

FOCUS: Doing for Others (Being In Service)

In a meeting I attended today, I was asked why I was there. I had a simple answer, "Because I know I can't do it alone. None of us can."



Our program is based on one alcoholic helping another. One of our main tenets says, "We are responsible. When anyone anywhere reaches out

for help, we want the hand of AA and of Al-Anon to always be there. And for that, we are responsible."

Personally, I never forget that responsibility. I try to help whenever someone is in need.

In meetings, I go to the newcomer and ask if there is anything they need. I see if they have a meeting guide, if they have questions, and or just want

Because I know
I can't do it alone.

to talk. I remember that so many kind people approached me, and their care meant a lot.

If someone asks for my number, I willingly give it. If they call, I make sure I speak with them, and follow up on their questions or their need to just talk.

I never forget how much help, advice and support that I have received from many special men and women, and I want to give back for all I received.

continued on page 4 column 1

Monthly Topics

Here's Lookin' at You!! This month's Featured Meeting is the Serenity First Fellowship in San Jose meeting at 6th and Julian Streets, with twenty-two meetings a week being held in the same location at various times. Look for the story starting on Page 2.

This month our focus is on "Doing for Others" -- Being in Service. Stories begin on this page and continue on Page 4.

May's topic will be a humdinger: **Controlling Your Temper** (Altered Attitude, or "No More Road Rage.") How do you change that "First Thought Out of the Chute" mindset? When someone pushes your buttons beyond the extreme, how do you handle it now, compared to early in sobriety? What makes your thinking CHANGE nowadays? Write your stories and send them in as soon as possible to ODAATCOIN@yahoo.com. The COIN Central Office Intergroup Newsletter Deadline is April 18th. We look forward to hearing YOUR stories!

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FEATURE: Serenity First Fellowship (or the 6th & Julian Meeting)



The official name of the group is the Serenity First Fellowship, but it is also known as the “6th & Julian Meeting.” The location became the meeting nickname for the group, although it didn’t start there.

It is estimated that this fellowship had its beginning in the year 1970. Originally known as The All Amigos Group (not the All Amigos Club, a separate entity) of San Jose, it met on North First Street across from Four Wheel Brakes (diagonal from the downtown Post Office and near St. James Park to the north.) From there, they moved to another location on 1st Street, close to the 5 Spot Restaurant, where meetings were held on the 2nd floor of the building.

After 5 years, they moved to Park and Cleaves, and from there went to the Indian Center on The Alameda, just around the corner and a block or so north. It was from this last location

that Victoria, one of the members of this particular group, moved the meeting over to 6th & Julian, and changed the name to the Serenity First Fellowship.

That’s where it finally found its current home of the last 20 years.

There were eleven meetings a week there in 1998, including a closed Women’s Meeting on Sunday morning. The meetings at that time were very small and comfortable.

To honor the original fellowship name, All Amigos Group, they named the Thursday noon meeting “All Amigos.” Each of the current 22 meetings per week at the Serenity First Fellowship has a different name, all fitting and appropriate for Alcoholics Anonymous meeting names.

When Victoria, the woman who originated the Serenity First Fellowship by bringing the All Amigos group to 6th & Julian, left the group due to an upcoming surgery, one of the men and his sponsor took it over. Ernie B. and Zip Z. started a Steering Committee, voted in a Meeting Coordinator and other committee members, and developed the schedule of meetings as they appear today. Although attendance was sparse at first, slowly but surely, it started to grow to where it is today...a full house, at some 6 PM Meetings. (The room holds 65.)

Along with the growth, people became interested in being of service, participating in the Steering Committee and serving on it, and becoming meeting secretaries. The “spirit of rotation” can now be the order of business, with a rotation of officers every 2 years. People came

to stay. They participated in organizing the new events.

In 2005, the Steering Committee voted in more meetings so that there are currently 21 open meetings a week -- three a day: Noon, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. There is a Closed Women’s Meeting at 1:30 pm on Sundays.

The Monday noon meeting is a Big Book Study meeting, and the 8 PM meeting is a Step/Tradition study using the 12x12. Every Friday is “Chip Night” at the 8 PM meeting, celebrating milestones of sobriety.

An open Steering Committee meets

continued on next page

Serenity First Fellowship continued from previous page

the 2nd Saturday of every month, 15 minutes after the noon meeting ends, and everyone is welcome to attend. They have now incorporated a Secretaries' Workshop on the first Saturday of the month, an hour before the noon meeting.

Many, many service positions are available at this Fellowship, and over the years it has grown from being a meeting with little participation to one where most people feel glad to be a part of it.

2005 also saw the first Holiday Alcohols, and in 2006, the first 4th of July Barbecue took place, in the back parking lot. Several people brought their own barbecues. Later that year, they held their first Thanksgiving and Christmas potlucks. A popular item was "deep fried" turkeys, also cooked in the back parking lot. People in the Fellowship volunteer to roast turkeys in their home ovens and bring them over for carving. The food is served in the afternoon from 1 to 3 PM on the main floor in the multi-purpose room, which has continued every year except 2010. Conveniently, the fireman's kitchen is still usable for the pot lucks where the food can be assembled and readied for serving. The Alcahthon/Potluck meetings start at 9 AM, take a break at 12:30 and then resume again at 3:30 PM with half-hour breaks between each meeting, ending at/near midnight.

