing, and store displays were enticing. The minute I walked into the mall, the holiday mood and ambiance hit me, and "it was on," shopping for the greatest gifts, toys, decorations, foods, and treats available, not to mention the most beautiful wrappings & bows. You know, shop till you drop, and if you're an alkie like me, you literally could drop. It didn't matter if the malls were crowded, if the purchase lines were twice as long, if the stores were running out of gifts, or if the traffic was horrific.

When I had my moment of clarity, I realized my King Alcohol did not stand for a happy holiday season; it was backstabbing me to the point of where I became a drunken woman that no one wanted to be around. I have the disease of alcoholism. Alcohol is cunning, baffling, powerful, killing thousands all during the year, more during the holidays. It loved being there for me, giving me comfort. Then it turned on me, loving to make me hurt and cry. Then it made me so numb I neither hurt nor cried.

I hate my disease, and my disease hates me. So one day at a time and with God's grace, I stay sober. I practice HALT, I keep it simple and I work the steps on my problems/situations. By using my Alcoholics Anonymous tools and by being of service and working with others, by giving it away to keep it, I can get through this holiday season without the holiday season getting to me. (Life is so much

easier today. Most importantly, focusing on my spiritual awakening keeps me growing spiritually. If that is what God wants for me, it's my best gift ever!

The good news is that the rooms of AA will be open January 1, 2020, for the newcomers. We will be waiting with open arms to welcome them into our program and those lucky enough to return from the holiday binge.

Happy Holidays to us. May God bless each and everyone of us: those in the program and those still suffering, and may God especially bless all the children caught in the crossfire.

- Danette G



## Service in a Dark Place

The principle behind the 12<sup>th</sup> step is service, and it is a topic with which I feel deeply connected. December is a special month for me in my 12-step journey. My sobriety date is December 19, 2015. Over the last three years, eleven months, and eight days (today is 11/8/19), I am reflecting on how much my concept of service has grown and changed. I have also been thinking about how much my friends in and out of the rooms have been of service to me. I am taken back to the very first act of service on 12/19/15 at the 9:15 Spiritual Progress Group meeting when I asked Bill H to be my sponsor, and the warrior he was as he worked with me through this

time. I am remembering Eric V., Mike G., Mike M., Steve G., Dan, Donna, Julia, Chris, and so many others who worked with me through first getting sober. I remember all of those amazing souls who walked with me after I got arrested and helped me stay sober while I fought for my life. I'm grateful now for the people who like Toni (who is kind enough to type this) Josh, Louisa, Joan, Mike, and Eric who regularly visit, the dozens who regularly write, and the hundreds who regularly pray all in service to me.

Service saves lives; I know that for a fact, because my life was saved by service. If it weren't for the service that so, so many people gave me out of the

kindness and generosity of their warm and loving hearts, I wouldn't have stayed sober, and I would most likely not be here today in Elmwood. I would not be on this planet having a good life. I know I am in jail, and this place is horrific in so many ways, but I am incredibly grateful for the daily opportunities of spiritual growth which I have here. I am also so thankful that H&I brings meetings here. I am grateful I get to see my friends, my real friends from the real world in H&I meetings.

I also find myself so thankful that AA and Al-Anon taught me how to be of loving service, and for the last nine months and eight days, I have stayed in service. That service has taken multiple forms. I have had the opportunity to sponsor over forty men in AA, five in Al-Anon, and a few in a Buddhist path to recovery. I have had the opportunity to help guys who were pursuing their GEDs in a capacity as math, science, English, and social studies tutor.

The most rewarding experience I have ever had was teaching a man who fundamentally believed he was stupid and stuck in a life of gangs, drugs, and criminality learn math. I remember the moment when that light went on in his eyes, and he said maybe I could have something different. I remember the moment when he sat for his GED and passed the math but failed English. He came in with a smile at the dorm and said: "I will not quit; let's study harder." I went to my bunk and cried. Education gave him hope. AA, thank you for teaching me to be of service. I remember when he finally passed and got his GED at age thirty six, and he said he had hope.

I have been blessed to have that ex-

perience with several men. Today I met with a poetry group I started. There are six of us from diverse, and some violent pasts create poetry. We have tutors on the "outside" who we work with, all of whom are in AA or Al-Anon. It's through education, through sponsorship, and through poetry that I find my HP and I get to be of service. I will always be grateful for the loving service that held me and gives me today a beautiful life.

- Rahul A



*My gift to the world  
this holiday season is  
my sobriety!*

## The Many Layers of Anonymity

I once heard an old-timer say, “New York, calls it “probably the single most quoted resource at GSO in terms of shared AA experience.”

In “The AA Group” pamphlet, I found the following quote on the importance of anonymity:

“Anonymity is the spiritual principle [that] puts the brakes on our easily inflatable egos, our misplaced conviction that violating our anonymity will help someone, and our desire for personal recognition or control. Most importantly, the anonymity tradition reminds us that it is the AA message, not the messenger, that counts.” [p. 6]

This old-timer repeated, “Anonymity is set at exactly the right level.” She continued, “We are anonymous at meetings as well as at the level of press, radio, and films. Anonymity is humility in action.”

Unfortunately, some people have taken information from the book *Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers* to the extreme, quoting “that we should not remain anonymous within our groups.” Certainly, our friends within AA – especially those inside our inner circle – need to (and in my case already do) know my last name, phone number, and address. I am not so anonymous that I can’t be found to my friends, but I choose to remain anonymous at meeting level.

There are many reasons for this desired anonymity. I know there are other people out there with this same experience: having been stalked by someone in AA who has an unhealthy obsession. If it’s happened to you, you know how much real fear this can cause – enough to make us avoid meetings, and we know that

avoiding meetings can lead to a drink! Today, in the digital age, all someone needs to find an address is a first and last name. I’ve had my anonymity broken within a meeting, only to discover that someone else in that meeting decided to find out where I live. Let’s keep in mind that this is not church.

It’s also not “well peoples anonymous” – it’s Alcoholics Anonymous. There are some “not so nice” people in the rooms – people who certainly don’t “respect” confidentiality. Before you break someone else’s anonymity, please stop and think. Your action may put them in danger.

In the pamphlet, there is also a section describing “Understanding Anonymity at the Group Level”:

“We may use last names within our group. At the same time, we respect the right of other members to maintain their own anonymity however they wish, and as closely as they wish. [...] We repeat no one’s personal sharing made in A.A. meetings. The word ‘anonymous’ in our name is a promise of privacy” [pp. 6–7].

