

Santa Clara County Intergroup Council  
Minutes from January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Opening:

- Meeting opened at 7:30 pm via Zoom.
- A Moment of Silence followed by the *Serenity Prayer*: Jaye
- Best Zoom Practices reviewed by Jaye
  - If you wouldn't do it at an in-person meeting, don't do it here!
  - Please be mindful to turn off your video & audio when making noise or moving around, so as not to disrupt or distract others. You may unmute yourself when called upon, but please remember to mute yourself when you are done speaking.
  - Please put IGR after your name to indicate you are an Intergroup Rep
- Reading of the Definition of Intergroup by – Jackie J.
- Reading of the *Twelve Traditions* by Diane O.
- Introduction of New Group Representatives: Tammy M.: The Winchester Fellowship; Jennifer: Women's Monday Mid-Day; Eric R.: Gathered Together for Sobriety; Stephanie F.: The Pass It On Group; Jenna I.: Ferris and Spencer 9am; Tim M: The Think Tank; Austin R.: The Freedom Fellowship Group; Lisa S.: The Get Up and Go Women's Meeting; Stephanie B: Bowers Fellowship; Anthony R.: Fair Avenue Fellowship; Ashley: Wednesday Night Step Along Women's Meeting; Devon M: The We Have Arrived Group; Geoff W.: A Vision For You Saturday Morning; Rose: n/a; Billy Bob: Saturday Morning High Hopes Men's Group; Jim S.: The Raffle Group Thursday Night Meeting;
- Visitors: Yuzo W.
- Milestone announcements- Jill: 16 years on 11/5; Paul G.: 4 years 12/27; Devon M. 9 years on 12/11, Jacob: 6 years on 12/12/14; Geoff W.: 24 years on 12/8; Larry M.: 15 years on 12/7; Mary M: 37 years on 1/6; Dan P: 32 years on 12/13
- Corrections or Additions to the Previous Month's Minutes: None
- Treasurer's Report – Alexis
  - Observe our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition – Either by Venmo (select the QR code shown below or type in @Alexis-Winslow-1 in the Venmo App) or by mailing a check to Alexis Winslow - 375 Oleander Dr, San Jose, 95123 [winslowalexis2@gmail.com](mailto:winslowalexis2@gmail.com) Thank You!
  - The December contribution was \$79.00.
  - Our total balance was 634.00 as of 12/31/2020.
- Voting Member Count – Jill: 37

Intergroup Chair:

Jaye S., [jayezdaisy@yahoo.com](mailto:jayezdaisy@yahoo.com)

If you need to bring something to the meeting that requires more than a 3-5 minute discussion, please email to me in advance so I can add it to the agenda. Please remember, there is a difference between New Business and Open Forum.

Also, we will be keeping the meeting open for 10 minutes after the close of the meeting for any questions and to give people extra time to get items of interest / links out of the chat.

Committee Reports:

Please keep reports to 3-5 minutes. Please be sure to highlight your "Take Away". Also, please email your reports whenever possible to Christopher – [xtopherjahn@gmail.com](mailto:xtopherjahn@gmail.com)

1. Central Service Board: Elected Group overseeing Central Office Operations  
Carole R., Board Chair 2021 [carolervalcaba@gmail.com](mailto:carolervalcaba@gmail.com)

The Central Service Board met last month, on Thursday Dec 17, 2020 virtually over Zoom. The CSB reviewed business matters relevant to our next several board meetings. Treasurer shared the November 2020 Treasury Report, details follow.

## NOV 2020 FINANCIAL REVIEW – TREASURY REPORT

Intergroup Central Office of Santa Clara County, Incorporated

Treasury Summary (as of NOV 30, 2020):

Group Contributions for NOV 2020 \$5,046.85 down -18% over the same period LY \$-1,087.28

Group Contributions YTD: \$148,943.47 DOWN -3% over the same period LY \$-5,350.34

Total Ordinary Income YTD was \$172,571.38 Down -20% change over the same period LY.

