

"The point is, that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines"
From Chapter Five of the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous."

The Point

MAY 2002

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

The Guide to Group Service is Here!

In its effort to better serve the local A.A. fellowship, the Intercounty Fellowship Board approved the *Guide to Group Service* at their April 2002 meeting. This 32-page booklet is the consummation of over three years work by the Literature Committee and supersedes the variety of articles from various sources which made up the old Meeting and Treasurer's kits.

Information, suggestions, and experience for common service positions in the A.A. group are now conveniently addressed in a single document. These include Secretary, Treasurer, General Service Representative (GSR), Intergroup Representative, Coffee Maker, Literature Person, Greeter, Raffle

Person, Chip Person, Grapevine Representative (GvR), and Security Person. Each section has space provided to customize the *Guide* to the needs of your group.

Topics discussed under the Secretary section include selecting speakers, group registration, business meetings, group conscience, group problems, group inventory, and signing meeting attendance slips. Where the money goes, prudent reserve and the reasoning behind it, and treasurer's reports are among the topics in the Treasurer's section. Diagrams of the General Service structure and Intercounty Fellowship have been included to convey how groups fit into A.A. locally and as a whole.

The Literature Committee invites your group's input before July 1st when a final edition, incorporating suggestions and comments from local A.A. groups, will be printed. It will also include a Glossary of commonly used terms in the A.A. fellowship, so if there are certain terms, words, acronyms, etc. that you would like to see in the Glossary, let us know.

One complimentary copy of the *Guide to Group Service* is available to each A.A. group in San Francisco and Marin while supplies last (500 copies), thanks to an individual member's generous contribution. Additional copies for your group, for individuals, or for those outside the area will be available at \$2.00 each when printed. Stop by the bookstore at the Central Office and pick up your *Guide*.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY 2002 ... In the Fellowship Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups			FIRST WED 1 * (IFB): Intercounty Fellowship Board: 1187 Franklin, SF 7:00 pm * Spirit of SF Committee 1329 Irving/7th (church) 7 pm	2	3	4
5	6	7	SECOND WED 8 * Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15p	9	10	11
12	SECOND MON 13 * SF Public Information Committee: 1821 Sacramento, SF; 7:00p	SECOND TUE 14 * 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	15	16	17	18
19	THIRD MON 20 * 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 21 * San Mateo General Service: St. Andrews Ch. 15th & El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p	22	FOURTH THU 23 * Marin PI: 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15pm	24	FOURTH SAT 25 * General Service: CNCA Bus. Mtg: 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; DCMCs: 10:30am Main Meeting: 12n
LAST SUN 26 * Living Sober 1668 Bush, SF; 5:30p * 2900 Steering Committee: 2900 24th St., SF 12:15 pm	27	FOURTH TUE 28 * Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael: 7:30p	29	LAST THU 30 * SF H&I Old First Church, Sacramento & Van Ness Orientation: 7:15p Regular Meeting: 8pm	31	

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

2002

Call 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 5 & 6.

May 4	CNCA 2002 Post-Conference Assembly, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Watsonville Fairgrounds, Watsonville , CA
May 17 - 19	Nor-Cal Woman-To-Woman 18th Weekend, Seacliff Inn, Aptos , CA
May 17 - 19	Tri-State Roundup, Riverside Resort Hotel, Laughlin , NV
May 17 - 19	3rd Annual Olympic Roundup, Port Angeles , WA (www.olympicroundup.com)
May 24 - 26	29th Golden Empire Round-Up, Bakersfield Convention Center, Bakersfield , CA
May 24 - 27	17th AALA Summer in the City Roundup, Universal Sheraton-Universal City, Los Angeles , CA (www.aa-la.org)
June 7 - 9	67th Founders' Day, Akron , OH (www.akronaa.org)
June 8	Unity Day Corte Madera Recreation Center, 498 Tamalpais Dr., Corte Madera, CA
June 8	Annual Tree Blessing 4pm, AA Greenhouse Meditation Meeting 5pm, Laguna Honda Hospital, rear lot SE corner
June 20 - 23	AA Desert Pow Wow, Indian Wells , CA (write: Box 10128, Palm Desert CA 92255-0128)
June 22 - 23	15th Cache Creek Group Rafting Trip, (write: Box 3136, Santa Rosa CA 95402, email: cachecreek2002@aol.com)
June 22	1st Annual Recovery Round Up— Tehema County Fairgrounds, Red Bluff CA
June 28 - 30	30th Annual H & I Conference - Santa Rosa , CA (Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1351 Maple Av.)
July 5 - 7	NCCAA 55th Summer Conference, Marriot San Ramon (2600 Bishop Dr.), San Ramon , CA
July 12 - 14	25th Annual Spring Fling Group's Summer Bash, Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento , CA
July 12 - 14	Pacific Regional Forum, Phoenix , AZ (www.aa.org)



