

the Point

*The point is, that we are willing
to grow along spiritual lines.*

from Chapter Five of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous

2016
6
June

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

Intercounty Fellowship
of Alcoholics Anonymous

1821 Sacramento Street

San Francisco, CA 94109-3528

San Francisco (415) 674-1821

Marin (415) 499-0400

Fax (415) 674-1801

www.aasf.org

thepoint@aasf.org






Uniting Spiritual and Material

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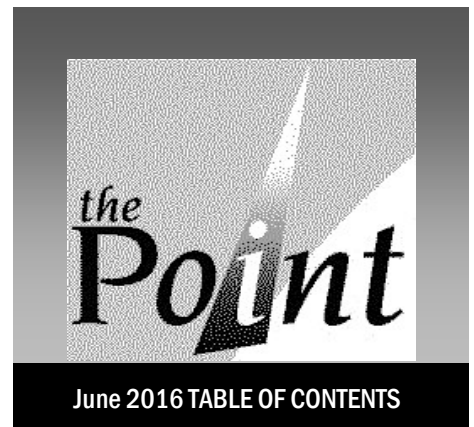
The Point is published monthly to inform AA members about business and meeting affairs in the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (San Francisco and Marin Counties). The Point's pages are open to participation by all AA members. Nothing published herein should be construed as a statement of AA, nor does publication constitute endorsement of AA as a whole, our Intergroup, the Central Office, or The Point Editorial Committee. Letters and articles to help carry the AA message are welcomed, subject to editorial review by The Point Committee.

Illustration by Marcus W.

June 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>Persons requiring reasonable accommodations at Intergroup meetings Intergroup committee meetings or service events sponsored by the preceding entities, including ASL interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternative formats, should contact Central Office at (415) 674-1821 no less than five business days prior to the event.</p> <div>     </div>			<p>1</p> <p><u>FIRST WED</u></p> <p>Intergroup Meeting 1187 Franklin St, SF Orientation 6:15pm Meeting 7pm</p>
5	6	<p>7</p> <p><u>FIRST TUE</u></p> <p>Access Committee Central Office 6pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p><u>SECOND WED</u></p> <p>Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln Ave, San Rafael Orientation 6pm Business Meeting 6:30pm</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Golden Gate Young People in AA Central Office 12pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>SECOND MON</u></p> <p>SF Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Committee Central Office Speaker Workshop 6pm Business Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>SECOND TUE</u></p> <p>Marin H&I 1360 Lincoln Ave, San Rafael 6:15pm</p> <p>SF General Service 1111 O'Farrell St Orientation / Concept Study / BTG 7pm Business Meeting 8pm</p>	15
<p>19</p> <p><u>THIRD SUN</u></p> <p>Archives Committee Central Office 2pm Business Meeting followed by Work Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p><u>THIRD MON</u></p> <p>SF Teleservice Central Office Business Meeting 6pm Orientation 6:30pm</p> <p>Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd, San Rafael Orientation / Concept Study 6:45pm Business Meeting 7:30pm</p>	21	22
26	27	<p>28</p> <p><u>FOURTH TUE</u></p> <p>Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln Ave, San Rafael Orientation 7pm Business Meeting 7:30pm</p>	29

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4
9	10	11 <u>SECOND SAT</u> <i>The Point</i> Editorial Committee Central Office 1pm
16	17	18 Founders' Day Dinner 1187 Franklin St, SF 5:30pm <u>THIRD SAT</u> SF H&I 2900 24th St, SF Orientation 11am
23 <u>FOURTH THU</u> Marin Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) 1360 Lincoln Ave, San Rafael Business Meeting 7pm	24	25 Sunshine Club 1320 7th Ave, SF Orientation 3pm <u>FOURTH SAT</u> CNCA Meeting 320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma 10am
30		



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*Let a well meaning donor present an
A.A. group with a sizeable sum and we
break loose. Nor does trouble abate
until that group . . . somehow disposes of
its bank roll.*

—Bill W., *The Grapevine*, May 1948



Meeting Changes

New Meetings:

Mon 8:00am Mission BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS, 2801 24th St / York (Book study, Discussion)

Meeting Changes:

Tue 7:15pm Hayes Valley GIRLS GONE MILD, 1748 Market St / Octavia (Was at 7pm)
 Wed 6:00pm Hayes Valley KOO KOO HUMP DAY, 1748 Market St / Octavia (Was at 170 Valencia St)
 Thu 7:15pm Mission GROUCH AND THE BRAINSTORM, 3543 18th St / Lapidge (Was at 170 Valencia and 6:30pm)
 Sat 7:00pm Western Addition NYX, 2097 Turk St / Lyon (Was located at 1660 McAllister St)

No Longer Meeting:

Wed 12:05pm South of Market BRIDGE TO RECOVERY, 564 6th St / Brannan
 Wed 7:00pm Pacific Heights HIGH STEPPERS, 1801 Octavia St / Pine

PLEASE NOTE: We occasionally receive reports that meetings listed in our schedule are missing or no longer active. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes not. **If you know *anything* about a meeting that has relocated or disbanded — even if only temporarily — please call Central Office immediately: (415) 674-1821.** This helps us direct newcomers, visitors and sober, local alcoholics alike to actual meetings and not to rooms that housed a meeting once upon a time. ***Thank you for contributing to the accuracy of our schedule!***

Founders' Day Picnic



Saturday, June 18

Stafford Lake Park

3549 Novato Blvd., Novato

Coffee 9am, BBQ 12pm, Mtg 2pm

Live Music, Volleyball

Horse shoes, Fun & Fellowship

\$12 suggested contribution

\$10 parking fee (try to carpool!)

Sorry! No dogs allowed

Founders' Day Dinner



Founders Day

Saturday, June 18

**First Unitarian Universalist Center
1187 Franklin St.**

Doors and Games 5:30pm

Dinner (\$15 sugg. donation) 6pm

Nickel-Dime-Quarter Mtg 7:30pm

Pie Social 8:30pm

From the Editor

Disposing of the Bank Roll

"Let a well meaning donor present an A.A. group with a sizeable sum and we break loose. Nor does trouble abate until that group . . . somehow disposes of its bank roll."

—Bill W., *The Grapevine*, May 1948

Claire A. wonders if she'd be happy as a diva with bling (or grandiosity) from some of our wildest dreams. Find out if it works on Page 8.

Ken J.'s Tradition Six article outlines a different way to define what we offer newcomers on Page 9.

On Page 6, Forrest P. remembers he had no trouble demonstrating singleness of purpose, because his drinking always came first.

Then Rick R. shows how Step 6 separates the women from the girls and the men from the boys when it comes to correcting "subtle" character flaws such as lying, gossiping, cheating and all those other little character glitches we think no one else notices. Bree L. describes how old-timer Bette B. stays sober with a lovely literal spiritual toolbox (even when a friend dates the fellow she had her eye on).

We are grateful for the glorious cover art by Marcus W. and lovely illustrations for several articles from Diane O.

On Page 12, Priscilla P. describes her journey healing from abusive relationships to rediscover friends, feelings and family in "I Have my Heart Back." And Seth H. describes how Ben W. urged his buddies to do the impossible — with encouraging results — in "The Road to Detroit."

It's also heartening to hear how disposing of obsessions with money, property and prestige enables us to support people seeking sobriety.

Ideally what we possess in the material world supports our spiritual work. As Ken concludes: "We lay out the program before them, and we help them to work through the Steps. We do not offer guarantees. The ultimate success of each individual rests in their own hands."

Erratum: Many thanks to Peter M. for the Good News cartoon in May, courtesy of Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA) — online at <http://norcalaa.org/>

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Point is published monthly to inform A.A. members about business and meeting affairs of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. In addition, *The Point* publishes original feature articles submitted by local A.A. members that reflect the full diversity of experience and opinion found within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining the editorial content, the editors rely on the principles of the Twelve Traditions.

(This is a summary; for the full editorial policy, please go to www.aasf.org.)