When you get to N. 6th Street & Julian, you will find an old yellow firehouse which became available when the Fire Department moved to a new facility on 17th & Santa Clara Street. Upstairs is where the AA meeting room is, in what was the



fireman's sleeping dormitory room. The address is 304 N. 6th Street, at Julian (upstairs/please use the back door-facing parking lot to enter/exit).

In 2012 the Serenity First Fellowship had its first Valentine's Dance on the evening of February 11th after the 8 PM meeting.

This is a strong, working Fellowship... with a real bond between the generations of the members...from the youngest to the oldest...age 18 to 81, one day of sobriety to 10,000+ days of sobriety. Everyone has respect for each other, treating each other with dignity. Heartbreak as well as joy is shared at the podium, as the road to happy destiny is trudged together... one with another...at the Serenity First Fellowship.

Danette G. San Jose

SNL: SPEAKERS

April 13, Doug N., San Jose
9 Years

April 20, Marti M., SNL
26 Years

April 27, Rob, SNL, 11 Years

Birthday Night
April 28, Charlene S., Campbell
7 Years

REMEMBER WE DEAL WITH ALCOHOL: SPEAKERS

April 7, Miki S., San Jose
5 Years

April 14, Keith O., SNL
22 Years

April 21, Chuck G., San Jose
30 Years

April 28, Theresa L., SNL
5 Years

Doing for Others (Being In service) continued from page 1

I sign up for what service commitments I can, I make snacks, volunteer at the Central Office, and help celebrate sobriety birthdays. I also share information about impactful recovery books and materials that have been meaningful to me.

Outside of AA, I help out at my church, volunteer to help pack food at the Second Harvest Food Bank, and donate to charities in need.

I make flower arrangements for a local convalescent home, to bring seniors some cheer.

I don't do anything for others to get something for myself. I do it because it makes me feel good, makes me not focus only on myself, and hopefully pays back all the AA members whom

have been there for me.

Certainly, economic times are hard, people are out of work, but helping others doesn't cost a thing but our time!

What I do are small things, but there are so many other options for service available to all of us.

Here are some suggestions:

- Adopt a senior and gain an instant grandparent
- If you have a social pet, volunteer to bring it to hospitals. Pets have great healing properties
- Participate in AA-related events, help where you can
- Sponsor other members

- If you have many years of sobriety, share your wisdom and start a support group
- Read to the blind
- Maintain an AA service commitment of some sort
- If you qualify, sign up for visiting hospitals, institutions and rehabilitation facilities
- Be creative; think of something that you'd enjoy doing and find rewarding!

Whether it is a chairperson, a speaker, a sponsor, or a member of AA, we are in service to each other and should never forget it!

Corrine D.

Helping Others

"Oh I hate the topic of helping others and service." How Goodie two shoes! Are you trying to make brownie points, or what? Don't you know I'm an alcoholic and my favorite topic is me, myself and I? How in the world could I possibly have time for anyone else? Don't you know I am 'restless, irritable and discontent?' Since becoming a member of AA, my friends say I need to change my attitude if I want to feel better and stay sober. They say my job as a sober person requires that I provide service both inside the program and outside..

With help from my home group and my 'posse' I have discovered that simply attending meetings can be 'service.' If no one shows up for the meeting, there won't be a group who can share sobriety with the struggling newcomer.

If I attend the meeting, thinking about what I can give, rather than what I can receive I will find several

ways to help others. I can break out of my self-centered shyness and speak to someone I don't recognize. I can study the faces of members and see if someone's expression reveals a new sadness, pain, worry. An ear that just listens, no fixing necessary, is a treasure wherever it is found.

I believe service needs to be highly individualized. What I can do, how I can be of assistance depends on what my gifts and talents are. I am a cook I can bring a treat to a meeting. Others of us plumb, garden, arrange flowers, knit, craft, make cards and send them, give awesome parties. AA, the World, provides space for all our gifts.

Some folks have the gift of wisdom and understanding. These are the people who make solid, trustworthy sponsors. We are blessed when they are the speakers at meetings. The gift of humor and laughter seems to lighten the load of negativity and unforgiveness some members carry

As our sobriety continues we discover that not only those in AA need our loving service and assistance but that our families, our neighbors and our community can always use one more helping person. Really, much as I hate to admit it, the ways of service are numerous. We all appreciate smiles. Try one on someone you don't even know. Even if the recipient doesn't respond, I find I always feel better. A phone call seems so simple and to someone who is elderly or ill it means so much.

In spite of myself I must admit that service does make a huge difference in my life. It works best for me if I take the opportunities as they pop up. I say, "Yes," when asked to do something. The Eleventh Step can provide a huge service: Pray for us all, sober or not.

Anonymous 3

DOING FOR OTHERS: (Service)

When I was a kid, the idea of being a “candy striper” in a hospital looked so charming in the magazine ads, I thought I was sure I’d want to do that when I was old enough. But after babysitting many years for only \$.50 an hour, and the time came as a 16-year-old to get a job in a hospital, I was past working as an unpaid laborer. Making the minimum wage of \$1.40 an hour was a huge sum of money to me. I’d take pay.

After that, I wanted to be paid for everything I did, and when I encountered people who were willing to donate articles or work for a cause, I scoffed. My parents had been part of their church for my entire life, and as part of their service to the church, they both volunteered serving food or baking for church functions, cleaning up the church after hours, leading Sunday School classes or youth groups, or helping the pastor with things he needed done. They always had weekly things to do for the church. They were a part of their church, and there was never a question of that.

Later on, I knew bosses and co-workers who donated time & resources to things, but by that time I’d bought into the idea of being paid what I was “worth” and, by golly, I would be PAID for my work! However, once I stopped drinking, the world slid backwards and I had to re-examine all my motives for everything.

