

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

From Chapter Five of the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous."

The Point

MARCH 2002

A publication
of the Intercounty Fellowship
of Alcoholics Anonymous

1821 Sacramento Street
San Francisco CA 94109-3528

(415) 674-1821

Fax (415) 674-1801

aa@aa-san-francisco.org

The Point

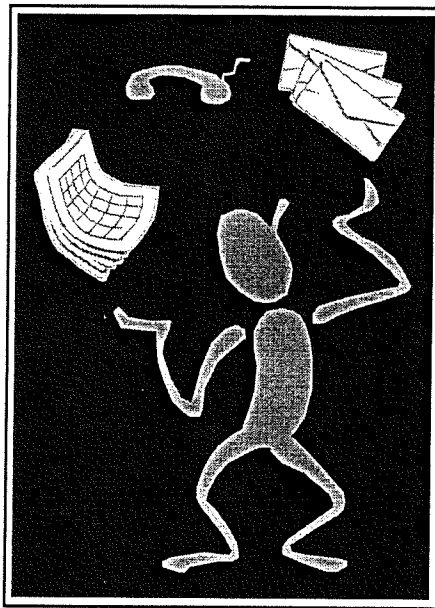
is published monthly to
inform AA members about
business and
meeting affairs in the
Intercounty Fellowship
of Alcoholics Anonymous
(San Francisco and Marin).

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

A Lot of History Enlightens Work of Intergroup/Central Offices Today



*The following article is reprinted, with permission,
from Box 4-5-9 (Feb.-Mar. 2002), the bi-monthly
publication of the General Service Office of A.A..*

A.A. co-founder Bill W. considered Intergroups essential to "the panorama of A.A. in action." Fifty years ago, in the November 1951 issue of the Grapevine, he said bluntly that "intergroups do those area chores that no single individual or group could. They unify regions; they make A.A. tick." (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 133)

Both Bill and his fellow A.A. co-founder, Dr. Bob, saw the early need for the develop-

ment of intergroups, which have been around almost as long as A.A. itself. So when about 100 representatives of intergroups and central offices across the U.S./Canada gathered at the 16th Annual Central Office/Intergroup Seminar in Edmonton, Alberta, last September for shop-talk and fellowship, they were aware that the effectiveness of their own operations owed much to the trials, tribulations and collective sharing of their predecessors. As Jan D., manager of the Edmonton, Alberta, Intergroup that hosted the Seminar, points out, "Nothing in A. A. today is original. Everything we know and do came from our predecessors, whether the Oxford Group, or intergroup/central office workers who came before and shared freely of their spiritual experiences and solutions gained the hard way."

In the beginning there was the Central Committee in Cleveland, Ohio, where by October 1939 - hardly more than four years after Bill and Dr. Bob first met - a committee of seven was meeting once a month "to coordinate efforts regarding hospitalizations and sponsorship." Dr. Bob was not only a supporter but an active participant, according to fellow Akron member Dan K. "Doc used to play an important part in the Central Committee," Dan observed, and the going could get rough: "During the meeting, sometimes, the words would fly like you were in a barroom." One time, he related, "Dr. Bob stood up, hushed the crowd and said, 'Gentlemen, please. We're still members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Let's carry the principles of A.A. into these business meetings.

(Continued on page 5)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2002 ... In the Fellowship <i>Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups</i>					1	2
3	4	5	FIRST WED 6 * (IFB): Intercounty Fellowship Board: 1187 Franklin, SF 7:00 pm * Spirit of SF Committee 1329 Irving/7th (church) 7 pm	7	8	9
10	SECOND MON 11 * SF Public Information Committee: 1821 Sacramento, SF; 7:00p	SECOND TUE 12 * 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	SECOND WED 13 * Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15p	14	15	16 PI/CPC Workshop 11:00am Central Office 1821 Sacramento SF
17	THIRD MON 18 * SF Teleservice 1821 Sacramento, SF; 6:30pm * Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd. San Rafael 7:00pm GSR Sharing; 8:00pm District Mtg.	THIRD TUE 19 * San Mateo General Service: St. Andrews Ch. 15th & El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p	20	21	22 2nd Annual Anniversary Potluck 2900 24th Street 7:30pm Potluck 8:30 Speaker Panel	FOURTH SAT 23 * General Service: CNCA Bus. Mtg: 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; DCMCs: 10:30am Main Meeting:12n
24	25	FOURTH TUE 26 * Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael: 7:30p	27	LAST THU 28 * SF H&I Old First Church, Sacramento & VanNess Orientation: 7:15p Regular Meeting: 8pm FOURTH THU * Marin PI: 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15pm	29 13th Annual Anniversary Potluck Big Book Basics Potluck 6:30pm A.A. Meeting 8pm 501 Laguna Honda, SF NCCAA Conference	30 NCCAA Conference
LAST SUN 31 * Living Sober 1668 Bush, SF; 5:30p * 2900 Steering Committee: 2900 24th St., SF 12:15 pm						

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 (674-1821) by the 19th of the previous month if you would like your event listed.