(Vs. Total Ordinary Income LY YTD = \$217,061.86 delta= \$-44,490.48

Total Expenses YTD were \$166,426.83 Down -13% over the same period LY \$-25,614.53

Net Income YTD was **\$-6,781.35** Down -15% over the same period LY \$-1,208.50

Group Contributions Analysis:

Monthly: NOV 2020 \$5,046.85

Sequentially: Compared to OCT 2020 at \$14,477.14 DOWN -65% (Month-over-Month)

Year-Over-Year: Compared to NOV 2019 at \$6,134.13 Down -18% or \$-1,087.28 (Year-over-Year)

Source: Central Service Board Meeting - Treasury Report Summary 12/17/20

[See full Financial Report on the website at: <https://aasanjose.org/co-intergroup-financials-and-minutes>]

Additional note: Group contributions increased in December 2020 to over \$22K and we anticipate ending the year with a positive net result in finances.

Message from CSB to: Intergroup Reps & Volunteers please share this 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions announcement at any AA meetings you attend.

Your 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions don't just help each meeting pay for expenses; each group uses a percentage of excess funds to contribute to Santa Clara County Central Office. Central Office is an essential service for our community; supporting aa members by selling books and literature, maintaining the AA San Jose website, AA phone hotline, storing Santa Clara County aa archival documents, and covers any expenses incurred by providing these services to our community.

Even though we don't currently have *in person* meetings, there are still expenses associated with keeping Central Office up and running. Without these important services, it is difficult to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. When deciding how much to contribute during the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, we ask you to keep these important essential, local support services in mind.

Please encourage your homegroups and aa meetings you attend to set up Venmo and PayPal accounts to collect 7<sup>th</sup> tradition funds during the pandemic, so that these critical functions of our Central Office can continue to be provided to our aa fellowship.

### 2. Central Office: Central Office Updates

Bruce                      408-478-0712                      bruce@aasanjose.org

Please consider being a faithful fiver by submitting a recurring monthly contribution you can set up on the website in any amount.

Bill Wilson was convinced, as am I, as are most of us, that A.A. would not be damaged or destroyed from outside events or forces for so long as we were true to our Primary Purpose and honored our Traditions. That, if we conducted our activities in the A.A. way – the way of honesty, compassion, love, citizenship, diligence, unselfishness . . . all those principles we've learned in this program, we could not be stopped. He was also convinced that if we turn away from our Traditions and principles, if we forget our Primary Purpose, we could, and probably would, destroy ourselves from within.

We have now proven – again - that we could not be stopped by outside forces. Our world has been hit by the most serious pandemic in many decades. Our country was shut down, we were told to shelter in place, and in-person gatherings were prohibited. How do we carry our message under these conditions? I don't know about you, but I hadn't even yet heard about Zoom, let alone how to use it. But there were those among us who knew exactly what to do and, once we learned, Zoom meetings began sprouting up like desert flowers after a rain. Dozens of meetings were started every day. Phil, our webmaster, was working at a furious pace, the office was inundated with calls and work, and a new committee was formed – the Virtual Solutions Committee – to address the issues presented by COVID 19. The Diverter and 12<sup>th</sup> Step

Committee volunteers provided services above and beyond; the calls kept coming and carrying the message required and attained a whole new level of service by these volunteers.

That furious pace was maintained for months, but when the dust settled, and as we became familiar with our new meeting platform, and as we learned and practiced new ways of assisting newcomers and alcoholics in need, we could stand back and see that our Santa Clara County Fellowship was alive and well, that it had attained a new level of glory – like those flowers in the desert

I have been overwhelmed by the strength and perseverance of this Fellowship and by what has been accomplished. Thank you everyone for keeping this Fellowship alive and thriving – carrying the message. Thanks to all our members. I am very proud of us. I hope you are, too. And Central Office fairs well.

