

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

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

The Point

JULY 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

Marin County Unity Day 2002

Marin General Service held their UNITY DAY gathering on June 8 at the Corte Madera Recreation Center. All A.A. members were welcomed and many showed up, despite the beautiful weather offering keen competition for their attention.

The gathering offered a full day of activities, including sharing sessions, a panel discussion, service presentations, a speaker meeting, a traditions skit, a dance and lots of fellowship.

Maxine D., District 10 DCMC (District Committee Member Chair), said that the affair was an opportunity for the District's General Service Representatives (GSRs) to give back to the groups, to show their gratitude for the support the groups have shown to General Service and to the Fellowship.

To start the event, all attendees were broken out into three groups for sharing sessions. The topics were, "The Principle of Rotation", "Cross Talk Defined" and "Drugs: Does It Have a Place In Our Meetings?"

Every member was given an opportunity to share at least one time. After the sharing sessions, representatives of each group were invited to report on the group's discussion and conclusions, if any.

This was followed by a lively and exciting Traditions Skit put on by an exuberant group of thespians from the Marin H&I Committee. In a few minutes time, they were able to dramatize several issues confronting A.A. with respect to the Traditions.

Then there was a Panel Discussion of the 12 Concepts for World Service. The Panel members were C.J. R., Area Chair, Greg T., Area Treasurer and Doug G., Area Recording Secretary.

C.J. provided an enlightening over-view of the 12 Concepts and The Warranties, and how they apply in our service activities in AA. Greg told us how he applies the Concepts in his personal life and Doug discussed how he applies them in his professional life and work place.

Then came the event many were waiting for, the food break. Free food was provided for everyone and a dedicated team from the Terra Linda Group (at Saint Isabella's) diced, dished, served and grilled food for the many hungry attendees.

The last event of the afternoon was the presentation by a representative of each service entity about the opportunities afforded A.A. members by their particular group. Everyone was given several minutes to "tell their story and make their pitch". This complemented the display tables each had set up around the hall with posters, pamphlets, flyers and representatives to explain and discuss the group and the opportunities for service.

The evening was full, as well. At 7:00 p.m., Earlene W., the Area Registrar, spoke at the meeting. A lively dance and raffle followed.

The day served as a wonderful forum for making AA members aware of the wide diversity and importance of service opportunities available to them. It also served as a great educational forum with respect to the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts for

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2002... In the Fellowship Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups						
	1	2	FIRST WED 3 * (IFB): Intercounty Fellowship Board: 1187 Franklin, SF 7:00 pm * Spirit of SF Committee 1329 Irving/7th	4	5	6
7	SECOND MON 8 * SF Public Information Committee: 1821 Sacramento, SF; 7:00p	SECOND TUE 9 * 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 10 * Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15p	11	12	13 Archives Open!! 193 Mayhew Way Walnut Creek, CA: Noon—4pm
14	THIRD MON 15 * 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 16 * San Mateo General Service: St. Andrews Ch. 15th & El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p	17	18	19	20
21	22	FOURTH TUE 23 * Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael:	24	FOURTH THU 25 * 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	26	FOURTH SAT 27 * General Service: CNCA Bus. Mtg: 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; DCMCs: 10:30am Main Meeting: 12n
LAST SUN 28 * Living Sober 1668 Bush, 5:30pm * 2900 Steering Committee: 2900 24th St., SF 12:15 pm Archives Open! 193 Mayhew Way Walnut Creek, CA: Noon—4pm	29	30	31	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 15th 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.