COMING EVENTS

2002

Call 415-674-1821 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 pages 13 & 14

Mar 16	San Francisco Public Information (PI / CPC) Workshop - Central Office, 1821 Sacramento, 11:00am
Mar 22	2900 24th St. 2nd Annual Anniversary Meeting & Potluck - 7:30pm Potluck; 8:30pm A.A. Speaker Panel; 9:30pm Raffle
Mar 29	Big Book Basics 13th Annual Anniversary Potluck - St. John's Ch., 501 Laguna Honda at Woodside. Potluck at 6:30pm.
Mar 29 - 31	Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA) - Monterey, CA (Convention Center)
Mar 29 - 31	30th Annual North Shore Roundup - Vancouver, BC
Apr 5 - 7	ACYPAA 2002 (All California Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) - Modesto, CA
Apr 6	Tuesday Downtown Spring Fling - Women's Building, 3543 18th St./ Valencia A.A. meeting 8pm; Dance 9 - 12m
Apr 12 - 14	14th Annual Big Island Bash - Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (email: kengold@aloha.net)
Apr 26 - 28	Southern California H&I Conference - Irvine (Orange County), CA
May 17 - 19	3rd Annual Olympic Roundup - Port Angeles, WA
May 24 - 26	29th Annual Golden Empire Round-up - Bakersfield, CA
June 28 - 30	30th Annual H & I Conference - Santa Rosa, CA (Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1351 Maple Av.)



MARCH 2002

CONTENTS

Cover Story	1
March 2002 Calendar	2
Coming Events	3
Dec. 2001 Group Contributions	4
Cover Story (continued)	5
Central Office News	6
Focus on the Concepts	7
History of San Francisco AA	8
Old Fashioned Twelfth Stepping	9
January IFB Meeting Summary	10
February IFB Meeting Summary ...	11
Honors	11
Dec. 2001 Financial Statement	12
A Word About \$	12
Flyers / Announcements	13
Group Speakers	14
Meeting Changes	15



"Bagels versus donuts..."

© The A.A. Grapevine (Website, Rule 62, Caption Contest) Reprinted with permission

AA Group Contributions – December 2001

Intercounty Fellowship – San Francisco / Marin

Date	Group	Amount
MISCELLANEOUS & OUT-OF-AREA		
12/19/2001	Wednesday Night Group (Mendocino)	9.50
Total - MISCELLANEOUS		9.50
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - MARIN		
12/04/2001	3 Step Group	145.59
12/28/2001	Blackie's Pasture	191.13
12/04/2001	Experience, Strength, & Hope	42.00
12/11/2001	Mill Valley (Gay)	10.00
12/03/2001	Nativity Monday Night Big Book	70.00
12/26/2001	On Awakening	210.00
12/17/2001	Sisters in Sobriety	75.00
12/04/2001	T.G. I'm Sober	42.00
12/04/2001	T.G.I.F.	42.00
12/11/2001	Tiburon Closed	108.53
Total MARIN - GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		936.25
GRATITUDE MONTH - MARIN		
12/10/2001	Blackie's Pasture	16.61
12/21/2001	Caledonia Group	55.79
12/04/2001	On Awakening	173.00
12/10/2001	Ross-San Anselmo	47.29
12/11/2001	Tiburon Closed	41.00
Total MARIN - GRATITUDE MONTH		333.69
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - SF		
12/12/2001	449'ers	167.65
12/10/2001	A Vision for You	117.31
12/12/2001	A.A. Step Study	73.63
12/10/2001	AA Noon	60.00
12/31/2001	Afro-American Beginners	170.00
12/11/2001	Afro-American Beginners	65.08
12/12/2001	Alta Plaza	241.32
12/04/2001	Back to Basics I	297.00
12/19/2001	Beginners Step Study	96.60
12/05/2001	Broker's Open Book	159.26
12/31/2001	BYOB	35.11
12/11/2001	Common Welfare	120.00
12/31/2001	Each Day A New Beginning (Tue)	356.75
12/19/2001	Each Day A New Beginning (Wed)	219.22
12/10/2001	Early, Joyous & Free	60.00
12/22/2001	Endless Summer	10.00
12/12/2001	High Noon (Sat)	166.39
12/31/2001	High Noon (Thu)	48.07
12/10/2001	High Noon (Tue)	360.00
12/03/2001	High Noon (Wed)	60.80
12/28/2001	High Noon (Wed)	28.91
12/31/2001	High Sobriety	400.00
12/26/2001	Home Group	377.25
12/14/2001	How It Works	132.61
12/19/2001	IFB	56.00
12/13/2001	Into Action	120.00
12/26/2001	Joys of Recovery	175.95
12/19/2001	Lincoln Park	66.99
12/31/2001	Luke's Group	64.20
12/18/2001	Mid-Morning Support	796.75
12/04/2001	Monday Men's Stag	20.00
12/28/2001	New Highs	128.17
12/12/2001	New Hope Big Book	62.01
12/04/2001	Nooners	72.39
12/17/2001	Potrero Hill Sunday Night	101.25
12/13/2001	Pure & Simple	172.54
12/06/2001	St. Francis Men's	122.37
12/31/2001	Stepping Out	180.00
12/18/2001	Sunday Night Corte Madera	204.16
12/06/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Fri)	239.30
12/03/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Sun)	57.00