MAY 2002

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MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

Wed 6:00 pm	So. of Market	MOSCONE CENTER AFTER WORK - 88 Perry St. (BB Di wh)
Thu 5:00 pm	San Rafael	OHLHOFF TEEN NIGHT - 526 Third St., Suite A-1 (YP SpD)
Thu 6:00 pm	San Rafael	KEEPIN' IT REAL - 526 Third St., Suite A-1 (SpD)
Thu 8:30 pm	Potrero Hill	REALITY FARM - Slovenian Hall, Vermont/Mariposa (BB SD YP)

MEETING CHANGES

Sun 7:00 pm	San Anselmo	SUNDAY FRIENDSHIP - 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo Rec. Center
Sun 8:00 pm	Marina	WATERFRONT - Fort Mason, Bldg. C, no more coffee time at 7 pm
Mon 7:00 pm	McLaren Park	AMAZING GRACE - Woolsey @ Gottengen: go up steps
Thu 7:55 pm	Bayview	STAYING SOBER - 1601 McKinnon (address number correction)
Thu 8:00 pm	Castro	FIRESIDE CHAT - 100 Diamond (not Duboce Park)
Thu 8:00 pm	Belvedere	ISLAND GROUP - Community Congregational Church of Belvedere, 145 Rockhill Drive
Fri 7:55 pm	Bayview	STAYING SOBER - 1601 McKinnon (address number correction)
Fri 8:30 pm	Mission	ENDLESS SUMMER - 938 Valencia/Liberty (was 8:00 pm)
Fri 8:30 pm	Parkmerced	FIRESIDE - 1011 Garfield @ Junipero Serra, Church

NO LONGER MEETING

Sat 5:00 pm	Mission	SOULCRAFT - 2900 24th/Florida
Mon 1:00 pm	SF State	SOBER AT STATE - Creative Arts Bldg. (school days)
Mon 7:15 pm	Castro	MONDAY NIGHT LESBIAN BEGINNERS - 150 Eureka
Wed 1:00 pm	SF State	SOBER AT STATE 12x12 - Creative Arts Bldg. (school days)
Thu 7:30 pm	So. of Market	BACK TO BASICS I - 510 Seventh St./Bryant
Fri 6:00 pm	North Beach	NORTH BEACH HAPPY HOUR - 720 Columbus/Filbert

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!



HOW TO MAKE A WHEELCHAIR FLY

I am in a wheelchair for the rest of my life as a direct result of my alcoholism. Alcoholism kills and it also paralyzes. I am living proof of that.

I drank for over twenty years and was involved in many car accidents while intoxicated, yet I always seemed to walk away unharmed. On the night of December 23, 1976, however, I was in another accident. Once again I was in a blackout, but I didn't walk away from this one. I severed my spinal cord.

Two months after the accident I was drinking again. I never once admitted to myself I was in that wheelchair because of booze. I drank for eight years after the accident - in and out of hospitals, surgery, psychiatric wards, suicide attempts. Institutions were my home, though I never admitted it.

By the grace of God, in September 1984 I was admitted to a detox and rehab at the Bronx VA hospital. I was the first wheelchair patient to go through rehab. I was still unique.

I chose my sponsor while in rehab, and he's still my sponsor today. I have a special relationship with him and I love him. I can say that today about another man and not feel like a sissy.

My first experience with AA outside of an institution was at a meeting which was totally accessible to my wheelchair. But the next outside meeting was held in the bottom floor of a brownstone in Manhattan. I had to be carried down the steps and it was very frightening. I had to admit total powerlessness over the situation and turn it over to God. One day at a time, I made meetings all around the city, some accessible, some not so accessible.

I have a home group now, and I'm very proud of it. I get carried up and down a whole flight of stairs every Monday. There are times when fear rears its ugly head, but I've come to realize that if I fall I'm supposed to fall. I go after my sobriety with everything I have inside me - the same way I went after a drink. That's the only way it works for me. I'm grateful to be alive and I'm grateful to be sober.

Service is an important part of my recovery. I chair two institutions meetings and answer phones one day a week at Intergroup. I know I have to give this precious gift away in order to keep it. Alcoholics Anonymous has given me the life I was always searching for in a bottle or a pill. It has given me a God of love. I'm never alone anymore.

I'd like to say to anyone in a wheelchair or with some other physical challenge, this program works. There are still times when the disease tells me I'm not an alcoholic, but meetings are my medicine. I strongly suggest you take the positive action and get to one today. Asking for help doesn't come easily to an alcoholic, but when I reached out people responded.