July 4 - 6	Living Sober Western Roundup, Bill Graham Civic Center Auditorium, San Francisco www.livingsober.org
July 5 - 7	NCCAA 55th Summer Conference, Marriott San Ramon (2600 Bishop Dr.), San Ramon, CA
July 6	East Bay Intergroup's Sadie Hawkins Day Speaker Meeting & Dance, 2501 Harrison/27th, Oakland, 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 20	Marin Teleservice Picnic, Town Park, Corte Madera
July 20-21	AA Summertime Slumber Party & Retreat, Mt. Tam
July 25 - 28	Fellowship of the Spirit, Silver Creek Resort at Sol Vista, Silver Creek, CO
July 30	Tuesday Downtown's 57th Anniversary, St. Mary's Cathedral, Geary/Gough, San Francisco
August 2 - 4	24th Humboldt Co. Intergroup Camp Out, Redwood Creek, CA
August 3	San Francisco General Service GSR Workshop, Urban Life Center, 1101 O'Farrell/Franklin, San Francisco
August 3	4th Sis-Unity Brunch, Yreka Community Center, 810 Oregon St., Yreka, CA
August 23-25	35th District 22 Convention, Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA
Aug. 30– Sep. 1	10th AA Convention of The Spirit of San Francisco, Ramada Plaza Hotel, San Francisco www.spirit-sf.org
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
Sept. 19-22	17th Northern California Big Book Seminar, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA
Sept. 20-22	2nd Northern Maine & N. B. Round Up, Limestone, ME
October 11-13	The Monte Carlo Miracle AA Convention, Le Metroplie Palace, Monte Carlo, Monaco
October 25-27	16th Caribbean Convention, Renaissance Grand Beach Resort, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
November 14-17	41st Hawaii Convention, Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI www.lava.net/~hconv

Cover - Marin UNITY DAY 2002.....	1
July 2002 Calendar	2
Coming Events	3
Meeting Changes.....	4
Group Speakers / Announcements.....	5
Flyers / Announcements.....	6
Finding the Similarities.....	7
What is General Service?.....	8
Tuesday Downtown Article.....	9
Founders Day Picnic.....	10
May 2002 Group Contributions	10
Focus on the Concepts	11


July 2002

IFB Minutes	12-13
IFB Summary/Honors and Memorials..	14
Apr. 2002 Financial Statement	15
Slogan of the Month.....	15

CONTENTS

Grapevine, February, 1969

MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

Wed 6:30 pm Mission **HOOKED ON RECOVERY** - 601 Dolores/19th - SD ST
 Thu 7:30 pm Civic Center **STEP SISTERS** - 930 Gough/Turk - Wo BB

MEETING CHANGES

Mon 7:30 pm Laurel Heights **SERENITY SEEKERS** - Address change - now at 3700 California/Walnut, Bothin Conference Rm., downstairs
 Tue 8:30 pm Diamond Hts. **DIAMOND HEIGHTS** - Now has Chips - First Tuesday
 Thu 8:30 pm Potrero Hill **POTRERO HILL STEP DISCUSSION** - Designation change only - now Di SS
 Fri 7:00 pm Mission **NATIVE AMERICAN HEALING CIRCLE** - was on Sat. - now on Fri.

MEETING CORRECTIONS

Thu 8:00 pm Mission **FIRESIDE CHAT GROUP** - Address correction - 601 Dolores/19th, not 100 Diamond

NO LONGER MEETING

Mon 11:30 am Corte Madera **MONDAY MORNING SOBER MOMS** - 649 Meadowsweet Dr.
 Wed 7:10 pm Terra Linda **YOUNG AND RESTLESS** - Kaiser Hospital Staff Break Room, Office Bldg. 2 Parking Lot A
 Thu 1:00 pm SF State **SOBER AT STATE** - Creative Arts Bldg. (school days)
 Thu 3:30 pm Novato **PATHS TO RECOVERY** - 1535 Grant Ave., The Hall

REPORTED MISSING

NONE



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!

Marin Teleservice Picnic

Saturday July 20th

Town Park in Corte Madera
(next to the Corte Madera Recreation Center)

12 Noon Speaker Meeting
1:30 BBQ and Potluck
2:30—whenever: Volleyball
Basketball (if court available)
Tennis (if available)



**FOOD!
FUN!
FELLOWSHIP!**

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun in Sobriety!

Saturday, July 20 & Sunday July 21

Join a group of sober women at the annual
AA Summertime

Slumber Party & Retreat

In a Magical Mansion

High Atop Mt. Tam

\$95.00 includes meals, snacks,
lodging, and surprises!

