



A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Santa Clara Intergroup Central office
supports the fellowship of Alcoholic
Anonymous in Santa Clara County from
Palo Alto to Gilroy.

Come visit us at:

274 East Hamilton Ave. Suite D Campbell,
CA 95008 408-889-1001

You can now subscribe to THE COIN here:

<https://aasanjose.org/#join-email>

Welcome

May

May you be healthy

May you be happy

May you be at peace

May you feel your blessings



MAY 2025

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Step Five:

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

Step Four is our vigorous and painstaking effort to discover what these liabilities in each of us have been, and are. We want to find exactly how, when, and where our natural desires have warped us. We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves. By discovering what our emotional deformities are, we can move toward their correction. Without a will and persistent effort to do this, there can be little sobriety or contentment for us. Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith which really works in daily living is still out of reach.

Tradition Five:

“Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”



LONG FORM: Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Practice these Principles 1. Do I ever cop-out by saying, “I’m not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn’t apply to me”? 2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of A.A. help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan? 3. Have I today imposed on any A.A. member for a special favor or consideration

simply because I am a fellow alcoholic? 4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me? 5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose? 6. Do I remember that A.A. old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

MEMBER'S CORNER



*Sending a heartfelt thank you to Caprice S.,
District 40, Archives Coordinator for sharing her writing.
Please check out an invitation to write for The COIN –
submissions most welcome!*



You can help make our newsletter fresh, fun and interesting! You are invited to share a personal story, your art, a poem, a song, tell us about a challenge you overcame, a great meeting you went to – something that brings inspiration to your recovery! You can find more information on writing for The COIN here: aasanjose.org/coin

With gratitude, your COIN Editors – Jeanine M. and Jo K.

This is the first in a series of Santa Clara County A.A. group histories. If you would like to feature your home group – whether you already have a written group history or not – please contact Caprice S. at dist40archives@gmail.com.

The No Bull Big Book Group was started in early 1994 by Rob & Caprice S, Karen B, Al Bennett (deceased), and Peter Van Dam (deceased). It broke off from the Friday night Big Book meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, which was part of the We Deal with Alcohol Group. It's been said that all you need to start a new meeting in A.A. is a resentment and a coffeepot. Although the resentment is long

since forgotten, the new coffeepot was supplied by Charlie, who managed the Ace Hardware at the corner of Winchester and Pruneridge. The group first met at the Divine Science Spiritual Community Center at 1540 Hicks Road in Willow Glen. Within a year, they moved to St Francis Episcopal Church at Pine and Newport in Willow Glen, first in a room upstairs and then in the basement, to bypass coffee restrictions after a new carpet was installed.

When a mandatory stay-at-home order was issued in California on March 19, 2020, the group quickly organized an online meeting, so it continued uninterrupted

through the COVID-19 pandemic. After the stay-at-home order was lifted in 2021 - and in cooperation with the church's guidelines - in-person meetings resumed later that year. Online access is still provided for absent group members but is unpublished.

The format of the meeting is Big Book study/discussion, and the meeting type is closed. Going around the circle, each member reads a paragraph or two and then shares based on the reading. The reading starts at the *Preface*, goes through *Anonymous Number Three* and then back to the *Appendices*. The meeting starts with a 2-minute meditation and ends with a 1-minute meditation and a reading of the long version of the Serenity Prayer.

The name "No Bull" derives from the group co-founders' wish to get right into the book and to hear from as many members as possible, without a chairperson and without the readings and announcements that are customary in this area of the U.S.

In addition, clapping was eliminated, except to welcome newcomers, visitors and to celebrate birthdays. To provide A.A. news and events, announcements are posted at the literature table and are presented at the monthly business meeting. Group members include - and have included in the past - quite a few old-timers and members active in H&I, General Service, Intergroup, and Bridging the Gap. The No Bull Big Book Group has participated in the annual Santa Clara County Intergroup Chili Cookoff several times and has hosted meetings for the annual holiday Alcathon as well.

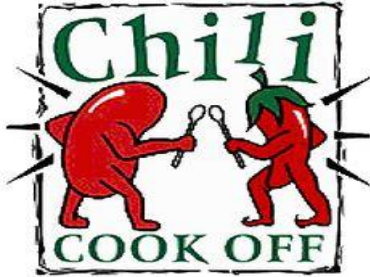
In addition, the group has several potlucks a year, held after the meeting.