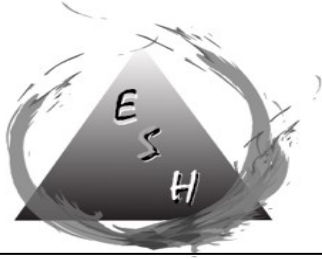
Faithful FIVERS!

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of Central Office. Faithful Fiver contributions go a long way in helping make our vital services possible. We thank the following members:

Aaron H.	David S.	Kim D.
Alejandro D.	Dianne E.	Kurt C.
Alex L.	Don L.	Kurt P.
Alex R.	Don N.	Lance S.
Allison M.	Ed K.	Laura B.
Ami and Nick H.	Eileen M.	Laura W.
Amy Mc.	Emily C.	Lauren H.
Anonymous	Erin S.	Lavon T.
Barbara L.	Fay K.	Layne S.
Barbara M.	Forrest P.	Layne Z.
Becca M.	Frederick D.	Lelan & Rich H.
Ben H.	Gilbert G.	Leo G.
Ben W.	Gladys G.	Leo H.
Beth N.	Hank B.	Linda Kay D.
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Bruce Z.	Jane K.	Lucy & Dennis O.
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Claudia C.	Joshua B-C.	Martha S.
Clayton M.	Jules W.	Marty C.
Craig S.	Karen C.	Mary C.
Dale B.	Karen K.	Mary D.
Dan B.	Karen and	Mary L.
Daniel M.	Stephen R.	Maryellen O.
Danielle G.	Kate R.	Matt S.
David J.	Kathleen C.	Michael F.

(Continued on p. 19)

If you would like to become a Faithful Fiver, please download a pledge form from our website. You will receive a complimentary subscription to *The Point*. And remember, individual contributions are 100% tax deductible!



Singleness of Purpose

Our tolerance of others' experiences could save lives

by Forrest P.

I started drinking heavily at 13, had blackouts by 19, and knew I was an alcoholic then; it never occurred to me to stop. I thought it was funny and ordered more drinks. I got sober in 1985, at age 23. I definitely am an alcoholic. My drinking always came first. Whenever I used drugs it was always preceded and followed by copious amounts of alcohol. I dabbled in many drugs that were available.

Upon joining A.A., I heard many people talk of drugs “speeding” up their hitting bottom. This made perfect sense to me. To celebrate my 23rd birthday, I did *way* too much “crank” (speed), which really affected the ability for drugs and alcohol to continue to work. I got sober six months later.

Singleness of purpose was certainly something that was emphasized more in the ‘80s/early ‘90s—however, the meetings I attended had no problem with someone being an addict, as long as they identified as both alcoholic and addict. If you were both, you were supposed to (in theory) talk only about alcohol, but I never saw anyone removed for forgetting to do this. One of the more important things I heard at the time was to “listen for the similarities not the differences.” Specifically, I was taught by speakers of the day that if someone was sharing and said they did “cocaine,” I could replace that word with alcohol in my mind. It worked, and still does.

As society has moved along with a lot more drugs, and more drug use, I have seen more and more addicts arriving at A.A.’s doorsteps looking

for help. I have sponsored many who’ve told me they don’t get what they need to stay “clean” from other 12 Step programs. The solution is not shared as much. I’ve attended a few meetings of other programs, and have noticed the differences myself. I understand people’s desire to attend A.A. regardless of their drug of choice.

For me, if someone with a drinking or drug problem wants to come to A.A. and recover, they are welcome. What would we do if this was not the case? Tell them to go away? Go to another program better suited? What if we turn them away and they die?

These people all stop drinking, so why get hung up on their “career” or their identification? I’ve yet to see someone come to A.A. who doesn’t “catch” alcoholism. They stop

*If someone said they
did ‘cocaine,’ I could
replace that word with
alcohol in my mind*


drinking, so isn’t that a desire, even if they’re not sure yet? Most seem to make the connection that alcohol leads to drugs, or is in conjunction with. It may take a bit of time, but they come around.

Perhaps the tolerance I’ve seen around this is because I’m gay and have attended gay meetings for my entire sobriety. Are we more tolerant? I used to see differences between “straight” meetings in the old days, but over the years, we all seem to be tolerant. If someone wants to get help, and shows up in an A.A. meeting, that’s all I need to

welcome them. The best statement I’ve ever heard an addict say was, “When I drank, I broke out in drugs.” That statement alone seems to work with those who don’t realize right away that they are one of “us.”

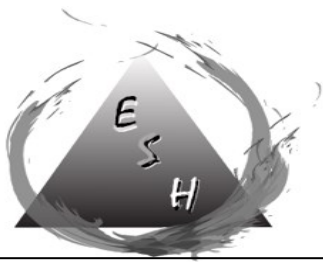
Love and tolerance is our code. It does not in any way diminish my own alcoholic story if someone talks more about drugs than alcohol. Addiction is addiction (drugs and alcohol). Imagine how many people would not be helped and “saved” if we turned them away. The traditions were written a long time ago, but A.A. has progressed, has it not? Would Bill and Bob really say, “No, you’re not welcome here over semantics?” I doubt it.

I respect all the information that our founders have left us with. I believe that if they were here today they would welcome anyone into A.A. as long as they stop drinking (which implies desire), regardless of their drinking career or their identification.

I’ve no doubt that A.A. will continue to evolve, grow and change. It has for the last 30 years that I’ve been in it; I’ve not doubt this will continue for years to come. 



***Drinking careers are
marked by ____?***



The Men from the Boys

We grow up when we start living by principles

by Rick R.

When a person has been around the A.A. program for any length of time, they have, most likely, noticed certain different patterns of individual choices of, what is considered, recovery. That's the wonderful thing about A.A; each person chooses how he or she interprets what the spirit of the program is for them, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

These choices range from "I just don't drink today" to "I've found a spiritual way of life that has solved all of my problems," and everything in between. If all we wanted to do is stop drinking alcohol, we could try that approach, but for most of us, we would not be happy, and sooner or later most of us would try the old game again. Rarely does an alcoholic succeed simply by abstaining from alcohol.

Step Six, "*Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character,*" may sound like God does all the work in this matter, but if we read further in the 12x12 [*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*], it says, "*But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work towards ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.*"

After identifying my defects of character and shortcomings in Step 4 and admitting them in Step 5, it is now time, with God's guidance, to start the process of correcting them in Step 6 in order to enjoy a happy and peaceful life. I believe this is

where we separate the men from the boys (women from the girls).

It seems easy for me to deal with the more obvious shortcomings. Such as being a horse thief – all I would have to do is to stop stealing horses. Or a bank robber– all I would have to do is to stop robbing banks.

The more difficult things to correct are the more subtle character flaws, such as lying, gossiping, cheating, neglecting, envying, procrastinating, and all those little glitches in my character that, I think, go unnoticed by the outside world. These things do not go unnoticed by *my conscience*, and if I want to clear that up, I must be willing to seek out the solutions to these problems.

The more difficult things to correct are the more subtle character flaws.

Changing negative habits does not come easy, but it can be much easier when you recognize that it is our ego that stands in between us and the solution, and it turns out to be a struggle between our ego and our conscience. There is nothing physically hard about this. It is, however, mentally difficult.

This is where we must muster up all the spiritual strength we can, and, one by one, work our way through all of these superficial habits that weigh on our conscience. Once I resolve one of these issues, I find it important to draw a line in the sand and discipline myself to assure that I don't fall into, or let myself be tempted into, returning to these negative habits.

There is nothing physically hard about this.

Practicing principles is a common phrase. It has been said that if a person lives by principles, 99% of his/her decisions are made for that person. What separates the men from the boys (women from the girls), from my point of view is how well that person does when the going gets tough. Do they stick to their principles, or do they take the easy way out and fall back into their old, selfish habits? That, I think, is the test of our spiritual condition.

IP



Illustration by Diane O.

Don't Compare – Identify

I'm not sure I truly believed having more money would make me happy...

by Claire A.

Before I came into the rooms, I was all about comparing myself to other people. I didn't even realize I was doing it as much as I was, and it made me miserable. I would look at other people who seemed to have their lives together, and I would tell myself, "If only I had...."

