

Santa Clara County Intergroup Meeting, November 3, 2021 7:30pm

7:34am start with the serenity prayer with Jaye S.

Kurt M reads the definition of The Intergroup Service Council of AA

Jim S. reads the 12 Traditions

New to meeting: Frank from the Men's Firing Line meeting, Mark M from the Saved From Drowning meeting

Milestones: Laura 32 years on 11/2, Alexis 6 years on 10/23, Joan 8 years on 10/19, Frank 29 years today (11/3), Paul 17 years on 10/28 😊

Treasurer's report (7:43pm) Alexis: Balance \$1,287 plus meeting revenue for October \$60.00, for total of \$1,347.00 currently.

Jaye: Last month we held elections via Zoom. Thanks to all involved and for your service. If you have something over 3-5 minutes, let Jaye know so she can add to agenda. There's a difference between NEW BUSINESS and OPEN FORUM. There's also extra time after the intergroup meeting for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Diverter/Web Hotline/12-Step Joint Committee Report, Katy F (Web Hotline Chair, sccwebhotline@gmail.com, presenting on behalf of Neil G daytime Diverter Coordinator), Carol B (Nights and Weekends Diverter Coordinator, <mailto:carolbuchser@aol.com> or text 650-743-5023), and Blake B (12-Step chair):

Santa Clara County Intergroup has 3 service committees dedicated to responding to the alcoholic who is still suffering--the Diverter, our 24-hour hotline; the Web Hotline—answering chat requests from [AAsanjose.org](https://www.aasanjose.org); and the 12-Step Committee, introducing the newcomer to AA one on one. All of these service positions require a working knowledge of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. We can especially use anyone with multiple language skills.

First, the Diverter. Diverter volunteers provide 24-hour 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 was closed, incoming calls were diverted (or forwarded) to a person who is on call. Diverter shifts are once a 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. The service term is at least 1 year, but many serve longer. The Diverter sobriety requirement is 1 year. There are no diverter openings at this time, but we always welcome people to train and be on the substitute list.

Second, the Web Hotline. In August 2020 we launched the Web Hotline service. From 8am to 8pm, visitors to [aasanjose.org](https://www.aasanjose.org) can open the chat bubble and type questions. The pool of Web Hotline volunteers answers these requests using Slack, an application available on a computer and smartphone. Web Hotline volunteers set their own schedules and answer incoming chats if available. There is no service term. The sobriety requirement is 1 year.

Third (last), the 12-step committee. To be a 12th Stepper means we try to carry AA's message to alcoholics as it is stated in AA's Step 12. When the phone diverter or the web hotline has a person who wants to speak with someone further, the volunteer will call you with that person's name and number.

You'll call them and get to spend more time with them to build a relationship. We then invite and meet them at a virtual or in-person meeting and introduce them to our fellowship. This is a great service position that works around your availability. Once you go to the workshop, your name stays on the 12th Step List. The sobriety requirement is 6 months.

Summary:

Diverter/Web Hotline/12 Stepper Workshop

(Every 3rd Saturday at 10am)

Upcoming: November 20th @ 10am

Meeting ID: 172 445 181

Passcode: 019237

Diverter = 1 year sobriety

Web Hotline = 1 year sobriety

12 Stepper = 6 months sobriety

We offer a joint training workshop for all of these service positions on the third Saturday of each month. Your attendance can get you three service positions at the same time.

The next workshop will be Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am on Zoom. Information can be found on the calendar of events at aasanjose.org.

Take Away: Please let your group know these service opportunities are available, providing an easy way to help another alcoholic, whether it's a newcomer, a person with long sobriety who is struggling, or just someone trying to find the next meeting. Training workshops are offered monthly.

Central Service Board, Joe: B (new chair). Not much to report, the financial report was sent out earlier. That's all he has.

Central office, Toni: Central office is working on meeting guides (for in-person only/hybrid, not Zoom). They hope to have done in the next couple weeks. Passcodes are not showing up online meeting guide, GSO/meeting guide experts will see if they can change that. Upcoming events:

- **Freedom Fellowship Thanksgiving Alcahthon** - November 25 7am-10pm (<https://aasanjose.org/event/freedom-fellowship-thanksgiving-alcathon-2>)
- Spiritual Progress Retreat - December 4th - virtual event (flyer at www.aasanjose.org or <https://spiritualprogress95030.org/>)
- Sobriety by the Bay - January 7 - 9 in San Francisco (<https://aasfmarin.org/sobriety-by-the-bay-grace-cathedral>)

IT (technology), Glen (filling in for Phil W): they continue to keep the website up to date. For software releases, they work with Toni, resolve problems. Nothing exciting going on. IT continues to implement software updates and upgrade functionality to keep aasanjose.org up and running. IT also supports Central Office staff with problem resolution, configuration support, software licenses and software updates.

