

The Point

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

A publication of the
Intercounty Fellowship
of Alcoholics Anonymous

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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). *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 by AA as a whole, the Intercounty Fellowship Board, 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.

50 cents

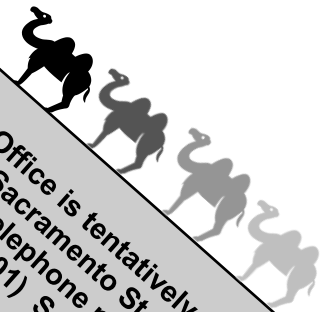
During Gratitude Month, many groups pass an extra basket, with contributions earmarked specifically for the support of the Central Office. Treasurers of groups participating in Gratitude Month are asked to keep the second basket funds separate from the regular 7th Tradition, and to distribute Gratitude Month donations to Central Office in *December of this year*.

In discussing the need for Gratitude Month this year, the Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB) looked at the overall financial health of our Intergroup. While the Central Office is currently in sound financial shape, the 'up-front' expense of moving the office this year, along with the possibility of a national financial downturn, persuaded many Intergroup Reps of the prudence of recommending Gratitude Month. In addition, some Reps believe that Gratitude Month should properly be a local tradition, largely independent of immediate financial considerations. "I believe Gratitude Month should be about *gratitude*, and about a personal commitment to the Seventh Tradition", says Intergroup Rep David D.

Although rent will remain the same, other expenses at our new location on Sacramento


See related articles on pages 5 and 9

The Central Office is tentatively scheduled to move to 1821 Sacramento St. on Saturday, November 24. New telephone numbers will be: 415-674-1821 (Fax: 674-1801) See page 5 for details.




NOVEMBER IS...

GRATITUDE MONTH



The second basket passed during November goes entirely to our local AA Central Office, and helps ensure that it will continue to offer services to our groups and our community.

"I am responsible... when anyone, anywhere, reached out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible."



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOVEMBER 2001 ... In the Fellowship <i>Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups</i>				1	2	3
4	5	6	FIRST WED 7 * (IFB): Intercounty Fellowship Board: 180 Harrison, Sausalito 7:00 pm * Spirit of SF Committee 1329 Irving/7th (church) 7 pm	SECOND THU 8 * Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 6 pm	9	10
11	SECOND MON 12 * SF Public Information Committee: 25 Oak #150 SF; 7 pm	SECOND TUE 13 * Bridging the Gap: 1101 O'Farrell , SF; 6:30pm * General Service: 1101 O'Farrell, SF Orientation: 7:00p Reg. Meeting: 7:45p * Marin H&I: Lagunitas & Shady Lane, Ross 7 pm	14	15	16	17
18	THIRD MON 19 * SF Teleservice 25 Oak #150, SF; 6:30pm General Service * Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd. San Rafael 7:00pm GSR Sharing	THIRD TUE 20 * San Mateo General Service: St. Andrews Ch. 15th & El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p	FOURTH THU 21 * Marin PI: 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15pm (MOVED TO WED THIS MONTH)	22	23	FOURTH SAT 24 * General Service: CNCA Bus. Mtg: 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; DCMCs: 10:30am Main Meeting:12n
LAST SUN 25 * Living Sober 1668 Bush, SF; 5:30p * 2900 Steering Committee: 2900 24th St., SF 12:15 pm	26	LAST TUE 27 * SF General Service (DCM Mtg): 7pm 25 Oak St., SF FOURTH TUE * Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael: 7:30p	28	LAST THU 29 * SF H&I Old First Church, SE corner of Sacramento & Van Ness (enter on Sacramento) Orientation: 7:15p Regular Meeting: 8pm	30	

This calendar lists local AA service and conference planning *meetings*, as well as any local AA related *events* of which the Central Office has been notified. Please call Mark at the Central Office (621-1326) by the 15th of the previous month if you would like your event listed.

COMING EVENTS

2001

Call 415-621-1326 or visit the Central Office for copies of any flyers of interest to you or your group.
Local events are shaded; flyers of current local events, if available, are printed on page 14.

Oct 29—Nov 5	40th Annual Hawaii Convention - Waikiki Convention Center, Honolulu
Nov 2—4	17th Annual Santa Barbara Convention—Goleta, CA
Nov 3	SAN FRANCISCO UNITY DAY - 1101 O'Farrell (Urban Life Center) 11:00am - 4:00pm (see page 14)
Nov 9—11	15th Annual Gold Country Roundup—Pokerville (Plymouth), CA (rescheduled from Sept. 6, Pre-registration still valid)
Nov 16—18	Yosemite Summit Conference 2001 - Curry Village, Yosemite National Park
Nov 22 - 25	35th Annual Las Vegas Roundup - Las Vegas, NV
Nov 22 - 25	Big Apple Roundup (presented by gay & lesbian members) —New York, NY (website: www.bigappleroundup.org)
Nov 23 - 24	Pockets of Enthusiasm Conference - San Antonio TX (email: csosa@stic.net)
Dec 8 - 9	Women's Winder Holiday Retreat - Mt. Tamalpais, Mill Valley (see page 14)
Dec 8 - 9	Special Hispanic Regional Forum - Austin TX
Dec 28—Jan 1	WACYPA V (Western Area Conference of Young People in AA) — Denver, CO (website: www.wacypaa.org)
Jan 11-13,2002	13th Annual Yakima Valley Roundup—Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, WA
Jan 18-20,2002	12th Annual River Round Up - Laughlin NV (forms online at www.citlink.net/~rcccaa)
Feb 14-17,2002	38th Annual International AA Women's Conference—Denver, CO
Apr 12-14,2002	14th Annual Big Island Bash - Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (email: kengold@aloha.net)



NOVEMBER 2001

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"We of AA now find ourselves in a world characterized by destructive fears as never before in history. But in it we nevertheless see great areas of faith and tremendous aspirations toward justice and brotherhood. Yet no prophet can presume to say whether the world outcome will be blazing destruction or the beginning, under God's intention, of the brightest era yet known to mankind. . .