The No Bull Big Book Group meets at 6:30 pm on Friday nights and welcomes newcomers.



- Caprice S., District 40
Archives Coordinator

2025 CHILI COOKOFF UPDATE



Did you attend the 17th annual Chili Cookoff?

About 300 of your AA fellows did and had a great time celebrating our homegroups and AA in Santa Clara County. Many thanks to the army of volunteers who made it happen!

The competition was fierce, no surprise. This “Battle of the Homegroups” included 14 teams from around the county. There was a great variety of delicious chili recipes. There were also different variations of the cornbread to accompany it. Last year’s winning team served root beer floats, a sweet way to finish. Some of the work that was done to make the event happen:

transport supplies to and from Central Office
table set up
running the ticket table at the door,
selling raffle tickets
baking and serving the cornbread
serving root beer floats
tallying the votes (315)
speaking to the group
cleaning up

and of course, the 14 teams who made chili and presented their delicious offerings in creative ways! Wow!

Three baskets of donated gifts were raffled off and the 50-50 raffle ticket sales totaled \$936, awarding \$468 to both the individual who had the winning ticket and to Intergroup Central Office.

The Chili Team winners are:

First place- Men's Single Problem Study, Team #4

Second place- Gilroy Group, Team #11

Third place-A Vision for You Men's meeting, Team #14

Congratulations to all—you're all winners!!



Lots of time and effort goes into having this much fun! It's all meant to bring us together, to remind us of our Second Legacy, Unity. The Intergroup events typically cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000 to put on. The Intergroup events are not meant as fundraisers. The main purpose and goal is always to promote unity among the fellowship.

At the same time, we do hope to make each event self-supporting, so a suggested amount for admission is standard. No profit motive; just aiming to cover the costs. And costs keep going up, as you may be aware. Please share this information if others are not aware, and let others know that voluntary contributions can be made any time.

Our next event, Founders' Day, will be a celebration of AA's 90th birthday. It will take place on Saturday, June 21st, at the First Congregational Church, corner of Hamilton and Leigh in Campbell. Your ideas and help are invited and needed! How about a big BBQ and a DJ for a dance in the evening? How should we celebrate, and who do you know that could help make it happen?

Please contact Intergroup Activities Coordinator, Lisa at events@aasanjose.org to be part of the fun!

One of the great ways to carry the message is telling your own stories to other alcoholics. If you have personal stories, opinion pieces, learnings, questions, thoughts, and ideas, please send your messages to The COIN.



The COIN is the Central Office Intergroup Newsletter of Santa Clara County. It is a publication forum for your personal stories celebrating sobriety and recovery. Any recovering alcoholics who want to share the message can be writers and be able to publish their writings to The Coin.

Each month of the year has a topic following the twelve steps and the twelve traditions. For example, the topic for January will be the step one and the tradition one. Stories about the twelve Concepts for the World Service are also welcome, using the same schedule. Holidays or historic events also can be good sources. For example, relationships and romance for February topics and gratitude and arms giving for November, since there are Valentines Day in February and Thanksgiving in November. June is the month A.A. was founded, so it will be a good month to write about A.A. as a community. Other special topics may be announced a month or two ahead of time.

Please write about anything related to your personal experience in sobriety. Please keep in mind to respect the anonymity of other members in your writing, and to avoid a scolding or admonishing tone.

If you hear something at a meeting that makes you see things in a different light, write about it. If you have stayed sober through a difficult experience, write about it. If there's something you really like about a particular meeting, write about it. Please share your experience, strength and hope.

Sketches, photos, art and flyers are also welcome. We want to give A.A. members a chance to publish their original artwork and photos.

A good story length is 500 words to start. We accept writings from all A.A. members, then edit them for style, correct spelling, fonts, and more. As editors, we do not change the original message.

Words have powers. There is nothing more powerful than one alcoholic sharing message to support another alcoholic. Indeed, most of us never trusted a professional about our drinking. How could they possibly know about our drinking? But we alcoholics do! We are amateurs by design.