I'm not sure whether I truly believed that having better thighs, more money, a fancier car, a leather jacket would make me happy, but the narrative stuck anyway. I let it make me miserable. I didn't talk about this with anyone, of course. I would just sit on the subway and resent the people whom I thought were happier than I was. I remember sitting in a particular bar with my book and my beer, not reading, but observing and resenting the people around me who were enjoying their evening out.

Comparing myself to others was a great path to drinking. I would drink to forget how miserable I was. After a few drinks, I thought I was the top. I went from the lowest of the low to the best. I remember drinking to feel better about my outfit. I would put on the outfit, feel like a dork or like I looked like a whale, and then I would say to myself, "In a few drinks, I won't care." And I was right.

I was so divorced from reality. I had no idea how I even felt, let alone how anyone else felt. I couldn't live comfortably in my own skin. I was constantly nervous and fearful someone was going to "find me out."

When I got to the rooms, my sponsor told me to stop comparing my insides to other people's outsides. This made sense to me, but it took forever to



We all have stories

stop the behavior. I'm still working on it. I sometimes look around at other mothers and think that they have it all figured out. The good thing, though, is that I now talk about

I remember drinking to feel better about my outfit

it. I ask other mothers what they do about certain situations. Instead of assuming they are perfect and I stink, I try to be a little more reasonable, and I try to find common ground. Usually I find out that they have the same struggles, and maybe they even have problems I was completely unaware of.

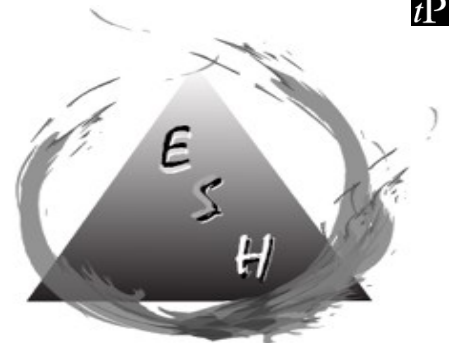
My sponsor also said to look for the similarities with other people in the rooms. I laughed internally. Really? What, I thought, could I possibly have in common with *that* woman over

there, who smashed her car? Or, I never had to drink in the morning like that guy -- so I can't be *that* bad.

Well, actually, I can be *that* bad, just different. I can be totally out of control if I drink. I can not know where I am going to wake up. I can hurt people emotionally, and physically. I can hurt myself. And just because I haven't smashed a car yet, doesn't mean I wouldn't if I kept drinking. I got lucky. I quit before accidents, jail and death.

The point isn't really my story or your story. We all have stories. The point, in my opinion anyway, is the feelings. When I listen for what we do have in common: how we felt isolated, how we felt we didn't belong, like misfits, how alcohol seemed to provide a solution for so long, so long until it didn't, and then how we tried, and tried, and tried to manage it, but we couldn't. How we woke up time and again asking, "Why can't I just have one drink?" "What is *wrong* with me?"

When I stop getting stuck on how my "drunkalog" does or doesn't match yours, I start to get something out of your story. I identify with your feelings, and how you started to recover, helped by a sponsor, and working the steps. It is at that point that I start to move into the solution.





Tradition 6

Defining what we Offer

by Ken J.

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

Tradition 11 states that A.A. is a program of attraction, not promotion. It is about anonymity. In Tradition 6 we are defining what we offer, and how we “sell” it.

We do not promise people sobriety. We don’t promise people a cure for alcoholism. We offer people the hope of sobriety. We offer the opportunity to recover from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.

The success of our program comes from a *daily reprieve* contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. We support people who come to us seeking sobriety. We lay out the program before them, and we help them to work through the Steps. We do not offer guarantees. The ultimate success of each individual rests in their own hands.

I think that every person who finds happiness in sobriety rides that big pink cloud to the tallest soapbox they can find. It’s only natural that in our delirium of sobriety that we want to share it with those we love and care about who need A.A. as much as we do. We may have a few successes with our missionary work, but we ultimately experience failures. People we try to help either don’t want it, or they just don’t have what it takes to stay sober. I can’t speak for everyone, but I also know that my early sobriety preaching and self-righteousness drove some people

away and probably turned some off to A.A. I’ve been lucky enough to have not relapsed, so I never showed them that A.A. didn’t work. But I certainly wasn’t always a good-will ambassador for the program.

I think that is pretty much the essence of Tradition Six. As a fellowship, our groups have the primary purpose of helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. And we do that best just by being ourselves, and by focusing on what we do best.

We offer people the hope of sobriety

Getting A.A. directly involved with hospitals, programs, and treatment facilities would change our focus from person-to-person contact to preaching to the masses. It would change our financial situation from renting a room in a church and buying bulk coffee and cups on sale, to decorating patient rooms and planning menus. And it would tie our program and success to that of another organization. Rather than passing the basket for the Seventh Tradition, we would be billing insurance companies for that 30-day stay.

So Tradition Six keeps us focused on spreading sobriety person-to-person. And rather than getting on a soapbox, we passively promote our program. Each member is to be the first copy of the Big Book that anyone ever sees.

Concept VI

General Service Board

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The “final responsibility and ultimate authority” for A.A.’s service activities rest with the A.A. groups, but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference. The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees.

The trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. (which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office) and of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for A.A.’s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They are A.A.’s “bankers,” overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.’s substantial Reserve Fund.





Bette B.'s Kit of Spiritual Tools

by Bree L.

A.A.'s first mention of spiritual tools is on Page 25 of the Big Book: "When therefore, we were approached by those in whom the problem had been solved, there was nothing left for us but to pick up the simple kit of spiritual tools laid at our feet. We have found much of heaven and we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which we had not even dreamed."

Bette's concept came from a *Grapevine* article. An A.A. couple on a road trip bought a toolbox from their local hardware store to collect items supporting their sobriety. Bette adopted her own toolbox from a black plastic, kid-sized box she already owned.

Here are the contents as described by Bette:

- ◇ Top Left on the second balcony is the site for many of her birthday coins. There's also a silver dollar with ten holes from her 10th birthday. She got it in Eugene while in grad school (one of her promises to herself in sobriety was to return to graduate school and get her Ph.D.). It was her 10-year party and they were learning traditional Shona music from Zimbabwe. Shona music is joyful music played on the marimba, which was part of her birthday celebration.
- ◇ Top Right, second balcony, houses her plug adaptor. She can go from three prongs to two with this adapter. It's a reminder for whenever she wants to plug into her H.P.

- ◇ Next lower level or first balcony: This tray pulls out to bring up her God Box. This God Box has a note that says *Neighbor's Parking*. "People don't park their cars the way they should, in my neighborhood," she says.

Also on this shelf are a pencil and paper for her gratitude list. She uses this list when her vision perceives things that don't jibe in her mind.

*On this shelf are a
pencil and some paper
for her gratitude list*

Early in sobriety, she had her eye set on a certain fellow. A good friend took off and dated him. Bette got mad trying to control the uncontrollable. That's when another friend stepped up and said, "You know you're going to have to pray for acceptance." At that point Bette realized how toxic her thinking was and eventually became a friend to the one who had "betrayed" her. "It's hard to be grateful and resentful at the same time," Bette says.

Cards for the Third Step, Seventh Step and St. Francis prayers, as well as cards for the Twelve Steps and the

Twelve Traditions reside here.

Under the trays or on the main stage of the box Bette keeps :

- ◆ A little Big Book (164 pages with stories).
- ◆ *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (small size).
- ◆ *As Bill Sees It* (small size).
- ◆ A pamphlet on Bill's talks about acceptance.
- ◆ Meeting Books.
- ◆ Meeting Phone Lists.
- ◆ Speaker CDs of Peggy M. (Great-grand-sponsor from Omaha).
- ◆ Bette's nametags from the International Conferences (Seattle, San Diego, Minneapolis, Toronto and San Antonio).
- ◆ *The Grapevine*.

Bette says she hates to be stuck in line and routinely carries a *Grapevine* in her purse. Its stories are informal and diverse. Secondly, if she is ever in need of a meeting, it's all there in the *Grapevine* including a meeting format and great stories.