If you're thinking about drinking, please remember that it could put you in a wheelchair for the rest of your life. You don't have to do it. I did it for you.

B. N., New York, New York

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Group Speakers for May 2002

FRIDAY ALL GROUPS

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

Signed for the hearing impaired

DATE	HOST GROUP	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
May 3	Simply Speaking (Burlingame)	Robert C.	Sesame Step
May 10	Cocoanuts	Layne Z.	S.F. Fellowship
May 17	Early Start	Ralph S.	Bernal Big Book
May 24	Huntington Square	Robin T.	New York Fellowship
May 31	Valencia Smokefree	Bonnie R.	San Jose Fellowship

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

Signed for the hearing impaired

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP / Sobriety
Mar 7	Bill F.	Late Saturday Night 2900 / 11-4-87
May 14	Diana F.	Marina Discussion / 3-17-85
May 21	Ralph S.	Bernal Big Book / 5-5-92
May 28	Mark B.	Monday Men's Stag / 2-25-93

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
May 5th	Herman B.	Alumni Group, S.F.
May 12th	Yvonne D.	Big Book Basics, S.F.
May 19th	Peter H.	Sunset 11'ers (Sun), S.F.
May 26th	Scott S.	Big Book Basics, S.F.

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 Maury at Central Office, 674-1821.

30th Annual Hospitals and Institutions Conference

Hope and Inspiration

June 28, 29, 30, 2002
Veterans Memorial Building
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

Speaker Meetings

Panels - Marathon Meetings - Dance - Free Drawings

NCCAA 55th Annual Summer Conference

Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

At Marriot San Ramon - 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

July 5, 6, & 7, 2002

Friday John S., Palo Alto, Ca.

Saturday Julie T., Iowa City, Iowa

Clint H., Woodland Hills Ca.

Sunday Lee M., Ukiah, Ca.

Marathon Meetings, Speakers, Fellowship, Workshops, Raffle,
Dance, Pre-Registration is Appreciated

For information call Central Office or pick up flyer

The Spring Fling Group of Alcoholics Anonymous Presents the

Summer Bash

July 12, 13 & 14, 2002

At the Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento, Ca

Speaker Meetings & Events

Golf Tournament

AA Speaker Workshop "Traditions in Relationships"

AA & Al-Anon Marathon Meetings

Saturday Big Book Study

Dances: Friday & Saturday Nights

For information call Central Office or pick up flyer

predicting that a long and productive work relationship will evolve at Central Office. Stop by or call anytime to welcome her and encourage her in her new position. While you're at it, set up a time to come into the office as a volunteer. There are plenty of opportunities and remember: Service Keeps You Sober!

There is a new face at Central Office! Maury P. has recently come aboard as our Central Office Manager. Maury is practically a native San Franciscan (she was born in Dallas, TX and moved here at the age of four) and a 13-year veteran of AA. She began her "career" qualifying as a member of AA at the ripe old age of seven. Not yet sober and just after her 19th birthday, Maury pulled a "geographic" and moved back to Dallas.

It took another 13 months, and a slippery down hill slope, but she finally made it into the rooms and attended her first A.A. meeting on Feb. 6, 1989.

After getting sober, Maury continued to take courses at a community college and eventually, transferred to Texas Woman's University where she received a BS in Occupational Therapy. She graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Fortunately for us, she moved back to San Francisco in May of 1997. From there she worked in the Department of Psychiatry at San Francisco General Hospital. Quickly, however, she went to work in her family business as the Office Manager. Five years later she decided to "throw her hat in the ring" and applied for the job of Central Office Manager. She was selected in a "Third Legacy" procedure and began work on March 4.

Maury's home group in San Francisco is "The Artists' and Writers' Group" and she attends meetings in Bernal Heights and Noe Valley. Additionally, Maury has done extensive service in AA including holding most service positions at Group level and H&I in County Jails.

Maury has hit the ground running and is working hard to make the Central Office run smoothly. She is

Find a San Francisco or Marin Meeting NOW!

Check out our new website:

www.aasf.info
www.aamarin.info

We can also be reached through the old address:

www.aa-san-francisco.org

Our website has a new feature that calls up meetings within the next 3 to 4 hours. Just click on the "now" link for immediate meeting gratification. This feature is made possible by our new database driven site. Complete schedules for both Marin and San Francisco can be found on our site. Meeting changes may be reported through the e-mail link to the Central Office Manager. More features are in the works.

"Great job on the web site! I like the designation key links" says Karen K., a member who uses the website daily.

Slogan of the Month:

"Keep it Simple!"

What does this slogan mean to you? How do you use it?

How useful is it to you
in your sobriety?

Email your responses to
aa@aasf.info and we'll print as many of
them as we can next month!