3. IT Coordinator: Responsible for the AA website  
Phil W.

Everything is working fine tech wise. NY Intergroup is taking down their Zoom accounts in the latter part of February. They are no longer going to be supporting zoom meetings for other fellowships. There is a link to keep your ID on the Santa Clara Intergroup Website. The link on our website is titled The New York Intergroup Facts. Still working with SF and East Bay. We are starting new committee called the Web Content Committee. Get takeaway from recording. Bruce is looking into issues around zoom accounts and has a meeting scheduled with Zoom.

4. Activities Committee: Organizes the many great A.A activities for Santa Clara County  
Tiffany and Marquis

No report

5. Twelfth Step Committee: Phone, web chat and visitation contact with callers in need  
Blake 408-316-3938

Any member with 6 months sobriety and a working knowledge of the steps & traditions can be a 12 stepper. Next training will be Saturday, January 16th @ 10am. Commitment lasts as long as you want to be on the list. Zoom info stays the same every month.

Diverter/Web Hotline/12 Stepper Workshop  
(Every 3rd Saturday at 10am)

Upcoming: Saturday, January 16th @ 10am

<https://zoom.us/j/172445181?pwd=VnorbGtLVG5DSG5SNlhMc1NzU3VyQT09>

Meeting ID: 172 445 181

Passcode: 019237

6. Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator: After-hours phone coverage for A.A. Hotline in SCC.  
Carol B. carolbuchser@aol.com

It is my privilege to be the Diverter Coordinator. Diverter Volunteers provide after-hours phone coverage. Other AA fellowships may call this service the 24-hour hotline or the AA hotline. We call it the Diverter because in the late 70s-early 80s we had a call-forwarding machine called The Diverter.

When our Central Office is closed, incoming calls are diverted (or forwarded) to a person who is on call. 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. 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. Last month we had six open DIVERTER shift openings; I'm happy to say that all of those shifts have been filled.

- Currently we have one DIVERTER shift opening: the third Monday of the month from 7:00-11pm beginning January 18. Does anyone want to raise your hand to take this shift? Or think about it and give me a note in the chat, including your phone number.
- Please think about becoming a DIVERTER if you don't yet have a shift; it's a great way to appreciate your sobriety.
- We are now conducting the DIVERTER/Web Hotline/12-Step Workshop on Zoom. The next Zoom workshop for these service positions will be Saturday, January 16, at 10:00. Please attend this workshop to understand how the Diverter service, the Web Hotline, and 12-Steppers help the alcoholic who still suffers. To receive the Zoom Meeting ID, contact [carolbuchser@aol.com](mailto:carolbuchser@aol.com) or text 650/743-5023.

Takeaway:

- Diverter shifts are only once/month for an average time of 3-4 hours. You can take your shift wherever you happen to be: at home, on a Zoom 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.
- Thank you for granting me the privilege of being in service.

7. Web Hotline: Coordinates web hotline functions  
Katy F            [sccwebhotline@gmail.com](mailto:sccwebhotline@gmail.com)

Web Hotline was launched in August 2020. Web Hotline features a chat bubble that invites visitors to ask us questions. A team of 25 volunteers pool answer requests on Slack, 10 active, We get 60-100 requests a month. We are still taking volunteers for the pool. The sobriety requirement is one year. We are excited to be part of the team. Attend the Diverter/Web Hotline/12 Stepper Workshop to join. The service term is open-ended.

8. Secretary Workshop: Discuss the secretary's role as the facilitator of an A.A. Meeting  
Cheryl

No Report

9. Outreach Committee: Intergroup's liaison with groups and meetings  
Jennifer and Jesse

Our purpose is to be ambassadors for IG. Our committee could use some support. Please post the brochure during your group's meetings in the chat and encourage members to participate. If you go to meetings, you're a good fit for this committee. If you're interested in joining, reach out to Jennifer and Jesse and see brochure @ [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bw\\_GBYbwxkoaFeRlqNLbZv7gnwJAKbHP/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bw_GBYbwxkoaFeRlqNLbZv7gnwJAKbHP/view)

10. Newsletter Committee: Help prepare our monthly newsletter the Coin

No Report

11. Virtual Solutions Committee: Providing virtual solutions  
Joe and Lisa

The purpose of this committee is to be able to provide resources on [www.aasanjose.org](http://www.aasanjose.org) to help autonomous groups make autonomous group decisions during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The resources provided will relate to in-person meetings, online meetings, online/in-person (hybrid) meetings, and Covid-19 public health resources.