It started small. My parents had always taught us to pick up after ourselves, so picking up empty coffee cups or emptying ashtrays from the meeting tables was a simple exercise, largely going unnoticed, but I knew I was “contributing.” Then I was reluctant but available to speak, and although initially scary, my choking

and stuttering subsided fairly quickly. Then I thought I knew everything, which was pointed out when I blathered on for 45 minutes to chair my first meeting: I didn’t need to recount every detail of my life. Then it was becoming a secretary, making that meeting a priority, with an extra hour or two to set up and clean up, and extra time in the week to be sure I had a chairperson. I had to ensure that it was all right, and I wasn’t left with loose ends for anyone to complain about. I didn’t want criticism. I wanted to do it perfectly.

So having another duty after being the secretary became relatively easy to volunteer for. Other jobs were always available, and every

six months positions would open. I picked those I thought would be the least difficult -- like the “meeting attendance list-keeper” -- a simple task that I could finalize when I was away from the meeting, making copies and returning them after the meeting had started. Literature, H&I cans, greeter, coffee maker, refreshment person (donuts, cookies, or cheese & crackers) – these were all jobs I never wanted to volunteer for, but I saw that service was a critical way to become part of the “in crowd.” I’d never been part of the “in crowd” before, and this was my chance to shine. Every meeting had more opportunities to be of service, and just putting chairs away at every meeting is an opportunity to be of service.

Is this a big deal? No. But if no one does any of it, it is a lot of work for one person (namely, the secretary) to do alone.

We in AA find that through the Steps we never have to do anything alone.

That includes the grunt work. We can ask for help. We can do many things as a team that we never knew we could get done, either alone or together. All my life I listened and took mental notes as to how I didn’t want to do things, repeating patterns of my parents or others I didn’t appreciate.

What I didn’t realize was that my folks were teaching me all along how to be a valuable member of “society,” and what I learned in AA was that THIS was the society I wanted to belong to. From working the 12 Steps

of AA, I learned how to live my life in a completely different way, and to follow direc-

tions, doing the steps with a sponsor to find out what my life can look like without burying my feelings with alcohol or drugs.

I was ill-equipped until I got to these rooms. And here, with the help of others, I listen to what they tell me and I follow their examples. In early sobriety, I appreciated having a greeter at a meeting. Now others appreciate it if I greet them at a meeting. I help in any way I can. I am doing for others and getting paid for it with my continuous sobriety. I make meals for potlucks and donating my time. I don’t mind buying cookies or snacks or whatever is needed. I am a human being, doing for others, and I love my life in sobriety. It is an honor and a privilege to serve.

Anonymous - 1

I appreciated having a greeter at a meeting.

Editor's Bag

April -- the "Flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la!"-- the month of hope, of sunshine and colorful blooms bursting everywhere, of knowing that here is not only the celebration of Easter with all its good news, but Spring, Spring, Spring! New everything, from frocks and hats and styles for both gals and guys, to new gadgets & toys -- electronics, phones and TVs in 3D. A new life -- all without morbidity and inebriation.

I always loved this time of year, right before my belly-button birthday, and somehow I managed to quit drinking on Good Friday 25 years ago. (Due to a goodly stash of Mary Janes, however, my official AA anniversary is a mere 24 years ago.) But I still think of Good Friday as my official "Ultimate Sacrifice Day." Without alcohol I thought I wouldn't survive. Little did I know. How could we ever see what we would find once we lost our "things" as we knew them?

I've heard from a bunch of people since I've been in this hot seat, and everyone has been incredible with their ideas and stories. It's okay not to agree with me, just so you know, but I want to hear YOUR stories. Your favorite part of being sober, your hardest thing to cope

with, your favorite meeting, the meeting you love to hate (we may not publish that, but you will have gotten it off your chest! I used to hate a meeting in Sunnyvale, but it lost its impact after a short time, once I stopped going to it.) Check out the upcoming attraction topics, and if you don't like any of those, write about something else. I read everything! Maybe we'll use it as our next topic.

Fran



Topics Upcoming:

June` Being An Example in AA (Pass It On)
July Biting the Bullet (Acceptance)
August Not Blaming Others (Step 10)

May 23, 2012

June 20, 2012

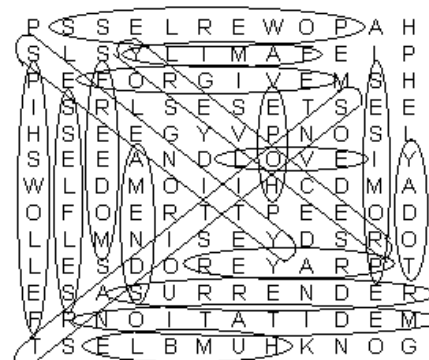
July 18, 2012



COIN Production — Editor: Fran D.; Layout & Design: Brian M.; Photography: Richard U.; Anagram - Monica H.

HELP WANTED: If you would like to write of your experiences or become part of the COIN staff and help in finding people to write of their experiences or if you would like to flex your own creative juices and receive writing assignments, then please contact the COIN editor at odaatcoin@yahoo.com.