We AA's can say that we do not fear the world outcome, whichever course it may take. This is because we have been enabled to deeply feel and say, 'We shall fear

Thank you Rob A. !

Letters to *The Point*

Still More on the Lord's Prayer

To The Editors of the Point:

My wish is to respond to the comments of Steve C. on "Reconsidering the Lord's Prayer" [July 2001 issue] - yet, a close review of this letter deals mainly with the first 2 words of that prayer, without any indication that he has gone beyond these 2 words and studied or critiqued the text of the remainder of this useful prayer. You will agree, I hope, that a discussion on just those first 2 words, to the exclusion of the rest of the text, would be futile. [As an aside, however, we could point out that it was Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Oliver W. Holmes, who uttered the statement: "My religion is summed up in the first two words of the Lord's Prayer".] I also find little point in discussing or denigrating a prayer because of its origin - following this approach would eliminate many of the "formal" prayers that we utter, not to mention many of the phrases that currently sprinkle American idiomatic speech.

My preference, however, is to address the question posed by the writer: "Why would we need to take a second look at this prayer beloved of so many?" Part of the answer is in the question itself - it is, in fact "...beloved of so many" - but this appeal to a great majority seems not to have impressed the writer. So, to carry the response to his question beyond that phrase requires that we venture beyond the first 2 words and study the rest of the 7 statements of the Lord's Prayer.

My "second look" discloses that this prayer, on close reflection, can meet the needs of everyone on his or her level at whatever stage of spiritual development he or she has reached. The stunning revelation of this "second look" is the ability of this prayer to address specific and integral components of the AA recovery program [steps and slogans] with uncanny precision and foresights. Some examples:

FROM THE PRAYER: FROM THE PROGRAM

"Our Father"	-This is Step 2 - coming to believe in a power greater than ourselves - a sine qua non of further growth in the program
"Thy will be done"	-In its briefest form, this is Step 3, the surrender to our Higher Power.
"Give us THIS DAY our"...	-From Day One in the program we are told to live One Day at a time, to worry only about the needs of today - whether for bread, for sobriety, for resources
"Forgive us our trespasses..."	Implicitly in Step 5 and explicitly in the Step 9, we are seeking forgiveness - and [see next bullet:]

"as we forgive those who trespass against us..."

"Lead us not into temptation"

-This is the rest of the Step 8 and 9 process [and I have found that I am incapable of forgiving and accepting forgiveness except by the grace of God, which I am seeking - which I MUST seek in prayer.

-Practicing these principles in all our affairs" demands that I avoid several pitfalls along the way; I fall into many traps because of persisting character defects - whose removal requires God's grace - once again, a gift for which I must ask.

Folks, this is *my* "second look"- and I must ask: how many prayers can you find that contain so many of the principles of the AA recovery program in the 7 simple statements of the Lord's Prayer? - and, not to exalt the obvious, prayer IS one of the important maintenance steps of this "happy road of destiny"!

Gratefully,

*John V.
San Francisco*

To The Point:

I have been reading the letters on the Lord's Prayer; all their concepts are very profound. While I do not pretend to be proficient in the English language, it seems to me that the translation is not quite as good as it should be.

Do we have the arrogance to tell God to "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"? I think we should humbly ask Him to help us forgive those who trespass against us, as HE forgives US.

Then we go and tell him not to lead us into temptation - implying that He is capable of leading us into it at one time or another. God will never lead his children into temptation. I think that a better way to pray would be to ask Him to keep us away from temptation, or not to let us fall into it.

*J. Lewis T.,
San Francisco*

Letters to Point

Ground Zero AA meetings

This is a letter from an on-line AA group, forwarded to the Central Office from Tracy R.

Friday, September 28, we established the Ground Zero group of AA. At the invitation of the Red Cross, we started a meeting in a comfort station at the heart of the rescue effort, literally across the street. My tradition/service sponsor (who's on staff at GSO) got the call, and we set it up. No greater privilege - not speaking at the International, not any other service - has meant so much. The workers -- cops, firemen, ironworkers, EMT's, now have a set-up of literature, slogans, etc., in a discreet, accessible spot. The response was overwhelming. One guy with two days, some with years. A cop quoted Bill's Story:

"War fever ran high..."

It's hard to convey precisely the strength of their recovery among the horror of the wreckage.

Wanted you to know...

John F.
New York

Our Fellowship

Thank you for publishing the sympathy card to New York in your October issue of The Point.

Once more I was reminded of the love that flows through our Fellowship.

Most Sincerely,

Frances L.
Mill Valley

The Point welcomes letters from members of the AA Fellowship, as well as responses to letters and articles that appear in this newsletter. E-mail us at aa@aa-san-francisco.org or call 415-621-1326. The deadline for submission is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Submissions may be edited with the writer's permission.

Cost of the Central Office Move - in a Nutshell

Many members know the IFB is near the end of a long, one-year process of moving the Central Office. But understanding the finances involved with this is little more difficult. The brief summary below may help clarify things.