Before they even get here, and by virtue of our name Alcoholics Anonymous, we promise the newcomer anonymity. We claim that they can be as anonymous as they wish within this program. Most newcomers need this understanding to even begin to find recovery. However, when we use our last names, and more importantly when we use the last names of others, we send the message to the newcomer that as soon as we learn your last name we’ll use it from the podium – whether you like it or not! We need to remember that the newcomer usually has very twisted think-

ing when they get here. It often takes a long time for the fog to lift, even longer for them to work steps, and (unfortunately) even longer for some to begin to understand and appreciate our Traditions. Yet from day one, the newcomer has the right to and the promise of anonymity – anonymity at whatever level he/she chooses. If they want to use an assumed name – we say “go right ahead! Welcome. Have a seat and a cup of coffee.”

Bill W. wrote in *The Language of the Heart* [p. 18], “Since we advertise anonymity to every newcomer, we ought, of course, preserve a new member’s anonymity so long as he wishes it preserved. Because when he read our publicity and came to us, we contracted to do exactly that.”

I love both the old-timers in my inner circle and many others who regularly attend meetings with me. Several of them use their last names whenever they share. If they want to use their last names, great – I get it. Back in the days when most people had nicknames, using last names was not as widespread. At that time, people were often identified by their first names and their nicknames – “Cowboy Joe,” “Little Sue,” etc. With sometimes ten different “Steves” and eight different “Janes” in a meeting, it’s hard for the group to know “which Fred” is being called on to share. I guess last names help in this situation. What about initials? Or better yet, let’s bring back nicknames!

Another thing to remember is that most of the time, people who use their last names at meeting level are either retired or working in the field of recovery. To the rest of us who are still working in “Corporate America” (or anywhere else), this disease continues to have an associated stigma. It can and will be used against us! I sponsor someone who was “outed” at her workplace, then fired. It may not be fair or legal, but it happens.

The bigger issue is how quickly people will use another person’s last name. Here in our local AA community, there is a doctor who is in a position to see and help many people who have the disease of alcoholism. God bless him, for he has helped many people find the rooms and get sober. I see this doctor at some of my regular meetings, and I sponsor a number of people who have received treatment from him. I’ve heard him share many times, and it is clear by his actions that he fully understands our Traditions. Because I sponsor some people who have been treated by this doctor, I also know that he is very clear with his patients about his anonymity and anonymity in general. My sponsees tell me that because of this clarity, they have come to understand that when they are in an AA meeting and they see him, they should treat him as “simply another AA member.” They tell me that what they believe he means is that they should not address him formally or use his last name. When this doctor shares from the podium, he introduces himself with his first name only. I’ve never heard him use his last name from the podium. So it’s very disconcerting when we hear other members use this doctor’s title and first and last name from the podium. I’ve even heard his full name used by members sharing when the doctor wasn’t even in the meeting! Instead of using full names, I’ve watched my heroes in AA use first name and last initial when in a meeting and calling on those whom they know use their last names. That way, we convey to the newcomer that even though the person who is called upon chooses to use their last name from the podium, we respect and will protect their anonymity. This is one of the many layers – to preserve another’s anonymity even if they use their last name in a meeting. In the event that someone who uses their last name from

the podium subsequently decides they want to revert back to first name only, our message is clear. I've seen that happen – yet other people continued to use that member's last name. Should there be a penalty if someone decides to take back their anonymity? Absolutely not. They have the right to their anonymity at whatever level they choose and whenever they choose.

As Bill wrote, it's our "contract."

What about people who have passed on? Those who know even a little about our history know the last names of both our cofounders. Both Bill's and Dr. Bob's last names were publicly released upon their deaths – not before. This level of anonymity is both appropriate in meetings and appropriate at the level of press, radio, and films. It's why we hear members refer to their beloved sponsors and use their full names after that sponsor has passed on to the "big meeting in the sky."

Let us always think before we speak.

I used to attend a meeting where, after accepting a service commitment, I was told by one of the steering committee members that "we all use our full names at this meeting." He mentioned the quote below, then told me that I would have to use mine. Are you serious? Sure, each group is autonomous and decides how they want to run the meeting. However, this seems to fall into the category of being very controlling (not to mention counter to Tradition Twelve). After my commitment was done at that meeting, I decided to vote with my feet.

Language in Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers [p. 264] references the "...two ways to break the Anonymity Tradition: (1) by giving your name at the public level of press or radio: (2) by being so anonymous that you can't be reached by other drunks."

This quote is mistakenly attributed to Dr. Bob. The person who was actually quoted in the book was someone named Warren, who was referring to what he thought he remembered Dr. Bob saying about anonymity. The actual quote from the book is as follows: "Warren recalled, he [Dr. Bob] said there were two ways to break the Anonymity Tradition: (1) by giving your name at the public level of press or radio: (2) by being so anonymous that you can't be reached by other drunks." Warren may have been an early member and an old-timerr, but that doesn't necessarily make him an expert on anonymity. Nor does it necessarily mean that Warren had a good enough memory to have been able to quote Dr. Bob verbatim, and he said it after Dr. Bob died, so there was no way to validate this information.

Let's keep in mind that this was also at a time when people used the old-fashioned paper telephone book to find phone numbers. One had to have both first and last names to look someone up in the White Pages. Today, we collect numbers and have them in our mobile phones forever; mine is so full that newcomers to whom I've given my number years ago are still there. I can call them and they can call me. It's a different technological age today. No one needs to know my last name to contact me. They have my number and whatever identifying information they choose to reference in their phones. Many of us are also on several collective group or meeting telephone lists – another method that we have today but that wasn't widely used when that quote from Warren was captured. (Dr. Bob and The Good Old-timers was published in 1980.)

I've even heard people justify the use of last names by saying that "we need to know how to find you when you are in the

hospital.” Really? I’m probably not at my best when I’m in the hospital, so I don’t really want random people visiting me. My AA friends all know my last name and can find me if I’m ever in the hospital. Therefore, I’m “not so anonymous that I can’t be found.” Just because we go to the same meetings doesn’t necessarily mean that there is an open invitation to visit me, either in the hospital or at home. On that note, please don’t announce hospital names and room numbers at meeting level. Instead, offer to provide that information on an individual basis to those interested after the meeting. Remember, not everyone has the same level of openness.

Let’s all just use a bit more common sense.

Bill W. wrote in *The Language of the Heart* [p. 15] that “It should be the privilege of each individual AA to cloak himself with as much personal anonymity as he desires. His fellow AAs should respect his wishes and help guard whatever status he wants to assume.” That same Fall 2012 issue of GSO’s Box 459 carries the same quote and continues, “It is thus up to each individual to decide how anonymous he or she wishes to be, at any level below that of the public level.”