Virtual Solutions, Joe: Reminder- please provide resources on the [AA San Jose](https://aasanjose.org) website to make autonomous decisions during covid 19. The website also holds resources for Covid 19 (public health) also. Please look at the tabs if you're unfamiliar. Full report will be put in minutes. Links in chat box. Updated meeting forms, thanks. Updated quickly, appreciated. The purpose of this committee is to be

able to provide resources on 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.

- *Please refer to the links on the Overview Tab of the “Future In Person Meetings” on the www.aasanjose.org website for more info directly from The County of Santa Clara and The State of CA. As a reminder where there is a difference between the county and the state public health orders, the more restrictive order must be followed. You will also find more information to help your meeting/group navigate reopening In Person meetings.*
- *The link for “Hybrid Meetings” has information to help your group/meeting navigate resources on how to run a Hybrid Meeting should your meeting choose to do so.*
- *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 with any questions. We are also asking you to share best practices and learnings your group may have had in regards to Hybrid meetings. We want to be able to share this info with other groups/meetings looking for meetings that have actually had success in regards to Hybrid meetings.*
- *Lastly, a reminder to utilize the "NEW/UPDATED MEETING FORM" <https://aasanjose.org/new-updated-meeting-form> to list a new or update a current meeting. This new form asks for new information not previously requested that will allow AA 's Central Office of Santa Clara County to create and maintain more accurate meeting guide listings, and to keep your group better informed about upcoming events.*

Inventory Committee, Austin: The committee has set up a robust framework for groups to perform an inventory; should we in the future decide to take that action. Over the course of the past few months, we have asked groups and members of this council for their feedback and thus far have not received any. Given that: I would ask the chair and the assembled members here to suspend or disband this committee until there is an expressed need for us to do an inventory. Thanks.

Resources are there should we ever need it. Inventory committee background: Given some controversy and disunity earlier this year, some people felt that it could be helpful for us to do an inventory. It had been many years since we had last done one. Some questions we may want to ask ourselves:

- What is our primary purpose as a council and how are we doing with that?
- When faced with a controversial issue, like earlier this year, what's the best way to deal with it?
- How can we avoid future controversy?

<https://aasanjose.org/event/inventory-assembly-kickoff>

Next 2 outreach committee reports have no chairs: **Activities** and **Newsletter** committees. These are all OPEN POSITIONS, so no reports (see below).

Presentation: Kelly T, insight on new website that's being worked on: "Why reimagine AAsanjose.org?" Achieving this purpose in a web-driven world. Challenges and solutions will be spoken about. Our currency is lives saved, that begins with newcomers. 50% alcoholics die without ever knowing AA even exists. We play a part in Santa Clara County. Newcomers can't really find us. Traffic comes from search engines. ¾ of people never click past the first page of results. How come our site is coming up on page 20 of results? 😞 If they find us, they can't see how we can help. Our resources are not visible on the web to someone who doesn't know/understand. Auto generated Google results are not very promising. Some of those webpages (links) are blank. *A strong online presence is how you get discovered.* Info should be easy to find. People usually don't trust an old website that is out dated. Our website isn't equipped to serve a larger/complex audience. This is not a simple fix. We need to optimize site navigation. Our 8th tradition supports hiring people with expertise. We rely heavily on literature sales. We need consistent and permanent solutions. Getting there means increasing engagement. Calls to action w/ repetitive donations. Tracking inventory, purchases. Tools to bridge website to accounting. Our site currently speaks to a narrow demographic. We are a diverse group! Language translations is one of the top requests. We don't show cultural representation or diversity with our current website. Reaching out across AA, we can show presence in underserved groups. Compliance: the AA website is at risk of lawsuits and fines due to non-compliance. Requirements dictate that we should show how online info is used. We lack the expertise on this. There are no privacy policies. No guidance on these practices. **SOLUTION**: reimaging our site. Let's transform our www.aasanjose.org site to a 'sticky' site. Keep coming back and keep visiting the website. Simplify giving. Educate members. **Next steps**: with help from an agency, we would like a custom/modern website with interactive experience that comes on Google search engine. We have grants. Finance info. Language translations. Full compliance. Spoke w/ vendors. \$42,000 price tag after several searches. What about 5 intergroups go together and split cost through them! That way they can tell other intergroups. We need experts to deliver the solution. We are open to thoughts and library of proposals and statistics. *Please take to meetings for group conscience.* Francine will send link. Landing page: attention Intergroup Reps: to review/revisit the new website presentation for the purpose of taking an informed group conscience, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/newaasjwebsite>