12/06/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Thu)	190.02
12/28/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Thu)	335.51
12/18/2001	Thursday Beginners	136.83
12/31/2001	Thursday Night Women's	150.00
12/10/2001	Unidentified Group	0.70
12/26/2001	Unidentified Group	158.66
12/04/2001	Unidentified Group	200.00
12/11/2001	We Care	132.65
12/10/2001	Wednesday Sunrise Smokefree	41.97
12/31/2001	West Portal	11.48
12/04/2001	Women's Kitchen Table Group	536.27
Total SF - GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		8,356.13
GRATITUDE MONTH - SF		
12/05/2001	1:30 Smokeless (Thu)	14.55
12/05/2001	10 Years After	72.42
12/10/2001	6am Marina Dock	506.00
12/12/2001	7am Smokeless	37.57
12/28/2001	AA As You Like It	41.57
12/06/2001	All Together Now	85.90
12/10/2001	As Bill Sees It (Thu 8:30pm)	47.11
12/05/2001	Brokers Open Book	49.50
12/11/2001	Cocoanuts	36.00
12/17/2001	Each Day A New Beginning (Thu)	89.34
12/04/2001	Each Day a New Beginning (Wed)	95.75
12/06/2001	Early Start	113.40
12/11/2001	Easy Does It	50.65
12/31/2001	Eureka Step	45.05
12/04/2001	Federal Speaker	58.74
12/11/2001	Fell Street Step	40.20
12/12/2001	Friendly Circle	100.09
12/04/2001	Friendship Group	90.75
12/06/2001	Gay Beginners Questions & Answers	78.00
12/10/2001	Goldmine Group	61.52
12/10/2001	Unidentified Group	78.75
12/19/2001	Happy Hour	35.00
12/12/2001	High Noon (Sat)	37.56
12/10/2001	High Noon (Tue)	40.00
12/03/2001	High Noon (Wed)	73.98
12/05/2001	High Sobriety	90.00
12/26/2001	Home Group	102.40
12/10/2001	Huntington Square	87.00
12/04/2001	Keep Coming Back	126.98
12/10/2001	Mellow Mission Sunrise	25.00
12/18/2001	Mid-Morning Support	247.71
12/05/2001	Mission Terrace	114.95
12/12/2001	New Highs	86.50
12/04/2001	New Wednesday High Noon	92.02
12/05/2001	Newcomers Step	125.90
12/04/2001	No Regrets	60.85
12/05/2001	No Reservation	136.00
12/04/2001	Nooners	64.00
12/11/2001	One Liners	60.85
12/17/2001	Rose Garden Big Book	19.57
12/13/2001	Sober at State	13.66
12/10/2001	Sometimes Slowly	7.75
12/04/2001	Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag	125.77
12/06/2001	Sunert 9'ers (Fri)	83.10
12/03/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Sun)	61.55
12/06/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Thu)	98.27
12/06/2001	Sunset 9'ers (Thu)	124.14
12/04/2001	Sutter Street Beginners	146.00
12/31/2001	Thursday Night Women's	88.55
12/10/2001	Tuesday Downtown	95.50
12/11/2001	We Care	32.00
Total SF - GRATITUDE MONTH		4,295.42
TOTAL - All Groups		13,930.99

(Continued from page 1)
288-89)

Another early intergroup sprang up in Chicago, where an A.A. named Sylvia used her \$700 monthly alimony checks to rent an apartment in the suburb of Evanston, where the first A.A. meeting in the area was held in 1939. The phone was so busy that nonalcoholic Grace Cultice, Sylvia's personal secretary, rapidly evolved into an A.A. girl Friday. By 1941, after publication of the Jack Alexander Saturday Evening Post article about A.A., Sylvia's place "became something of a Chicago Grand Central," Bill W. affirmed in A.A. Comes of Age (p.23), and something had to be done. So [the AAs] rented a one-room office in the Loop, where, Bill wrote, "Grace was installed to direct the stream of applicants for Twelfth Step attention, hospitalization, and other help. The was A.A.'s first organized local service center" ... followed by New York City in 1942, which was then operating out of a clubhouse on Manhattan's West 24th Street.

A Columbus, Ohio, intergroup started up in 1943, followed by the Los Angeles Central Office a year later. "In those days, A.A. wasn't easy to find - and we kept it that way," one oldtimer, sober since 1940, remembers. "A carefully selected group of priests, judges and policemen knew about A.A.; our phone number wasn't listed and could be gotten only from information. That way we knew that any newcomer who found us had generally made enough of an effort to guarantee the sincerity of his desire for sobriety." In 1946 the Twelve Traditions were published, and the Third Tradition - "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking" - raised the level of tolerance by rendering subjective judgment superfluous when it came to who was sincere and who wasn't.

Many service offices, such as those in Chicago and Los Angeles, have grown out of a phone number, listed as belonging to A.A., that was in a member's home. Some - in New York City, Newark, New Jersey, and Edmonton, to name a few - were outgrowths of A.A. clubhouses that had been set up as hubs for A.A. activity and social events. (*San Francisco's Central Office began this way, in 1947.-ed.*) Sometimes the clubs served as distribution points for A.A. literature, then began providing other services as well. Over time the service operations became entities separate from the clubhouses. In a surprising number of other localities - notably in the Upper Midwest and Canada - intergroups or central service committees were in existence (some still are) long before there were actual offices.

In Charleston, West Virginia, the term "intergroup" was first used in 1953. The association evolved directly from the first treatment center in the state, which was founded in 1944. It was called the Alcan Center, Inc., but was fondly referred to by locals as "the jitter joint."

