

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

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

The Point

JUNE 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
www.aasf.info
www.aamarin.info
From Marin call 415-499-0400

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

Archives are Alive!

One of the most popular attractions at AA World Headquarters in New York is the AA Archives. There you can see all manner of early AA history. People I've known who have gone always say it is the highlight of their trip. But many people don't know that we have our own archives here in our area: Walnut Creek is home to the California Northern Coastal Area Archives. There is also a push to organize the Central Office Archives, which have been in boxes since the move to the new location. A wealth of experience, strength, and hope lies in the archives and part of what we do as archivists is let people know what they are there for, what is in the collection, and how they can get involved and help preserve AA's mes-

sage for future generations.

Purpose of the Archives

The purpose of the AA archives according to the mission statement adopted by the General Service Board is:

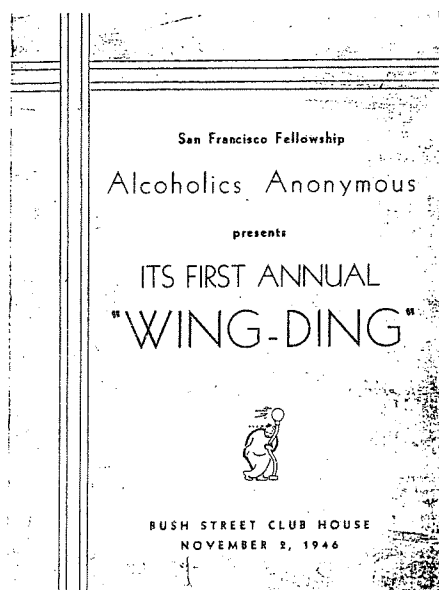
"To receive, classify and index all relevant material, including but not limited to, administrative files and records, correspondence, and literary and artifactual works considered to have historical import to Alcoholics Anonymous. To hold and preserve such material, making access possible, as determined by the present archivist in consultation with the Archives committee, to members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and those of the public who may have a valid need to review said material, such access to be provided only during business hours and with a mindful view toward the anonymity of our members."

With this in mind, many if not most areas and districts set up archives to facilitate the collection and preservation of materials relating to the history of AA. Here in San Francisco, the Intercounty Fellowship Board and General Service Board both have archives. I represent the General Service district (district 06) as district archivist and have been tending to our archives, which are located at the area archives in Walnut Creek since the beginning of 2001.

How Archives Carry the Message

Looking at the histories and movements of other organizations,

(Continued on page 7)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2002... In the Fellowship Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups						1
2	3	4	FIRST WED 5 * (IFB): Intercounty Fellowship Board: 1187 Franklin, SF 7:00 pm * Spirit of SF Committee 1329 Irving/7th (church) 7 pm	6	7	8 Marin General Service "Unity Day" Corte Madera Rec. Center Noon—Midnight (see flyer)
9	SECOND MON 10 * SF Public Information Committee: 1821 Sacramento, SF; 7:00p	SECOND TUE 11 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 12 * Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15p	13	14	15
16	THIRD MON 17 * 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 18 * San Mateo General Service: St. Andrews Ch. 15th & El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p	19	20	21	FOURTH SAT 22 * General Service: CNCA Bus. Mtg: 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; DCMCs: 10:30am Main Meeting: 12n
23	24 Archives Open!! 193 Mayhew Way Walnut Creek, CA: Noon—4pm	FOURTH TUE 25 * Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael: 7:30p	26	FOURTH THU 27 * Marin PI: 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15pm LAST THU * SF H&I Old First Church, Sacramento/Van Ness Orientation: 7:15p Regular Meeting: 8pm	28	29
LAST SUN 30 * 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 <i>meetings</i> , as well as any local AA related <i>events</i> 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. Coming Events are listed on next page, flyers are on pages 5 and 6.					

COMING EVENTS

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.