One evening she arrived to bring the A.A. message to the Omaha City Correctional Institute, (City Jail) and there was no A.A. material available or staff to assist. Her *Grapevine* stories came to the rescue, as she says, they appeal to newcomers as well as old timers. That copy of the *Grapevine* came to the rescue. It was all she needed.

Bette B.'s sobriety date is September 30, 1984. As Bette says, "If I have a problem, my kit of spiritual tools is full of solutions."



Get on the Road to Detroit!

Ben was having a birthday...

by Seth H.

Momentum for the 2020 world conference in Detroit, Michigan is building as alcoholics from around the country launch the Road to Detroit, a series of annual conferences that are designed to build enthusiasm and attendance for the International Convention.

The first conference is July 1-3, 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana and will include speakers, a Fourth Step workshop and meetings. Several people from the Bay Area will be there. After New Orleans, the Road to Detroit will travel to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 2017; St. Louis, Missouri, in 2018; and Akron, Ohio, in 2019, culminating in Detroit in 2020.

Leading up to the Detroit conference each year, newcomers and old-timers alike will be coming together and bringing others along in the process to share what they've found and keep the momentum going. A few of us went to New Orleans to spread the word about the July conference. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and excitement for A.A. we encountered. People quickly volunteered to help out, and alcoholics in New Orleans and from around the country are working to finalize plans.



How it started

The Road to Detroit was sparked by A.A. members seeking to create enthusiasm. We've gotten to carry the message in places ranging from London, England to California's Soledad State Prison. Along the way, we've gotten to see the impossible become possible.

He urged us to do something that was seemingly impossible.

It all started in Oklahoma City in 2013 when Ben W. was celebrating a birthday. He urged everyone to do something for A.A. that was seemingly impossible: Start a conference in a city where we'd never been and we knew no one.

A few months later in October 2014, we were in Gallup, New Mexico for the first-ever Gallup Gathering. The gathering took root and we returned in 2015.

One of the Gallup Gathering attendees from London was inspired to launch the first-ever London Calling conference, which was held in October 2014.

Those conferences helped spawn what may seem like the most unlikely task of all – having a three-day A.A. conference inside the walls of a state prison.

A couple of the people who'd traveled to Gallup and London shared their experiences with inmates in Soledad State Prison in California.

After hearing the stories, one of the inmates got the idea to have a conference in the prison. Some people told him it would never happen. In January 2016, 200 inmates and 21 outsiders gathered at the prison for three days of meetings, speakers and a Fourth Step workshop. Planning for the 2017 Soledad conference is underway.

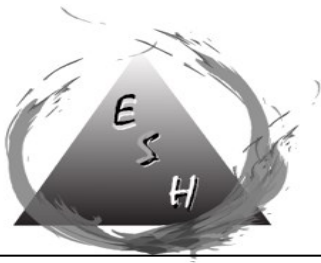
The next London Calling conference is set for Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16, 2016. More information will be available at www.londoncallingaa.com.

We hope to see everyone on the Road to Detroit!

To find out more and sign up for the Road to Detroit newsletter, visit www.roadtodetroit.com, send an email to: roadtodetroit2020@gmail.com, or call Alex S. at (650) 787-0828.



**Quiz Answer—
Escapades**



I Have My Heart Back

Finding friends, feelings and family

by Priscilla P.

Where to start — it's always hard to talk about me. Here I go. I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. I had a physically and sexually abusive childhood in and out of foster homes, always running away. All my relationships were abusive.

I grew up learning to take care of men: Respect men, do as men tell you, and don't say a word. Everything was hush-hush. I couldn't have friends over.

In the foster home where I was abused, many other foster kids were as well. Neither age differences nor race mattered to the abuser. As I look back I realize I did what I did to take care of myself and get through a moment, a minute, a day at a time so this man would stay away from me. Nothing worked.

This man took away my heart, my laughter, my dignity and my respect for myself. The ordeal had me feeling totally ugly. I was not a little girl anymore, always having to look over my shoulder and always having to think of my next move.

When I was 14 my life turned upside down due to domestic violence. My mom's killer choked her and buried her in the dirt. My life went into alcohol and drugs. Not completing high school, making the rounds of jails and institutions — all I did was run. My addiction took me places that were not the safest. I did what I needed to do to keep up my drug habit. I stole from you, hurt you and took from you. My addiction didn't care what race or gender you were.

At 25 I had my first baby. I really thought this would change me. Nope. I thought having a second baby would change me. Nope. I did everything that was asked of me, but did I listen? Nope. I was lost in my world of pain.

My life today is more than my childhood: I have laughter, and I have my respect. I have my dignity, I have a heart through the program of A.A. The program has guided me in becoming a woman. I still have the little girl inside me that needs attention. Yet today I have faith. My life is up and down, but I've learned how to live without drugs and alcohol. I have friends, I have feelings and I have my family in my life. It's not perfect, but I accept this and

This man took away my heart, my laughter, and my feelings

keep my boundaries. I had put myself through program after program until I told myself I can't keep doing this — I need to change. I used therapy, meetings, sponsor, steps and prayer. I listened to what people in the program said. I got to know myself as a Native American woman. I learned what Priscilla likes and dislikes.

Today I have 12 wonderful years free of alcohol and drugs. I work, I pay my rent and I pay my bills. I take care of me today. I'm responsible and caring. I have my heart back and I have my power back.

When I get that urge to pick up I think of where my addiction will take me: I may not come back; I may die in the Tenderloin. I know I would not be the same coming back.

I love my bed now rather than a doorway, vacant building, rooftop or stairway. I love my roof over my head. I love to be able to go to my kitchen and eat whatever I want. I love to see what I want on TV. I love that I'm not getting kicked out or asked to leave.

My addiction is wicked. I'd rather stay on this side of the street where I continue learning about me and loving me, which I learned in the program: "We'll love you until you can love yourself." I get tears when I hear this statement. Love is something I learned here. I learned love all the wrong ways as a girl. Love is meaningful today. Today life is great. I can't complain. When I complain about life, I check my inventory. I live by Steps 1, 2 and 3 every day. I take life one day at a time, one moment at a time, and sometimes one minute at a time.

TP





Entirely Ready – Step 6

Are you ready?

by Ken J.

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Like all of the Steps, I see Step Six consisting of two parts. The first is identifying my defects of character; the second part is finding the willingness to trust in God once again.

After completing Steps Four and Five I was pretty sure what my character defects were. I was scheming, manipulative, shady, dishonest, stubborn, inconsiderate, self-centered, rude, blah, blah, blah... I was like a human refrigerator, throw magnets labeled with character defects at me, and they would stick. Steps Four and Five were hard, because I had to go through and expose all of my dirty little secrets, and then actually admit them to someone else. But Step Six was a punch in my gut as I was now aware of my defects of character that were behind my behavior.

This is the stuff that makes me “uniquely” alcoholic.

I was told in Step Five to focus on the question: “Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking and frightened?” I would find character defects such as pride, anger, resentfulness, manipulative, shameful, etc. Then to review my sexual conduct: “Where had we been selfish, dishonest or inconsiderate? Whom had we hurt? Did we unjustifiably arouse jealousy, suspicion or bitterness?”

Fortunately, defects of character don’t have to be permanent. We are not bad people trying to get good. We are sick people trying to get better. These questions would leave me with my list of character defects.