Before the first General Service Conference was held, in April 1951, at least 16 central Offices/intergroups were serving local groups. Since they predated the formation of the General Service structure and performed a different function, they were not a part of the structure (except in Chicago, where the Area Service Office and Area Committee are essentially one). Sometimes over the years there was some overlapping of services, especially when both entities were performing similar services, in Public Information for instance, but eventually, thanks to shared experience and better communication,

intergroups and General Service have pretty much come to work hand-in-glove. No one appreciated more than Bill W. the value of intergroups. Back in 1946 he exclaimed in the June Grapevine, "Heaven has surely reserved a special place for every one of them." Today there are approximately 1500 intergroup/central offices in the U.S. and Canada, including local answering services.

Intergroups and central offices are established and supported by local groups. Each intergroup is unique, reflecting the needs and wishes of its own community, and is responsible to the groups it serves. Typically each participating group has an intergroup representative. They reps meet periodically to elect a steering committee, or board of directors, responsible for administering the office. They report back to the group representatives who, in turn, keep their groups informed. A continuing flow of communication is vital, because the groups give financial support of the office that serves them.

At last September's Seminar, the theme aptly enough was "Networking." Jan, who notes that the Edmonton Intergroup officially started up in 1950, reports that "we had many a fun time at the seminar, but we also rolled up our sleeves and candidly shared our problems, solutions and ideas with each other." In a variety of stimulating workshops the participants - including intergroup office man-

agers and staff, along with a few trustees and the General Service Board and AAWS and Grapevine directors and staff - discussed subjects ranging from Twelfth Stepping, volunteer activity and office equipment needs to financial support and the dissemination of A.A. Conference-approved literature.

This last is a particularly vital aspect of intergroup work, and all the offices are constantly looking for more efficient ways to deal with the vast amounts of material they handle. Dennis Manders, who served as A.A.'s nonalcoholic business administrator/controller from 1950 - '85, says that "the enormous growth in volume of A.A. publishing in the 1970s alone would not have been possible were it not for the work of the intergroups and central offices." G.S.O., he explains, "had only to establish a network of

warehouses from which to supply the local offices with literature in a timely fashion. It was this close partnership that led to the Intergroup Seminars as we know them today."

Jan reports that "the seminars encourage a strong sense of community and remind us that by networking freely all year long, by borrowing freely from each other's experience, we can do ever more to help the alcoholic." ...

"A carefully selected group of priests, judges and policemen knew about A.A.; our phone number wasn't listed ... That way we knew that any newcomer who found us had generally made enough of an effort to guarantee the sincerity of his desire for sobriety."

Central Office News

Selection of Central Office Manager

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Maury P. as the Central Office Manager. Maury will assume her new duties on March 4, 2002.

Maury's selection was the result of a lengthy, intensive search. Over a period of several weeks, the "Selection Committee" solicited, received and reviewed applications. I am pleased to say that we received applications from many highly qualified folks.

The Selection Committee carefully reviewed and evaluated all the applications, and established a list consisting of seven. The seven were individually interviewed by the committee. Once the interview process was completed, a thorough evaluation of those seven applicants was conducted.

Finally, after much work, much conferring and much praying, a "best qualified" list of three applicants was presented to the Intercounty Fellowship Board on February 6, 2002. The three candidates each made a presentation to the assembled Board and each was asked questions by the members of the Board.

A Third Legacy vote was then conducted. The voting went to a full five ballots. By that means, the field was narrowed to two candidates. Neither could gain the required two thirds majority. Therefore, the two names were placed in "the hat" and Maury's name was drawn. Pursuant to required procedure, she was offered the position and immediately accepted.

It is always with heavy heart when so many fine candidates apply for a position, but only one can be selected. But, it was a great blessing that so many fine people came forward and were willing to serve.

Hopefully, next month, Maury can give us a brief "autobiographical sketch" so we can all get to know her. I would encourage everyone to make it a point to meet Maury and make her feel welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben N.

Intercounty Fellowship Board - Chair

Focus on the 12 Concepts

Concept THREE

Before I launch into the discussion of Concept III, I wanted to mention that the Concepts are now printed in the Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous", Fourth Edition. That is a change, as they were

not included previously. They are, of course, also stated in their entirety, with commentary and history, in "The AA Service Manual", a publication I heartily recommend to all AA members.

It has been pointed out to me that there are some folks who don't agree with some of the things I have said about the Concepts in my previous articles. That is great because, as I pointed out, I am, by no means, an expert on the Concepts and hope to learn as I go along and grow in sobriety.

In addition, I was hoping to stir interest and discussion regarding the Concepts of World Service, with emphasis on how they apply to the San Francisco Intergroup area. That is a good thing and I always invite feedback and input. That's one of the big ways in which I can learn and grow. Plus, I am happy to hear that someone is actually reading the articles. Feel free to respond in "The Point" or to me personally. My e-mail address is xanadutoo@earthlink.net or, I can be reached through Central Office. Now, on to Concept III, which reads:

"As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision".

In the opening paragraph of the "A.A. Service Manual" it is said, "Within the framework of their general responsibilities, whether these be defined by charter, by resolution, or by custom, it should be the traditional right of all world service boards, committees and executives to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific direction. We ought to trust our world servants with these discretions, because otherwise, no effective leadership can be possible" It goes on to talk about the importance of this Concept to the efficient management of the business of AA.

Now, how does all this apply to our situation in the Intercounty Fellowship area? Well, all the groups in the area are asked to elect Intergroup Representatives to act as the "voices" of their groups in matters of overall Intergroup interest. An example of this is the Intercounty Fellowship budget, discussed in a previous article.