Moving the Central Office from Market St. to Sacramento St. has involved spending a lot of time - and a fair amount of money. This is primarily because we found an ideal space that was reasonably priced, in a very good location - but one that required some interior construction to make it workable. Chief among this work was the installation of a small elevator to make the space wheelchair accessible.

The board, through its Lease Committee, decided this was close to perfect. The inexpensive price was no doubt related to the space's 'non-wheelchair-accessible' status - and the fact that it's an 'odd space' in some ways, i.e., it's a small storefront office with no contiguous space to 'grow' into - a problem for many commercial ventures, but perfect for us. Our office has been about the same size for decades, and in AA, we don't want a big office. And while we don't have a lot of money, we do have a lot of very dedicated volunteers who were willing to give prodigious amounts of time to the process of making this work.

And so a deal was struck. We came up with a budget for the project. The bottom line (including a \$6600 refundable deposit

and the necessity of paying 'double rent' for 2 months), will come in around \$54,000 - *but wait!* \$26,000 of that amount is being reimbursed by our new landlord. Gratitude Month funds from last year have been set aside for this purpose and amount to about \$18,000. This leaves about \$10,000 that needs to be funded from operating cash. (which we *do* have - barely! Our prudent reserve will remain intact).

God provides, if we do the footwork!

Date of Central Office Move is November 24... Tentatively

Because our timeframe is very tight with the construction work, we can not yet give a firm date for the move (but we think it will be 11/24)

If you need to visit the office around that time, just call our old number (621-1326). If it refers to the new number (674-1821) - then we have moved!



Thanks for my sobriety,

Maxine D.
Sausalito

Open For Business

From the A.A. Grapevine, October, 2001. Reprinted with permission.

It was probably 1975 when the secretary of our regular Thursday evening meeting asked if I would substitute for him on Thanksgiving so he could visit his family out of town. Of course, I said I would, and did, which led to a memorable event.

In those days the secretary had single-handed responsibility for everything about the meeting - setup, refreshments, literature, speaker, collection - the works. About half an hour before meeting time, I unlocked and began the preliminaries. Then, as now, the meeting was held in a local church in our small town a few miles north of San Francisco. Then, as now, it was called the "Original Marin Smokeless Group" of Alcoholics Anonymous. Those who can recall that era will realize that a nonsmoking group then was a pioneer adventure. Attendance since the group's founding several years earlier had always been modest, averaging about eight to ten members. I didn't expect a large crowd at 8:00pm on that Thanksgiving Day, but I dutifully made preparations for the usual turnout.

The chairs were in place, Coffee was ready. Literature was laid out on the table in the back of the room. The "AA Meeting" sign was hanging outside the door.

The clock showed 8:05pm; then 8:15.

No one had showed up.

I sat reading to myself from the Big Book. I put it down for a moment and wondered what to do.

Then a young woman came shyly through the door. "Hi" she said quietly. "Is this the AA meeting?"

"It is. And you are welcome."

She was a professional musician and had a gig at a watering hole in Sausalito, a couple miles away. She was a long way from home and needed a meeting. We had a great one right there, just the two of us. The regular Thursday night meeting of "Original Marin Smokeless Group" was open for business that Thanksgiving evening a quarter of a century ago.

Ray C.
Mill Valley, California

[*The Original Marin Smokeless* (today actually listed in the Marin meeting schedule as "M.V. Original Smokeless Step Study") meets every Thursday night at 8pm at the church on the corner of Camino Alto and Sycamore in Mill Valley. Ray reports he does not know when or why the original name was changed for this great old group that still has about 25 members.]

A Trip to the GSO

If you ever get the chance to go to New York, please stop by our General Service Office, located on the 11th floor of 475 Riverside on the upper west side in Manhattan. There is a big meeting there every Friday at 11a.m. followed by a group tour of our GSO. Assistants to the staff are available anytime to take visitors on a tour. I met some staff members, including our Director, Greg.

The tours traditionally end with an introduction to the Archives Room. This part of the tour ought not be glossed over. Plan to spend some time in this room. I had a photo taken of me sitting on the brown leather reupholstered couch that sat in Bill's office. There is a photo on the wall behind the couch of Bill and his secretary - and the couch!

In the first Archives room, you will find lots of large gray file cabinets lining the walls. You can ask for help to go through them if you wish. There's a glass display case with past editions of the Big Book and another book case with copies of our literature in other languages. The back room holds several large scrap books full of newspaper articles about our fellowship. There is also, interestingly enough, a whole wall of books about alcoholism and related subjects, several of them autographed.

Our meeting in print, a.k.a. the Grapevine, is located on the floor below. I got to meet the new editor! He gave me a copy of the November issue that contains a story about a member who escaped the WTC disaster with his life. Confused and dusted by the destruction, the member ends up at a meeting! Also moving are the hard copy of all the issues since it's inception, along with a typed catalog of topics in each issue. Oddly, the catalog was open to 'Navy', were I was reminded that our fellowship has many a member who served on the front lines in past world wars while they stayed sober!

I am filled with lots of hope that in our fellowship, we have accessible, timeless, experience and strength to draw from - no matter what circumstances we might find our selves facing today.

Focus on the Traditions



TRADITION ELEVEN

ATTRACTION / PROMOTION

Tradition Eleven (short form) states: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

Long Form: "Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us."

Any member may cloak himself with all the anonymity he wants. However, full names may be used within A.A. and in person-to-person contact outside of A.A. Members should avoid such titles as "A.A. Counselor". A. A. members may speak in the media only if names and faces are not revealed; only if they are speaking solely as individual members – not for A.A.

Dr. Bob is reported to have said that there were two ways to break the anonymity tradition: one, by giving one's name at the public level; two, by being so anonymous that one could not be reached by other drunks.