Bill W. summarizes, “In practice, then, the principle of anonymity seems to come down to this: With one very important exception, the question of how far each individual or group shall go in dropping anonymity is left strictly to the individual or group concerned. The exception is [...] that all groups or individuals, when writing or speaking for publication as members of Alcoholics Anonymous, feel bound never to disclose their true names” [*Language of The Heart*, p. 19].

I know several lawyers and judges in the rooms who could have serious ramifications if their anonymity were broken. They have

an absolute right to privacy.

Could selfishness and self-centeredness be what is behind breaking another’s anonymity at the podium? It sure seems ego-driven; it shows that someone’s knowledge of another member’s last name is more important to the person sharing than the other member’s right to privacy. I very recently heard someone break another’s anonymity for no reason other than they wanted the meeting to know that they knew this person’s last name!

“They tell us that we alcoholics are the biggest rationalizers in the world; that fortified with the excuse we are doing great things for AA we can, through broken anonymity, resume our old and disastrous pursuit of personal power and prestige, public honors, and money...” [*AA Tradition: How It Developed*] pamphlet, Bill W., pp. 48–49].

Anonymity is referred to as “the greatest single protection the fellowship has to assure its continued existence and growth” [*“Understanding Anonymity”* pamphlet, p. 5]. Every single one of us gets to decide how anonymous we are inside the rooms. In addition, it is our responsibility to both respect and protect our fellows’ anonymity! This applies both inside and outside of “the rooms.” After all, “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions....” [12 & 12, p. 184]

Anonymity and humility are intertwined. Let’s always seek humility through our anonymity.

- (You guessed it!) Anonymous  
(Republished from COIN archives)

## AA Traditions Checklist

*These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.*

### Tradition Twelve

**Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.**

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

# December 2019 Calendar

## December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 P/CPC WORKSHOP: 5:30pm, P/CPC MEETING: 6pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1724 N. Winchester Blvd. at Tulip, SC	2	3 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE WORKSHOP: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, SJ	4 OUTREACH MEETING: 6-4:5pm INTERGROUP MEETING: 7:30pm Trinity Church, 3151 Union Ave., SJ	5	6	7 SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office, 274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D., <b>TAMALE PARTY 11-2PM</b>
8	9	10	11 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MTG: 7:30pm Trinity United Methodist Church 583 E. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale	12	13	14 SCCPAA BUSI MTG: 12-1pm, Calvary Church, Brick House, Los Gatos
15	16 BRIDGING THE GAP MTG: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave. at Leigh, SJ	17 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., SJ	18	19	20	21 DIVER/12 <sup>TH</sup> STEPPERS WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office, 274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D., Campbell
22	23 <b>Central Office Closed December 23rd thru December 25th</b>	24 H&I COMMITTEE MEETING: 7pm, 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	25	26	27	28 SCCPAA BUSINESS MTG: 12-1pm, Calvary Church, Brick House, 16330 Los Gatos Blvd.
29	30	31				

# January 2020 Calendar

## January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 PI/CPG WORKSHOP: 5:30pm, PI/CPG MEETING: 6pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1224 N. Winchester Bld. at Tulip, SC	6	7 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE WORKSHOP: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, SJ	8 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MTG: 7:30pm Trinity United Methodist Church 583 E. Fremont Ave., Summyale	9	10	11 SCCIPAA BUSI MTG: 12-1pm, Calvary Church, Brick House, Los Gatos
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 DIVERIER/12 <sup>TH</sup> STEEPERS WORKSHOP: 10am, Central Office, 274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D., Campbell
19	20 BRIDGING THE GAP MTG: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave. at Leigh, SJ	21 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING: 7pm, 1st Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., SJ	22	23	24	25 SCCIPAA BUSINESS MTG: 12-1pm, Calvary Church, Brick House, 16330 Los Gatos Blvd.
26	27	28 H&I COMMITTEE MEETING: 7pm, 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ	29	30	31	

# Central Office



## November 2019 Statistics

Daytime Phone calls to Central Office....**156**

Daytime 12-Step calls.....**4**

(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!**

## AA MEETING UPDATES:

### **NEW MEETINGS**

No Somos Santos

Thursday, 7:00pm

Willow Glen Baptist Church

1292 Minnesota & Hicks, San Jose

Introduction to the BB (Women's)

Tuesday, 8:15pm

Alano West

1555 S. 7th St., San Jose

The Family Afterward

Friday, 7:30pm

Old Post Office

14376 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

### **Re-Opened**

We Asked

Sunday, 2:00pm

Gilroy Groups

7511 Gourmet Alley, Gilroy

### **CLOSED MEETINGS**

Big Book and 12&12 Step Study

(men)

Friday, 8:00pm

Quaker San Jose Friends

1041 Morse St., San Jose

## Birthday Contributions



Birthday Celebrant	Years	Contributor	Birthday
Rose W.	43	Rose W.	10-31-1976
Jeanne H.	23	Jeanne H.	11-19-1996

### 66 Years of Sobriety!

Birthdays are listed in recognition of contributions made to Central Office on a member's behalf for a sobriety milestone. Contributions can be made by the birthday celebrant or in honor of a friend and will be listed in this section, unless requested otherwise.

In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A.

members. Please **Speaker Meetings**

#### LOCAL EVENTS

- December 7     Trinity Group Potluck and meeting. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: 81 N. 2nd St, San Jose Pot Luck 6:30 pm Meeting at 8 pm
- December 25     Gilroy Fellowship Christmas Alcathon: 7511 Gourmet Alley, Gilroy  
Dec 24/25
- & January 1     Cornerstone Fellowship Group Holiday Alcathon - See flyer
- December 25     Serenity First Fellowship Christmas Day Alcathon—See flyer
- December 25     Freedom Fellowship Group Holiday Alcathon 7:00am to 10:30pm  
Food served at 1pm. Meetings approximately every 2 hours.  
Foothill Covenant Church: 1555 Oak Ave., Los Altos
- December 31     Gilroy Fellowship New Year Alcathon: 7511 Gourmet Alley, Gilroy
- January 1     Freedom Fellowship Group New Year Alcathon 7:00am to 10:30pm  
Food served at 1pm. Meetings approximately every 2 hours.  
Foothill Covenant Church: 1555 Oak Ave., Los Altos
- January 10 - 12     Sobriety by the Bay, Grace Cathedral: 1100 California St., S.F.
- February 8     AA Sweetheart Speaker Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner, Calvary United Methodist Church: 729 Morse Street, SJ
- March 13-15     NCCAA 73rd Annual Spring Conference, Holiday Inn Downtown SJ