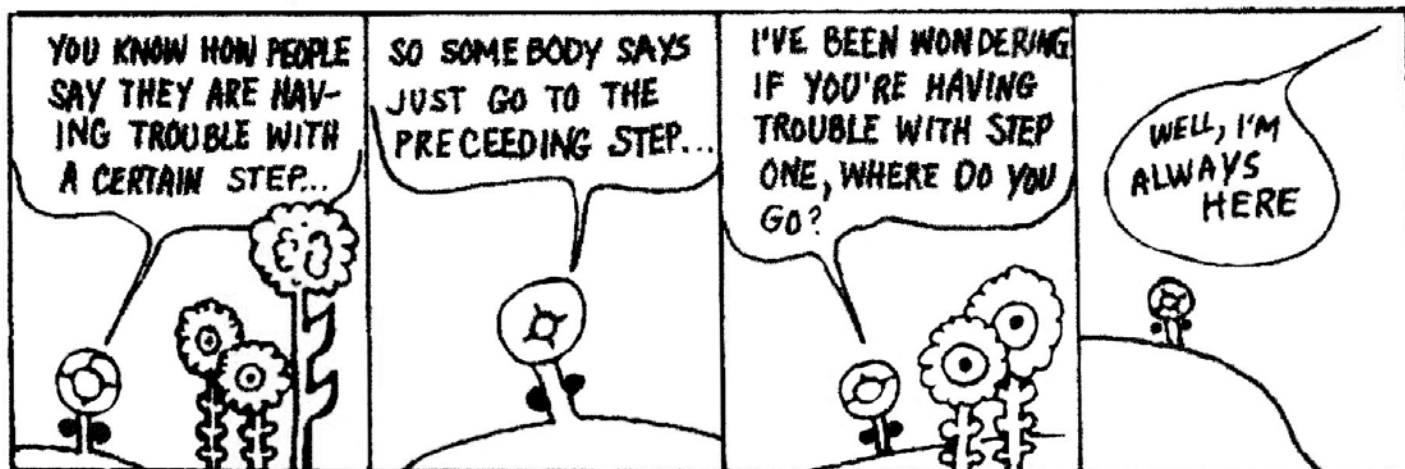
After completing my Fifth Step, my sponsor read to me the last paragraph on page 75, and the first on page 76. He told me to go home, reflect on the first five Steps, and make a decision based on the feeling in my heart as to whether I had done them to the best of my ability. If so, I was to take my list of character

defects and decide which of them I was truthfully willing to let go. I was to ask God to relieve me of them, and for the strength to let go of them. For any of those character defects that I was not ready to let go of, I was to ask for the willingness to let them go, and the insight required to limit the harm I do to myself and others because of them.

*We are not bad people
trying to get good*

Early on I was told that one day what I believed to be my character defects would become my character assets. And what I believed to be my character assets would become my character defects. Thirty years later I will agree that for the most part it is true. But I guess that God still feels that I have lessons with a couple character defects left to learn.

TP



AA Grapevine

Intergroup Meeting Summary—January 2016

The following groups have registered Intergroup Representatives who attended the last Intergroup meeting. If your meeting was not represented, please elect an Intergroup Representative (IGR) and /or an alternate so your meeting is represented.

Marin Groups	On Awakening	SF Groups	Come 'n Get It!	Join the Tribe
Blackie's Pasture	Quitting Time	Any Lengths	Cow Hollow Men's Group	Miracles (Way) Off 24th St.
Friday Night Book	Serenity	As Bill Sees It Th 6pm	Cow Hollow Young People	Reality Farm
Girls Night Out	Sunday Night Corte Madera	Beginners Warmup	Creative Alcoholics	Sunset Speaker Step
Men's Two Plus	Thursday Night Speaker	Castro Discussion	Extreme Makeover: Women's SS	Too Early
Mill Valley	Tuesday Newcomers	Cocoanuts	Haight Street Blues	Weekend Update
Monday Night Stag Tiburon				

This is an unofficial summary of the May 2016 Intergroup meeting provided for convenience; it is not intended to be the completed approved minutes. For a complete copy of the minutes and full committee reports see "Intergroup" on our website www.aasf.org.

Our intergroup exists to support the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic by providing and coordinating services that are difficult for the individual groups to execute.

The Intercounty Fellowship has been organized by, and is responsible to, the member groups in San Francisco and Marin for the purpose of coordinating the services that individual groups cannot provide.

The meeting was held on Wed., May 4, 2016 at 101 Donohue St., Marin City, CA.

The meeting was started with a call to order and the Serenity Prayer. Baskets for rent and dinner were passed. The April 2016 minutes and the May. 2016 agenda were approved.

Officer Reports

Board Chair, Carolyn R. The annual meeting is next month; annual committee reports are requested. Board elections will be held and statements of interest are welcome. Information is available on the website under "Intergroup Information." Statements are due by May 9th. The nominating committee will contact potential nominees. The committee chairs met in April to discuss what is happening with their committees and an opportunity to provide support and resources. This past month they looked at how much participation is taking place in the committees and to provide

more service opportunities. The Lease Committee is close to signing the new lease.

Treasurer, Joanne H. Total income (less the cost of books sold) was over budget by \$2,413. Both individual and group contributions exceeded budget by \$129 and \$1,306, respectively. Total expenses were \$1,032 under budget. Wages and salaries were \$234 under budget. Unrestricted cash, while down from February, is enough to cover 1.71 months of operating expenses compared to 1.85 at the end of February. The drop in coverage (months of expense) is primarily due to timing of payments and the fact that the budget was spread equally over the year.

Central Office Manager, Maury P.

There are flyers on the tables tonight for upcoming group events such as Hoedown in the Hood this Saturday. Refer to the event listing guidelines on the back of the Treasurer's report; there will be discussion on the changes next month.

Intergroup Committees

Access, Virginia M. Access committee has worked on the Old Business issue on the agenda since 2000 and Virginia read the Declaration of Unity for those in attendance to reflect on. Someone asked if S.O.S. and Sunshine are part of the Access committee; Virginia said that they fall under the umbrella of the Access, but they are not members of the committee.

Fellowship, Michael P. & Margaret J. Enthusiasm for events is increasing. We have received a number of requests to help with group events. Founder's Day flyers are available; please distribute them. There are still open shifts for greeters, 7th

Tradition, and Clean up. Pete F. said that Sobriety by the Bay is coming up next January. Other people that know about events are encouraged to contact the Fellowship Committee. The Anniversary Party will be funded by the Intergroup.

Orientation, Greg M. Greg said this is not really a committee, but rather an activity. Once again, the buddy signup sheet is being passed around tonight.

SF Teleservice, Pete F. There is only one open volunteer shift available right now. Pete is willing to do remote orientations at groups that are interested in doing teleservice work.

SF PI-CPC, Peter B. PI-CPC is looking at new roles on the committee in order to meet upcoming outreach events at schools and with members of the professional community.

The Point, Jane B. Jane asked for a show of hands of how many people read *The Point*. She hopes that secretaries do, especially the Secretary's Monthly insert. Do groups appreciate *The Point* and find it useful? If any groups are interested in meeting at the central office to contribute, contact Jane. *The Point* committee wants feedback.

Liaison Reports

SF General Service, Virginia M. Post-Conference Assembly is coming up in Burlingame this month.

Marin Teleservice, Trevor F. A few Friday shifts have become available. New guidelines are posted at marinteleservice.com. The annual spaghetti feed is being coordinated and Marin Teleservice is also considering ideas for reducing waste.

Individual Contributions

to Central Office were made through May 15, 2015
honoring the following members:

IN MEMORIAM

Flossie N., Jennifer (Say Hey Group), Ray M.

ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy R. – 35 years

Lauren H. – 28 years, Peggy H. – 28 years

Markus – 8 years

GGYPAA A Prom Dance will be held on May 28th; **SOCYPAA** is planning a camp-out at Lake Berryessa this summer and **GGYPAA** is planning the annual BBQ on the 4th of July at Fort Mason. **ACYPA** just took place in Orange County; Oakland won the bid for 2017.

Old Business

After reviewing the roll call, Chris observed that there is a quorum present tonight, so we can vote on the motion, if we want to. Once again, and without recreating the discussion that has been laborious Chris wants to know if there are any questions from people who are still not quite sure what we might vote on tonight. Questions were taken in the spirit of staying on track with the motion. Chris asked for a show of hands of people ready to vote: 25 people are ready to vote, 1 is not. It will take a majority of 66% of the eligible voters to approve the motion. 2 people voted in favor of approving the motion, the other 23 opposed; therefore the motion does not carry.