Contact: Diane C. at 415-331-3780
Email: dianeconway2000@yahoo.com

Group Speakers for July 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
July 5	Reality Farm	Adam A.	Reality Farm
July 12	Common Welfare	Abby L.	SF Fellowship
July 19	Brokers Open Book	Ginny P.	Half Moon Bay
July 26	SF H&I Committee	Fred	Marin

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

Signed for the hearing impaired

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP / Sobriety
July 2	Eleanor L.	A Vision For You / May 1988
July 9	James C.	Turnpike Group, NY / Aug. 1995
July 16	Ann W.	San Francisco Fellowship
July 23	Marie R.	Tuesday Downtown / Oct. 8, 1996
July 30	Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step / Aug. 7, 1980

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
7 July	Paul G.	Tues Alumni SF
14 July	Jill H.	YMCA SF
21 July	Russ K.	Colma Eye Opener
28 July	Dave W.	6 AM Marina Dock

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 **15th** of the month preceding publication. Please call Maury at Central Office, 674-1821.

The Spirit of San Francisco 2002

10th Annual AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation

Friday August 30—Sunday September 1

- Open AA Speaker Meetings
- Workshops
- Marathon Meetings
- Spirit Banquet
- Open Al-Anon and Alateen Meetings
- SATURDAY NIGHT DANCING!!

RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL 1231 Market St. San Francisco

(special convention rates/ \$99 per night Single/Double while available. Call 415-626-8000 or 800-227-4747 and mention the spirit of San Francisco. Reservations must be made by July 30th for special rates)

For more information visit www.spirit-sf.org
or call 415-566-3845

Pre-Register for the Spirit of San Francisco

Program: AA Al-Anon Alateen

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Can we call you to do service? YES NO

Scholarship Donation: _____

Registration: ____ persons @ \$25.00 each...\$ _____

Dinner: ____ persons @ \$30.00 each.....\$ _____

Meat Vegetarian **TOTAL:** \$ _____

Please make checks payable to The Spirit of San Francisco P.O. Box 423832,
San Francisco, CA 94142



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, and Dance

Pre-Registration is Appreciated

For information call Central Office or pick up flyer

oakland

Finding the Similarities

Of the many benefits sobriety has given me over the past few years, one of the greatest is freedom to travel. No longer am I confined to one room, a prisoner of the bottle, shackled by booze. Today the world has opened up for me in a way I never thought possible.

I've been lucky enough to visit San Francisco several times over the last few months and I am truly captivated by the City by the Bay. Visiting AA friends meant that I didn't have to search out meetings for myself, and, staying out near Daly City, I've been to meetings that are very similar to the ones I go to in suburban East London.

There are some differences - in England we don't usually start with a prayer, and, being shy, reserved Brits, we don't ask visitors to introduce themselves, nor do we hold hands for the closing prayer. Tradition Seven is normally exercised at the end of the meeting in England - but what a good idea it is to pass the basket half-way through! I can imagine the shock on people's faces if that happened in England, especially the ones who always sneak out five minutes before the end.

Meetings in England are usually 90 minutes long and are 'raised voice' sharing. If two people start at the same time, British politeness takes over; "You first" "No, you first" "No, I insist, you first" "No, please, you go first ..." Instead of a steaming urn of coffee, in an English meeting you'll find a huge metal teapot. A good tea-maker is highly prized and, sadly, as a coffee drinker, I usually have to make do with cheap instant coffee powder. I've never yet been to a meeting in England where good coffee is served but in San Francisco, I had great coffee at every meeting. Special thanks to Adam at the Thursday night Common Welfare meeting, who makes by far the best coffee in any SF AA meeting I've been to.

There are many, many similarities. The comforting familiarity of the Steps, Traditions and Slogans on the walls, the literature, identical to that in England (but, oh! the kudos of taking back to England a few Fourth Editions of the BB several months before it was published there), the sense of belonging, of being with people whose brains are wired the same as mine, of knowing that I can talk about thoughts and feelings that people in the 'outside world' would be horrified to hear, and to be understood, not judged; to share fellowship with people, before and after the meeting, going for coffee and for a late supper (ah, if only I could get a burrito in England ...sigh). It's been a special pleasure to meet someone in San Francisco who is from the town in England where I spent my teenage years. A few words between us in the local dialect left people wondering what language we were speaking!