Please do not be afraid to make your writing perfect. Keep the Twelve Traditions of A.A. and our principles in mind as you write. If you have an awesome story but are afraid of writing, then please contact The COIN editors, Jeanine and Jo. We can set up an interview, and assist you with your story.

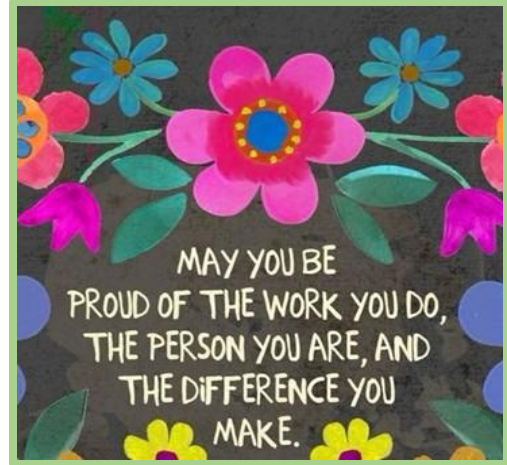
Also, please send us any information of upcoming events and flyers happening in Santa Clara County, so we can comprehensively list those in The COIN.

We hope you all have fun carrying the message and grow happy, joyous and free in sobriety. Your COIN Editors, Jeanine M. and Jo K.

We love to hear from you:
aasanjose.org/coin

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There is a volunteer match for you here in Santa Clara County! Below please find descriptions of volunteer opportunities. Detailed information can be found at: aasanjose.org You may also learn about volunteer opportunities at the monthly Intergroup Meeting – All are welcome!



Next Intergroup meeting:
Wednesday, May 7th - 7:30 to 9:00 Trinity Presbyterian Church,
3151 Union Ave, San Jose

Outreach Volunteers

Intergroup's liaison with groups and meetings

Diverter Volunteers

Providing after-hours phone coverage

12 Step Volunteers

Phone and visitation contact with callers in need

Daytime Phone Volunteers

Takes all incoming calls to Hotline

Activities Committee

Organize many great activities

Technology Committee

To make sure we all get the word out

Website Committee

Help with current and future website needs

Intergroup Representative (IGR)

Represents the group at the Intergroup meetings and reports to the group

General Service Representative (GSR)

Represents the group at District meetings and reports to the group

PI/CPC Committee Representative

Our information voice to the general public and professionals

H&I Committee Representative

Carrying the message to those confined to correctional and mental health facilities

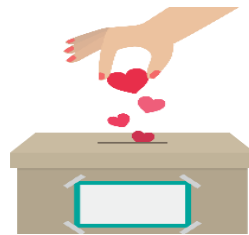
BTG Committee Representative

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



JOIN

FAITHFUL TWENTY-FIVERS!!!



Who are The Faithful Twenty-Fivers?

- ❖ **The Faithful Twenty-Fivers** are members of our Santa Clara County A.A. community who provide a **vital** contribution of only \$25.00 per month (or any amount you choose!) to help “**carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.**”

Where do contributions go?

- ❖ All contributions go **directly** to support our A.A. programs in Santa Clara County:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Twenty-four Hour Hotline▪ 12 Step Calls▪ Meeting Schedules (online and Print)▪ Sales of Literature and Sobriety Coins▪ Affordable Group Insurance Umbrella▪ Publishing of monthly Newsletter▪ Support of Outreach, Activities and Intergroup Committees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain, protect and display archive materials▪ Maintenance of the Website▪ Advertising of Fellowship Groups▪ Printing for Groups▪ Cooperation with other A.A. services such as General Services and H&I▪ New Secretary and Diverter Workshops and many other workshops |
|---|---|

How do I contribute? <https://aasanjose.org/product/faithful-fiver>



APRIL 2025 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Group Contributions/Intergroup Central Office April 2025