ANSWERS
to last month's
puzzle



| | |
|------------|------------|
| AMENDS | POWERLESS |
| FAMILY | PRAYER |
| FELLOWSHIP | PROMISES |
| FORGIVE | RECOVERY |
| FREEDOM | SELFLESS |
| HOPE | SERENITY |
| HUMBLE | SURRENDER |
| LOVE | TODAY |
| MEDITATION | TRADITIONS |



Doing for Others

Life can't be just about me if I want to stay sober and grateful. It was at a spiritual retreat that I heard, for the first time, that each day I had to think about somebody else's welfare instead of my own, in order to keep my sobriety. This personal challenge has continued to make my days and my life more interesting and meaningful.

Here are some things that my Higher Power (or another person) has nudged me to do:

I love to cook again. When preparing a large casserole or soup and then setting it aside for meal size portions for freezing, I label one of these containers for an ill program friend. My therapist, also in recovery, suggested that I become more social and welcoming and get back to "social cooking" by inviting some good friends for a home cooked meal. So, my "Ladies in their 80's" friends, whom I enjoy immensely, are invited for dinner or lunch three times a year.

I look forward to the "before" process of getting out the old, mismatched table cloth and napkins, the colored candles, and flowered plates for our own "happy meal." It feels great to have these dear, wise ladies as friends and to have such appreciative and easy eaters to shop and cook for. Prior to this, I had become lazy in the food prep department as I waited for my Higher Power to deliver the next boyfriend to cook for. Well, it was time to stop waiting, and to start reading recipes again.

Cooking at home for others has great side benefits, like making me truly want to clean both my sticky refrigerator and cluttered house. Cooking for program potlucks has also been good for me, because I have made a commitment to cook for and eat with people I may not know; these group "social cooking" events have always been very positive.

Six months ago, I joined a small knitting group with national connections. (I had put down my knitting needles about the time I had picked up a bottle of Budweiser beer in college.) The one-pattern-for-all children's sweaters that we knit are sent to World Vision, and then dispersed to orphanages, Indian reservations and refugee camps. Knitting a few rows each day on the latest sweater, praying for the child who will wear it, and choosing bright, colorful yarns all make me very happy. Donating a homespun, warm sweater to a cold, lonely child is an action that warms me too.

Our church collects groceries once a month for local community service agencies. I keep this in mind while shopping for groceries each week; into my basket I throw a can or a box of something for my monthly brown bag donation. A few times, I have stopped by an agency to deliver extra canned goods. I have even driven AA members to one of these local agencies for free groceries; they did not turn us away. Great news, right?

If I start running out of 'doing for others' ideas, I say a prayer for someone in my life, call someone to let them know I care about them, send a handwritten note to a family member or friend, put some more 'contact me' cards in my wallet to hand out to those new gals; or simply open a door for a stranger.

Sometimes, I show up at a meeting when I don't feel like it, because I know newcomers will be there. And, occasionally, I don my red apron and bake brownies to take to my home group.

Most recently, I have found myself doing for others in the form of nursing my little dachshund (an in-recovery Christmas gift from siblings) whose back legs recently became

paralyzed. Rather than put this young dog to sleep, I am providing good medical, chiropractic, and round-the-clock care to support his possible walking again.

This has been an amazing journey thus far. Nothing about this almost-month-long vigil would have happened before I got sober. I was a non-dog person; had no patience for or interest in the sick and wounded (on either two or four legs); and I resented any of my money going anywhere but for my own personal pleasures such as, well, bar drinking -- for instance. Today, I gladly give and spend to improve the quality of this sweet dog's life. Look what others have given and spent on me over the years to improve my alcohol-disabled life!

Doing for others, whether they stand on two legs or four, in AA or not, has been a fantastically rewarding experience. Because I was ready, I have been able to feel the nudges from my Higher Power to take the actions I've mentioned here.

I have found that the more I do for others, the better I feel about me, and then the more I want to do for others. It's a circular experience of love and service, and I am grateful to be able to do it. It's investing a little bit more in my sobriety's insurance policy. Now you try it. You'll see what I mean.

Anonymous :- 2



I am responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,

I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that: I am responsible.



Please join us at the

Saturday Nite Live Group's Annual Sponsorship Workshop

This is a four-part workshop that will use the chapter, "Working with Others" as a guide for members to share their experience, strength, and hope regarding the topic of sponsorship. Our aim is to solve common problems by finding common solutions using our basic text as a reference for carrying the message to those still suffering from alcoholism.

The Workshops will be held at The Saturday Nite Live Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, located at 1388 Bascom Ave. San Jose, CA (at Stokes). Meeting time is **5-6pm** on the dates listed below along with the pages we will be reviewing.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| January 15 ... 5pm-6pm | Pages 89-93 |
| March 18 ... 5pm-6pm | Pages 93-97 |
| May 20 ... 5pm-6pm | Pages 97-101 |
| July 15 ... 5pm-6pm | Pages 101-103 |

ARCHIVES CORNER

1. The day after Bill W. had his religious experience his sponsor Ebby T. brought him a copy of "The Varieties of Religious Experience" by William James. Bill read it all while he was still in the hospital. In this book the author covers things like healthy mindedness and conversion. "James combines both a positive approach to religion and a non-dogmatic and thoroughly empirical approach to the religious life." (Reinhold Niebuhr)

This seems to be the first thing that Bill was exposed to after his religious experience and it probably had some effect in his approach to the idea of having one's own concept of a Higher Power. Bill writes in AA Comes of Age, "Complete hopelessness and deflation at depth were almost always required to make the recipient ready."