- Our Committee is still at a pause until restrictions change for the County/State. We will continue to do research and post information when it is appropriate to do so.
- We ask that you please share with your meetings/group the "Future In Person Meetings" tab on the [www.aasanjose.org](http://www.aasanjose.org) website.

You may want to work with your General Service Rep and look over the document we created titled "AA Group Inventory for the COVID-19 Era". It is a great resource for your group to either utilize or reference if you are interested in doing a group inventory. As a reminder a Group Inventory helps the group/meeting evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose to help alcoholics recover through A.A. 's suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. <https://aasanjose.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Group-Inventory-for-the-Covid-19-Era.pdf> Some feedback we have heard is that traditionally the GSR is responsible for heading the group inventory. Since every meeting/group is autonomous, and with these extraordinary circumstances, we believe that the group/meeting should discuss and decide for themselves who should best lead this.

- This is NOT a full group Inventory; it has been tailored based on Covid-19 topics. It is meant to be either used as is or a starting point for your groups/meetings to use at their discretion.
- We would like to ask the General Service Liaisons to please make sure and share this info from the website with General Service.
- Also feel free to post this inventory on any Santa Clara AA Social Media groups to help spread the word. For example, I know a lot of groups have created Facebook Groups, this would be great info to pass along so that members who may not attend business meetings have access to these resources.
- Feel free to contact the committee at [aasjvsc@gmail.com](mailto:aasjvsc@gmail.com) with any questions.

12. Web Content Committee: Facilitate how aasanjose.org can serve A. A. membership with new and current content to increase both appeal and visibility

Tamlyn R. 831-277-6926 tamlynr@comcast.net

Goals include creating new content and updating existing content to quickly orient newcomers and help them get started with AA, keeping existing members informed of events and service opportunities, to help anyone who is struggling with excessive drinking or maintaining sobriety during this pandemic or beyond, to increase our visibility online by creating embedding keywords for search engine optimization so that AA appears more easily to those searching online for help, and to make the web site look and function better when accessed by smart phones and computers. They are looking at other AA websites for ideas. The committee is interested in volunteers. They are expecting input from PI/PCP. There was a question regarding the committee's role vs. the role of PI/PCP. There was another question regarding to what type of help the committee would most benefit from in consideration of potential volunteers. Phil mentioned that people with some coding acumen and/or web design skills.

#### Old/Ongoing Business:

- None

#### Motions:

- None

#### New Business:

- None

#### Other Service Committee Reports

1. North County General Service Liaison  
Pris J.

All the new officers began their commitments on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We are also prepping for the agenda topics, although we haven't received them yet.

The Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, also know as PRASA is coming up in March, from March 5-7. The purpose of PRASA is develop greater unity among the member's groups in areas of the Pacific Region and to encourage exchange of ideas and experiences, and provide members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA. For more info or register visit [prasa.org](http://prasa.org).

2. South County General Service

Veronica C: Alternate DCMC for District 40

PRASA is coming in March. Our next District meeting is January 19<sup>th</sup>. Our delegate is attending and presenting a quick report and overview of coming agenda topics. Feel free to reach out to me.

3. Hospitals & Institutions: Carrying the message to those confined to correctional & mental health facilities

Lisa R H&I Liaison

Hospitals and Institutions Committee of Northern CA Council of Alcoholics Anonymous has a mission to carry the message to other alcoholics who are in jails or other Institutions. Typically, there are 50-some meetings in 27 facilities, although currently only 8 are participating in online meetings. There is still a need for literature and pamphlets, so any monetary contributions are greatly appreciated. They can be made at the [handinorcal.org](http://handinorcal.org) website.