"The Hand of AA as a Phone Volunteer"

"PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works where other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry the message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill."

-*Alcoholics Anonymous*, Chapter 7, page 89.

Once a week, for two hours I answer the phones at Central Office as a volunteer. Most callers request meeting times and locations. Many callers identify issues that must be handled by Maury (the Central Office Manager) and Mike (the Special Worker). And every so often there's a caller who needs to talk to an alcoholic in recovery, a caller who needs to talk to me. I believe it's my higher power giving me an opportunity to share my experience, strength, and hope. Before I start responding to these callers, I get a little excited and a bit nervous, all at the same time. Sometimes, I get a little afraid.

One such memorable call happened on a Tuesday morning about six weeks ago. The phone rang, I picked up the receiver and said, "Hello, this is Alcoholics Anonymous, my name

is Danny." The caller said his name was Rodney, that maybe he had a problem with alcohol, and that he was thinking about 'trying AA'. I took a deep breath, said a quick prayer, exhaled, and asked, "Would you like to go to a meeting?" Hesitantly, he responded, "I'm not sure, I'm nervous." I asked, "...about what?" He continued, "Ummm, I'm not sure if, uh, I'll, uh, fit in. Maybe they won't want me there." ...silence...

I paused and checked my memory for any relevant experiences. I had one. So I said, "Yeah, I get it. Before I came to AA I thought I might not 'belong'." I hesitated and continued, "For me, I felt different and as if I might not belong in AA because I'm gay." "So am I," Rodney blurted out. He sounded relieved. I told him that in my experience I had always been accepted at all of the AA meetings that I'd ever attended. I shared a personal story illustrating this. He inquired, "So, not being accepted never happens." And I said, "Well, rarely." I shared a second story where I had witnessed the following: someone making a judgmental remark about another member; other members interrupting and making it clear that all are welcome here - that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. "What happened to the guy who made the remark?" "He was

told that he could stay but only if he stopped making judgmental remarks about other members." There was a pause. Then Rodney asked for the times and locations of AA meetings near where he lived. I asked if he wanted a gay AA meeting (a special interest meeting) or any kind of an AA meeting? I gave him the times, names, and locations of the AA meetings that he seemed interested in, asked him if he needed anything else, told him not to hesitate to call back if he did need anything else, said goodbye, and wished him luck." I hung up with a smile on my face and a glow in my heart. "Thank you..."

I wonder if Rodney ever went to a meeting and what happened to him. And because of Rodney's call to AA, my sobriety is stronger, I feel better about myself, and for two hours a week, I am the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous that's always there on one of the phones at the Central Office in San Francisco, CA.

Danny F.

Membership

Because A.A. has never attempted to keep formal membership lists, it is extremely difficult to obtain completely accurate figures on total membership at any given time. Some local groups are not listed with the U.S./Canada General Service Office. Others do not provide membership data, thus are not recorded on the G.S.O. computer records. The membership figures listed below are based on reports to the General Service Office as of January 1, 2001, plus an average allowance for groups that have not reported their membership.

There is no practical way of counting members who are not affiliated with a local group.

Estimated A.A. Membership and Group Information

Groups in U.S.....	51,735
Members in U.S.....	1,162,112
Groups in Canada.....	5,104
Members in Canada.....	98,816
Groups Overseas.....	41,423
Members Overseas.....	832,994
Internationalists.....	106
Groups in Correctional Facilities U.S./Canada).....	2,504
Lone Members.....	313

Total:

2,160,013 Members

100,766 Groups

**INTERNATIONALISTS
(SEAGOING A.A.s)**

(Continued on page 15)

“The Value of AA Meetings”

Since first walking through the doors of AA, many things have happened in my life that help me live one day at a time. One of those things is the AA meeting itself. After a lifetime of not fitting in and feeling uncomfortable in my own skin, AA meetings and the people in them have made me feel welcome, relaxed and not judged. It took me awhile to calm down enough to allow the love and genuine caring by others to sink in since I was used to a world of anxiety and distrust. After I heard stories from other "real folks" like me, I realized that I had something in common with others and that my different world was no different at all. People were telling my stories and felt the same way I did about many things in life. I couldn't believe it. It made me want to come to more of these meetings and hear more from others who had a way of life that I wanted. These people were calm and happy and looked like they could actually get along without a drink in their hand. The value of meetings became priceless to me.

Today, when I feel out of touch or on the outside of things I know I need a meeting. Even when I feel good and content a meeting still does the trick. I can't recall a time when I left a meeting feeling worse than when I arrived. I usually have some renewed energy and an outlook on the moment that is positive and that things will be ok. I enjoy going to the same meetings so I can get to know the other regulars and offer myself for service. I think that the presence alone of regular members can make a newcomer feel more secure and welcome by having a familiar face around when he or she comes back. I know that worked for me. By offering service I can have a commitment to something that gives me some responsibility and discipline to do my service and not let others down. An AA meeting can do a lot for character building.