2. Bill had learned from Ebby that carrying his experience with sobriety to others would be the way to stay sober and do good for all alcoholics. He attempted to do this but had no success and complained to Dr. Silkworth that he was having no results. Dr. Silkworth said that he thought the problem might be that Bill was pushing the mysterious spiritual experience that he had and very few people experienced or understood what he was talking about. The Doctor told Bill that it might be better for him to tell them about the dual nature of their problem, the mental obsession and the physical allergy and then maybe they would realize that they needed the help of a Higher Power to solve their dilemma. This idea Bill first used on

Doctor Bob with gradual success.

3. On June 7, 1967 Bill W. wrote the following letter to a friend: "I am beginning to see that all my troubles have their root in a habitual and absolute dependence upon my personal prestige, security and romantic attachment. When these things go wrong there is depression. Now this absolute dependence upon people and situations for emotional security is I think the immense and devastating fallacy that makes us miserable.

This craving for such dependencies, this utter dependence upon people and situations, can only lead to conflict, both on the surface and at depth. We are making demands on circumstances and people that are bound to fail us. The only safe and sure channel of absolute dependence is upon God himself."

SATURDAY NITE LIVE 2012 Event Calendar

APRIL: Saturday, April 21, 3:30 - 5:30PM
Tile Painting/Pizza Party

MAY: Saturday, May 12, Times TBA
Anniversary Picnic, Vasona Park-Lakeview Area

JUNE: Saturday, June 16, 3:30 - 5:30PM
Ice Cream Sundaes/Float Social

JULY: Saturday, July 21, 9:30PM - 12:30AM
Sock Hop (50's Nite)

AUGUST: Times and Date TBA
SNL Thank you Picnic

OCTOBER: Saturday, October 20, 9:30PM - 12:30AM
Halloween Dance/Costume Party

DECEMBER: Monday, December 31, Times TBA
New Year's Eve Talent/No Talent Show

April 2012

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|--|--|----------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 SCCPAA BUSINESS MEETING 6:30pm | 4 PI/CPC WORKSHOP: 5:30 PI/CPC MEETING: 6pm OUTREACH MTG: 5:45pm INTERGROUP MTG: 7:30pm this is a new location. | 5 | 6 | 7 SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office ARCHIVES WORK DAY 11:15am, Central Office |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 NORTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:30pm | 12 | 13 | 14 PICPC Workshop 10am, Central Office |
| 15 | 16 BRIDGING THE GAP MEETING: 7:00pm 1980 E. Hamilton Ave., SJ | 17 SOUTH COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE MEETING 7:00pm | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 DIVERTER/12TH STEPPERS WORKSHOP 10am, Central Office |
| 22 | 23 | 24 H & I COMMITTEE 7:00pm | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | <div> <div>March 2012</div> <div> <div>1 2 3</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>May 2012</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 1</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28 29 30 31</div> </div> </div> | |

LOCAL EVENTS

Apr. 21 Saturday Nite Live Tile Painting and Pizza Party, 3:30-5:30PM, 1388 S. Bascom Ave., San Jose
 Apr. 27-29 Sober & Free Conference, San Jose Hilton, 300 Almaden Ave., San Jose. www.soberandfree.org
 June 9 Early Bird Group of AA's 2nd Annual BBQ at Kelly Park, 10AM-4PM, 1300 Senter Rd., San Jose
 June 16 Traditions Workshop, Gilroy Group of AA, 7511 Gourmet Ave., Gilroy

EVENTS AROUND CALIFORNIA

Apr. 14 & 15 CNCA Pre-Conference Assembly 2012, Lake County Fairgrounds, 401 Martin St., Lakeport
 Apr. 27 & 28 24th Indian Wells Valley AA Roundup, Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Redgecrest. www.orgsites.com/ca/iwvroundup
 May 18-20 41st Annual Hospitals & Institutions Conference, Senior Citizens Hall, 2290 Benton Dr., Redding, 96003
 June 22-24 22nd Annual June Lake Kampvention, 1278 N. Eastbury Ave., Covina. www.kampventionjunelake.org

May 2012

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| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | April 2012 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | June 2012 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

WE WANT TO HELP YOU SPREAD THE WORD!!

Please send news and information about your group's activities before the end of the month
So we can get them in the COIN. We accept them in any form,
But emailing a flyer is best: aasanjose@comcast.net

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND GLOBE

Apr. 19-22 2012 International Men's Conference, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. www.iaamclasvegas.org
May 11-13 1st Annual Coeur d'Alene Convention of AA, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID. www.cdacconvention.org
May 17-20 28th Annual Tri-State Round-up, Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino, Laughlin, NV. www.tristate-roundup.com
May 31-Jun. 3 MauiFest VIII, Hawaii. www.mauifest.org

Telephone Calls Received During March 2012

Daytime at Central Office.....379
Daytime 12 Step Calls.....6
(Evening 12 Step Call information is not available.)

An average of just over 8,000 hits are
made on our website each month!!

I AM RESPONSIBLE...
WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE,
REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A.
ALWAYS TO BE THERE.
AND FOR THAT: I AM RESPONSIBLE.

To all the members and groups who support us,
WE THANK YOU!

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Grapevine Speakers Meeting
Fridays at 8 p.m.
Presbyterian Church
San Tomas & Homestead, Santa Clara

Second Tradition Group of AA
Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Lincoln Glen Church, 2700 Booksin Ave, San Jose

Remember We Deal With Alcohol
Saturdays at 8 p.m.
St. Mark's Church
1957 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara

Saturday Nite Live Group
Fridays at 8 p.m.
1388 S. Bascom at Stokes, San Jose

Speaker Meeting—VA Hospital
Sunday at 11:15 a.m.
3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto

Saturday Morning Fellowship
Saturday at 10 a.m.
United Presbyterian Church
Fremont & Hollenbeck, Sunnyvale

MEETING CHANGES

NEW

Women's Candlelight Big Book Discussion: Thurs., 6:00PM, Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center, 17000 Monterey Rd., Morgan Hill.