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 9	Spirit Of San Francisco, Founders Day Picnic, Lindley Meadows, Golden Gate Park, SF CA (www.spirit-sf.org/BBQ)
June 22 - 23	15th Cache Creek Group Rafting Trip, (write: Box 3136, Santa Rosa CA 95402, email: cachecreek2002@aol.com)
June 22	Founders Day - Stafford Lake, Novato, CA
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.)
June 28 - 30	Summerfest '02 - Hilton Hotel & Ballroom, Eugene, OR
July 4 - 6	Living Sober Western Roundup, Bill Graham Civic Center Auditorium, San Francisco, CA
July 5 - 7	NCCAA 55th Summer Conference, Marriott San Ramon (2600 Bishop Dr.), San Ramon , CA
July 11 - 14	Serenity in the Sierra XIII, Sunshine of the Spirit, Camp Richardson, South Lake Tahoe, CA
July 12 - 14	25th Annual Spring Fling Group's Summer Bash, Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento , CA
July 12 - 14	Pacific Regional Forum, Phoenix , AZ (www.aa.org)
July 25 - 28	Fellowship of the Spirit, Silver Creek Resort at Sol Vista, Silver Creek, CO
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1	Reno-Sparks 25th Annual A.A. Sierra Nevada Roundup, A New Way of Life, John Ascuagas Nugget, Sparks, NV
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1	Hotlanta Roundup, Atlanta-Decatur Conference Plaza, Atlanta, GA (www.hotlantaroundup.com)

Cover - AA Archives are Alive.....	1
June 2002 Calendar	2
Coming Events	3
Meeting Changes.....	4
Group Speakers / Announcements...	5
Flyers / Announcements.....	6
Archives cont'd.....	7
52nd Annual GSR Conference	8
H&I: One Members Experience.....	9


June 2002
CONTENTS

April 2002 Group Contributions ..	10
Focus on the Concepts	11
IFB Minutes	12-13
IFB Summary/Honors and Memorials..	14
Apr. 2002 Financial Statement	15

MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

Fri 7:00 pm Mission **HEALING CIRCLE** - 2017 Mission/16th Code # 006
Fri 7:30 pm Tenderloin **BACK 2 BASICS** - 301 Eddy St. - Community Room

MEETING CHANGES

Daily 5:30 am Corte Madera **ON AWAKENING** - 649 Meadowsweet Dr. (moved from 375 Doherty, Larkspur)
Sun 7:00 pm Alamo Square **ALAMO SQUARE** - 601 Steiner/Fell (add SD Ch last Sunday)
Mon 7:30 pm Castro **MONDAY NIGHT LESBIAN** - 150 Eureka/18th (was at 8:00 pm)
Tue 7:00 am Marina **7AM OPEN DISCUSSION** - 2118 Greenwich/Fillmore (was 7:00 am SMOKELESS)
Wed 7:00 am Marina **7AM LIVING SOBER** - 2118 Greenwich/Fillmore (was 7:00 am SMOKELESS)
Wed 8:00 pm Castro **CASTRO DISCUSSION (SHOW OF SHOWS)** 117 Diamond/18th (designation change to Gy Ls Ch from Gy Di Ch)
Thu 7:00 am Marina **7AM SPEAKER DISCUSSION** - 2118 Greenwich/Fillmore (was 7:00 am SMOKELESS)
Fri 7:00 am Marina **7AM AS BILL SEES IT** - 2118 Greenwich/Fillmore (was 7:00 am SMOKELESS)

NO LONGER MEETING

Wed 7:00 pm San Rafael **WOMEN'S BEGINNER'S BOOK STUDY** - 9 Ross Valley Drive

REPORTED MISSING

Thu 1:00 pm SF State **SOBER AT STATE** - Creative Arts Bldg. (school days)
Wed 7:10 pm Terra Linda **YOUNG AND RESTLESS** - Kaiser Hospital Staff Break Room, Office Bldg. 2 Parking Lot A