In May, 1940, the first anonymity break at the public level took place. Although this did attract many to A.A., it was a challenge to our slowly emerging principle of anonymity. Other widely publicized breaks took place. Despite immediate gains, it was eventually felt that to publicize one's A.A. membership, and then to drink again, would jeopardize A.A.'s survival.

Anonymity breaks (at the local level) are handled by our Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (PI/CPC).

Our Hospitals and Institutions Committee (H&I), to its credit, is opposed to sensationalism. It reminds A.A. speakers to avoid off-color jokes, profanity and other forms of self indulgence when speaking at A.A. meetings within a facility.

It is recorded that if a member used bad language at an A.A. meeting, Dr. Bob would say, "You have a very good head, young man, but it would be more effective if you cleaned it up a bit."

The founders of A.A. were "buried just like other folks". i.e., no monument, no reference to Alcoholics Anonymous – only a simple headstone.

In service and gratitude,

Gayle D.
San Francisco

[Quotations have been reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc., from the following sources:]

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions;
"Understanding Anonymity" pamphlet;
Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age;
Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers;
Pass It On.

Time in a Bottle

Time marches on - and yet another local Oldtimer is gone. May his experience strength and hope live forever.

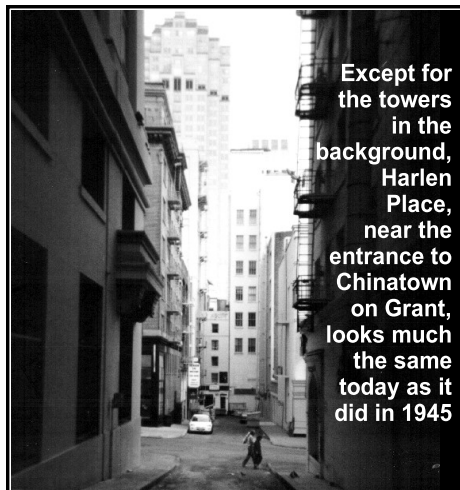
My D. Day was Jan 2, 1945. I had promised my wife, children and relatives I would never drink again after January 1, 1945. However I was drunk Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and every day during the holidays. On January 1st I went to the East West game at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco... About thirty of us from the Ford dealership went.

We all had a bottle. I don't remember too much of the game. I blacked out before halftime and don't remember getting home. Jan 2, 3, 4, I did remain sober, with a BAD hangover. January 4th I was dying for a bottle but I had to be baby sitter for my 1 year old daughter. Sober and sick... There was knock on the door. The person there said he was from AA and his name was Ray H.... (since deceased). Thinking he was from AAA Auto Insurance, I invited him in. He explained that he had received a letter from me asking for help for my problem with alcohol. He showed me the letter which was signed with my name (found out my wife had sent it and signed my name). I told him that I had not signed the letter and had not sent it. He mentioned that while he was there he would like to tell me about his problem with alcohol, and what the program of AA has meant to him with his three years of sobriety. I thought what a bunch of B-S-! No one can stay sober for three years! Ray then talked about his problems with drinking. In many ways his drinking problems were much like my own. He talked for an hour or so, then started to

(I was) "sober and sick... There was a knock on the door. The person there said he was from AA and his name was Ray... Thinking he was from AAA Auto Insurance, I invited him in."

leave. I asked "What do you do to continue your sobriety?" He mentioned that there were meetings once a week for members and added the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. He asked if I would like to go to a meeting? I said yes. He then asked if I could go the next 24 hours without drinking? I replied I

don't really know, but I will try. Ray called me the next evening and asked how I had made out. I mentioned I was seriously wanting to buy a bottle but did not and have not had a drink since I had last seen him. The words he said then I will never forget; "Les, you have made a very good start." Thanks to God and AA, I have never had a drink since.



My first AA meeting was January 10, 1945 at the *only* meeting in San Francisco at that time. It was at a blind alley called Harlen Place off Grant Avenue. I was told it had been a speakeasy during Prohibition. There were about 24 people there, about five of them women. I was told this was the only meeting in San Francisco at this time but there was a meeting once a week in Palo Alto, one in Oakland, one in Sacramento and also one in San Quentin Prison (the prison meeting was handled by the San Francisco and Oakland Groups).

There were no telephone listings - only PO Box No.'s at the old Mission St. Post Office. That's how Ray received the letter written by my wife. Thank God for that letter!

ANONYMITY was absolute. There was no such thing as an *open meeting*. I was personally interrogated by some of the "old timers". Old Timers meant you were sober for 2 or 3 years. I was only 32 years old and they didn't see how I could be a genuine alcoholic at that tender age. Some of the Old Timers I met are listed in AA Comes of Age, page 88-89. John C., the oldest, Fred and Amye C., OK and Juanita P., Ray H. (my sponsor), Nic C., Warren T., Vic M., Ray P., Dave D., and more.

After I was sober for about six weeks

and gone to our San Francisco weekly meetings, OK P. asked me to go with him and three others to San Quentin Prison for an AA meeting with the prisoners. He promised, "You will not have to talk." There we met Warden Clinton Duffy, a really great guy. He invited us to lunch at the prison dining room. From there we went to the meeting room for an AA meeting with the prisoners. Boy was I surprised; there were at least twice as many members in prison as there were in our San Francisco group. OK called on a couple to give a pitch, and they got a big hand. Then he said, "We have a young man sober for about a month, let's hear from him. Give the kid a big hand." I think I had a double heart attack, two hemorrhages and a nervous breakdown!! I have no idea what I said at that meeting, but OK said I did good. Ho! Ho! Yeah!