New Business

Again, Chris asked how many people understand what has been proposed. Questions were taken to help bring people up to speed on this new business, a proposed motion. A discussion followed about how many people should be ready to vote before the vote is actually called. Only 2/3rds of the eligible voters present tonight are prepared to vote if the motion is proposed. Ken made the motion, Michael seconded the motion. By a show of hands, most people are not ready to allow a vote to go forward with the 2/3rds in attendance tonight that are ready to vote. This discussion will carry forward to the next

meeting. Ken, who presented the New Business last month, provided an explanation of the 4th and 7th Tradition and the analogy that groups that can't pay their rent cannot ask the Intergroup to help them make rent payments, so why should they ask for Intergroup to pay for an ASL interpreter if they cannot afford to provide one themselves?

Group Reports/What's On Your Mind

Pete has cards and flyer for the RoadToDetroit. Please distribute them at meetings.

John R. announced that "Yosemite" Tom passed away suddenly recently; please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Charles mentioned his group needs a Special Events coordinator.

Lance said that perhaps we could make sign language commitments for those who sign and are willing to volunteer.

Nick reminded us that he represents a group at the Intergroup and does not make decisions on the spot based on his personal feelings.

Chris was acknowledged for his service in presenting the Old and New Business tonight as it required staying on track and being fair to those in attendance.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Statement at 8:30pm

Next Intergroup Meeting: Wed. June 1, 2014, 7pm, 1187 Franklin St. SF CA. Orientation is at 6:15pm, dinner is served at 7pm.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The following is a list of names and email addresses for our Intergroup Officers and many of the committees. Please email that committee at the address below if you are interested in doing service on a committee, or if you wish to receive more information.

BOARD OFFICERS:

CHAIR

Carolyn R. chair@aasf.org

VICE CHAIR

Chris H. vicechair@aasf.org

TREASURER

Joanne H. treasurer@aasf.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Sam W. secretary@aasf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

ACCESS COMMITTEE

Virginia M. access@aasf.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Michael P. archives@aasf.org

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Michael P. fellowship@aasf.org

HOMEBOUND MARIN

Frank T. homeboundmarin@aasf.org

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Greg M. orientation@aasf.org

SF PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Peter B. picpc@aasf.org

SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Pete F. sfteservice@aasf.org

SOS COMMITTEE

Dorothy V. sos@aasf.org

SUNSHINE CLUB

David C. & Carole P. sunshine@aasf.org

THE POINT

Jane B. thepoint@aasf.org

aa group contributions

Fellowship Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
Contribution Box	\$ 29	\$ 376
Intergroup	\$ 115	\$ 453
Novato Fellowship Group		\$ 656
Fellowship Total	\$ 143	\$ 1,485

Marin Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
7am Urgent Care Group 7D 7am	\$ 75	
AA By The Bay Tue 730pm	\$ 36	
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am	\$ 500	\$ 1,750
Awareness/Acceptance M 1030am	\$ 75	
Back to Basics Su 930am	\$ 37	\$ 156
Beginner's Help Th 8pm	\$ 50	\$ 50
Big Book Study & Meditation M 7pm	\$ 24	
Closed Women's Step Study Tu 330pm	\$ 67	
Corte Madera Saturday Candlelight 8pm	\$ 250	\$ 418
Cover to Cover W 730pm	\$ 150	
Crossroads Sun 12pm	\$ 133	\$ 558
Day At A Time 7D 630am	\$ 200	
Fireside Fri 8pm Bolinas	\$ 24	
Friday Night Book F 830pm	\$ 287	\$ 584
Glum Not! Su 9am	\$ 200	
God Could & Would 5D M-F	\$ 54	
Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm	\$ 145	
Inverness Sunday Serenity Su 10am	\$ 220	
Just Can't Wait 'til 8 M 630pm	\$ 250	
Last Stop Men's Step Study W 6pm	\$ 250	
Living in the Solution F 6pm	\$ 650	
Living Sober M 6pm	\$ 33	\$ 33
Marin Teleservice	\$ 1,500	
Marin Young People F 830pm	\$ 70	
Men's 2 Plus M 7pm	\$ 111	
Mill Valley 7D 7am	\$ 150	\$ 450
Mill Valley Discussion W 830pm	\$ 179	
Monday Blues M 645pm	\$ 157	
Monday Night Madness M 6pm	\$ 50	
Monday Night Stag Tiburon	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Morning After Sa 10am	\$ 200	
North Marin Speaker Sun 12pm	\$ 173	
Not a Glum Lot Group F 8pm	\$ 200	
Novato Spirit Discussion F 2pm	\$ 50	
On Awakening 7D 530am	\$ 350	\$ 1,250
Pathfinders Tu 12pm	\$ 79	
Quitting Time M-F 530pm	\$ 856	\$ 1,552
Refugee Th 12pm	\$ 50	
Reveille 7D 7am	\$ 381	
Rise N Shine Su 10am	\$ 300	\$ 510
San Geronimo Valley M 8pm	\$ 89	\$ 133
Saturday Weekend Warrior Sa 830am	\$ 230	
Saturday Women's Speaker Sa 6pm	\$ 209	

Marin Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
Serendipity Sa 11am	\$ 650	
Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm	\$ 300	\$ 300
Sober Sisters W 12pm	\$ 93	
Spiritual Testosterone Stag Su 830a	\$ 500	
Steps to Freedom M 730pm	\$ 115	\$ 115
Stinson Beach Fellowship Th 8pm	\$ 200	
Streethunters Sa 9am	\$ 100	
Sunday Express Su 6pm	\$ 87	\$ 409
Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag 8pm	\$ 271	
The Barnyard Group Sa 4pm	\$ 62	
The Broad Highway Thu 730pm	\$ 187	
There is a Solution Tu 6pm	\$ 33	
Three Step Group Sa 530pm	\$ 599	
Thursday Night Speaker 830pm	\$ 335	\$ 782
Tiburon Women's Candlelight W 8pm	\$ 45	
Tuesday Chip Meeting Tu 830pm	\$ 596	\$ 596
We, Us and Ours M 650pm	\$ 174	
Wednesday Night Speaker Disc 7pm	\$ 377	
What's It All About F 12pm	\$ 15	
Wholly Together 11th Step Med W 7p	\$ 56	\$ 56
Why It Works Sun 6pm	\$ 289	
Women's Big Book Tu 1030am	\$ 671	\$ 1,232
Working Dogs W 12pm	\$ 206	\$ 895
Young People's BYOB Sat 7pm	\$ 82	
Young People's Chopsticks Sa 1030pm	\$ 88	
Marin Total	\$ 5,899	\$ 22,648

San Francisco Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
10am Daily Reflections Th	\$ 23	
11th Step Power Power Power	\$ 108	\$ 221
20+ Sun 445pm (unlisted)	\$ 344	\$ 344
6am Dry Dock Mon	\$ 180	\$ 180
6am Dry Dock Th	\$ 200	\$ 200
6am Dry Dock Tu	\$ 237	
6am Men's Literature Meeting M	\$ 135	
7am Speaker Discussion Th 7am	\$ 60	
A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm	\$ 30	\$ 223
A New Start F 830pm	\$ 297	
AA As You Like It Tu 530pm	\$ 46	
Agnostics & Freethinkers Su 630pm	\$ 340	
Any Lengths Sat 930am	\$ 1,080	
Artists & Writers F 630pm	\$ 535	
As Bill Sees It Th 6pm	\$ 160	
As Bill Sees It Th 830pm	\$ 167	
Ass in a Bag Th 830pm	\$ 416	\$ 416
Back to Basics Th 730pm	\$ 125	
Be Still AA Su 12pm	\$ 500	
Beginner Big Book Step Th 630pm	\$ 33	\$ 33
Beginners' Step Study Sat 7pm	\$ 118	\$ 118