The budget is put together by members of the IFB. All are elected representatives and, those who are directly involved in the process, are people with experience and expertise in such matters. They consult with the IFB Treasurer, the Central Office Committee, the

Central Office Manager and others who may be indicated in specific areas.

The total package is then presented to the IFB as a whole, the elected representatives of the Groups. Now it may seem as if the budget, being an important issue, must be presented to the Groups themselves for direct review and approval.

The problem with doing this is that, in view of the complexity of the budget and the large number of items and issues involved, the process of direct approval by the Groups would prove to be nearly impossible. At best, it would be ponderous and of unacceptable length.

What if the budget were sent to the Groups and some of the Groups accept it as presented, but several Groups want substantial changes, but all in varying, different areas of the budget? What if it has already been shown, through the research and efforts of the people who put it together in the first place, that the changes recommended by the various groups are not realistic or workable.

In trying to satisfy all the desires of the Groups, another budget would have to be put together and re-submitted to the Groups. This process could become endless. Therefore, the Fellowship has seen fit to grant the committee, the IFB in this case, the right of decision.

More specifically, this is addressed later on in the Concept III discussion in the Service Manual: "This really means that we ought to trust our responsible leaders *to decide*, within the understood framework of their duties, *how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.*" (emphasis in the original)

It goes on to refer to Tradition II relating to "trusted servants", and states, "trust must be our watchword, otherwise we shall wind up leaderless." And, it also makes clear that reports **MUST** be made to the Groups, authority should not be exceeded nor should the right of decision serve as an excuse for "persistently failing to consult those who are entitled to be consulted before an important decision or action is taken."

Hopefully, I have described how this Concept applies to our operations here in the San Francisco area. And, once again, this is my interpretation. As the jingle says, "your mileage may vary". If so, please let me know your experiences and thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben N.

(Ben N. is currently Chair of the Intercounty Fellowship Board)

San Francisco Memories - Part V

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

I became involved in almost everything going on in A.A., such as coffee bartender at our Alano Club located at 143 Bush St., 12 Step calls, and helping with many others to get new groups started. Some of those groups were the Sunset, Pacific Heights, and the St. Francis Men's Group. I visited many other groups in various towns in N. California also.

I was spending so much of my spare time after work and on week ends doing A.A. work that I was neglecting my wife and children. It was so difficult for me to turn down anything that was for A.A. or anyone that needed help or anything that was good for A.A.. I was so grateful to be sober that I felt I could not do enough for the A.A. program.

Meanwhile, the Hospital and Institution Committee and the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous were doing great work.

In 1950 we were chosen with Bill Wilson to receive the Lasker Award. It was to be presented in the 1951 Opera House on Van Ness Avenue, in San Francisco.

The Opera House was packed with members - from N. California mostly. Bill Wilson was most gracious in his acceptance speech of the award. It was really terrific that the American Public Health Association rec-

ognized that alcoholism is an illness. After the award was presented, we had the largest meeting ever at that time. It was held at the Irish Hall on Golden Gate Avenue. I don't remember all the speakers but my sponsor was one. What a great day in the evolution of A.A.!

In the early 50's I started a business on El Camino in Redwood City. We were living in San Carlos at that time and the only meeting was held on Elm Street. (it came into being in 1957). We also started a noon time group that met once a week at various of our homes, then we settled on the Red Barn for a meeting place (the Red Barn was located on El Camino in San Carlos).

Some of the Old-Timers were Hugh D., Kelly R., Joe B., and many more. Pres G., Dave D., Ray G. and others from the mid peninsula would drop in for coffee and of course we always ended up having an A.A. meeting.

I was asked to have the Mid Peninsula answering service at my business so I had about 40 names and phone numbers for 12 Step calls. If I got into trouble and couldn't handle something I always called Dewey S. and he never turned me down. What a guy!

We were also working with some of the businesses in that area, to offer help to workers

that were having problems with alcoholism. Most of the nurses and administrators knew we were available to give help where needed.

Hopefully this is fairly accurate.

Les "Chip" F.

Chip F. died near Yreka on October 4, 2001 - 3 months shy of 57 years sober. This is the last of five "Memories" articles written by Chip about Alcoholics Anonymous in San Francisco in the 1940s

The Central Office Archives contains many items from this early era, including numerous writings of Chip's sponsor, Ray H.

Let's Reinvent Some Old-Fashioned Twelfth Stepping

Can you remember when you last made a Twelfth Step call on a sick, unkempt alcoholic, either on a drunk or coming off one maybe verging on the DTs?

Once upon an A.A. time, Twelfth Stepping was a vital, hands-on affair. Members routinely made house calls, visited newcomers in the hospital or detox, escorted them to numerous meetings, shared their own experience, strength and hope nonstop, acted as sponsors, and, in the case of A.A. co-founder Dr. Bob, almost killed their taste buds with a surfeit of sauerkraut, tomatoes and corn syrup - for strength and energy, as he saw it.

What happened? As time went by, a Wisconsin A.A. has suggested, "the treatment facilities began assuming responsibility of carrying the message, and we A.A.s became lazy. Sure, we became temporary sponsors and greeted the treatment patients with concern when they were vanned to our meetings. But by the time we saw them for the first time, they were clean, groomed and virtually free of the shakes; they even smelled pretty good."