Women's Step Topics: Thurs., 6:00PM, First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave., Room 8, San Jose.

Split the Difference: Sun. 7:30PM, Winchester Fellowship, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1224 Winchester Blvd. (at Tulip Ave.), Santa Clara.

It Works It Really Does (Women's Meeting): Mon. 10:30AM, Center for Training & Careers, 749 Story Road-Assembly Room, San Jose.

The Firing Line (Men's Meeting): Mon. 8:00PM, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Ave., San Jose.

CHANGED

**Intergroup Council Meeting: 7:30PM, First Wed. of each month, Queen of Apostles School, 4950 Mitty Way, San Jose. Meeting location has moved to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Ave., San Jose (near Foxworthy Ave.).

**PI/CPC Committee Meeting: 6:00PM, First Wed. of each month, Queen of Apostles School, 4950 Mitty Way, San Jose. Meeting location has moved to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3151 Union Ave., San Jose (near Foxworthy Ave.).

Tuesday Noon Step Study: Tues., 12 noon, By the Book Group, St. Mark's Church, 1957 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara. Meeting has moved to Chinese for Christ Church, 425 Williams Rd., Santa Clara.

The El Camino Group and Chip Winners Group: Tues. & Wed., respectively, 8:15PM, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1715 Grant Rd., Los Altos. Both groups have decided to form a group and are now both part of the Grant Road Group. No change in location or time.

Fair Avenue Fellowship Announcement: Fair Avenue Fellowship, The Alano Club of San Jose, 1122 Fair Avenue, San Jose. All Monday-Saturday 6:00PM meetings have changed their name to "Back to Basics". All Monday-Sunday 7:30PM meetings have changed their name to "The Seeker's Group".

Midday Women's Group: Mon., 12 noon, St. Mark's Church, 1957 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara. Time has changed to 1PM.

Friday Noon Big Book Study: Fri., 12 noon, By the Book Group, St. Mark's Church, 1957 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara. Time has changed to 1PM.

A Second Chance at a First Class Life: Sun. 4:00PM, Cornerstone Fellowship Group: 1600 Dell Ave. (2nd floor), Campbell. Meeting is not a Closed Men's meeting as previously stated. It is an Open meeting and all are welcome.

Spiritual Step Study: Sun. 9:00AM, Oak Creek Apartments, 1450 Sand Hill Rd., Palo Alto. Meeting has moved to Stanford: Escondido Village Admin Bldg., 859 Comstock Circle, Palo Alto.

Progress Not Perfection: Sun. 7:00PM, Bernal Road Baptist Church, 160 Bernal Rd., San Jose. Meeting is moving as of January 15, 2012 to New Creation Lutheran Church located at 7275 Santa Teresa Blvd., at Avenida Espana, SJ.

NO LONGER MEETING

Sunday Spirituality: Sun. 9:00AM, Oak Creek Apts.: 1824 Sand Hill Road, Bldg. F, Willow Room, Palo Alto.

Truly Grateful Group: Wed., 8:15PM, Neighborhood Center, 208 E. Main St., Los Gatos.

Birthday Contributions

| BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT | YEARS | CONTRIBUTIONS | BIRTHDAY |
|--------------------|-------|---------------|------------|
| Angie B. | 21 | Rob B. | 01/12/1991 |
| Rob B. | 21 | Angie B. | 02/12/1991 |
| Michael B. | 12 | Michael B. | unknown |
| John B. | 16 | Anonymous | 03/02/1996 |
| Annie O. | 17 | Annie O. | 03/06/1995 |
| David C. | 7 | David C. | 03/13/2005 |
| Allie M. | 24 | Nancy N. | 03/06/1988 |
| Eric B. | 10 | Eric B. | 03/12/2002 |
| Aileen B. | 9 | Anonymous | 04/06/2003 |
| Angela R. | 4 | Aileen B. | 04/01/2008 |
| Evelyn M. | 11 | Aileen B. | 04/01/2001 |
| Pat G. | 37 | Aileen B. | 04/01/1975 |
| Paula D. | 27 | Aileen B. | 04/22/1985 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!! 216 YEARS OF SOBRIETY!!

**If you would like to participate or honor a friend,
please use the birthday forms at your Meeting or Central Office.**

In Memorium

Doug Rawley, a Sunnyvale member, died at the age of 89, with 53 years of active sobriety. A long time member of Alcoholics Anonymous, he passed away on February 12. This World War II Navy vet will surely be missed.

Marlene P. passed away in March, with 36 years of recovery. Sponsored many women in this area and was well-loved by those who knew her. Moved from San Jose/Saratoga to Indian Wells, CA, for her health.