# Central Office Hours

## Central Office

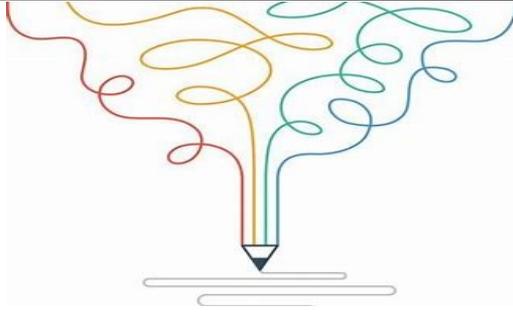
274 E. Hamilton Ave, Suite D  
Campbell, CA 95008

### Office Hours

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Opens (AM)	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	Closed
Closes (PM)	4:30	6:30	6:30	4:30	4:30	2:00	

**24 HOUR HELPLINE: (408) 374-8511**

	Time	Meeting	Location
Friday	08:00pm	Speakers Meeting	Saturday Nite Live 1954 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95124 (West San Jose)
	08:00pm	Grapevine Speakers	Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church 728 W Fremont Ave. (at Hollenbeck) Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Saturday	10:00am	Saturday Morning Fellowship	Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church 728 W Fremont Ave. (at Hollenbeck) Sunnyvale, CA 94087
	06:00pm	Stinking Rose	7511 Gourmet Alley Gilroy, CA 95020
	06:00pm	Saturday Evening Speaker Meeting	1224 N Winchester Blvd. Santa Clara, CA 95050
	08:00pm	Second Tradition Group Speaker Meeting	Lincoln Glen Church 2700 Booksin Ave. San Jose, CA 95125 (Willow Glen)
Sunday	06:15pm	Serenity Speakers	West Valley Presbyterian Church 6191 Bollinger Rd. Cupertino, CA 95014



### 2020 COIN Schedule of Topics

Newsletter Issue Month	Submission Deadline	Step & Tradition	Virtue
January	18-Dec	1	Honesty
February	22-Jan	2	Hope
March	19-Feb	3	Faith
April	18-Mar	4	Courage
May	22-Apr	5	Integrity
June	20-May	6	Willingness
July	17-Jun	7	Humility
August	22-Jul	8	Love
September	19-Aug	9	Justice
October	23-Sep	10	Perseverance
November	21-Oct	11	Spiritual Awareness
December	18-Nov	12	Service

To include your upcoming event in the January issue of the COIN, send your event information to [coin@aasanjose.org](mailto:coin@aasanjose.org) by December 18th, 2019!

# INTERGROUP MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Recording Secretary, Jill B

- Opening: A moment of silence followed by the *Serenity Prayer*
- Readings: Definition of Intergroup – Stacey, Twelve Traditions—Tiffany
- Introduction of New Intergroup Rep Meetings: at 7pm hosted by Alt. Chair Jaye
- Introduction of New Intergroup Representatives
  - Neerali S., R&B, M-F, 12 Noon, 1112 South Bernardo, Sunnyvale
  - Alexander C, We Have Arrived, Monday, 8:00 PM, 6033 Indian Ave San Jose
  - Moriah W. Women’s Shared Gift Group, Monday’s at 7:30 PM, 5151 Carter Ave. San Jose
  - Laura, Monday Midday Women’s Group, Monday, 1:00 PM, St. Mark’s Church 1957 Pruneridge Ave. Santa Clara
  - Michele R. Los Gatos Big Book Study, Mondays 12 noon, St. Luke’s, 20 University Ave, Los Gatos
- Visitors: Dominique
- Birthdays
  - Frank 27 years on 11/3
  - Laura 30 years on 11/2
  - Joe 24 years
  - Marquis 90 days
  - Jill B. 15 years on 11/5
  - Frances C. 10 years on 10/25
- Changes to today’s meeting agenda: None
- Changes to last month’s meeting mins in the COIN: None
- 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: \$65
- Tonight’s voting member count is 37.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Please try to keep reports under 2 mins and be sure to highlight your key take-away.*

**Intergroup Chair**—Frances C.

- Thank you to Michelle for making our coffee.
- Open Service Positions
  - *12th Step List Coordinator - Open*. 2 year commitment, 2 years sobriety required. 12th step volunteers will be contacted by diverter volunteers to assist in helping alcoholics: either giving rides or visiting in the homes. Duties: To attend the 12 step and Diverter workshop each 3rd Saturday of the month at Central Office to guide volunteers through the basics of 12 step work and the duties asked of those who volunteer to be on the list.
  - *Secretary Workshop Coordinator - Cheryl volunteered* . 2 year commitment, 2

years sobriety required. To help train the new and incoming secretaries and help prepare them for the all the situations they will encounter during their service.

Duties: To attend the Secretary Workshop at Central Office.

- Frances C. thanked Carole R. for her service as activity director. It's a big job and takes a lot of time!
- Introduction of the newly appointed Activities Chair: Tiffany and her alternate, Marquis, will create a subcommittee.

### **Central Service Board (CSB)**

- Elected group overseeing Central Office Operations: Gloria V. (outgoing), Robbie (incoming). CSB met last week, thanked Gloria V. for her service. Carole R. and Debbie H. newly elected board members. Discussed new hours which started on 11/4.

### **Central Office (CO) - Bruce, Executive Director**

- The new Central Office hours are in place. It will take awhile to get the word out about this new availability, so your help will be appreciated; tell your groups and all the folks you know.
- The Holiday Tamale Party nears. It is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, and we could use some volunteers to setup, clean up, and help serve. You will have the time of your life. Also, please grab some flyers for distribution. We don't want anyone to miss the social event of the year.
- I'm sure you'll hear more about some of the things, but I want to emphasize that our fellowship is in real need of some volunteers to fill responsible positions. We need a 12<sup>th</sup> Step Committee Coordinator. Prior experience on these phones would be helpful, but not required. We need a Secretary Workshop Chair, once per month; it's an important position. Please examine your hearts, talk with others, jog your sponsees, do what you can to help us keep our fellowship healthy. There are thousands of boozers and losers who need our help to become winners and grinners.

### **Website** (Purpose: Responsible for updating the AA website) - Priya

- Adding a new meeting: Steps and Traditions at Cornerstone Fellowship

### **Activities:** Tiffany (incoming), Alternate: Marquis

- Carole (outgoing): 270 attended the sponsor brunch on 10/5. Income was \$3357, expenses were \$4138, so net in red -\$621. Still outstanding tickets envelopes that need to be turned in by ticket sellers. \$1200 net profit from chili cook-off, so shouldn't be concerned about -\$621.
- Tiffany: Next event is IG holiday potluck – will pass out sign-up sheet. 6:00pm on December 4th.