San Francisco Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
Beginners Warm Up W 6pm	\$ 287	
Bernal New Day 7D	\$ 547	
Best Damn Big Book Disc Th 8pm	\$ 108	
Big Book Basics F 8pm	\$ 343	
Big Book Boot Camp 5D	\$ 160	
Blue Book Special Su 11am	\$ 101	\$ 222
Brothers in Arms M 8pm	\$ 135	
Buena Vista Breakfast Su 12pm	\$ 152	\$ 302
BYOL W 1pm	\$ 29	
Came to Park Sat 7pm	\$ 406	
Castro Monday Big Book M 830pm	\$ 173	
Coit's Quitters	\$ 135	
Come 'n Get It! F 630pm	\$ 30	\$ 65
Cow Hollow Men's Group W 8pm	\$ 977	
Creative Alcoholics M 630pm	\$ 11	\$ 11
Design for Living Sat 8am	\$ 164	
Down and Dirty at Seven-Thirty Mon	\$ 11	\$ 39
Down and Dirty at Seven-Thirty Thu	\$ 20	\$ 20
Down and Dirty at Seven-Thirty Tue	\$ 28	\$ 28
Down and Dirty at Seven-Thirty Wed	\$ 24	
Each Day a New Beginning F 7am	\$ 651	\$ 651
Each Day a New Beginning M 7am	\$ 144	\$ 274
Each Day a New Beginning Su 8am	\$ 218	\$ 218
Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am	\$ 330	\$ 646
Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	\$ 335	\$ 698
Early Start F 6pm	\$ 1,021	
Easy Does It Tu 6pm	\$ 100	
Eureka Step Tu 6pm	\$ 313	
Eureka Valley Topic M 6pm	\$ 620	\$ 620
Excelsior "Scent" Free For All Sa 5pm	\$ 60	\$ 120
Experience, Strength & Hope Sat 9am	\$ 157	
Federal Speaker Su 12pm	\$ 339	
Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am	\$ 107	
Fireside Chat Group Th 8pm	\$ 107	
Fireside Chat Group Tu 8pm	\$ 46	
Fourth Dimension Solution Th 515pm	\$ 26	
Friday at Five F 5pm	\$ 12	\$ 12
Friday Morning 12 Steppers 7am	\$ 75	
Friday Smokeless F 8pm	\$ 149	
Friendly Circle Beginners Su 715p	\$ 72	
Girls Night Out W 815pm	\$ 120	
Haight Street Blues Tu 615pm	\$ 152	
Haight Street Explorers Th 630pm	\$ 177	
High Noon 5D	\$ 185	
High Noon Monday 1215pm	\$ 276	
High Noon Saturday 1215pm	\$ 104	
High Noon Sunday 1215p	\$ 458	
High Sobriety M 8pm	\$ 92	
High Steppers W 7pm	\$ 228	\$ 288

San Francisco Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
Hilldwellers M 8pm	\$ 240	
Huntington Square W 630pm	\$ 134	\$ 134
Joys of Recovery Tu 8pm	\$ 18	\$ 18
Keep Coming Back Sa 10am	\$ 571	\$ 571
Like A Prayer Su 4pm	\$ 180	
Living Sober @ Gratitude Su 4pm	\$ 33	\$ 33
Living Sober with HIV W 6pm	\$ 208	
Lush Lounge Sa 2pm	\$ 177	\$ 177
Men's Gentle Touch M 7pm	\$ 177	
Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am	\$ 250	
Miracle (Way) Off 24th St W 730pm	\$ 216	
Mission Fellowship	\$ 254	
Monday Beginners M 8pm	\$ 42	\$ 316
Monday Men's Stag (SF) M 8pm	\$ 82	
New Light Brigade Sun 630p	\$ 31	\$ 31
Newcomers Tu 8pm	\$ 174	
No Reservations M 12pm	\$ 88	
Noon Smokeless F 12pm	\$ 40	
O.A.D.W. Mon 7pm	\$ 42	
One, Two, Three, Go! W 1pm	\$ 20	
Parkside Th 8pm	\$ 174	\$ 174
Pax West Discussion Th 12pm	\$ 241	\$ 241
Pax West Speaker Discussion M 12pm	\$ 888	\$ 888
Pocket Aces Sun 7pm	\$ 291	
Potrero Hill 12 x 12 M 630pm	\$ 65	\$ 108
Raising the Bottom W 8pm	\$ 477	
Rebound W 830pm	\$ 55	
Relapses Rebounds Retreads Winners	\$ 5	\$ 5
Rigorous Honesty Th 1205pm	\$ 157	
Saturday Afternoon Meditation 5pm	\$ 202	
Saturday Beginners Sat 6pm	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,261
Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	\$ 485	

San Francisco Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
Saturday Matinee SA	\$ 30	
Saturday Matinee Sa 2pm	\$ 40	
Serenity House	\$ 150	\$ 600
Serenity Now Tue 830p	\$ 167	
Serenity Seekers M 730pm	\$ 209	
Shamrocks & Serenity M 730pm	\$ 263	\$ 702
Sharing Wisdom Sat 730am	\$ 5	\$ 5
Sinbar Su 8pm	\$ 99	\$ 99
Sober Saturday Sa 830am	\$ 196	\$ 404
Sobriety & Beyond W 730pm	\$ 78	\$ 279
Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am	\$ 142	\$ 1,171
Step It Up Tue 6pm	\$ 14	\$ 14
Steppin' Up Tu 630pm	\$ 139	
Steps To The Solution W 715pm	\$ 377	
Stonestown M 8pm	\$ 128	\$ 128
Sunday Bookworms Su 730pm	\$ 23	
Sun Morning Gay Men's Stag 930am	\$ 439	
Sunday Night 3rd Step Group 5pm	\$ 360	
Sunday Night Castro SD 730pm	\$ 271	
Sunday Rap Su 8pm	\$ 27	\$ 251
Sundown W 7pm	\$ 614	
Sunset 11'ers Su	\$ 100	
Sunset 11'ers Tu	\$ 29	
Sunset 9'ers M	\$ 63	
Sunset 9'ers Su	\$ 72	\$ 72
Sunset 9'ers Tu	\$ 86	\$ 86
Sunset Speaker Step Su 730pm	\$ 315	
Ten Years After Su 6pm	\$ 642	\$ 898
The Drive Thru W 1215pm	\$ 561	
The Leaky Cauldron Su 930am	\$ 259	
The Parent Trap 2 W 4pm	\$ 143	
They Stopped In Time M 8pm	\$ 121	

San Francisco Group Contributions	Apr. 16	YTD
Thursday Lunch With Bill 12p	\$ 21	
Thursday Night Women's Th 630pm	\$ 265	
Thursday Thumpers Th 7pm	\$ 150	
Too Early Sa 8am	\$ 153	
Trudgers Discussion Su 7pm	\$ 180	
Tuesday Big Book Study Tu 6pm	\$ 164	
Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	\$ 90	\$ 90
Valencia Smokefree F 6pm	\$ 425	
Walk of Shame W 830pm	\$ 125	
We Care Tu 12pm	\$ 120	
Wednesday Noon Step Study 12p	\$ 225	
Wednesday Sunrise Smokefree 7am	\$ 60	\$ 60
Weekend Update Su 615pm	\$ 175	
Weekend Worker Sat 7am	\$ 90	
West Portal W 8pm	\$ 189	
Wharf Rats Th 815pm	\$ 52	
What It's Like Now M 6pm	\$ 91	\$ 286
Wholly Together 11th Step Med W 7p	\$ 98	
Why Not Laugh Sat 6p	\$ 30	\$ 30
Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm	\$ 88	\$ 88
Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm	\$ 697	
Women's Big Book Study Tu 1150am	\$ 20	\$ 80
Women's Came to Believe Sa 10am	\$ 292	\$ 410
Women's Kitchen Table Tu 630pm	\$ 253	
Women's Promises F 7pm	\$ 744	
Work In Progress Sa 7pm	\$ 600	
YAHOO Step Sa 1130am	\$ 138	
Young at Heart Sa 930am	\$ 69	
San Francisco Total	\$ 10,591	\$ 39,756
YTD	\$ 16,634	\$ 63,889



JOIN THE SUNSHINE CLUB!

We take meetings to AA members who are temporarily unable to get to regular meetings due to accident, illness, or infirmity.