I did meet some terrific guys. The record shows that 80% of the prisoners that were members of AA in prison never returned (to prison)...

Les "Chip" F.

(In 1945)"...there were at least twice as many members in prison as there were in our San Francisco group."

Chip F. died near Yreka on October 4 - 3 months shy of 57 years sober. This is the first of five "Memories" articles written by Chip about Alcoholics Anonymous in San Francisco in the 1940s.

Central Office Christmas Party and Auction!

On Saturday, December 15 at 1pm the IFB will host its annual Central Office Christmas Party.

All local members are encouraged to come. This is a great time to get to know and fellowship with other 'service-doers'. We've got *stories*! We especially encourage those doing service with Teleservice, PI/CPC, and the IFB, as well as Central Office volunteers and those on the 12th Step list to come and have fun! (we may even have an impromptu AA meeting!)

Also, this year we have something entirely different: Because we will have furniture and assorted office items to be rid of before the lease on the Market Street location is up at the end of the year, it was decided to host the Christmas party at our old location, and include an old-fashioned auction! Ben N., (who hails from Indiana, and presumably knows about such things, will serve as our auctioneer!) So bring your trucks and a few bucks (as always in AA, we aren't talking big bucks here!) We mainly just want to have a little fun, and minimize the number of items to be thrown

away.

Following is a partial list of items to be sold.

- 3 wooden desks
- All office chairs
- 14 wooden cubes with drawers
- Several file cabinets
- Several metal cabinets (different sizes)
- Several storage and bookshelves
- 1 Microwave; 1 mini refrigerator
- 2 older computers (486);
- Several folding tables (6-8 ft)
- Much miscellaneous
- 38 maroon (stackable) chairs

Concerning the last item, if any group's meeting place needs chairs, this would be a good time to get them very inexpensively. Call the Central Office for details.

Are contributions to AA tax-deductible?

The answer to this is yes ... and no.

The following is from *A.A. Guidelines - Finance* (published by the A.A. General Service Office)

"Contributions to an A.A. Group, Central Office, or inter-group are tax-deductible only if the entity is a qualified charitable organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

Contributions made directly to the General Service Board of A.A. are deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Internal Revenue Code has no provision under which the General Service Board of A.A. could apply for tax-exempt status for all groups and other A.A. entities, since each entity is autonomous in financial matters, as in all other ways. Donations at A.A. groups are not deductible unless the group has filed the proper I.R.S. office and has obtained a ruling that the organization is tax-exempt. Experience has shown that some tax examiners may make exceptions if proof of contributions is presented, but this is strictly up to the individual tax examiner..."

As the Intercounty Fellowship (our local Intergroup) is also an incorporated non-profit (501c3), your Gratitude Month contribution is tax-deductible *if* you write out a check payable to the Central Office and give it to your treasurer to be included with your group's Gratitude Month donation (or mail it directly to the office). Cash contributions in the hat would almost certainly not qualify.

**The Intercounty Fellowship Board
Will hold its regular monthly meeting in
Sausalito on Wednesday, November 7,
2001**

**All members of our local Fellowship
(San Francisco and Marin Counties)
are invited to attend
(especially those in Marin who may be
interested in joining the Board.)**

**November 7, 7:00 pm
Star of the Sea Church, Sausalito**

IFB Meeting Minutes

The IFB is the Board of Directors for our local AA Central Office (San Francisco and Marin Counties)

Regular Monthly Meeting
Inter-County Fellowship Board
September 5, 2001
Unitarian Universalist Church
Franklin & Geary
San Francisco, California

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Bob B. followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call:		Luis M.	7 am Smokeless Tues.	P
		Manuel S.	Sesame Step	
		Jason S. - Alternate		P
		Margaret H.	Fairfax 7 am	P
		Mark M.	Central Office Manager	P
		Michael M.	Friendly Circle Beginners	P
		Pat M.	Treasurer & As Bill Sees It	P
		Patrick C.	Work in Progress	P
		Paul C.	Waterfront Group	P
		<i>Welcome-New Member</i>		
		Ray M.	Sunday Rap	P
		Reginald J.	On Awakening – Daily	P
		Samuel S.	New Wednesday High Noon	P
		Shannon O.	A Step Beyond	P
		<i>Welcome-New Member</i>		
		Smithy B..	10 Years After	P
		Steve P.	Richmond Big Book	P
		Stu S.	No Reservations	P
		Tim M.	San Mateo Gen S. Liaison	P
		Tom K.	Common Welfare	P
		Tracy R.	Sunset Niners Tues.	P
		Ken Y.	As Bill Sees It	P
		* Asterisks indicate number of consecutive absences recorded.		
		A **		
Intergroup Rep	Group or Title			
Alex H.	Too Early	P		
Anne G.	Sunset Niners – Friday	P		
Ardis J.	As Bill Sees It – 7 AM Fri	P		
Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step	A *		
Bill R.	Castro Discussion	P		
Bob B.	Daily Reflections – Tuesday	P		
Charles M.	Federal Speaker	P		
Clare B.	Walk of Shame	P		
	<i>Welcome-New Member</i>			
Damon B.	Tuesday Downtown	A **		
Danny F.	Each Day A New Begin.	A *		
David D.	Fell Street Step Study	P		
Ellen C.	Big Book Basics	P		
Frank B.	Each Day a new... – Sun	A *		
George S.	S.F. General Service	P		
Jay H.	Gay Beginners Q&A	P		
Jeff T.	Sunday Sober Sunday	P		
Jim D.	Happy Joyous & Free	P		
Jim H.	Alta Plaza CPMC	A *		
Kade H.	Fireside Chat	P		
Ken C.	Marin Gen.I Svc. Liaison	P		
Keri S.	Mill Valley 7am	A **		
Larry F.	Mid-Morning Support	P		

A. Review of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

B. Review of Minutes: The minutes of the August 2001 regular meeting were accepted with the following changes: 1) Ken Y. was present, 2) Ardis J. would prefer different language in part of the Lease Committee report. Per discussion and retraction of an other alternate version, the 8/2001 minutes reflect the wording used in the meeting recap summary published in the Point.