Transaction date	Name	Amount
04/01/2025	In the Solution 647 (Sat.)	299.60
04/03/2025	3rd Steppers Book Study (Wom) 610 (Thur.)	732.62
04/03/2025	One Day at a Time 70903	783.31
04/04/2025	Reflections and Meditation 517 (Tues)	109.20
04/04/2025	There Is a Solution (Men) MH 732 (Thur)	840.00
04/05/2025	Step Study (Women) LG 820 (Wed.)	193.90
04/06/2025	8 pm Nightly Meeting ID80030	374.86
04/09/2025	Chips and Dyps (Chips) 559 (Tues.)	30.00
04/09/2025	Sufficient Substitute 313	749.00
04/09/2025	Sufficient Substitute 313	750.00
04/11/2025	Spiritual Progress Group [ID70979]	2,500.00
04/12/2025	Chip Winners (Chips) 168 (Wed.)	76.00
04/12/2025	California Ave. Supper Group 715 (Thur.)	102.20
04/12/2025	Midday Women's Group 91 (Mon.)	115.00
04/12/2025	10 10 Online 485	1,461.00
04/12/2025	Cambrian Saturday Night (Chips) 376 (Sat)	1,034.00
04/12/2025	Mountain View Group 350 (Sat.)	192.50
04/12/2025	South Valley Women' s Surrender 88 (Mon.)	87.61
04/14/2025	HOW Group 71 (Mon.)	415.00
04/14/2025	Tuesday Step (ID80034}	210.00
04/14/2025	A Vision for You Women's 802 (Tues.)	105.00
04/14/2025	The Amethyst Group ID80035 Wed 7PM	350.00
04/16/2025	Men's Single Problem Study 89 (Mon.)	300.00
04/16/2025	Living Solutions 728 (Fri.)	300.00
04/21/2025	Cornerstone Fellowship Group 70908	140.00
04/21/2025	Get Up and Go (Women) 187 (Sat.)	1,219.00
04/21/2025	Gathered Together for Sobriety	18.00
04/28/2025	Saturday Morning Los Gatos	588.44
04/28/2025	Forged From Adversity	293.25
04/28/2025	Think Tank	491.00
Total		\$15,275.49

"Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us – the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. Literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A."

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Check out upcoming fellowship events
happening in Santa Clara County – Karaoke
Night in Gilroy, AA Founder's Day in June*

There are friends,
there is family, and
then there are friends
that become family.

 *2025 Schedule of Intergroup Events*

SAVE THE DATES!

Please consider when scheduling your meeting or Group activities

Saturday April 26th	Chili Cookoff
Saturday June 21st	Founder's Day 90th Birthday Celebration
Saturday October 11th	Take Your Sponsor to Brunch
Saturday December 3rd	Intergroup Holiday Potluck

Hosted By Central Office:

Saturday December 13th	Holiday Tamale Party/ Open House
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GO TO AASANJOSE.ORG/EVENTS FOR FLYERS AND DETAILS. VOLUNTEER TO HELP BY
EMAIL: EVENTS@AASANJOSE.ORG
TEXT: 408-807-4443



SAVE THE DATE!

AA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!

Party time!
Saturday, June 21st
Details coming soon



Volunteers needed and appreciated! Contact:
events@aasanjose.org

MEETING UPDATES

Do you have an update to your meeting? Is your group celebrating a milestone? Let us know here:

aasanjose.org/coin



NEW TIME NEW ROOM NEW VIBE

The Best Coffee in ACA, if not the Next Cup is Free!

**Tuesday Night Saratoga Group
Tuesday at 7:15 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070**

<https://zoom.us/j/914259962+16699009128,,914259962#>

**A Hybrid Meeting Both In Person and Zoom
One of the Older Groups in SCC
Bob S Started the Group on December 1963**

Come and Join us



NEW AA MEETINGS

At Alano Club West

Monday 6:00PM - Last House on the Block

Tuesday 5:00PM - No Bull South Women's Big Book

Tuesday 6:30PM - Old School (Men)

Wednesday 12noon - 12 Steps and 12 Traditions (women)

Wednesday 5:00PM - Sunlight of the Spirit

Thursday 7:30PM - The Knuckleheads (Men)

Friday 7:30AM - Positive Mental Attitude

Friday 6:30PM - Living Solutions

Saturday 10:30AM - Sobriety on a Dime (Women)