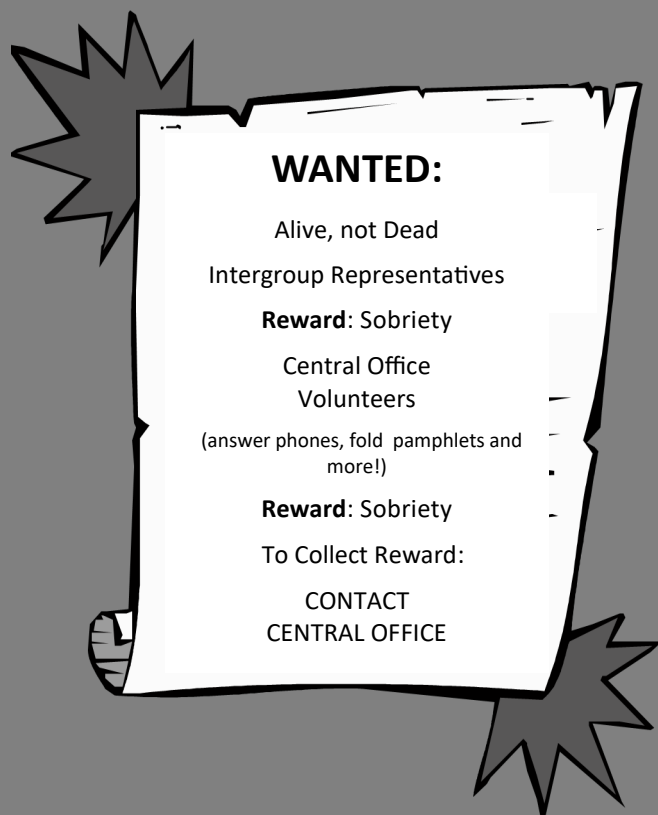


Please Note: The Central Office occasionally receives reports that meetings listed in our schedules are actually not there. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes they are not. The office relies primarily on information that is given to us by AA groups, but when a group disbands, 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!





SPEAKERS WANTED!!

Carry the AA message to schools, professional organizations, the medical community and drunk driving classes.

PI/CPC Workshop

(requirement: two years of continuous sobriety in AA)

Saturday, June 29th 10AM

Central Office—1821 Sacramento St. (between Van Ness and Franklin)

For further information call the Central Office: 674-1821

Group Speakers for June 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
June 7	Castro Discussion	Albert	Tucson, AZ
June 14	They Don't Know Who We Are	Rich A.	Design For Living, Mt. Vernon, WA
June 21	High Sobriety	Mark W.	Rule 62
June 28	SF General ServiceE	Theresa G.	Marin 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
June 4	Tijanna E.	Saturday People of Color /3-2-94
June 11	Paul H.	4 th Step Workshop/3-21-88
June 18	William B.	Tuesday Downtown /11-10-96
June 25	Ann Marie N.	No Gurus /12-2-95

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
June 2nd	David B.	Brisbane
June 9th	Pete S.	San Bruno
June 16th	Robin D.	Berkeley
June 23rd	Glenda E.	Milbrae
June 30th	Jeff T.	Pacifica

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.

Marin General Service Presents

Unity Day June 8th, 2002

Corte Madera Rec. Center, 498 Tamalpais Dr., Corte Madera

Does Our Common Welfare Come First?

Registration at Noon!

Sharing Sessions Start at 1 p.m.

A Loving Dictatorship; Is it a Good Thing?

Cross Talk Defined; The Meeting After the Meeting During the Meeting.

Drugs; Does it have a place in our meetings.

Let your voice be heard!

Come Join us for this year's

Traditions Skit and Panel:

The 12 Concepts; How Do They Apply to My Daily Life

BBQ Dinner with Dance and Raffle to follow.

Speaker Meeting at 7

p.m.