Open positions (Jaye):

1. Activities Chair: Coordinate and oversee activities sponsored by Intergroup. Act as responsible party for budget and communication of events to Santa Clara County. Also sit on ad-hoc committees for additional special activities as directed by Intergroup Chair. Attend monthly IG meeting to report on upcoming activities, ask for help with communication and build up excitement. Utilize support services through Central Office. *Sobriety Requirement: 2 years Term: 2 years is preferred*
2. Outreach Committee Chair: Coordinate the monthly Outreach Committee Workshop, held the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:45pm (prior to the Intergroup meeting) The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to encourage each meeting in Santa Clara County to have an Intergroup Rep. Committee members attend physical meetings (or Zoom meetings) to recruit Intergroup Reps. Attend the monthly Intergroup meeting to give a report on the Outreach service and ask for volunteers to attend meetings and recruit Intergroup reps., assist in maintaining the accuracy of the Santa Clara County Meeting Guide by reporting to central office any changes to individual meeting details, or meetings which are no longer in existence. *Sobriety Requirement: 2 years Term: 2 years is preferred*
3. COIN Editor: Prepares the monthly COIN issue, coordinates with Central Office regarding prepping content for printing and electronically posting the COIN on the website. Attend the monthly Intergroup meeting to give a report on the COIN, announce deadlines for the upcoming issue, and solicit articles, artwork, etc. *Sobriety Requirement: 2 years, Term: 2 years*

AlAnon Group, A'nna: Moving in compassion. The Alanon diverter main number 408.471.7034 is up and running with voicemail! Spanish and English. Use for all ananon related info resources. Also, the website is: www.scv-afg.org

H&I, Lisa: Hospitals and Institutions carries the message of Alcoholics Anonymous into jails, prisons, rehab facilities, hospitals, and other places where alcoholics cannot get out to a meeting. Your contributions into the pink can or electronically to handinorcal.org help to purchase books and literature for alcoholics who are confined. Some meetings are being held virtually but several have opened to in-person attendance. There are a few open Secretary positions and people to share their story are also needed. There are open Coordinator positions for meetings at the Evans Lane facility and Stanford Hospital. Several meetings need meeting secretaries and chair people. General Service representatives for Area 70 and Area71 are needed. Especially need Spanish speakers. Please call 408-877-4464.

Bridging the Gap, Elizabeth: 1) The coastal area/BTG rep is reaching out to Sonoma/Santa Rosa county to form a committee to help with spreading the word and a do a Fall season inventory of meetings in November. 2) The Grapevine has a podcast now. 3) 15 women will be getting out of Mariposa facility soon and BTG will offer assistance for them to go to first couple AA meetings. 4) Treasury report- \$123.00 balance.

PI/CPC- Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community, Francine: We go out and inform the public about AA and what it is, what we do, etc. Members of the PI/CPC Committee manned an information table at this event that was open to the general public, and which featured paid sponsors as well as assorted 12 step groups. Committee members addressed questions and provided free literature to those with any interest. An organization that works with incarcerated women, has asked that PI/CPC come to make a presentation to these women – date is TBD. The event was held at the

Lincoln Glen Church, and had 200+ attendees. The event went from 9:30a-230pm. There were many speakers, AA members. PI/CPC gave out literature, answered questions, etc. There were 200 in attendance (which is fewer, due to Covid). <https://www.manypathsonedestination.org/mpod-2021/> PI/CPC is really hungry for funds, they get \$250 per year from district 04 and 40. These funds are used for literature for booths, plus for facilities looking for subscriptions to the Grapevines at their locations. They need people also to secretary and serve as sponsors. See Francine for more info. Take home: *URGENT NEED for donations of GRAPEVINE Subscriptions*. Cost per subscription is \$28.97/year. Adobe Services, 8 Santa Clara facilities that house long-term homeless with rates of alcoholism more than 60%, need 3 subscriptions per facility. Please go to www.aasanjose.org/picpc to find our Venmo account to make contributions – we need to raise ~\$700! The Spanish Intergroup generously provided \$405 for multiple La Vina subscriptions – let's do what we can to ensure adequate contributions from our English-speaking intergroup meetings so that the still suffering alcoholics at Adobe Services may be introduced to A.A.'s Twelve Step program of recovery!

Sober & Free: No report

SCCYPAA: no people

Open forum: quiet

End with the responsibility statement 8:38pm