I had the chance to visit Central Office where I met Maury and Mike. The London Regional Office is in an ancient

building, up several flights of stairs, and the furnishings and fittings date from the late 1970s. In summer, it's sweltering and in winter you freeze. It's in a red light district of North London and, whenever I do a shift on the telephones ending at 10pm, I run the gauntlet of kerb-crawlers trying to pick me up on my walk to the underground station. In contrast, SF Central Office is bright, airy, modern, well-equipped and impressive, with a well-stocked bookstore and plenty of interesting AA stuff on the walls. I especially like the awning outside, which is a very classy touch, although I think perhaps the uniformed doorman was off on a break when I visited.

When I told my friends in London that I had attended an Intergroup meeting whilst on vacation, they sighed, shook their heads and told me I was "sad" ... Actually, it was very interesting to see that the same issues are addressed at Intergroup in SF as in London - telephone service, PI, budgets, lack of money. The only difference in SF was the absence of a cloud of cigarette smoke in the air. In some East London meetings, anonymity is guaranteed because the cloud of smoke is so thick you can barely see your hand in front of your face.

As a member of AA, I know I am luckier than most visitors to San Francisco because the rooms of AA are a safe and welcoming place for me where I "will find release from care, boredom and worries". Wandering round Chinatown one day, browsing in the bookstore at Old St Mary's, I noticed a room at the back where the familiar blue book was being laid out on the tables and chairs in readiness for a BB meeting that was just about to start. I didn't know a soul when I walked into the room, but I left an hour later with several email addresses and have made new contacts and friends. The gift of fellowship is a wonder to me, someone who always felt isolated, alone and different.

I hope that visitors to England will find the same warmth, kindness, friendship, support and fellowship in London AA that I've found in San Francisco. The similarities will keep me coming back here for many years to come, I hope, HP willing

Jan O
London, England

General Service Representative: One Members Experience

My first experience with General Service was about 6 months after I moved to San Francisco from New Mexico. I had about 5 years of sobriety, and had never heard of General Service. In fact, I hadn't ever really done service in AA. I mostly attended meetings, and never gave a thought to how the meetings were set up, or how AA as a whole functioned. As long as my meetings were there, I was happy. However, that December, it was noted that my home group was having difficulty with the treasury. The General Service Office in NY hadn't received any money for the past year! There seemed to be a crisis!

After our secretary mentioned this issue, she also mentioned that we didn't have a General Service Representative. "What's a GSR?" I wondered. In asking her about it, she really couldn't give me a detailed description, but noted that there was a two-year commitment involved. I figured, if there was a two-year commitment, it must be a very important job in AA, and that was for me! I volunteered to be a GSR, and vowed to save the group from its treasury problems! Thus, my initiation into General Service was based on power and prestige, two of an AA's most dangerous enemies.

Boy, was I surprised! Over the last 4 years, I have found that being part of General Service has contributed to my sobriety in so many ways, and none of it had to do with power or prestige. In fact, when I gave my announcements, people's eyes began to roll into the backs of their heads! Although I didn't 'save' my group, my group survived, and more importantly, I didn't drink. I learned that General Service is the communications lifeline between the individual AA and AA Group and the General Service Office in New York. I get to be that conduit that brings issues that can affect AA as a whole back to my group, to see how it feels about them. And I take those feelings, that 'Group Conscience' back to my Delegate, so that she can take my Group's Conscience back to the General Service Conference in New York.

But what *is* General Service? In 1955, Bill W. offered a resolution at the 20th Anniversary Convention of AA. It authorized the General Service Conference to act for Alcoholics Anonymous and to become the successor to its co-founders. AA had "Come of Age" and Bill believed that it was ready to fully embrace the three Legacies: Recovery, Unity, and Service. Four years earlier, Bill W. and Dr. Bob had founded the General Service Conference, and at the 20th Anniversary of AA, they identified it as their successor, the guardian of the Traditions, the perpetuator of world services, and the voice of the group conscience for the entire AA Fellowship (AA Service Manual, S95). AA now had an infrastructure and channels by which AA members could communicate with the Fellowship as a whole.