Toni K., beloved member of Alcoholics Anonymous, passed away on March 30 with 23 years of sobriety. She was an active member of the Get Up and Go women's group, and took H&I meetings to many through the years. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

InterGroup Minutes: March 7, 2012

- Bill H. – Intergroup Chair opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, followed by a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer
- Colin – Read the definition of Intergroup
- Amy – Read the Twelve Traditions
- New Intergroup Reps – Tom S, St Luke's, 8PM Los Gatos; Michelle M, Saturday Women's Brunch, Palo Alto; Wes, We Care Group, Milpitas; Nichole, Saturday 9:30 AM, Women's Get Up And Go; Jim, Cave Men Group, Los Gatos
- Visitors – Sheila, Saturday Night Live; Dan, Pleasant Hill, NCCAA; Katie (Alt Intergroup Rep), Serenity First Fellowship; Joe C., Central Office Manager, San Mateo County
- Birthdays – Ted, 1 yr; Lisa, 2 yrs; Susan S, 7 yrs; Dennis F, 28 yrs
- 7th Tradition
- Corrections or Additions to the agenda:
 1. Central Service Board – Jo Ann (408.420.8060), removed Dave B
 2. PI – VACANT, removed Brooke
 3. Twelfth Step Committee – Rose W has resigned; Sean is new committee member (831.818.0228)
 4. Activities Committee – OPEN
 5. Unity Day – Gloria (408.656.9524)
 6. Northern California Council of AA – OPEN (Dan made announcement RE upcoming NCCAA Conference)
 7. SCCYPAA – Sarah, removed Brandon
- Agenda was accepted and approved with changes
- Corrections or Additions (in italics) to the previous month's mins:
 1. Minutes should be February 1 -change; PI/CPC Report (all page 14); Common Health and Traffic Courts are dealing with DUI's. -remove; On February 28th... -change; and SCU. for a presentation to the community health awareness council to at risk youths -remove; have to have read -and understand- the big book, -remove.
 2. North County General Service (page 15); and explained ... at PRAASA ('she is going' should be several people are going ...) -change.
- Previous month's minutes were accepted and approved with changes
- Treasurer's Report (quarterly) – No report
- 64 voting reps were in attendance

REPORTS

I/G Chair – BILL – Narrowing down list of places to move to. A lot of churches and places love us but they want lots of money. We will be discussing places later tonight

Central Service Board Chair – Jo Ann C-J (from handout) – The Board met on 02/23/12 at Central Office. All our bills are paid. Contributions for the month of January 2012 were up approximately \$4000.00 compared to January 2011. Overall the month of January was a \$2,000.77 improvement over January 2011. This was due to increase in contributions and a decrease in salary. At the time of the Board meeting February contributions had already exceeded February 2011 by \$700.00. February literature sales were down approx. \$1000 and meeting guide sales are down by roughly \$500 compared to February 2011. To ensure continued awareness about the importance of contributions at meeting level we encourage the Intergroup Council to continue circulation of the special donations envelopes and inform your meetings of the opportunity to contribute to Central Office in honor of AA Birthdays. Please Thank Your Groups for their continued contributions and support of the Central Office.

Central Office – BRUCE (from handout) – First and foremost, we at Central Office and on the Board of Directors thank you for the wonderful support you've demonstrated for Central Office. We were initially a bit uncomfortable about making a big deal out of our deteriorating financial condition, mostly because this is about service and carrying the message, not about money. But also because we knew you weren't shirking your responsibilities; you and your groups - all of us - have been hard hit in these economic times. However, you needed to know. And you responded in such a generous manner, and not just financially. Your expressions of kindness and good wishes and encouragement have proven as sustaining and as appreciated as your dollars – maybe more so.

For our part, we've worked hard to find some ways to save some money as well. When Chuck retired, we decided I could fill in, at least for a while, saving \$10,000 to perhaps \$22,000 dollars in 2012 if that works out. We've switched our phone and internet services to Comcast, saving about \$1,800 per year. Our workhorse copier is now fully depreciated, so we'll

save about \$4,500 per year in depreciation expense. I terminated my health coverage through my wife's insurance and now use Medicare and a supplemental policy, saving about \$3,000 per year on our HRA plan.

We also asked your group to consider special donations periodically and – should I have doubted – you stepped up, giving just over \$8,000 last year and on pace to give much more this year. The Activities Committee produced \$16,000 in net revenues last year as well. Great job!

As a result of all this, we hope to pay into our Prudent Reserve this month, perhaps \$10,000 or \$12,000.

So, Central Office fares well, thank you very much, but don't forget about us. We need continued support. And we know that "the good is often the enemy of the best"; we know we can always do better. We do not forget who we serve, and we want the best for you. Please let us know how Central Office is doing. Suggestions are most welcome.

PI/CPC – Susan – We are doing a lot of great things and getting our message out, Thank You! February 4th was the San Jose Crime & Gang prevention event -with a lot of interest- at Daniel Laren Elementary School. February 6th, at Fremont High School, we gave a presentation to 9th and 10th graders with 2 guests in attendance. February 28th we were at Santa Clara University's class of Future Teachers (Health Awareness class), Susan read a letter from 1 professor & 1 student; CPC has been invited to come back next quarter. We will be participating in a binge drinking and DUI event new youth intervention in East Side San Jose (at 7 Trees). Big Books were received for the BB Drive and if you would like to bring more to Central Office they are always needed. The PI spot is available and it is recommended that you have some experience with PI work, 2 year sobriety requirement, and knowledge of the 12 x 12.

12 Step Committee Chair – OPEN – Sean volunteered and was elected to the committee. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month at Central Office at 10am

Daytime Office Coordinator – Michael McCann – In February there were 383 calls received and 6 required follow-up. (One of the calls was from a sober member who called on his 29th birthday to let us know how grateful he was.) Shifts are full but we are always looking for alternates, there is a 2 year sobriety requirement and 12 x 12 knowledge is preferred.