C. IFB Reports

CHAIR'S REPORT: Bob B., Chair, reviewed the general procedure for placing items for discussion on the agenda, which is to contact Bob B. or Mark M (Central Office Manager), or preferably both, at least several days before the upcoming IFB meeting and make the request.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat M. presented the treasurer's report, including a balance sheet for July, 2001, and the Profit & Loss budget statement for January – July, 2001. Pat noted that current YTD figures show a net profit of \$7515.30.

CENTRAL OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT:

General: Mark M., Interim Manager, submitted a written report, including current volunteer shifts available. Mark also noted that the draft of the Internal Controls Review is back from Steven Price, CPA, and will be discussed at the next COC meeting.

Action Item: The fact that the cost of the new 4th Edition of the Big Book to Central Office will be discounted by \$1 (for a limited time) generated extensive and lengthy discussion of the policies and procedures for book sales in our Central Office. We have traditionally tried to resell books to local groups at near cost (unlike many other Intergroups, which derive greater profit

IFB Meeting Minutes

The IFB is the Board of Directors for our local AA Central Office (San Francisco and Marin Counties)

from book sales—for example, it was stated that San Mateo charges \$7.20 per Big Book). The focus of discussion was whether or not to pass this temporary \$1 savings per book along to the groups (by temporarily discounting the cost of the new 4th Edition). Also discussed were the various obvious and hidden costs to the Central Office involved in the purchase, reselling, and storage of AA Conference approved literature. A motion to table further discussion and decision for 1 month fell short of a majority (14 Yes, 14 No), and after further discussion it was voted (17 yes, 4 No, 5 Abstaining) to sell the new 4th Edition of the Big Book at the current price (currently \$6 per individual hard cover edition) with current quantity discounts unchanged as well. A further motion to publish an informational/explanatory article in the Point was voted down (9 Yes, 17 No, 2 Abstaining). Over 1 hour of orderly questions, discussion, and votes were devoted to this item.

D. Central Office Committee: Patrick C. reporting. Stu S. and Smithy B. are members of the COC Human Resources sub-committee, looking into how to proceed with the search for candidates for Central Office Manager. Other COC activity reported included discussion of costs and needs of dual insurance coverage as operations transfer to the new office space, and also the process of obtaining bids for a network consultant.

E. Ad Hoc Committee reports:

- * **Website:** Smithy B. (Chair) reported good progress in updating/ improving our on-line presence. Ideas are solicited from the fellowship at large. A flier contained an error and a corrected version will be got out to IFB members.
- * **ByLaws Review:** Alex H. reported. Committee has begun to meet regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Central Office and will be bringing issues to the IFB for review in future months.
- * **Point Editorial Committee.** Patrick C. reported briefly. The upcoming “Marin section” in the October Point was noted.
- * **Orientation Committee.** Kade H. reported. Another orientation session was held last month. One new member attended. These information presentations will continue to be offered ad hoc.
- * **Literature Review Committee.** No report.
- * **Special Needs Committee.** Jeff T. (Chair) reported. Committee members have agreed to conduct research into various questions regarding special needs of deaf and hearing-impaired members. There was discussion of a document the Central Office manager might use as a notification and reminder to groups requesting new or ongoing help with ASL..
- * **Budget, Graphics, and 12th Step Committees** have not yet met.
- * **Archives Committee.** Stu S. (Chair) reported briefly. There followed some discussion regarding the purpose and intent of the Archives Committee.
- * **Moving Committee** has not yet met.
- * **Marin Logistics Committee.** Reginald J. will be acting chair. It was brought up by Jim D. that (due to an oversight) Star of the Sea had not been paid for our last meeting there. Mark M. reports that is already being rectified (“The check is in the mail”). As October arrangements for a Marin site were still not firm it was agreed without dissention or further discussion to postpone the next Marin IFB meeting to November.
- * **Lease Committee** did not make a formal report to the IFB this month. (As reported in the September, 2001 Point, the lease on the new office has been signed and submitted.)

F. Liaison Reports

- **Marin General Service** (Ken C., liaison). Announcements included September Marin Unity Day.
- **San Francisco General Service** (George S., liaison) will host Unity Day on the first Saturday in November (11/3) at the Urban Life Center. The IFB will make a presentation.
- **San Mateo General Service** (Tim M., liaison).

No other service entities were represented. IFB-affiliated committees SF Teleservice and PI/CPC were unfortunately not represented (nor were they represented at the August IFB meeting).

Ellen C. read the 12 Traditions.

There was a 7th Tradition collection of \$45.00
The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer.

SUMMARY**October 2001 IFB Meeting**

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business, and service opportunities discussed at the October 2001 IFB meeting. It is provided for your convenience and is not intended to be the complete or approved minutes.

BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

- During both the Treasurer's report and the Central Office Manager's report it was noted that September contributions have been down. On the whole, contributions YTD were noted to be good. During the COC report it was recommended that we officially designate November, 2001 Gratitude Month, which the IFB approved. This year's Gratitude Month contributions would not be specifically earmarked but could, of course, help offset special costs associated with the coming move.
- The group voted to approve a proposed amendment to the bylaws: The IFB Treasurer and the Central Office Manager to be voting members of both the IFB and the COC. (It is strongly recommended by our attorney that their status be consistent—that they be voting members of both bodies, not just the COC).
- Pat M. was re-elected Treasurer for a second 2-year term.

OTHER INFORMATION

- The IFB will participate in the upcoming SF General Services Unity Day, to be held Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Urban Life Center, 1101 O'Farrell, from 11 am to 3 pm, with an information presentation.
- The November IFB meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 7th, at Star of the Sea Church in Sausalito. (Address is 180 Harrison, Sausalito.)
- Monthly service meetings for San Francisco and Marin are listed on the front of their respective schedules. These include PI/CPC, Teleservice, H & I, Bridging the Gap, and others. Also please feel free to announce that phone volunteer shifts are also available daytimes through Central Office. Additionally, it was announced that Central Office will begin to schedule

CONTRIBUTIONS

To the Central Office were made

September 21 to October 20

Honoring the following members

CURRENT MEMORIALS

(None)

ONGOING MEMORIALS

RW M.

ANNIVERSARIES

Bert T. - 45 Years

Birthdays
for
Endless
Summer
Group

*Nico L. - 1 Yr.
Mary O. - 1 Yr.
Mr. C. - 1 Yr.
Patrick F. - 2 Yrs.
Starla B. - 3 Yrs.
Natasha O. - 4 Yrs.
Tim H. - 12 Yrs.*

Many Thanks!

Recent Deaths

Les (Chip) F. - 56 years sober

AA Group Contributions – August 2001

Intercounty Fellowship – San Francisco / Marin

Total for August 2001		\$10,464.51
	Group	Amount
FELLOWSHIP & MISC	Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	25.40
	Living Sober Conference	1,693.94
	Miscellaneous Subtotal	1,719.34
MARIN	7AM Group	174.03
	Fairfax Friday Night	158.49
	Larkspur Step	250.00
	Los Ranchitos	100.00
	Mill Valley 7am	500.00
	Monday Night Stag	712.50
	On Awakening	126.00
	Rise and Shine	96.25
	San Geronimo Valley	73.20
	Serenity	101.00
	Terra Linda	200.00
	What It's Like Now	215.42
	Marin Subtotal	2,706.89
SAN FRANCISCO	Afro-American Beginners	200.00
	Amazing Grace	120.00
	Artists & Writers	979.41
	As Bill Sees It (Sat 11)	150.00
	Bookworms	80.11
	Design For Living	92.52
	Each Day A New Beginning (Sun)	62.03
	Endless Summer	51.00
	Fell Street	334.50
	Fireside Chat	393.00
	Friday All Groups	84.37
	Friday at Five	74.00
	Friday Big Book	46.20
	Friday Lunchtime Step	140.00
	Friendly Circle Beginners	154.70
	Happy Hour	70.00
	High Noon (Fri)	35.92
	High Noon (Mon)	200.00
	IFB	48.00
	Keep Coming Back	272.02
	Let It Be Now (Participation)	131.41
	Live and Let Live	290.24
	Living Sober with HIV	31.92
	Luke's Group	32.79
	Marina Discussion	200.70
	Mocha Group	18.00
	New Hope Big Book	51.36
	New Life	200.32
	No Regrets	60.00
	Nooners	102.07
	Richmond Step Study	27.00
	Seeing & Hearing the Big Book	23.00
	Seeing & Hearing the Big Book	20.00
	Seeing & Hearing the Big Book	50.00
	Sesame Step	60.00
	Sinbar	60.00
	Sinbar	120.00
	Steps to the Solution	45.00
	Street Fighters	25.00
	Sunday Rap	125.00
	Sunset 11'ers (Fri)	30.00
	Sunset 9'ers (Tue)	119.45
	Sunset 9'ers (Wed)	141.60
	Sunset Speaker Step	130.58
	Surf	271.45
	Tuesday's Daily Reflections	37.54
	Unidentified Group	46.07
	San Francisco Subtotal	6,038.28