Show Some Unity by Taking One of the Following Commitments:
Coffee, Set-Up, Dinner, Clean-Up, Sodas, Raffle, Dance, Outreach,

**Call Allen K. and let him know how your group
would like to be of service: 460-1553**

NCCAA 55th Annual Summer Conference

Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

At Marriott San Ramon - 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

July 5 - 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

(Continued from page 1)

it's clear that maintaining an original vision or message over time is incredibly difficult. The aim of our AA archives is to maintain the integrity of the original message. The recently published Archives Workbook discusses this:

"Historic records help us to sift through our day-to-day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past. As we sort out the myth from the facts we ensure that our original message of recovery, unity, and service remains the same in a changing, growing, expanding Fellowship that constantly renews itself."

Looking at our past, we get a clearer picture on where we stand now. In our collective experience, we have all had times where gaining a fresh perspective on our recovery was vital. Providing that fresh perspective is one of the goals of our archival work.

What You Might Find at the Archives

There is a wide range of material and artifacts stored at the archives in Walnut Creek. Since we have not made a complete cataloging of what we have it is impossible to convey the breadth of the collection. I will just list some typical things you can find in our display room.

We have a wide range of old AA literature including some first edition Big Books. Do you know why we call our basic text "The Big Book?" It seems that the Big Book was first printed on heavy stock, making it significantly thicker than subsequent printings. At the archives you can see that the first edition first printing Big Books are about as thick as your average dictionary, but otherwise about the same size as today's editions.

Besides AA literature we also have a large selection of non-AA literature. In our library you can find books written by people who played a part in early AA history, books on alcoholism, biographies of early AA members, as well as books on spirituality by people such as Sam Shoemaker, an early influence on Bill W., and Father John Doe, the first Roman Catholic priest to get sober in AA.

There is also a good deal of other printed material to peruse. In the display room there is a large selection of photocopied letters from Bill W., as well as other correspondence. A personal favorite is the collection of letters between Bill and Jim B., the early member often credited for "...as we understood Him" being in the third step.

There is a wealth of information regarding AA in San Francisco. Since this is where AA started in Northern California, the archivists have paid a great deal of attention to San Francisco. On display

there are meeting schedules dating back at least to the '50s as well as meeting histories and (gasp) pictures of early AA members.

Since I started my commitment I have been involved with the tape library. We have an entire room dedicated to speaker tapes and oral histories. This room is lined with audio cassettes and reel-to-reels; we have at least 1500 reel tapes as well as a huge collection of cassettes. We've been slowly cataloging these tapes and reels in a spreadsheet so we can create a database and then target which tapes we want to transfer into the digital domain. The spreadsheet will also come in handy when visitors want to find a tape by a certain speaker or on a certain topic. We can also make copies of cassettes, so if you are looking for a certain local speaker, bring in a blank tape and we will make a copy for you.

We also have things in the archives that can only be classified as random: secretaries' meeting notes, original artwork and written works, chips and tokens, and a coffee can members passed around to select topics from at a now-defunct topic discussion meeting.

For you service junkies out there, there is an abundance of service-related records and ephemera. We have Central Office's old "Secretary's Newsletters" (a previous incarnation of this publication) as well as general service minutes, IFB minutes, and other committee meeting minutes. Part of my vision for the archives is to catalogue these records in a database so that people looking for information from these documents won't have to search through huge stacks of random minutes. This is a huge project—one I don't think I will get to take on before my term is over at year's end—which will make the archives more useful.

Getting Involved

Whether you want to do service or not, I encourage you to visit the archives on archive workdays. Upcoming workdays will be listed in The Point's calendar so you can make your plan to load your car up with sponsees and check out the archives. In June the archives will be open on the 23rd from noon to four. For more information, please phone me at 415.665.7106.

My goal as district archivist has been to raise awareness of the archives. There was a five-year period where San Francisco general service had no regular district archivist. As a result, many people don't know about the archives. The fact that the archives are in Walnut Creek probably doesn't help either. Transitions at Central Office have affected their archive work as well, but there is growing in-

(Continued on page 8)

The 52nd GSR Conference: A Report Back

The 52nd General Service Conference, with the theme "Sharing the Steps, Tradition and Concepts", was held in New York April 21-27, and I was privileged to represent California Northern Coastal Area as your delegate.