With so many newcomers coming to A.A. sober, or at least dry, a whole generation or more of us have forgotten how to make house calls or what it's like to see alcoholics in convulsions at meetings, never mind knowing how to help them. Today the problem is that life and time have brought us full circle. Many of the treatment facilities have closed down and more sick alcoholics are coming directly to A.A.. Are we prepared to be there for them?

Addressing this vital question at the 1998 General Service Conference, then-delegate Bill R. of Arkansas said, "I know I am responsible to go find the alcoholic to insure my own sobriety, but how? Do I just sit around in a meeting and wait for a newcomer to come in the door, or do I seek them out at hospitals and jails? Do I judge the alcoholics by the way they look, or do I treat them all as sick individuals? Do I just give them a Big Book and tell them to read the first 164 pages, or do I work with them and try to explain the principles of A.A.? ... Do I contribute to the Twelfth Step work of my group, area and General Service Office, or do I drag out that lone dollar and toss it in the basket? Do I make myself available to Intergroup for Twelfth Step calls, or am I too tired?" These questions and more, Bill continued "could be asked of myself. I must remember one simple fact: I am here through the grace of God, and it is with the grace of God I must carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic who still suffers." (1998 General Service Conference *Final Report*, p. 13)

Out of its own desire to increase Twelfth Step efforts and avoid glitches, the St. Paul, Minnesota, Intergroup carried "Tips on making Twelfth Step Calls" in last May's issue of its newsletter *Lifeline*.

"When a Twelfth Step call is received," the article states, "we begin with the assumption that another human being's life is at stake, literally. This means that, without delay, this call is to be answered at once." Among the suggestions offered: When making a Twelfth Step call, arrange for another A.A. member to accompany you. Maintain anonymity. Congratulate the prospect on wanting to do something about his drinking problem. Give him some A.A. literature. Tell him what you used to be like, what happened, and what you are like now. And note what the Big Book says on page 96: "We find it a waste of time to keep chasing a man who cannot or will not work with you. If you leave such a person alone, he may soon become convinced that he cannot recover by himself."

- Reprinted, with permission, from Box 4-5-9 (Feb.-Mar. 2002)

San Francisco Twelfth Step List is Being Updated

The annual update of the San Francisco Twelfth-Step list is almost completed. If you would like to be included in this vital tool of local A.A., please call the Central Office immediately. If you are currently on the list, or have filled out a form during the past year, it would also be a good idea to check with the office, just to make sure you didn't 'fall through the cracks'. (Unfortunately, there have been a few more cracks than usual during the past year, because of the Central Office move.)

The Twelfth Step list is used by Teleservice and Central Office volunteers to find experienced A.A.s to talk with newcomers or members asking for help. Those of us who have been helped by this type of service (on either side of the equation) know the profound gratitude we feel toward A.A. as a result.

The members on the Twelfth Step list may not get called very often, but when it happens, experienced AAs know how to make the most of the opportunity. Talking and listening, arranging for sponsorship, meeting a newcomer at a meeting, helping them to feel a part of the group. Old-fashioned Twelfth Step work is still possible, if we are compassionate, and remain focused (meaning we remember how it was for *us*, in the beginning!)

If you would like to be included in the list (or check to ensure that you're on the updated list), please call Mark at Central Office, 674-1821.

IFB Meeting Minutes

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



Note: The minutes from the January 2002 IFB meeting were unavailable at February's meeting and so could not be approved. They will therefore be approved at the March meeting, and will be published in next month's *Point*.



The January IFB meeting *Summary* in last month's *Point* was labeled correctly, but unfortunately contained December's summary information. We are therefore printing the January summary below, and apologize for the error.

SUMMARY

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business, and service opportunities discussed at the January 2002 IFB meeting. It is provided for your convenience and is not intended to be the complete **or approved** minutes.

Business Conducted

1. Elected Danny F. to Central Office Committee.
2. Elected Jeff T. as Secretary.
3. Approved funding half of Tuesday Downtown's ASL costs for six months (approximately \$1,170).
4. Approved Website Guidelines modeled on General Service guidelines.
5. Filled vacancies on the Open House and Bylaws Review Committees.

Information

1. The 55th Anniversary Party and Open House will be held at Central Office, 1821 Sacramento Street, on Saturday, January 26 from 2-4 pm.
2. 2,225 hardcover 4th Edition Big Books were sold in December.
3. The next IFB meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on February 6 in San Francisco at the Unitarian Center, Franklin and Geary Streets.

Upcoming Business

1. Hiring permanent Central Office Manager.
2. Changes to Group Contribution Reports in *The Point*.
3. IFB Meetings in Marin.

Service Opportunities

1. Teleservice volunteers.
2. H&I Volunteers and Coordinators.
3. Central Office Phone volunteers.

SUMMARY

February 2002 IFB Meeting

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business, and service opportunities discussed at the February 2002 IFB meeting. It is provided for your convenience and is not intended to be the complete or approved minutes.

A. REVIEW OF AGENDA: Ben announced that the agenda contained one item, the hiring of a Central Office manager. Because of confidential personnel information being presented, the meeting was closed to voting members only. He asked that all non-voting members leave before the process starts.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 2002 IFB meeting were not available for approval.

C. SELECTION OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE MANAGER: Bill Rowe of the Central Office Committee briefed the Board on the selection process. The committee had selected the three top candidates. Each of the three candidates addressed the Board and took questions. The Board selected Maury P using the Third Legacy procedure. Maury was offered the job and accepted.