So, I have much gratitude for AA meetings. I am so glad I gave it a try back then and am happy that I need meetings today. I am sure I will be at one tonight.

Mike L.

New at the Akron Intergroup Office


Some people involved with Akron Intergroup and the Akron A.A. Archives had the inspiration to make the painting "The Man on the Bed" into a stained glass window. The finished project fills the whole front window of the Intergroup office and was done in time for Founders Day weekend, 2001. The Four Absolutes (Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness, and Love) are on the four sides and the picture is bordered by sobriety medallions contributed by many local members and set into the glass. This is truly a work of love and dedication, and many people helped by adding a few pieces whenever they could. In the evening, with the light of the setting sun coming through the panels, it is breathtaking. If you're in the area be sure to stop in and see this, and the Archives, too!

www.akronaa.org/Archives



AA Group Contributions – March 2002

Intercounty Fellowship – San Francisco / Marin

Date	Memo	Amount	Date	Memo	Amount
FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS					
03/07/2002	IFB Mtg. March 2002	43.00	03/06/2002	Lincoln Park Sa 8:30 pm	56.52
Total FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		43.00	03/08/2002	Mission Terrace W 8pm	44.90
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - MARIN			03/01/2002	New Hope Big Book	90.19
03/08/2002	Attitude Adjustment	400.00	03/12/2002	New Wednesday High Noon W OSM 12:15	177.83
03/15/2002	Attitude Adjustment 7am daily	60.00	03/29/2002	Noon Smokeless Mon	29.00
03/19/2002	Bounce Back m 6 pm	180.00	03/06/2002	Nooners M noon OSM	41.89
03/26/2002	Experience Strength & Hope	56.00	03/27/2002	Sisters Circle Su 6pm	150.00
03/01/2002	Larkspur Step	200.00	03/13/2002	Step Talk Su 8:30 am	54.60
03/01/2002	M.V. Original Smokeless Step Study	60.00	03/06/2002	Stepping Out	120.00
03/06/2002	Rise N Shine 7D 10am	52.00	03/08/2002	Sunday Bookworms	60.00
03/06/2002	Ross San Anselmo Group M 8:30 pm	21.20	03/01/2002	Sunset 11'ers (Mon)	50.00
03/11/2002	San Marin Step Study	60.00	03/01/2002	Sunset 9'ers (Mon)	223.83
03/25/2002	Sisters In Sobriety Th 7:30	26.10	03/26/2002	Sunset 9'ers Sat 9am	149.00
03/25/2002	Steps to the Solution w 7pm	137.50	03/25/2002	Sunset Speaker Step Su 7:30	60.00
03/26/2002	T. G. I'm Sober	66.00	03/13/2002	Sutter Street Beginners Sa 6pm	473.40
03/06/2002	Terra Linda Group Th 8:30	225.00	03/15/2002	Three Step Group Sa. 5:30 pm	237.61
03/26/2002	TGIF	49.50	03/12/2002	Unidentified Group	88.00
03/28/2002	Wed. Night Big Book - Tiburon	125.00	03/19/2002	Valencia Smokefree F 6 pm	254.93
Total MARIN - GROUP CONTRIBUTION		1,718.30	Total SF- GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		6,896.59
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - SF			GRATITUDE MONTH - SF		
03/26/2002	Early Start Fr 6pm	641.19	03/06/2002	Embarcadero Group Th 12:10 pm	38.18
03/06/2002	2900 Alcatraz (X-mas '01, NYE'02)	165.82	03/26/2002	Sunset 9'ers Sat 9am	109.00
03/13/2002	AA As You Like It Tu 5:30 pm	167.74	03/19/2002	Valencia Smokefree F 6 pm	86.09
03/07/2002	Acceptance Group M 5:30 pm	49.73	Total SF - GRATITUDE MONTH		233.27
03/25/2002	Acceptance Group M 5:30pm	29.00	TOTAL - ALL GROUPS		
03/12/2002	As Bill Sees It Sa 11 am	53.39			8,891.16
03/01/2002	Birthday Party	60.00	 <p>"Hey, guys. Have you met Harry who is at his first meeting?" R.D.</p> <p>Copyright 2001, AA Grapevine, Inc., All Rights Reserved</p>		
03/19/2002	Brisbane Breakfast Su 11 am	24.40			
03/04/2002	Castro Discussion	435.30			
03/04/2002	Castro Monday Big Book	121.08			
03/15/2002	Compass W 9 pm	294.00			
03/04/2002	Each Day A New Beginning (Fri)	118.00			
03/04/2002	Early Joyous & Free	60.00			
03/27/2002	Early Start Fr 6pm	8.15			
03/11/2002	Eleventh Hour Tu 1pm	100.00			
03/06/2002	Embarcadero Group W 12:10 pm	92.63			
03/01/2002	Federal Speaker	248.39			
03/04/2002	Goodlands	101.32			
03/01/2002	Happy Hour Ladies Night	875.00			
03/01/2002	High Noon (Wed)	21.85			
03/11/2002	High Noon F	122.67			
03/25/2002	High Noon Monday Mon 12:15	216.79			
03/08/2002	High Noon Th 12:15	59.68			
03/28/2002	High Noon We 12:15	29.00			
03/19/2002	Keep Coming Back Sa 11 am	439.76			