The experience was challenging, inspirational, and fun... in other words, a major AA life experience.

The 135 members of the Conference did their work using the Committee system. Delegates were chosen by lot for one of the committees, i.e. Literature, Finance, Grapevine, Corrections, discussed the topics and made recommendations. The Conference as a whole discussed and decided which of those would be put into action. We trust the process, we trust God, and we trust each other.

Actions taken include the new Anthology of the stories from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Editions of the Big Book, which were not carried forward to the 4th Edition, titled "*Experience, Strength and Hope*". We saw the final draft version of the new video, "*Markings on the Journey*". You will see these this Fall. The sentence in the last paragraph of the 4th Edi-

tion Foreword about on-line meetings and home group meetings will be removed in future printings.

A highlight of this Conference was the bus trip we all took to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois. We saw many photos, the Bible in which Bill had written 4 oaths to stop drinking, his violin, and the kitchen table from the home on Clinton St., where Ebby 12th stepped Bill. There were many memories, which we absorbed.

And throughout the Conference, the Theme of Sharing Our Steps, Traditions and Concepts prevailed. Many times the question was asked, "How will this help to carry the Message to the Alcoholic who still suffers?" Isn't that always our purpose!

I remain very grateful to be serving California Northern Coastal Area.

Suzanne M.

(Continued from page 7)

terest; at the general service level we are trying to get more people involved, while at Central Office they are getting ready to go through archival material stored up from the recent move. There is a great need for service on both levels.

There are many ways to get involved. Volunteers and staff at Central Office are looking to form an archives committee. Keep looking here at The Point for more information. At the general service level, we currently have a need for computer literate people to input information to the aforementioned tape database. Individuals interested in creating another general collection database are also encouraged to get involved. If you are interested in shuffling through and sorting papers both entities can definitely use your help. Please feel free to call me on the number above, or Central Office, to get involved. Because there is so much to do you pretty much can follow your interests.

Another great way to get involved is to donate articles of archival interest to the archives. There are certain criteria we have as archivists about what we keep, but if you have things that may be of interest, again feel free to contact me. Of particular interest are items related to the history of individual meetings. One of my favorite things at the archives in Walnut Creek is a small notebook, which dates back to the beginning of the Mission Dolores group in 1947. It's just a small black notebook that the secretary took notes in. It tells who the speaker was, who was in attendance, who was new, and has little comments like "A very good meeting," or "George gave a great talk." While I'm sure meetings have changed plenty, it gave me the sense that there is continuity to what we do. So if you have items that you think may be of interest, call an archivist before you throw them out.

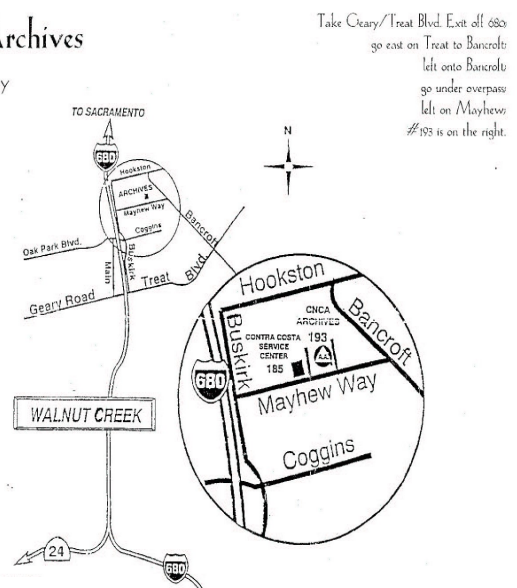
The archives get me really excited about AA and about recovery. It's an exciting time to be involved, as there is so much going on with the introduction of new technology. We here on the West Coast have another reason to be excited. This year's AA archives conference will be held in San Bernadino. AA archivists from all over the country—if not the world—come together to learn more about preserving AA history. I'm very excited to meet other archivists and to see what they're up to.