D. SEVENTH TRADITION: Stu S. read the 12 Traditions. \$50.07

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS

To the Central Office were made

January 21 to February 20

Honoring the following members

CURRENT MEMORIALS

Clay M.

ONGOING MEMORIALS

RW M.

ANNIVERSARIES

*Jane M. - 41 Years
Janet R. - 16 Years
Nicole H. - 7 Years
Fredericka C. - 2 Years
Jamissa - 1 Year*

Birthdays
for
Endless
Summer
Group

*James - 1 Years
Shawn - 2 Years
Amy - 3 Years
Sammy - 3 Years
Cliff - 4 Years
Ryan - 4 Years
Rick - 4 Years
Joey - 4 Years
Dennis - 6 Years
Duke - 7 Years
Sydney - 10 Years*

**Thanks to all who
honor their sobriety
through giving!**



Recent Deaths

(None reported)

Financial Statement

December 2001 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

	December	2001
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Group Contributions	9,301.88	120,311.65
Individual Contributions		
Honorary Contributions	44.00	1,274.00
Individual - Restricted	1,000.00	2,500.00
Individual - Unrestricted	200.00	4,640.29
Total Individual Contributions	1,244.00	8,414.29
Gratitude Month		
Gratitude Month -Individual	3,180.00	5,280.00
Gratitude Month-Groups	4,629.11	5,073.31
Total Gratitude Month	7,809.11	10,353.31
Newsletter Subscript.	48.00	341.00
Sales - Bookstore	15,488.45	76,063.59
Total Income	33,891.44	215,483.84
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Books Sold	11,871.28	57,389.07
Total COGS	11,871.28	57,389.07
Gross Income	22,020.16	158,094.77
Expense		
Employee Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	4,750.00	59,093.70
Employer Tax Expenses	363.39	5,725.44
Employee Accomodation	0.00	0.00
Benefits/Pension	217.00	4,746.22
Workers Comp Ins.	66.98	1,018.23
Employee Expenses - Other	0.00	0.04
Total Employee Expenses	5,397.37	70,583.63
ASL Expense		
ASL- Net - Tuesday Downtown	0.00	674.05
ASL- Net- Fri All Grps	0.00	1,796.15
Total ASL Expense	0.00	2,470.20
Bank Charges		
Cr Card Fees	36.48	184.37
Credit Card Clearing	0.00	61.20
Processing Fee- Payroll	37.05	741.97
Bank Charges - Other	18.00	121.95
Total Bank Charges	91.53	1,109.49
Equipment Lease	531.44	6,325.63
Filing Fees	0.00	95.00
Insurance	0.00	2,231.00
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	280.82
Office Supplies	116.73	5,541.30
Postage		
Bulk Mail	0.00	1,415.00
Postage - Other	85.00	803.80
Total Postage	85.00	2,218.80
Shipping	-79.92	-280.02
Printing	0.00	1,120.39
Professional Fees		
Accounting	0.00	1,700.00
Computer Consulting	0.00	1,755.60
Outside Services	0.00	378.00
Total Professional Fees	0.00	3,833.60
Rent - Office	3,333.75	39,773.45
Rent - Other	50.00	600.00
Security System	45.78	573.28
Special Events	160.48	160.48
Telephone	1,164.89	7,176.01
Travel	0.00	695.44
Utilities	149.10	149.10
Total Expense	11,046.15	144,657.60
Net Ordinary Income	10,974.01	13,437.17
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Interest Income	77.43	2,840.15
Total Other Income	77.43	2,840.15
Other Expense		
Depreciation Expense	114.42	1,373.04
Total Other Expense	114.42	1,373.04
Net Other Income	-36.99	1,467.11
Net Income	10,937.02	14,904.28

A Word About \$. . .

The Central Office receives the financial support it needs to survive from A.A. members and A.A. groups. According to our year-end financial statement (see box at left), over 79% of the office's gross income comes directly from A.A. groups (7th Tradition distributions). The rest comes from a small amount of income from the bookstore (which contributes to the rent of the office), and from individual contributions.

The later is a little known and seldom discussed topic in A.A. A very few individuals (usually oldtimers, and those who have been very involved in the fellowship during their time sober) contribute monthly or annual contributions. These contributions are fully tax-deductible.)

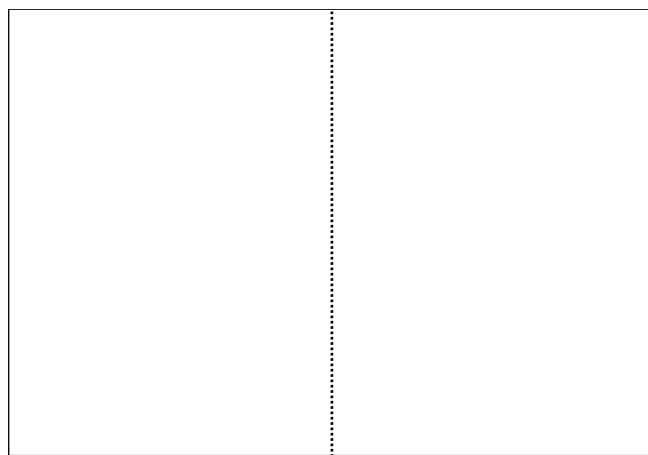
The maximum annual amount that any given A.A. entity will accept is generally 'only' \$2000. This ceiling is established to ensure that A.A. never gets too rich, or never owes it's financial existence primarily to a very small group of people.