Focus on the 12 Concepts

"Throughout our world service structure, a traditional 'Right of Appeal' ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered."

Concept

Hello everyone, it's May, the fifth month and time for Concept Five. This concept insures all AA members have the right to voice their opinions and to provide an opportunity for appeal of any issue.

While AA holds that we have "but one ultimate authority, a Loving God as expressed in our Group Conscience" (Tradition II), there is also the recognition that, in times of extreme stress or upheaval, the majority may be "uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry" and may, therefore, arrive at "wrong" decisions.

The right of the minority to voice its opinion - have its say - assures that everyone is heard and that reason may prevail, resulting in a reversal of the original vote. I've seen this happen many times over the years and it is a wonderful process to observe.

Another aspect to this Concept has to do with the fact that, by its very nature, much of the business of AA is conducted by trusted servants, elected by the fellowship to carry out that business, since it's not practical, in many cases, for "committees" or larger groups to do so.

An example might be the Group's Coffee Maker. Now, say, for example, the Coffee Maker is doing a fine job

and everyone is happy with it. Then, for whatever reason, the Coffee Maker decides that coffee is not good for humans to drink. He or she further decides that it is within the discretion of the Coffee Maker to stop serving coffee to the Group and that, instead, will make

only bottled water or celery juice available. It's for the good of the

Group, after all. Well, there's a strong likelihood that someone will take exception to this new policy. He or she may well protest. It

may even come to a Group Conscience vote. Now, say the Coffee Maker is a very popular member of the Group and has many friends and like-minded supporters. Additionally, say the "protestor" is a very unpopular member...(of course we ALL know THAT never happens.)

It is conceivable that a majority of the members, based on personality issues, may well vote to support the decision of the Coffee Maker. But, say, only 51 percent vote to support him. Does that mean that the other 49 percent just need to accept it and shut up?

No, the AA way is to allow an uninterrupted "Minority Opinion" to be voiced. It is quite likely that, during such discussion, one or more minority members will bring common sense to bear and make persuasive arguments on behalf of having coffee available.

Then, a majority member has the option of moving for reconsideration and another vote will be taken. Coffee drinkers may be allowed to continue having coffee made available to them, even if the Coffee Maker thinks it is harmful to their health.

IFB Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Unitarian Universalist Church

1187 Franklin St. San Francisco

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

Alex H.	Too Early	R*	Larry F.	Mid-Morning Support	P
Ardis J.	As Bill Sees It-Fri,7am	P	Leslie F.	How It Works	P
Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step	P	Lisa M.	Friday All Groups	P
Bill O.	Rose Garden Big Book	A	Matt S.	<i>Marin PI/CPC</i>	A
Bill R.	Castro Discussion	A	Maury P.	<i>Central Office Manager</i>	P
Casey L.	Monday Night Stag	P	Pat M.	Sat As Bill Sees It	P
Charles G.	<i>SF H&I</i>	A	Patrick C.	Work in Progress	P
Charles M.	Federal Speaker	P	Paul C.	Waterfront	A
Damon B.	Tuesday Downtown	P	Ray M.	Sunday Rap	P
Danny F.	Ea. Day/New Beginning	A	Rich R.	Sunset 9ers-Friday	A
Debra D.	<i>San Francisco PI/CPC</i>	P	Samuel S.	New Wed. High Noon	P
Ellen C.	Big Book Basics	R*	Shannon O.	A Step Beyond	P
Frank B.	Each Day ... -Sun	A	Smithy B.	Ten Years After	P
George S.	<i>SF General Service</i>	P	Stu S.	Live & Let Live	P
J. E.	Friendly Circle Beginners	P	Tim H.	<i>SF Teleservice</i>	A
Jason S.	Sesame Step	P	Tim M.	<i>S Mateo Gen Service</i>	P
Jay H.	Gay Beginners	P	Tom K.	Common Welfare	P
Jeff T.	High Sobriety	P	Tracy R.	Sunset 9ers - Tuesday	P
Jim D.	Happy Joyous & Free	P	Zoe B.	Mill Valley 7AM	A2
Joe G.	<i>Marin Teleservice</i>	P			
John Y.	First Place	R*			
Kade H.	Fireside Chat	P			
Ken C.	<i>Marin General Service</i>	P			
Ken Y.	As Bill Sees It-Wed, 8:30	P			

A. REVIEW OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the following changes: an item regarding Tuesday Downtown's ASL payment.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January and February meetings were approved.