I highly encourage you to come to the archives, to get involved, and to share in our rich heritage. It may enrich your sobriety in ways you hadn't imagined.

Bryan H., District Archivist

CNCA Archives

193 Mayhew Way
Walnut Creek,
CA 94596



H&I: One Members Experience

For close to three years now, I've served as a Hospitals and Institutions ("H&I") volunteer, which is in itself a testament to the wonders of sobriety, because, as an active drunk, it was rare for me to remain committed to anything for any substantial amount of time. On the first Wednesday of every month, Nancy F. and I bring an AA meeting to the residents of the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility ("MHRF") at San Francisco General Hospital.

From the beginning of my commitment, I wondered whether the folks attending the meeting, patients committed to the institution for several months at a time, ever "got" anything from the meetings in general and, more specifically, from my comments on sobriety. Some patients have previous exposure to AA and really seem to appreciate the meeting and others without any AA background sometimes seem quite excited at the prospects of leading a sober and useful life. Yet for every person who seems to grasp the powerful nature of our disease and has a desire to stay sober, there are several who appear more interested in the cookies and coffee than the discussion on sobriety. For about the first year of my commitment, I wondered what, if anything, I could say that would convince those skeptical of, or disinterested in, AA to change their minds.

At the height of my drinking career (or the depths of it, depending on how you look at it), I developed the particularly nasty habit of deliberately burning myself with a hot iron while raging drunk. Throughout the first couple of years of my sobriety, this was not something I'd bring up at meetings or really discuss with other sober alcoholics out of fear that others would consider me "deviant". Just one example of the "pitiful, incomprehensible demoralization" that characterized my drinking career, I associated a great deal of shame and embarrassment with this particular way in which my drinking made my life unmanageable. Then, at one of my H&I meetings, I shared this part of my story.

The evening that I talked about my alcoholic penchant for applying a hot iron to my arms and torso, I immediately grabbed the full attention of most of room. It was one of those moments, where one alcoholic simply recounting his personal experience and pain with his disease, instantly connects with another alcoholic. That sense of identification, the type I often feel when sitting in a meeting and a speaker "tells my story", was what kept me coming back to meetings particularly when I was newly sober and deathly afraid of anyone, sober or not. Sharing this part of my story made it very clear to me that the residents at the meeting did indeed understand the baffling and uncontrollable ways in which alcoholism manifests itself. It was also at that point that I truly realized my role as an H&I volunteer. My purpose was not to "win converts" to AA, nor was my purpose to be a social worker addressing the needs of the alcoholic with psychological problems. My role was simply to be open and honest in sharing my experience, both as an active drunk and a sober member of this fellowship, with those currently institutionalized, for some of whom this AA meeting might be the only one they can reasonably access for an

extended period of time.

It was then that I truly realized that not much beyond the two pairs of locked doors at the MHRF separates or distinguishes me from the alcoholics who call the MHRF "home"; the nature of my disease is just as baffling and powerful as theirs. So, I continue to show up on the first Wednesday of every month to be of service to those whose circumstances stand in the way of easily accessing the rooms of AA. Instead of attempting to figure out what will keep them sober, I choose to present them with the experiences I've had in and out of sobriety, and it never ceases to amaze me how much we have in common as simply another group of drunks.

Eric H.

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

AA Group Contributions – April 2002

Intercounty Fellowship – San Francisco / Marin

Focus on the 12 Concepts

Hello, everyone. It's June and time for a discussion of Concept 6:

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

What are we talking about here? Trustees? What are they and how do they relate to us, here in San Francisco?

The Concept, in the "explanation" provided in the "A.A. Service Manual" likens the Trustees to a board of directors of a corporation. The Manual specifies that the model is a "business" model, rather than an institutional or governmental model "because it is well known that the corporation is a far superior vehicle when it comes to the administration of policy and business."