Nights & Weekends Diverter Coordinator - Steve S – No report (not in attendance)

Outreach Committee – Mary Pat P – You are spared the outreach training another month. We are reorganizing to have the area coordinator recruit people or work with Intergroup Reps. Points of contacts right now are, Joanne for Central SJ, Joyce for Sunnyvale, Lisa for Campbell; sign-in sheets will be taken tonight to coordinate areas. Outreach Committee meetings are the 1st Wednesday at 5:45pm at Central Office.

COIN Editor – Fran – Thank you to Brian for putting the COIN layout together! Upcoming articles: Doing For Others – April, Controlling Your Temper (Altered Attitudes) – May, Being an Example in AA – June. We are always looking for letters on any topic for the COIN. Transfiguration Church will be featured this month. Check with your meetings and find out how they came about with pictures of meeting rooms (empty, for anonymity purposes) and send to Fran.

Activities Chair – VACANT, Gloria gave report – The Chili Cook-off was amazing and had 500 people in attendance and collected donations from 460 people at the door. After expenses were met, there was a \$2600 donation made to Central Office. The winners are as follows and received trophies and a gift certificate to Central Office; 1st place--Get Up and Go Women's Group; 2nd place--Rincon 5@4 Fellowship; 3rd place tie--R&B Sunnyvale and Serenity Discussion Wednesday. Thank you to all who helped coordinate the event!

Communications Committee – Carole R (Not in attendance), Bill H. gave report – Need volunteers for the committee to enhance/rebuild our aa.sanjose.org website; the framework is there we just now need to put it together. There is no sobriety requirement (well kind of), one just needs a technology background and is familiar with website development. There will be a meeting the 1st Tuesday in April at Central Office at 6pm. Carole can be reached at 408.621.9300 if you need any further information.

OLD BUSINESS

New meeting location was voted on last month. Walter, Gourmet Alley Group of Gilroy; the Traditions Workshop will be held on Saturday, June 16th from 12pm to 2pm. We have formed a committee. 3 speakers are scheduled, Jim A., Sharon A., and Larry. There is a \$150 donation from [our] Intergroup for food, utensils and miscellaneous. This is a FREE event, possible 7th Tradition (?), and will be open to 150 people. We will be making a Housekeeping motion next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Josh H will be taking over as Secretary for the remainder of the year as Shannon had to step down ... and I will miss you, you are a GREAT group of people! Thank you for letting me be in service for (and to) this awesome AA fellowship!!

OTHER SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Unity Day – Gloria – Was aligned as a group; speakers and agenda are in the works. It is going to be a little different than last year with more activities. Meeting will be held the 2nd Thursday in April at 6:00 pm at the Hickory Pit Restaurant at

Bascom and Campbell Avenues

Northern California Council of AA – DAN – NCCAA Host Committee: 65th Annual Spring Conference will be held March 16 – 18, in San Ramon, pre-registration is \$10. We would like to get an NCCAA liaison. There has been a change in speakers, it will not be Howard from Santa Clara, it's now John S from Palo Alto (see flyer). Come and enjoy and see ... The Dating Game play. Please contact Dan at home (925.300.3079) for any more information. Upcoming event: Auburn, July 6th thru 8th.

Hospitals & Institutions – BRET – There are 55 meetings a week at 25 different facilities including Soledad. Literature is purchased thru contributions so that 12x12's and Big Books can go to the prisons. Contributions for the month are \$5235.56 and as of December 1, 2011, they were \$8970.56. H&I started in 1941 at San Quentin Prison. Barbara Ahrens at VMC is in need of a speaker/secretary; Treatment Centers and rehabs in the area, and Elmwood Jail, are in need of help. Requirements are 3 years since last misdemeanor and 5 years since last Felony. See Bret for information.
H&I meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month at Hamilton & Leigh – WE NEED BODIES!

Bridging The Gap – JULIUS – No report (not in attendance)

North County General Service – Cameron – Report from Eric L: Grapevine made money last year but is projecting losses in 2012 (in the 6 figures). Agenda Topics Workshop will be held on March 10th from 2:00-5:30 pm at the SJ Alano Club. PRAASA will focus on 3 big topics: 1) Safety in AA, 2) Anonymity in the Digital Age, and, 3) Diversity in AA (less minorities, more men, age is higher than in general population), talk to your GSR. Also of interest, the possible change in the preamble of AA

South County General Service – Larry – There was 6 new GSR's in attendance. Our Agenda Topics Workshop is on Saturday, March 10th at the Alano Club, from 2-5:30 pm where we will cover 7 topics to include; AA Preamble on the front pages of our Big Book, 12 Concepts, AA to establish a presence on Facebook as an informational resource only, adding language to Tradition 11 (to cover media) and the Development of a pamphlet for the Alcoholic with Mental Illness. April 16th is the pre-conference assembly in Lakeport. Vietnamese translation is still needed.

SCYPAA – Sarah – No Report

OPEN FORUM

- St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage, Saturday, March 17th from 2-5pm, Saturday Night Live Group; suggested ticket donation of \$5. 6:00 pm meeting to follow.
- Traditions Workshop at the Masonic Hall in Los Gatos, 131 E. Main Street, Saturday, March 25th from 1:00 to 5:30 pm

Cleanup Announcement

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Au revoir, Ciao, Adios, Goodnight, God Bless and Thank You ... Shannon S.

Intergroup Central Office

of Santa Clara County, Inc.

274 E. Hamilton Ave., Suite D

Campbell, CA 95008

Non-Profit Org.

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REMEMBER ...

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