4. Bridging the Gap: Helping alcoholics just released from hospitals, treatment centers or correctional facilities transition to A.A. in their local community

Christina C.

No report

5. PI/CPC: Our information voice to the general public & professionals

Francine:

An estimated 95,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the third leading preventable cause of death in the US. 75%-80% of AA members are referred to AA (by family, friends, physicians, the court system), if we don't educate everyone, more alcoholics die! Elections were held but PI/PCP still has open positions.

- WANTED: Presenter/Speaker Coordinator (6 month sobriety requirement)

Responsibilities: Maintain a list of available speakers and presenters. Contact speakers/presenters to fill service opportunities as needed. Work with Communications Coordinator to match committee members to service requests.

- WANTED: Videographer (6 month sobriety requirement)

Responsibilities: assist with creating/editing videos for use with the general public and professionals

- WANTED: Copy writer (2 year sobriety requirement)

Responsibilities: draft content for landing pages, email & letter campaigns, event flyers, presentations, blogs, etc. Working knowledge of 12 Steps & 12 Traditions

- WANTED: PI/CPC Meeting Rep (6 month sobriety requirement)

Attend monthly meeting, serve as liaison between committee & meeting group, solicit any needed volunteers or key contacts, educate & inform AA members regarding the importance of PI/CPC

- AA PI/CPC web page: [www.aasanjose.org/picpc](http://www.aasanjose.org/picpc)

- Landing Page for general public & professional community: <http://bit.ly/sjpicpc>

- Newly created landing page for Committee/AA Members Only: <http://bit.ly/sjpicpc-members>

- Custom pages under development –military, faith-based, medical, etc...

Santa Clara County PI/CPC Committee emails:

- [picpc.santaclar@gmail.com](mailto:picpc.santaclar@gmail.com) (used as our contact email for AA members)

- [sjpicpc@gmail.com](mailto:sjpicpc@gmail.com) (used as our contact email for people outside of AA)

Jacob, the incoming PI/CPC Outreach Coordinator has found outreach coordinators for military, fire first responder, education, clergy, lgbtq. He is currently looking for law enforcement and political outreach coordinators. He is also looking for members with excellent handwriting for letters to VIPs.

6. Sober and Free: Sober & Free is San Jose's LGBTQ+ annual AA conference

Blake:

Sober & Free's Switch Hitters has gone virtual!

Sober Drag Show

Saturday, January 30th at 5-8pm PST

Meeting ID: 880 7150 1474

Passcode: drag

Want to perform or have questions?

Email us at [info@soberandfree.org](mailto:info@soberandfree.org)

7. SCCYPAA: Young People in A.A.

Ben:

No report

Open Forum: What's on your mind?

- Jaye reviewed responsibilities for new IG reps, which include taking notes, and reporting salient information back to their groups. Question: Ginna: what do we report back to our groups? Answer: Jaye: Take back the summary or take away. Take back what is pertinent to your meeting.
- Juan T. introduced himself, Juan T. is the liaison for the Oficina Central Hispana Costa Norte. His email is [torresj1856@yahoo.com](mailto:torresj1856@yahoo.com)
- Neerali wanted to know when the Diversity Training will be held. Bruce is waiting for a flyer and will try to get the info out ASAP. It has subsequently been published on [aasanjose.org](http://aasanjose.org).
- Tamlyn: wanted to know what the status of the list of sponsorship coordinator for different meetings was? Jaye replied that we are still working on it.
- Austin: Question: Is there an archive of prior minutes and group conscioues? Answer: Archive is on the website. Gloria thinks the last IG group inventory was in 2010. Jaye offered to answer his question in more detail off-line.

Closing:

Responsibility Statement: Jaye.