Okay, the Trustees function at the level of the General Service Board. That's in New York. I want to know why I should understand it - or worry about it, for that matter - all the way out here in the San Francisco Bay area.

Well the reason is, we here in San Francisco and Marin Counties, have formed a legal corporation, the Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB). This is a business entity, set up to administer the business and finance of the Fellowship, operate a Central Office, the Book Store. Teleservice, and provide such other services as may be necessary in the furtherance of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.



The General Service Board and the General Service Conference (the Group Conscience of A.A.) have recognized the necessity of empowering the Trustees with a wide range of authority to make policy and financial decisions, as their responsibilities are great.

This holds true for the IFB. While the IFB must always be subject to the scrutiny and Group Conscience of the Groups as a whole, it likewise, must have the authority to carry out the many responsibilities incumbent on a body charged with conducting the affairs of a business and a corporation.

In the words of the discussion of Concept 6 in the Service Manual, "Of course, our objective is always a spiritual one, but this service aim can only be achieved by means of an effective business operation. Our Trustees must function almost exactly like the directors of any large business corporation. They must have ample authority to really manage and conduct AA's business."

Thus, the IFB must have the



IFB Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, April 3, 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.

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

A. REVIEW OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March meeting were approved with the following change: Debra D. is the San Francisco PI/CPC chair and not the liaison, as stated.

C. IFB REPORTS:

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

- Personnel** Ben announced that Mark M. had resigned as special worker at Central Office. Michael D. has been made permanent in Mark's position.
- The Point committee.** Ben announced that the new committee has met twice. There is still a need for volunteers to help with the committee. Ben wants to make the newsletter of more interest to the local fellowship, including Marin.
- Other committees.** Ben will be making effort to attend meetings of every IFB committee in the next two months. Ben and Maury will attend the April meeting of Marin Teleservice.

A discussion of the events leading up to Mark's resignation occurred after a member asked for more information about the circumstances under which Mark left.

2. **Treasurer.** The following was distributed and summarized by Pat: 1. Budget to Actual Income / Expense Statement January - December 2001; 2. Budget to Actual Income / Expense Statement January - February 2002; 3. Balance Sheet year-end 2001(revised); 4. Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2002. Pat pointed out the contributions had dropped in February as compared to January. The revised Balance Sheet reflected changes due to accounting for a restricted gift and employee severance pay allowance.

3. **Central Office Manger.** A written report was submitted. Maury told the board about the need for additional phones and an additional computer in the Central Office. She is also planning an after-hours volunteer event, which will include refreshments and a brainstorming session for ideas on how to maximize the use of volunteer time.

(Continued on page 13)

IFB Meeting Minutes

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

(Continued from page 12)

4. **Central Office Committee.** A written report was submitted. Smithy B. was elected to replace Patrick C. as COC chair. The committee is revising the Operations and the Personnel Policies Manual.

5. **Website Committee.** Smithy also reported for the Website Committee. A written report was also submitted. An enhanced meeting schedule is now available on the website. A new feature allows a user to find the next meeting at any time.

D. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Election of COC members.** An election was held for three seats on the COC. J. E. was elected to serve until June 2002. Jason S. and Tom K. were elected to serve until June 2003.

2. **Guide for Group Service.** Frank B. presented the Board with a copy of the "Guide for Group Service," which was published by the San Francisco/Marin Central Office. Funding for the publication of the guide was made possible by a generous restricted contribution. The Board voted unanimously to distribute the guide to all the groups in San Francisco and Marin.

E. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Lease Committee** – Ardis J. reported that the problem with the wheelchair lift would soon be resolved.

2. **Literature Review Committee** – Frank B. reported on the success of the sobriety chips in the bookstore. The sales have book brought additional revenue to the Intergroup and have saved money for the groups, themselves.

3. **Bylaws Review Committee** - Tracy R. reported that the Committee has not met. She emphasized the importance of the work of the committee and asked for more members.