### **Twelfth Step** (Purpose: Phone and visitation contact with callers in need)

- OPEN POSITION

### **Daytime Office** (Purpose: receives incoming phone calls to Central Office during day-

time) - Kathy

- No report

**Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator** (Purpose: After-hours phone coverage for A.A. Hotline in SCC.) - Carol B.

- The Diverter Coordinator works with diverter volunteers who provide after-hours phone coverage for AA in Santa Clara County. With Central Office changing its hours starting Monday, November 4, this has had an impact on diverter schedules. So far, everything has gone well for the first three days of the new diverter schedule.
- The Diverter sobriety requirement is 1 year; the service term is at least 1 year, but many serve longer. 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 November 16), 10:00 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.
- Key Takeaway: Please encourage your group members to attend the diverter workshop to understand how this service helps the alcoholic who still suffers and note that Diverters can take their shift wherever they happen to be: at home, at a meeting, at dinner, or out of town. This is an easy way to help another alcoholic, whether it's a newcomer or a person with long sobriety who is struggling.
- We have one open DIVERTER shift: the first Wednesday of the month, 6:00-10:00am. Who would like to volunteer to take this position? Think about it and see Carol after the meeting if you want to take this shift, or suggest someone who might be interested.
- Question: Can a person get trained in one swoop? Answer: Yes

**Secretary Workshop** (Purpose: Discuss the secretary's role as the facilitator of an AA meeting)

- Position is still open

**Outreach Committee** (Purpose: Intergroup's liaison with groups and meetings) - Dal M.

- Go out to meetings to make sure they still exist. Julie said there is a dark meeting. Need help!!!!

**Newsletter Committee** (Purpose: Help prepare the monthly Santa Clara County newsletter, the Coin) - Mel M.

- December topics: Step 12, Tradition 12, Service and the Holidays.
- Deadline for submission is 11/20/19.

**Old/Ongoing Business**

- Decide in December if we skip Jan 1<sup>st</sup> meeting or reschedule.
- 12th Step List Coordinator position is still open.
- Update on cost to fix amplifier (Frank offered to check with his friend)
- SCCYPAA requesting letter of support to submit bid to hold 2021 SCCYPAA confer-

ence in Sacramento, CA. Need to submit letter of support one week prior to February 27, 2020

**Motions** ( None)

**New Business**

- Julie: Holiday Retreat – There will be caroling, workshops and singing – St. Frances Retreat Center - 12/6-12/8 in San Juan Batista [www.spgreretreatlg.com](http://www.spgreretreatlg.com). Price is \$270 – scholarships available.
- Frances said amplifier is no longer working. Last amp was purchased and we need a new one. Larry said we could go to a music store to have it repaired. Speakers work fine. Group said it was necessary to replace the amplifier. Larry offered to get pricing to repair amp or purchase a new one. Frank has a friend who is DJ and offered to help get pricing.
- New Year's Day is the first Wednesday of the month. Will decide December 4<sup>th</sup> if we skip or reschedule. Other holidays in the past have been skipped (e.g. 4<sup>th</sup> of July in 2018, per Jaye.)

**North County General Service (District 04)** - Julie N.

- DCMC gave report: The Kincadee fires affected the area meeting during the last month. The area meeting was evacuated and not much work was done. We have also changed our Fall Inventory Assembly that was originally happening on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. It has been moved to November 24<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco.
- District 04 conducted its biennial inventory. There were some good suggestions, like initiating a buddy system for first time general service reps and increasing social events outside of our district meetings in order to give us an opportunity to get to know each other.
- I did announce last month that we do have a new Area Treasurer. He has done a bang-up job this past month taking care of contributions checks that had not been deposited. Area 06 is now current. If your group has written a contribution check to CNCA06 and it has not been deposited, you can now consider that the check has been lost. Did need to dip into prudent reserves. Appreciate anything you can send.

**South County General Service (District 40)** - Scott

- No report

**Hospitals & Institutions** (Purpose: Carrying the message to those confined to correctional & mental health facilities) - Judy

- No report

**Bridging The Gap** (Purpose: Helping alcoholics just released from hospitals, treatment centers or correctional facilities transition to AA in their local community) - Christina C.

- Primary purpose to introduce AA to new released inmates.
- Please fill out card.
- BTG meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7pm at the First Congressional Church 1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose.

**Public Information (PI/CPC)** (Purpose: Our information voice to the general public & professional) - Luisa

- No report

**Sober and Free:** —Jenny S.

- Annual LGBT Conference
- Sober and Free potluck dinner is November 16<sup>th</sup> 4-7 PM @ Billy De Frank Center 938 The Alameda, San Jose (see flyer). Tickets are \$20. Not a glum lot – “We” Musical in March - 12/9 Auditions. info@soberandfree.org

**SCCYPAA (Young People in AA)** - Emilie

- Ben: Just got back from business conference in San Diego (ACCYPAA). Asking for County 2021 bid (Sacramento, CA – 1230 J Street @ Sheraton Grand Hotel 2/27-3/1. All county conference submitted bid. Trying to incorporate Spanish speaking community – getting translator. In process of putting together bid packet. Letter of support needed week prior to Feb 27, 2021. Bruce suggested putting it on agenda for December. Will have rough draft.

**Open Forum** (What’s on your mind?)

- Change on meeting agenda – Move 7<sup>th</sup> tradition collection to the end of the agenda.
- NCAA meeting in 2020 will be here in the Bay Area (March). Used to have liaison. Will put them on agenda.
- Please attend the holiday potluck next month at 6:00pm, December 4<sup>th</sup>, before IG meeting

**Cleanup Announcement**

- If you can please help in cleaning up the space around you, we would like to return this space cleaner than we found it.

**Treasurer’s Report—Mary**

- Voting count: 37
- 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: \$65

**Close with the Responsibility Statement:** “Who is Responsible...”

\*\*\*\*\***End of Intergroup 11-6-19 Meeting Minutes**\*\*\*\*\*

## Event: Wednesday, December 25th



# Christmas Day Alco-Thon

## Wednesday, December 25, 2019

*Gilroy Fellowship*

*7511 Gourmet Alley, Gilroy*

Start	End	Meeting Name	Secretary	Meeting Type
6:30 AM	7:30 AM	Faith at Work	Regular	Book / Daily Reflections
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	Meeting		
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Meeting		
11:30 AM	12:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Serenity at Noon	Regular	Book / Big Book Study
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Intermission/POT LUCK	SEE SIGN UP SHEET	-----
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Meeting		
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Meeting		
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Beginners	Regular	Speaker/Discussion

*Meeting types for the fill-in slots will be formatted by the secretary and are subject to change per the meetings need.*

**Event: Tuesday, December 31st, 2019**



**Tuesday, December 31, 2019**

# New Year's Alco-Thon

*Gilroy Fellowship*

*7511 Gourmet Alley, Gilroy*

Start	End	Meeting	Secretary	Chair/Type
6:30 AM	7:30 AM	Faith at Work	Regular	Book/Daily Reflections
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Tuesday Teatotalers	Regular	Book Meeting
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Men's Spiritual Growth	Regular	<b>MENS MEETING</b>

*Alco-Thon event will begin starting with our regular 8:00 PM Meeting*

8:00 PM	9:00 PM	Step Study	Regular	Book Meeting
9:00 PM	9:30 PM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
9:30 PM	10:30 PM	Meeting		
10:30 PM	11: 00 PM	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11:00 PM	12:00 AM	Meeting		

Meeting types for the fill-in slots will be formatted by the secretary and are subject to change per the meetings need.