Saturday 7:00PM - Last Saturday Monthly Birthday

Sunday 4:00PM - South Side Secular

Sunday 6:00PM - Ripple Effect - Big Book

Alano Club West

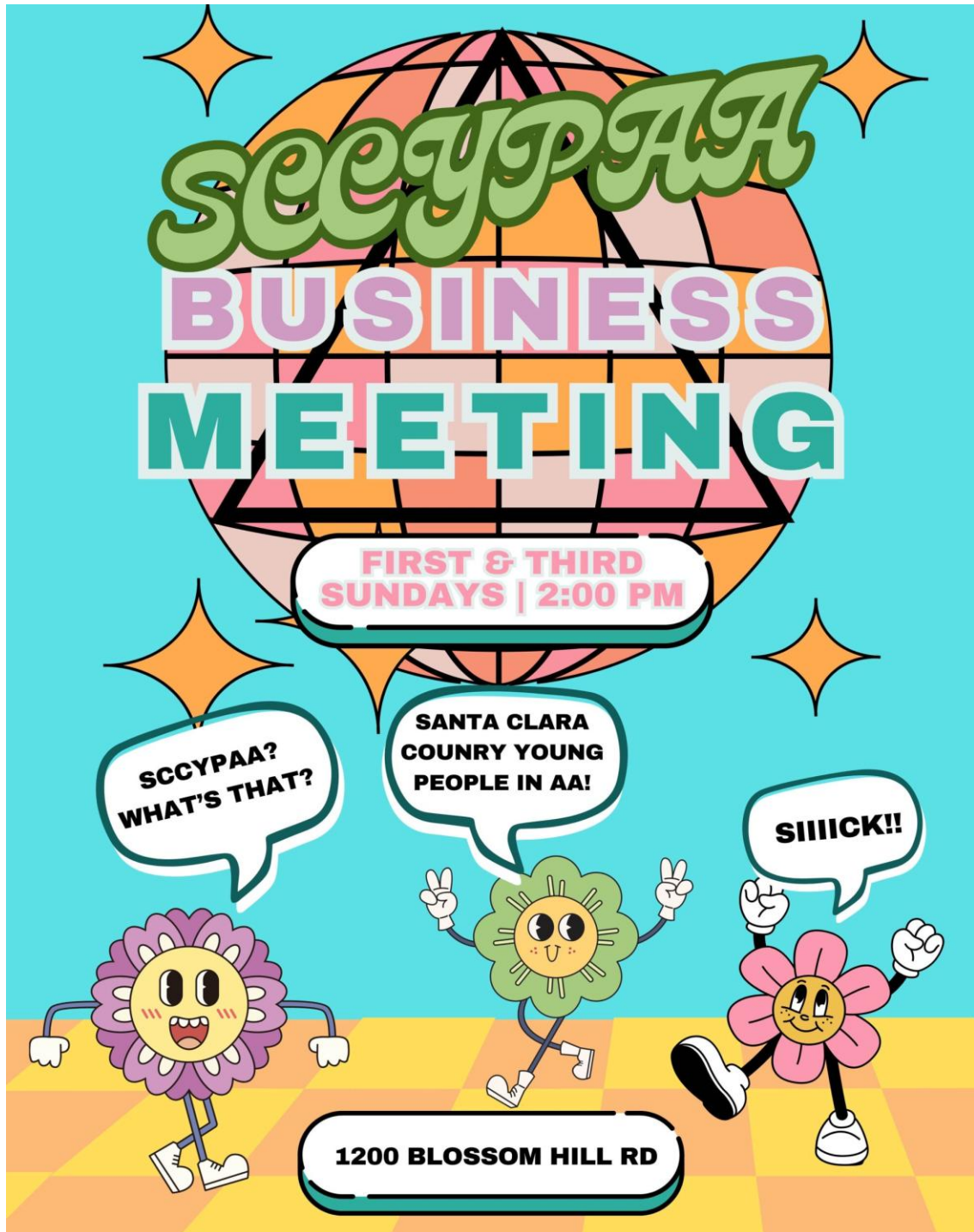
5671 Santa Teresa Blvd Suite 108

San Jose CA 95123

***Beautiful Meeting Space**

***Plenty of Parking**

***Bring a friend and join us**

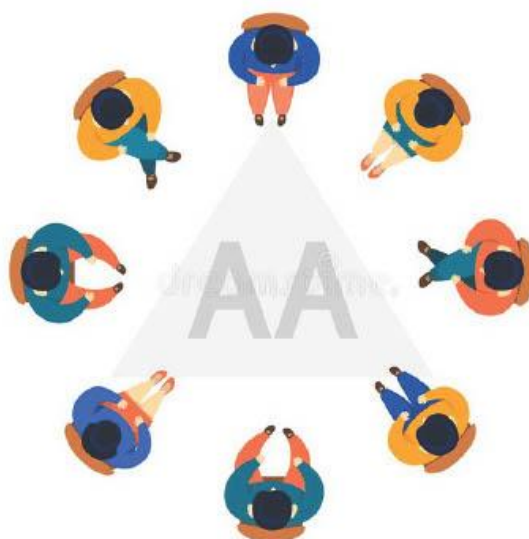




District 04/CNCA 06

Safety and Inclusion Committee Meeting

**Every 4th Wednesday of the Month
7 to 8pm**



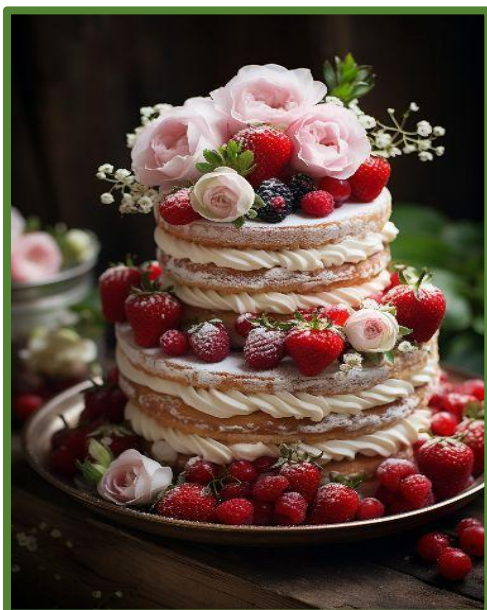
On Zoom: 884 5128 7850

Passcode: Safety

district04cnca.org/safety-committee/

APRIL 2025 BIRTHDAYS

<i>Birthday Celebrant</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Birthday</i>	<i>Number of years</i>
Alex C.	John S.	04/01/2019	6
Paula D.	John S.	04/10/2008	17
Tuo C.	John S.	04/14/2023	2
Glenn C.	John S.	04/29/2018	7
Katie W.	John S.	04/30/2008	17
Cathy N.	MaryPat P.	04/15/2010	15
Rob S.	Caprice S.	04/22/1980	45
TOTAL YEARS			109



CONGRATULATIONS ON 109 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!!

Birthdays are listed in recognition of contributions made directly to the 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 use the birthday forms found at your meeting, at the Santa Clara Central Office, or on-line at

<https://aasanjose.org/contributions>

SANTA CLARA CENTRAL OFFICE RESOURCES

**The Santa Clara Intergroup
Central Office supports the
fellowship of Alcoholic
Anonymous in Santa Clara County,
serving communities from Palo Alto to
Gilroy.**

Executive Director, Central Office Lead:
Jody W.

**Our Santa Clara Central Office
offers a bounty of support
resources including books,
literature, videos, and coins. Their
website provides detailed
information on Meetings, Events,
Financials/Meeting Minutes and
Intergroup updates. You can find
them at: <https://aasanjose.org>**

For the love of our Primary Purpose, please encourage other A.A. members to subscribe to **The COIN**. Drop our subscription in the chat at your meetings and please tell your members to subscribe to stay in the know on what's happening with Santa Clara A.A.
<https://aasanjose.org/coin>

The COIN is published on behalf of the Santa Clara County Intergroup Service Group of Alcohol's Anonymous (Intergroup). Opinions expressed are the

writer's and publication of any article, event, or other information does not imply endorsement of Alcohol Anonymous, Intergroup or the Central Office.

Quotations from A.A. books, pamphlets, and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

The COIN is the Central Office Intergroup Newsletter. It is what the A.A. Fact Files calls "A.A. Literature Prepared by Local Groups." The opinions are those of the individual authors and may or may not be representative of A.A. as a whole."

<https://aasanjose.org>

Phone: 408-889-1001