But the fact that A.A. will only except \$2000 certainly does not mean that it cannot use the money! On the contrary, Intergrups are typically the most cash-strapped part of A.A.. Yes, the local Central Office gets the lion's share of each group's distribution; but the intergroup is where most of A.A.'s expenses are (office rent, insurance, payroll, printing expenses, etc.).

Our Central Office's expenses will be going up somewhat during the next year, primarily because the Intercounty Fellowship Board voted to raise staff salaries to levels that are at least closer to what the jobs would pay in the commercial world. (It was Bill W. who suggested that this should be the case, in Concept XI. [see *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, page 57-58])

Please consider contributing more to A.A. financially. Whether it's throwing another buck in the basket, or making an annual contribution, or giving to honor a loved one who has died, or on their anniversary (see page 13), or sending monthly contributions.

One member of the fellowship came up with a wonderful way to honor those special people called sponsees. Accompanied by a generous contribution, the card below was received last Christmas.



The
Tuesday Downtown
Group of
Alcoholics Anonymous
presents their
Spring Fling

Great Speaker
50/50 Raffle



70's Disco
80's New Wave
Saturday April 6th

The Womans Building
3543 18th Street @Valencia
Meeting-8pm Dance 9pm-12am
\$5-\$10 Donation



1364 Valencia / 1010 Valencia
is at now: 2900 24th Street

**JOIN US FOR OUR 2nd ANNUAL
CELEBRATION
OF OUR NEW HOME IN THE
MISSION!!!**

Friday March 22, 2002

7:30PM – Roast Chicken Potluck
(bring side dish or desert, if you can)

8:30PM – Valencia Old Timers Panel Meeting

9:30PM – Raffle

**FOOD
FUN &
FELLOWSHIP**

2900 24th Street / corner Florida St.

Parking: on street or lot at 24th & Potrero
Muni: #48, #27, #33 & #9 lines

P.I./C.P.C.

Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional

Speakers Workshop
(Requires two years of continuous sobriety in AA)

Saturday, March 16, 11:00am

Central Office
1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco

Help carry the AA Message to:
Schools, the medical community,
drunk driving classes, professional
organizations, and the prison system.

Sponsored by the PI/CPC Committee of San Francisco



Group Speakers for March 2002

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN *

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

Signed for the hearing impaired

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP / Sobriety
Mar 5	Adrianna R..	Mission Terrace / 3-1-93
Mar 12	Bob K.	Artists & Writers / 3-12-89
Mar 19	Kathleen S.	Valencia Smokefree / 1-2-94
Mar 26	Ray R.	High Noon / 8-28-85

FRIDAY ALL GROUPS

1101 O'Farrell, St. Mark's (basement), San Francisco
Friday, 8:30pm

Signed for the hearing impaired

DATE	HOST GROUP	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
Mar 1	They Stopped in Time	Layne Z.	Tues. Night Step
Mar 8	Federal Speaker	Theresa K.	San Rafael Alano
Mar 15	Amazing Grace	Prudence P.	Fellowship of the Spirit
Mar 22	Serenity Seekers	Michael H.	Sesame Step
Mar 29	We Care	Pat T.	Sonoma Fellowship

All *open* speaker (or speaker/discussion) 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, 674-1821.



TUESDAY DOWNTOWN will meet at St. Mark's Church (directly across Gough St. from St. Mary's) on March 26. Enter across the courtyard from Urban Life Center)

The Point

Subscription Form / Change of Address

\$6 for one year - 12 issues

(Please circle one)

NEW RENEW GIFT CHANGE OF ADDRESS

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: THE CENTRAL OFFICE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # _____

Mail this form & payment to The Central Office
1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94109



MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

Mon 07:30pm Mission INTO ACTION GROUP - 3215 Cesar Chavez/Folsom
 Sat 07:30pm Parkmerced SATURDAY NIGHT REGROUP - 777 Brotherhood Way, Church

MEETING CHANGES

Sun 09:30am Western Add. WESTERN ADDITION BIG BOOK STUDY - 1201 Fillmore *(was at 1 pm)*
 Mon 06:50pm Mill Valley WE, US AND OURS - Mt. Carmel School, 3 Oakdale *(was at 7:00pm)*
 Tue 06:00pm Inner Sunset NEW GLASSES - 533 Parnassus (old UC Bldg, Rm.U458) *(was at 5th/Irving)*
 Wed 07:30pm Cathedral Hill WALK OF SHAME - 930 Gough *(was listed as W.O.S.)*
 Wed 07:00pm Point Reyes WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPEAKER DISCUSSION - HHS Bldg, 6th & A *(was incorrectly listed on Thu night!)*
 Thu 06:00pm Novato SIX O'CLOCK SUNSET - 1535 Grant (The Hall) *(Temporary moved from South Novato & Midway, Ch)*

NO LONGER MEETING

Mon 06:30pm on TV VIDEO A.A. - Viacom Channel 26 on TV
 Sat 07:30pm Parkside BACK TO BASICS - 3201 Ulloa/33rd
 Sat 11:00pm Novato AFTER HOURS DISCUSSION - 1535 Grant (The Hall)

REPORTED MISSING

(None Reported)



Please Note: The Central Office occasionally 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 (674-1821). If we hear no objections during the month following publication here, the meeting will be assumed disbanded, and removed from the schedule.

Thank You!



MARCH 2002