**Event: Saturday, December 7th**

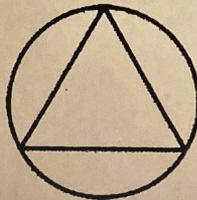
**Come Celebrate  
The Trinity Group  
73rd Anniversary  
with Pot Luck and meeting  
to follow**

**First Meeting: November 9th, 1946**

***When:*** December 7th, 2019

***Where:*** Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
81 N 2nd St, San Jose

***Times:*** Pot Luck opens 6:30 pm  
Meeting @8pm



**Event: Tuesday, December 31st, 2019**



**BINGO 5PM  
\$CASH PRIZES**

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

**SATURDAY NITE LIVE'S  
annual  
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION**

**Talent / No Talent Show**  
Guest Appearance:  
MARK L.

Sobriety Countdown and Speaker Meeting 7:15pm  
SPEAKER : YOLANDA P. 31 Years -Fair Ave. Fellowship

**FREE EVENT!! No COVER CHARGE - FOOD INCL.**  
**BINGO CARDS, RAFFLE TIX AND PHOTO BOOTH AVAIL FOR PURCHASE.**

ST. LUCY'S CHURCH  
2350 WINCHESTER BLVD  
CAMPBELL  
5PM - MIDNIGHT

**NO STILLETO HEELS** **NO CONFETTI**

## Events: December 24th, 25th, & January 1st



**Cornerstone Fellowship Group**  
**Holiday Alcaathons**

All Day Meetings!

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and  
Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Tuesday: 6am Meeting to 9pm Meeting. Every Hour on the Hour!**

**Wednesdays: 6am Meeting to 9pm Meeting. Every Hour on the Hour!**

**1600 Dell Ave, Campbell, CA 95008**

**Please join us for our annual Potluck at 1pm on  
Christmas Day!**

**Bring a Dish if you can, or just come for Feast and Fellowship!**

**Meetings every hour on the hour (in addition to those listed in  
the meeting guide), all day long! All are welcome to attend.  
Please sign up to be a one-time secretary for the extra  
meetings. Sign-up sheets at Cornerstone.**

**Hope to see you there!**



Event: Wednesday, December 25th, 2019

*SERENITY FIRST  
FELLOWSHIP*

\*\*\*\*\*

*ANNOUNCES*



*OUR*

\*\*\*\*\*



*“CHRISTMAS – DAY”*

*POT-LUCK*

*AND*

*ALCATHON*

*9:00 AM – 9:00 PM*

*Bring Your Favorite  
Main Dish, Salads, Finger Foods  
Snacks & Desserts  
To Share*

*Downtown @ At “6<sup>th</sup> & Julian”*

*~UPSTAIRS~*



**Event: Tuesday, December 31st, 2019**

***SERENITY FIRST  
FELLOWSHIP  
ANNOUNCES  
OUR***

**\*\*\*\*\***

***“NEW YEARS EVE”  
ALCATHON***

***~9 AM to 12 Midnite~***

***Bring Your Favorite  
~Snacks ~ Fingerfoods~  
~Desserts~***

***Downtown - “6<sup>th</sup> & Julian”***

**INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**November 2019**

		Nov 19	Nov 18	Jan - Nov 19
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
	<b>Income</b>			
	3030 · Contributions-General	6,134.13	5,888.26	154,293.81
	3050 · Group Insurance (Group premium payments)	25.00	50.00	3,905.00
	8010 · Literature Sales	3,284.46	4,514.33	45,519.89
	8020 · Meeting Guide Sales	470.00	459.00	4,446.80
	8050 · Activities Committee	961.00	0.00	8,832.76
	8055 · Central Office Events	0.00	0.00	1,905.00
	8060 · Printing	51.54	157.20	4,097.30
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,926.13</b>	<b>11,068.79</b>	<b>223,000.56</b>
	<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
	5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	3,178.45	4,065.09	40,820.29
	<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>3,178.45</b>	<b>4,065.09</b>	<b>40,820.29</b>
	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>7,747.68</b>	<b>7,003.70</b>	<b>182,180.27</b>
	<b>Expense</b>			
	6015 · Activities Committee Expense	2,024.31	0.00	7,160.79
	6030 · Accounting and Legal Fee	0.00	0.00	2,750.00
	6140 · Conferences	831.70	0.00	861.70
	6150 · Unity Day Expense	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
	6190 · Depreciation Expense	0.00	0.00	3,597.75
	6220 · Insurance - Worker Compensation	0.00	0.00	489.30
	6225 · Insurance - Emp. Health Plan	662.71	600.59	7,041.33
	6230 · Insurance - General Liability	0.00	0.00	4,221.25
	6240 · Employee HRA Plan	1,176.23	772.34	6,234.34
	6330 · Office Expense	1,966.29	1,914.93	20,622.01
	6380 · Payroll Taxes	361.27	719.71	8,079.45
	6480 · Rent	3,403.50	3,384.50	37,286.50
	6540 · Salaries - Office	5,382.92	8,324.08	93,530.74
	6560 · Payroll Expenses	237.49	128.51	1,576.25
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>16,046.42</b>	<b>15,844.66</b>	<b>194,951.41</b>
	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-8,298.74</b>	<b>-8,840.96</b>	<b>-12,771.14</b>
	<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
	<b>Other Income</b>			
	8025 · Rebate	0.00	76.26	517.29
	8030 · Interest Income	231.30	192.84	1,331.20
	<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>231.30</b>	<b>269.10</b>	<b>1,848.49</b>
	<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>231.30</b>	<b>269.10</b>	<b>1,848.49</b>
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-8,067.44</b>	<b>-8,571.86</b>	<b>-10,922.65</b>

# INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

## Balance Sheet

As of November 30, 2019

	<b>Nov 30, 19</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>1000 · Prudent Reserve</b>	
1021 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 0429 (12 M o. CD @ 1.49%, 08/12/19)	18,305.36
1023 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 3228 (12 M o. CD @ .7%, 02/05/19)	17,032.80
1027 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 7681 (12 M o. CD @ .7%, 4/29/19)	15,447.58
1028 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 6955 (12 M o. CD @ .6%, 01/02/20)	20,649.48
1029 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 8182 (10 M o. CD @ .6%, 8/8/19)	15,378.06
1031 · (PR) First Rep. Bank CD 9158 (20 M o. @ 1.98%, 11/7/19)	13,644.05
<b>Total 1000 · Prudent Reserve</b>	100,457.33
1010 · Petty Cash	232.52
1020 · First Republic Bank (Checking account)	10,859.89
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	111,549.74
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1110 · Accounts Rec - Group Deposits	-1,903.25
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	-1,903.25
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1250 · Literature Inventory	18,902.35
1310 · Prepaid Insurance	1,650.25
13700 · Payroll Service Customer Asset (Payroll Service Customer Asset)	-0.01
1499 · Undeposited Funds	534.52
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	21,087.11
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	130,733.60
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1630 · Office Equipment	26,982.05
1640 · Office Furnishings - Asset	6,039.78
1641 · Less Accumulated Depreciation	-27,751.09
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	5,270.74
<b>Other Assets</b>	
1860 · Deposits	1,993.85
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	1,993.85
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>137,998.19</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities (Payroll Liabilities)	-1,856.19
2111 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	-3,222.86
2240 · Sales Tax Payable (due quarterly)	734.56
2340 · Accrued Vacation	2,935.93
2600 · Unity Day	3,536.53
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	2,127.97
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	2,127.97
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	2,127.97
<b>Equity</b>	
3900 · Unrestricted Funds	146,792.87
<b>Net Income</b>	-10,922.65
<b>Total Equity</b>	135,870.22
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>137,998.19</b>

# INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC.

## Group Contributions

### November 2019

	Nov 19	Jan - Nov 19
1 INV Early Brd Group 70968	0.00	350.00
1 Inv Freedom Fellowship 70940	0.00	1,069.40
1 INV Frem ont & Hollenbeck Group 709	0.00	1,729.51
1 INV Gilroy Groups 70906	232.00	2,331.00
1 INV Men Seeking Guidance Group	0.00	700.00
1 INV One Day at a Time 70903	0.00	11,881.40
1 INV R and B Group 70972	0.00	3,471.81
1 INV Saturday Nite Live Group 70905	0.00	450.00
1 INV Serenity Discussion 210 (Wed.)	0.00	420.00
1 INV South County Fellowship 70954	300.00	3,900.00
1 INV Spiritual Progress Group 70979	0.00	5,214.00
1 INV Sufficient Substitute 313	480.00	6,775.00
1 INV Sunnyvale Noon Fellowship 70971	1,200.00	2,460.00
1 INV Winchester Fellowship 70960	0.00	1,781.47
12 Step Discussion 855 (Fri.)	0.00	10.00
3rd Steppers Book Study (Wom) 610 (T	0.00	762.06
A Vision For You 687 (Sat.)	0.00	602.00
A.B.C. Women's Group 58 (Mon.)	230.00	659.50
Almaden Valley Discussion 30 (Sun.)	0.00	40.00
Back to Basics Saratoga Noon 151 (Tue	0.00	1,001.00
Beginners & Beyond LG 345 (Sat.)	0.00	205.97
Better Way of Living 197 (Wed.)	0.00	287.00
Big Book 103 (Thurs.) 455	0.00	364.00
Big Book Speakers Group 289 (Fri.)	0.00	67.20
Big Book Study Mlpts 347 (Sat.)	0.00	352.05
Birthday Contribution 00951	0.00	1,498.00
Boiled Owls (Men's) 816 (Wed)	0.00	2,092.00
Bowers Fellowship 46 (Sun.)	0.00	1,846.28
California Ave. Supper Group 715 (Thu	0.00	604.80
Cambrian Saturday Night (Chips) 376 (S	490.00	490.00
Campus Group 234 (Thur.)	0.00	85.69
Character Defect Freedom 201 (Tues)	0.00	384.25
Chip Winners (Chips) 168 (Wed.)	0.00	556.50
Conscious Contact Mediation Grp LG	0.00	300.00
Courage to Change (Wom en) 145 (W	0.00	300.79
Daily Reflections 432 (Thur.)	0.00	231.00
Desi's In Recovery (723)	0.00	370.00
Design for Living 200 (Tues.)	0.00	691.50
Early Tuesday Group 119 (Tues.)	0.00	656.21
Easier Way Group 290 (Fri.)	0.00	1,761.76
East Valley Group 322 (Fri.)	0.00	315.00

	Nov 19	Jan - Nov 19
Eastside Big Book Study 45 (Sun.)	151.20	151.20
Eleventh Step Meditation 873 (Fri.)	0.00	140.00
End of the Line Men's Group 147 (Tue	0.00	235.48
Evergreen Group 884 (Thur.)	0.00	140.00
Fireside Big Book Study 809 (Tues.)	0.00	325.00
Free To Be Me (Women) 658 (Tues.)	210.00	210.00
Free to Be Me SJ (Women) 736 (Tues.	0.00	911.24
Friday Big Book Study 702 (Fri)	0.00	563.17
G 10 10 Group 70951	0.00	3,944.70
G 4@4 Group 70925	0.00	1,400.00
G Attitude Adjustment Hour (965)	0.00	1,141.24
G Cornerstone Fellowship Group 7096	200.00	2,100.00
G Fair Avenue Fellowship 70901	0.00	1,109.81
G Forgan From Adversity Group 70957	0.00	115.50
G Morgan Hill Women's Fellowship (94	0.00	146.68
G Serenity at Noon (fka Agnew) 70921	0.00	560.00
G Sober & Free Conference 70928	0.00	123.00
G Sunrise Group of Palo Alto 70963	0.00	2,104.45
G Sunrisers Group/Dennys 70932	475.52	5,168.41
G Ten O'Clock High 889	0.00	350.00
G West Valley Fellowship 70942	0.00	722.41
Gathered Together for Sobriety 43 (Sun	0.00	380.00
Gay & Lesbian Sober Experience 896 (M	0.00	577.50
Gay & Lesbian Step & Trad GP 221 (Fri	0.00	255.88
Gay Grab Bag Solution 41 (Sun.)	0.00	65.00
Gay Men's Freedom 262 (Thur.)	0.00	159.64
Gay Reflections on the Solution 841(We	0.00	350.00
Get Up and Go (Women) 187 (Sat.)	0.00	3,992.33
Get Well Group 17 (Sun.)	0.00	654.84
Happy Destiny (Women) 109 (Tues.)	0.00	2,450.00
Higher Power Hour (Men) 872 (Mon	0.00	2,079.70
Higher Power Hr BB (Chips) 871 (Thur	0.00	705.85
HOW Group 71 (Mon.)	0.00	669.00
In the Basement 545 (Sun.)	0.00	70.00
In the Solution 647 (Sat.)	0.00	631.40
Ladies Amethyst AA Study Group 749 (	0.00	577.58
Lesbians Living the Prom ises 349 (Fri	0.00	218.94
LGBT Happy Destiny Group 621 (Sat.)	0.00	322.38
LGBT Living Sober Group 021 (Sun)	0.00	154.35
Live and Let Live 85 (Mon.)	0.00	124.00
Living in the Solution MH (W) 33 (Sat.)	0.00	155.00
Living Solutions 728 (Fri.)	0.00	651.70