C. IFB REPORTS:

1. **Chair.** Ben brought the following items to the Board.

a. **Severance.** The COC chair had recommended that the board vote to give Michael D. a "severance" package (or some other recognition) at the end of his term as temporary assistant office manager. The sum suggested was two weeks salary, approximately \$900. The board vote 21 - 2 to give Michael \$1000.00 as a "Employee Appreciation Award," so as not to set a precedent of granting severance pay to temps.

b. **COC member requirements.** Ben pointed out that the Central Office Committee has difficulty retaining members and currently had two vacancies. As a solution, Ben suggested that there be some minimum sobriety guidelines for membership on the COC or reducing the size of the committee. The board discussed other solutions, including requiring COC members to be on the IFB for one year and reducing the length of the COC term. The board referred the matter to the Bylaws Committee.

The Board skipped ahead to a related Special Business item on the agenda. The roll was called to see which members were available to serve on the COC. The following members made themselves available: Charles M., Damon B., J. E., Jay H., Sam S., Jason S., and Tom K..

c. **The Point committee.** Currently the point has no committee members. Ben asked for volunteers, but got no takers. Ben indicated that he would be calling on members individually, asking if they are willing to serve on the committee. Ben also indicated that he would be recruiting from the fellowship to help with *The Point*.

d. **The Bylaws Review committee.** Ben asked for a volunteer to Chair the committee. No one volunteered.

2. **Treasurer.** The following was distributed and summarized by Pat: 1. Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for the year-end 2001. 2. Balance Sheet year-end 2001. 3. Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2002 and 4. Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual January 2002. Pat emphasized the following: 2001 was a profitable year for the organization, the 2002 budget includes higher personnel costs, and the interest on the prudent reserve account will be sufficient to cover any increases for the prudent reserve.

3. **Central Office Manger.** Maury announced that it was her third day on the job. Mark was to give this month's

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report but was unable to be at the meeting. Maury plans to improve the Central Office's database and asked everyone at the meeting to fill out a new Intergroup Rep form, in order to make sure all the IFB information is up-to-date. She asked for volunteers who had some experience with Access.

4. **Central Office Committee.** A written report was submitted. Tracy R. gave the Committee's report. Highlights included the Central Office's manager transition, recommendations about employee salaries and bonuses and a shortage of volunteers to staff the telephones.

D. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee. Ben will activate the committee in order to replace two members of the Central Office Committee.

E. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Lease Committee** – Ardis J. reported on the continuing problems with completion of the wheelchair lift.

2. **Literature Review Committee** – No members were present to give a report. However, the committee has assembled a trusted servant packet. Ben will ask the committee to distribute the packet to the groups.

3. **Bylaws Review Committee** - Tracy R. reported that Committee has not met. There still some issues to resolve based on the attorney's review of the Bylaws. A discussion was held on fact that state laws conflicted with AA principles and the difficulty in finding language for the bylaws that addressed both. Ben indicated that he would work with the committee to find language to address the remaining issue. He again suggested that others serve on the committee.

4. **The Point Editorial Committee** – No report. Ben asked again for volunteers and indicated that he would start asking non-IFB members for help with *The Point*.

5. **Orientation Committee** – No report

F. OLD BUSINESS:

IFB meetings in Marin. The board felt that further meetings in Marin would be beneficial. Ken C. offered to check with the Star of the Sea Church for availability of the room.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

ASL reimbursement for Tuesday Downtown. Damon B. asked that the funds be distributed to Tuesday Downtown directly, as the meetings has it's own bank account. Pat indicated that was not done for any other meeting and suggested that the funds be paid directly to the service provider. Ben said it would be done as Pat suggested.

H. IFB STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Teleservice.** No members present. A written report was submitted.

2. **PI/CPC** Debra D. is replacing Paul P.. She distributed flyers announcing an upcoming PI/CPC workshop.

I. GROUP REP REPORTS:

Michael M., who attended in the place of Patrick C., expressed a concern of his group that the Board had hired a new Central Office manager without taking into account experience working at the Central Office. He also expressed his own opinion that there was a lack of respect for present and past special workers by the members of the board.