Financial Statement

August 2001 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

	August	Year-to-Date
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
41000 · Group Contributions	10,464.51	84,662.26
41200 · Individual -Unrestricted	1,202.00	3,931.88
41300 · Gratitude Month-Groups	0.00	35.75
41500 · Individual - Restricted	0.00	1,500.00
43000 · Newsletter Subscript.	30.00	233.00
44000 · Honorary Contributions	87.00	1,117.00
45000 · Sales - Bookstore	6,022.47	46,389.79
Total Income	17,805.98	137,869.68
Cost of Goods Sold		
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold	4,428.40	34,552.11
Total COGS	4,428.40	34,552.11
Gross Profit	13,377.58	103,317.57
Expense		
60000 · Employee Expenses		
60500 · Workers Comp Ins.	77.77	465.09
60200 · Employer Tax Expenses	610.63	3,921.01
60150 · Employee Accomodation	0.00	0.00
60050 · Wages & Salaries	7,316.57	40,706.57
60100 · Benefits/Pension	189.00	3,878.22
60000 · Employee Expenses - Other	0.00	0.04
Total 60000 · Employee Expenses	8,193.97	48,970.93
60001 · Credit Card Clearing	30.31	30.31
61100 · Accounting Fees	39.43	39.43
61200 · Computer Consulting	0.00	978.53
61600 · Outside Services	0.00	878.00
61700 · ASL- Net -SHBB	86.90	630.05
61800 · ASL- Net- Fri All Grps	258.00	1,374.65
61900 · Insurance	170.19	2,060.81
61950 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	201.20
62000 · Bank Charges		
61650 · Processing Fee- Payroll	47.75	543.77
62000 · Bank Charges - Other	9.90	56.31
Total 62000 · Bank Charges	57.65	600.08
62001 · Office Supplies	124.38	3,513.17
62100 · Filing Fees	0.00	25.00
62300 · Postage		
62400 · Bulk Mail	100.00	970.00
62300 · Postage - Other	0.00	408.60
Total 62300 · Postage	100.00	1,378.60
62500 · Shipping	-103.66	-137.98
64000 · Rent - Office	3,312.70	26,501.60
64500 · Rent - Other	0.00	525.00
64700 · Security System Rental	52.75	422.00
66000 · Telephone	437.92	4,302.81
67100 · Travel	362.15	382.15
68000 · Equipment Lease	579.10	4,302.41
Total Expense	13,701.79	96,978.75
Net Ordinary Income	-324.21	6,338.82
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
80000 · Interest Income	188.91	1,833.54
Total Other Income	188.91	1,833.54
Other Expense		
70000 · Depreciation Expense	114.42	1,029.78
Total Other Expense	114.42	1,029.78
Net Other Income	74.49	803.76



Group Speakers for November 2001

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

St. Mary's Cathedral, Geary & Gough, San Francisco
Tuesday, 8:30pm

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP / Sobriety
Nov 6	Toni	2910 Telegraph (Oakland) / 22 yrs.
Nov 13	Mary Pat	8:15 Larkspur / 15 yrs.
Nov 20	Sheila B.	Pedro Valley, Pacifica / 12 yrs.
Nov 27	Riga G.	Monday night Marina / 4 yrs.

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

250 Visitation Way (Community Center), Brisbane
Sunday, 11:00am

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME / GROUP
Nov. 4th	Christopher I.	Bunker Hill
Nov. 11th	Vic. M.	Early Bird
Nov. 18th	Melinda	Sunday Nite Rap
Nov. 25th	Dee	Watch your Step!! (St. Elizabeth's)

All open speaker meetings are welcome to publish their month's listing in The Point. The deadline for submission of the information is the **19th** of the month preceding publication. Please call Mark at Central Office, 621-1326 or fax 621-0258.

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE

Invites *YOU* to be a part of

UNITY DAY 2001

A Celebration of Love and Service

Saturday November 3, 2001
11:00 AM - 4:15 PM

Urban Life Center, 1101 O'Farrell Street
Corner of O'Farrell and Franklin

Your chance to sign up for service & hear about the service opportunities available in AA!

Attend the workshops with orientations for PI/CPC, H&I, Teleservice, and Bridging the Gap.

Hear panels, presentations and personal stories of service!

Potluck Lunch - Bring something to share!

Snacks and Coffee will be provided!



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun In Sobriety

Women's Winter Holiday Retreat

Sat. December 8 -
Sun. December 9

On December 8 & 9 treat yourself to the holiday you've always wanted - no relatives, no stress, no unwanted presents - a fun-filled retreat high atop beautiful Mt.

Tam in Mill Valley. We have reserved the entire Ralston White Retreat Center (an historic mansion that is nestled among the redwoods) for a special weekend just for you and other sober women. We will hold **AA meetings** near a brook side waterfall, hike in the forest, be pampered by a wonderful staff, enjoy delicious home-cooked meals, and have too much fun.

Questions? Call Karen at 415-656-1161
Email: karenmwarner@yahoo.com

Sign-up now. Send \$95 to Karen Warner,
248 Mariposa, Brisbane, CA 94005
(be sure to include your name, address and phone number)

MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

Sun 11:30am Castro **BE STILL A.A. (Meditation)** - 150 Eureka (MCC)

MEETING CHANGES

→ Please note that the regular monthly H&I meeting in San Francisco has changed locations, starting November 29. New location: ←
Old First Church, SE corner of Sacramento & Van Ness. Enter on the Sacramento St. side. (Meeting times have not changed.)

Sun 07:30pm Marina **WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY** - Marina Dock (*Name change from "Daily Reflections"; now a BB study*)
Mon 07:00pm Marina **7AM GRAB BAG** - Marina Dock (*Name change from 7am Smokeless*)
Wed 08:00pm Duboce Park **FRIENDSHIP GROUP** - Davies Medical Ctr, North Tower Auditorium, Level B, Castro/Duboce
(was Haight-Ashbury Friendship - 1350 Waller)

NO LONGER MEETING

Tue 07:30pm Laurel Heights **THE FORUM** - 3700 California
Thu 06:00pm Civic Center **SEEING & HEARING THE BIG BOOK** - 25 Oak (Central Office)
Fri 08:00pm Castro **LEATHER, SOBRIETY & MIRACLES** - 150 Eureka

REPORTED MISSING

(None Reported)



Please Note: The Central Office frequently receives reports that meetings listed in our schedules are actually not there. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes they are not. The office relies primarily on information that is given to us by AA groups, but when a group disbands, informing the Central Office is a common omission. We are therefore going to start reporting 'Missing' meetings in this space.

If you know *anything* about a meeting that is reported missing, please call the Central Office immediately (621-1326). If we hear no objections during the month following publication here, the meeting will be assumed disbanded, and removed from the schedule.

Thank You!





NOVEMBER 2001



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Suite 150
San Francisco CA 94102-6018

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