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

	Nov 19	Jan - Nov 19
Living with Others (Chips) 319 (Fri.)	0.00	210.00
Living with Serenity (Chips) 599 (Wed.)	0.00	834.45
Los Altos Big Book 860 (Thurs.)	0.00	679.18
Los Altos Group 225 (Thur.)	0.00	796.20
Los Altos Men's Group 59 (Mon.)	0.00	670.00
Meditation Meeting LA 39 (Sat.)	0.00	225.00
Men's 4th Step Group 320 (Fri.)	0.00	35.00
Men's Big Book (Caveman Gp) 659 (Su)	0.00	1,601.00
Men's Group 97 (Mon.)	0.00	525.00
Men's Honesty Group 26 (Sat.)	0.00	1,088.90
Men's Single Problem Study 89 (Mon)	0.00	200.00
Men's Single Problem Study Gp 220 (Th)	0.00	2,244.80
Midday Women's Group 91 (Mon.)	0.00	1,201.47
Mountain Miracles 882 (Thur.)	130.00	448.50
Mountain View Group 350 (Sat.)	0.00	637.71
New Nooners 808 (Mon.)	0.00	52.36
Newcomers, Oldtimers (Women) 769 (	0.00	102.20
No Bull Big Book 655 (Fri.)	0.00	886.65
Off the Top 371 (Thur.)	0.00	694.33
Old West Meeting 697 (Fri)	0.00	100.00
One Big Tent (Wednesday) 537	0.00	138.60
Open AA Tues. (00794)	0.00	300.00
Other Wednesday Nite, The (Men) 209 (W)	0.00	2,100.00
Pass It On Group 418 (Sun.)	0.00	681.00
Personal 00911	366.00	4,843.80
Plaza Del Rey Group (Sun) 052	0.00	948.00
Positive Outlook Group SJ 368 (Sat.)	0.00	152.00
Queer and Sober 671 (Sat.)	0.00	339.70
Raffle Meeting (Thurs.) 531	0.00	647.56
San Martin Candlelighters 378 (Sat.)	0.00	150.00
Saturday's Reflections 622 (Sat.)	0.00	388.16
Saturday Morning Los Gatos 777 (Sat)	0.00	2,331.00
Saturday Night Promises 847 (Sat.)	0.00	992.13
Saturday Night Young People (142) PA	0.00	443.99
SCCVPA	0.00	302.90
Second Tradition Group Spkr 721 (Sat.)	0.00	877.50
Serenity Speaker Meeting 533 (Sun.)	0.00	1,357.62
Shared Gift, The (Women) 61 (Mon.)	0.00	341.42
Simply AA 301 (Tues.)	0.00	151.05
Single Problem Topic (Men's) 582 (Mo	0.00	1,520.00
Sisters Seeking Serenity 858 (Wed.)	0.00	306.60
Sober Mafia 204 (Sun.)	0.00	550.00
Sober Thoughts 499 (Wed.)	0.00	364.00
Society of the Second Chance 305 (Tue	0.00	200.00

	Nov 19	Jan - Nov 19
South Valley Men's 845 (Thur.)	0.00	1,099.00
South Valley Women's Surrender 88 (M	0.00	399.30
Spiritual Awakening 813 (Tues.)	63.00	899.08
Spiritual Progress 8 (Sun.)	0.00	1,275.00
Spiritual Step Study 233 (Sun.)	0.00	1,571.70
St. Luke's Group 113 (Tues.)	0.00	291.00
Step Along (Women) 638 (Wed.)	0.00	879.35
Step Study (Women) LG 820 (Wed.)	0.00	485.11
Sunday Night Recovery 23 (Sun.)	0.00	560.00
Sundowner's Mtg (Chips) 768 (Wed.)	0.00	233.00
Sunshine Group noon 243 (Thur.)	0.00	50.00
Survivors (The) Step Study 331 (Wed	0.00	394.10
The Bus Stop (Tues.)	0.00	180.00
The Promises 686 (Mon.)	0.00	520.00
There Is a Solution SJ 217 (Thur.)	0.00	585.00
There Is a Solution (Men) MH 732 (Thu	0.00	143.40
Think Tank (Men's) 361 (Sat.)	0.00	1,150.80
Thru the Big Book 316 (Fri.)	0.00	274.00
Traditions Workshop	0.00	277.00
Trinity Group 370 (Sat.)	50.00	50.00
Tuesday Night Happy Hour 796	0.00	600.00
Tuesday Night Men's Mtg 525 (Tues	0.00	1,418.88
Tuesday Night Saratoga Group 152 (Tu	0.00	17.00
Tuesday Noon Step Study 556 (Tues)	0.00	667.00
University Beginners 176 (Wed.)	0.00	40.00
Unknown	1,522.07	4,610.21
Veterans of Alcohol 874 (Tues.)	0.00	140.00
Villages Group of AA, The 406 (Mon.)	0.00	449.00
Waves of Healing 526 (Mon.)	0.00	511.00
We Care Step Study 128 (Tues.)	0.00	75.00
We Have Arrived (Men's) 819 (Mon.)	2.52	298.52
Wednesday Night Big Book 576 (Wed	0.00	140.00
What's Happening Today 552 (Thur.)	0.00	441.59
When All Else Fails 047 (Sat.)	0.00	245.00
Wisdom to Know 651 (Mon.)	31.82	292.81
Women's Brunch 640 (Sat.)	0.00	1,887.25
Women on the Move 570 (Wed.)	0.00	686.00
Women to Women 704 (Sat.)	0.00	822.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,134.13</b>	<b>154,293.81</b>