J. NON-IFB LIASON REPORTS:

1. **General Service, SF.** George S. reported on the upcoming conference in April and informed the group about local and regional activities taking place in preparation.

2. **General Service, Marin.** Ken C., reported that Marin General Services funds Marin CI/CPC. Marin CI/CPC had recently requested an increase in funding and presented Marin General Services with plans for making information and materials more widely available.

3. **Teleservice, Marin.** Joe G. report Marin was still have trouble filling slots for answering the phone to cover the reduced hours at Central office. He invited the Board to attend their meetings.

4. **Bridging the Gap.** Ken Y. reported on an upcoming March meeting.

5. **H&I** –No report

K. SEVENTH TRADITION: Ray M. read the 12 Traditions. \$43.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jeff T., Secretary

Next IFB Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2002, Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St./Geary, San Francisco.

Call the Central Office, 674-1821, if you need further information.

CONTRIBUTIONS

To the Central Office were made

March 30 to April 25

***Honoring the following
members***

ONGOING MEMORIALS

RW M.

ANNIVERSARIES

*Jimmy H. - 5 Years
Tracy R. - 7 Years
Jim B. - 9 Years
Mary G. -- 12 Years
Jef R. - 14 Years
Pat M. - 14 Years
Anne K. - 16 Years
Lyle W. - 27 Years
Ann W. - 34 Years*

Birthdays
for
Endless
Summer
Group

*Jim - 1 Year
Judith - 1 Year
Mark - 2 Years
Marcy - 3 Years
Anna B. - 6 Years
James - 10 Years
Susan - 13 Years*

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



Recent Deaths

*Jeffrey Thomas
27 Years Sober
Pass It On Men's Stag, Los Angeles*

*Bob Madison
23 Years Sober
Gratitude Group, Ukiah*

SUMMARY

April 2002 IFB Meeting

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

A. Business Conducted

1. Voted to distribute to the groups a "Guide to Group Service," published by Central Office
2. Elected Jason S., Tom K., and J. Ebba to the Central Office Committee

B. Information

1. There is a new and improved meeting schedule on the website
2. Chips have been a great success at the Central Office.
3. The next IFB meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on May 1 at the Unitarian Center in San Francisco: 1187 Franklin St. at Geary Blvd.

D. Service Opportunities

1. Teleservice volunteers.
2. *Point* committee members.

New Pamphlets in the Central Office Bookstore:

- "AA for the Older Alcoholic - Never Too Late" (Large Print Pamphlet)
- "Can AA Help Me Too? - Black/African Americans Share Their Stories"
- "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell" (A New "Professional" Format)

Financial Statement

March 2002 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

	Mar 02
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Group Contributions	8,810.04
Individual Contributions	
Honorary Contributions	201.00
Individual -Unrestricted	131.00
Total Individual Contributions	332.00
Gratitude Month	
Gratitude Month-Groups	233.27
Total Gratitude Month	233.27
Newsletter Subscript.	12.00
Sales - Bookstore	7,949.74
Total Income	17,337.05
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Books Sold	4,892.55
Total COGS	4,892.55
Gross Profit	12,444.50
Expense	
Employee Expenses	
Wages & Salaries	8,914.13
Employer Tax Expenses	1,071.06
Employee Accomodation	0.00
Benefits/Pension	217.00
Workers Comp Ins.	174.22
Employee Expenses - Other	0.00
Total Employee Expenses	10,376.41
ASL Expense	
ASL- Net - Tuesday Downtown	170.00
Total ASL Expense	170.00
Bank Charges	
Cr Card Fees	53.63
Processing Fee- Payroll	63.45
Bank Charges - Other	11.30
Total Bank Charges	128.38
Filing/Fees	-15.36
Office Supplies	349.37
Postage	147.51
Shipping	-46.25
Printing	232.84
Rent - Office	3,333.75
Telephone	727.86
Total Expense	15,404.51
Net Ordinary Income	-2,960.01
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	17.63
Total Other Income	17.63
Net Other Income	17.63
Net Income	-2,942.38

(Continued from page 8)

Approximately 106 persons in naval service or the merchant marine on sea duty describe themselves as "A.A. Internationalists." General Service Office staff members correspond with these members and make it possible for them to correspond with each other. Internationalists have been responsible for starting and encouraging local A.A. groups in many ports.

LONERS

Some 313 men and women living in isolated areas throughout the world (or in areas where it has not been possible to form a local group) are listed at the General Service Office as Lone Members. Many achieved sobriety solely through study of A.A. literature. They correspond with G.S.O. and with their counterparts in other sections of the world. In a number of cases, notably U.S. military installations overseas, Loners have been responsible for establishing local groups.

(Copyright 1998, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc.)

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 # _____



MAY 2002