4. **Orientation Committee** – Ellen reported that meetings have been planned.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

IFB meetings in Marin. Ken C. will check on the availability of a room.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

Marin PI/CPC – Pat K. distributed a proposed budget for expanded distribution of AA literature in Marin County. He asked that the Board consider supporting the effort. Ben suggested that the Marin committee work with the San Francisco committee, in order to draft a motion needed to bring to the Board.

H. IFB STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

2. **PI/CPC.** A written report was submitted from the last meeting of the committee. Si P. asked that committee report be put earlier on the IFB agenda.

I. GROUP REP REPORTS:

Damon B. announced the Tuesday Downtown will host a fundraiser dance and meeting.

J. NON-IFB LIASON REPORTS:

1. **General Service, San Francisco.** George S. reported on the upcoming conference.

2. **General Service, Marin.** Ken C. report the Marin PI/CPC was funded by Marin General Services. They were looking to the IFB for assistance, due to fact the PI/CPC had increased their proposed budget.

3. **Teleservice, Marin.** Joe G. invited the Board to attend their meetings.

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

5. **H&I** – No report

K. SEVENTH TRADITION: Jason S. read the 12 Traditions. \$75.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Jeff Thomas, Secretary

Next IFB Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 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

April 27—May 23

***Honoring the following
members***

ONGOING MEMORIALS

RW M.

ANNIVERSARIES

***Jon H. - 3 Years
Sam S. - 3 Years
Dick S. - 15 Years
Walt B. - 16 Years
Gwendolyn F. - 18 Years
Fred R. - 41 Years***

Birthdays
for
*Endless
Summer
Group*

***Jean - 1 Year
Ron - 1 Year
Jacob - 2 Years
Jason - 2 Years
Todd - 2 Years
Andre - 3 Years
Fred - 7 Years
Mike - 10 Years
Ralph - 10 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

May 2002 IFB Meeting

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business, and service opportunities discussed at the May 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 meet in Marin County four times a year.
2. Voted to take the revised Procedures Manual back to groups for review

B. Information

1. A letter with information about what the IFB is being distributed to groups through the bookstore
2. The next IFB meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on June 5 in San Francisco at the Unitarian Center, Franklin and Geary Streets

C. Service Opportunities

1. Teleservice volunteers
2. *Point* committee members

Last Month's Slogan was:

"Keep it Simple!"

Here's what this slogan means to one member of the Fellowship - Remember, Bill, lets not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple!"

Every day I catch myself making situations more complicated than they need to be. Although many of the principles and slogans I've heard in AA are lifesavers, "keep it simple" is perhaps the most practical and applicable to my life every day.

In the context of Dr Bob's final farewell to Bill W. however, this phrase is a reminder of how precious our fellowship is. Bob's tone was lighthearted when he said, "let's not louse this thing up," but the traditions chapters in the 12 & 12 are full of stories of early AAs who, with the best intention, tried to do things not-so-simply with frightening results. Our recovery and the health of our fellowship depend on our ability to take a breath, smile at ourselves, and abandon our complicated plans in favor of directness, simplicity, and honesty.

Financial Statement

April 2002 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

Snapshot of Central Office

Tuesday, May 14, 2002:

We sold 37 books, 47 pamphlets, 90 wallet cards, 159 schedules, 39 chips, and 1 newsletter. Our total daily sales were \$257.63.

We received one literature order, two group contributions, and two trusted servant registrations in the mail.

We had 7 volunteers answering phones throughout the course of the day. We answered 67 calls: 25 calls looking for a meeting, 18 business calls, 7 calls looking for something other than A.A. (NA, Al-Anon, etc.), 7 calls needing help (both newcomers and A.A. members), 3 calls looking for help for someone else, and 7 miscellaneous calls (looking for our street or web address, wanting to volunteer, etc).

We had no volunteers in to help for literature, but some of our phone volunteers pitched in and helped sort the book order that was received from AAWS in NY.

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 # _____



JUNE 2002