**Orientation at 3pm, Saturday, June 25, 2016
Gratitude Center, 1320 7th Ave | Irving**

(One year sobriety requirement)

Profit and Loss Statement: March 2016

	Mar 16	Budget	Jan - Mar 16	YTD Budget		Mar 16	Budget	Jan - Mar 16	YTD Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					Payroll Fees	\$9	\$10	\$31	\$30
Income					Phone Book Listings	\$279	\$93	\$279	\$279
Gratitude Month	\$133	\$225	\$2,877	\$7,375	Postage	\$249	\$108	\$249	\$324
Group Contributions	\$12,406	\$11,100	\$48,410	\$44,300	Printing	\$0	\$695	\$0	\$695
Individual Contributions	\$3,851	\$3,722	\$13,203	\$11,166	Professional Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Newsletter Subscript.	\$11	\$0	\$22	\$0	Rent - Office	\$4,458	\$4,488	\$13,375	\$13,464
Sales - Bookstore	\$9,447	\$8,387	\$25,074	\$25,161	Rent - Other	\$165	\$85	\$240	\$255
Intergroup Event Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Repair & Maintenance	\$240	\$269	\$720	\$807
Total Income	\$25,847	\$23,434	\$89,586	\$88,002	Security System	\$164	\$43	\$164	\$129
Cost of Goods Sold					Shipping	\$277	\$283	\$1,024	\$853
Cost of Books Sold	\$7,014	\$6,529	\$18,371	\$18,587	Software Purchased	\$0	\$43	\$0	\$132
CoGS Shipping	\$18	\$29	\$67	\$87	Telephone	\$523	\$175	\$523	\$525
Credit Card Processing	\$208	\$415	\$1,208	\$1,205	Training	\$0	\$44	\$0	\$128
Inventory Adjustments	\$58	\$0	\$18	\$0	Travel	\$11	\$0	\$11	\$100
Total COGS	\$7,299	\$6,973	\$19,664	\$19,879	Total Expense	\$21,205	\$20,173	\$63,037	\$61,787
Gross Profit	\$18,548	\$16,461	\$69,922	\$68,123	Net Ordinary Income	(\$2,657)	(\$3,712)	\$6,885	\$6,336
Expense					Other Income/Expense				
Committees	\$0	\$38	\$30	\$114	Other Income				
Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$0		\$64		Bag Fees	\$3	\$3	\$7	\$9
Employee Expenses	\$12,532	\$13,364	\$40,097	\$40,092	Customer Shipping	\$226	\$296	\$1,178	\$882
Equipment Lease	\$816	\$0	\$1,632	\$1,225	Interest Income	\$45	\$42	\$135	\$122
Filing/Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Miscellaneous Income	\$80	\$30	\$110	\$90
Insurance	\$838	\$0	\$2,488	\$1,330	Total Other Income	\$354	\$371	\$1,430	\$1,103
Intergroup Events	\$380	\$0	\$1,415	\$0	Other Expense				
Intergroup Literature	\$9	\$35	\$9	\$105	Depreciation Expense	\$205	\$205	\$615	\$615
Internet Expense	\$218	\$135	\$408	\$405	Total Other Expense	\$205	\$205	\$615	\$615
Office Supplies	\$38	\$174	\$75	\$522	Net Other Income	\$149	\$166	\$815	\$488
Paper Purchased	\$0	\$91	\$203	\$273	Net Income	(\$2,508)	(\$3,546)	\$7,700	\$6,824

Treasurer's Report

For the month of March, total income (less the cost of books sold) was over budget by \$2,413. Both individual and group contributions exceeded budget by \$129 and \$1,306, respectively.

Total expenses were \$1,032 under budget. Wages and salaries were \$234 under budget. As of April 2016 the budget has been redistributed to better reflect the ebbs and flows of our business.

Unrestricted cash, while down from February, is enough to cover 1.71 months of operating expenses compared to 1.85 at the end of February. The drop in coverage (months of expense) is primarily due to timing of payments and the fact that the budget was spread equally over the year.

OVERALL RATING: Fair—Good

INTERGROUP FINANCE RATING SYSTEM

Every month we rate our monthly finances as “Excellent”, “Good”, “Fair” or “Poor”. Generally speaking, here are the definitions of those terms:

EXCELLENT: We exceeded our budget. Our income was greater than our expenses for the month and we have more than two months' worth of operating expenses in unrestricted cash balances. Operating expenses are roughly \$19K/month, so we'd have over \$38K in unrestricted cash balances for the month. The last time we were “Excellent” was January 2013.

GOOD: We are meeting our budget. Our income for the month, or for the YTD, was slightly greater than our expenses and we'd have approximately 1.5 - 2 months of operating expenses in unrestricted cash balances. The last time we were “Good” was March 2015.

FAIR: We are not meeting our budget. Our expenses were greater than our income for the month and for the YTD - and our unrestricted cash balance would be somewhere between 1 and 1.5x our operating expenses.

POOR: We are not meeting our budget and our unrestricted cash balances fell below one month of operating expenses. The last time we were “poor” was in September 2015.

March 2016 Balance Sheet

	<u>Mar 31, 16</u>	<u>Feb 29, 16</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>Mar 31, 15</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
Restricted Cash	\$132,637	\$132,593	\$45	\$192,134	-\$59,497
Unrestricted Cash	\$36,001	\$37,175	-\$1,174	\$28,221	\$7,780
Total Checking/Savings	\$168,638	\$169,768	-\$1,130	\$220,355	-\$51,717
Accounts Receivable					
Accounts Receivable	\$86	\$57	\$29	\$38	\$48
Total Accounts Receivable	\$86	\$57	\$29	\$38	\$48
Other Current Assets					
Inventory - Bookstore	\$17,281	\$20,480	-\$3,200	\$27,576	-\$10,295
Prepaid Literature Orders	\$350	\$350	\$0	\$2,424	-\$2,075
Undeposited Funds	\$4,879	\$843	\$4,037	\$273	\$4,607
Total Other Current Assets	\$22,510	\$21,673	\$837	\$30,273	-\$7,763
Total Current Assets	\$191,234	\$191,498	-\$264	\$250,666	-\$59,432
Fixed Assets					
Comp. and Off. Equipment	\$1,149	\$1,189	-\$40	\$1,791	-\$642
Leasehold Improvements	\$15,409	\$15,574	-\$165	\$17,389	-\$1,980
Total Fixed Assets	\$16,557	\$16,762	-\$205	\$19,179	-\$2,622
Other Assets					
Deposits	\$6,698	\$6,698	\$0	\$6,698	\$0
Total Other Assets	\$6,698	\$6,698	\$0	\$6,698	\$0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$214,489	\$214,957	-\$469	\$276,543	-\$62,054
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
Accounts Payable	\$1,708	\$0	\$1,708	\$0	\$1,708
Total Accounts Payable	\$1,708	\$0	\$1,708	\$0	\$1,708
Other Current Liabilities					
Payroll Liabilities	\$4,263	\$4,156	\$107	\$4,372	-\$109
Sales Tax Payable	\$795	\$639	\$156	\$632	\$163
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$5,058	\$4,796	\$263	\$5,004	\$54
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,766	\$4,796	\$1,971	\$5,004	\$1,762
Long Term Liabilities					
Deferred Compensation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,167	-\$60,167
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,167	-\$60,167
Total Liabilities	\$6,766	\$4,796	\$1,971	\$65,171	-\$58,405
Equity					
Net Assets	\$199,954	\$199,954	\$0	\$214,601	-\$14,647
Net Income	\$7,769	\$10,208	-\$2,439	-\$3,229	\$10,998
Total Equity	\$207,722	\$210,162	-\$2,439	\$211,372	-\$3,649
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$214,489	\$214,957	-\$469	\$276,543	-\$62,054



Thank You Faithful FIVERS! Thank You

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of Central Office. Faithful Fiver contributions go a long way in helping make our vital services possible. We thank the following members:

(Continued from p. 5)

Michael P.	Pete F.	Susan C.
Michael W.	Rachel G.	Suzanne C.
Michael Z.	Rich G.	Tara S.
Michele F.	Robert C.	Teddy W.
Michelle C.	Robert W.	Theresa M.
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Pam K.	Sean M.	Tomas L.
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Patrick S.	Stephen N.	Tripp Mc
Paul K.	Stephen S.	
Peggy H.	Steve A.	Your Name Here?!
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The Birthday Plan has been an A.A. tradition since 1955. Contributions to express gratitude for sobriety can be made in any amount. Some send a dollar / year, others a penny a day. We would like to list your last name and initial & number of years sober in The Point.



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