But what does all of that mean to me, the AA member? It means that I am not a single unheard voice within the Fellowship. It means that my group is connected to AA, and to every other group in the Fellowship. And it means that I, as an alcoholic, should never take my group for granted. The Responsibility Declaration reads: *I am responsible. Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.* For me, being a GSR is fulfilling the Responsibility Declaration. It means being the communication link between my home group and the larger Fellowship. It means doing my part to help the alcoholic who still suffers. And for this alcoholic, *that's* General Service!

San Francisco General Service Presents a

General Service Representative (GSR) Workshop

Saturday, August 3, 2002
Urban Life Center

1101 O'Farrell Street at Franklin Street

10:00 - 10:15 am	Breakfast and Registration
10:15 - 10:30 am	Welcome
10:30 - 10:50 am	GSR Duties and Responsibilities
10:50 - 11:10 am	GSR Resources
11:10 - 11:30 am	Service Sponsorship
11:30 - 11:50 pm	Voting and Business in AA
12:50 - 12:20 pm	Potluck Lunch Break
12:20 - 12:50 pm	General Service Conference Process-The importance of information the delegate
12:50 - 1:10 pm	Our Service Manual
1:10 - 1:30 pm	Ask It Basket

How do you turn around a large meeting?

Many people have heard of a large meeting in San Francisco called Tuesday Downtown. Those of us who have done service here have heard the complaints about it. Sometimes it seems like a never-ending song with the same refrain. "Oh, that's a recovery home meeting, isn't it? That meeting is just **too** big (shudder!) The speakers never seem to have more than six years, forget it! I feel intimidated when I go there, there are just too many people from recovery homes there." This is just a small sampling of the litany that we on the steering committee have heard.

So, we were confronted with a serious question. How do we turn around a meeting this large? After many steering committee meetings, and more than one group inventory, we are beginning to find some answers.

We do have some strong points already. We have an excellent secretary who ensures that we now have speakers with a minimum of 10-15 years of sobriety. She also carefully screens them to make sure they have an engaging and appropriate message and the feedback has been excellent.

We are located at St. Mary's Cathedral, at Geary and Gough, which is easy to get to on the 38 Geary bus, and there's plenty of free parking. We have a Beginners' meeting starting at 7:15 p.m. The 8:30 pm meeting provides a signer for the hearing-disabled, one of only two locations in San Francisco with this amenity.

Next, we began to tackle the question of finances. We have continuously tried to educate the treatment centers about our 7th Tradition. However, since we are the largest meeting in San Francisco, we pay a large amount of rent. Not to mention the cost of coffee, chips, literature and other costs that keep this San Francisco tradition going.

The very committed and passionate steering committee works hard to keep the best interests of the meetings at heart. The committee also plans extra activities, which helps to financially support the meeting as well as provide great social times and opportunities for service. Two very successful recent dances mean more are planned for the future. The annual picnic is also a time of good fellowship. On Tuesday, July 30, there will be a dessert potluck to celebrate Tuesday Downtown's own 57th birthday.

The committee wrestles with tough questions and struggles to reach consensus on how to keep the meetings viable in the face of high rent and similar issues. One such recent issue, that of signing court slips, was resolved by signing the slips at the Beginners' Meeting.

With this article we want to let all of you out there know some of what's happening at Tuesday Downtown these days, and to extend an invitation to join us. We know there are old-timers out there who attended and served Tuesday Downtown in the past, and we'd like to welcome you back and have you share the benefits of your experience. The first Tuesday of every month is the Steering Committee meeting. Old-timers, newcomers and all -- *you* -- are always welcome!



JULY 30, 2002



TUESDAY DOWNTOWN'S ANNIVERSARY!

COME CELEBRATE 57 YEARS OF
CONTINUOUS FELLOWSHIP



OPEN AA SPEAKER/CHIP MEETING
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL-GOUGH & GEARY
BEGINNER MEETING 7:15-8:00

POT LUCK 7-8:30

GRAND SPEAKER MEETING 8:30-9:30

Speaker Ben N Sunset Speaker Step



Please do bring a pot luck dish!



AA Group Contributions – May 2002

Intercounty Fellowship – San Francisco / Marin

Founders Day Picnic

Perfect weather, a lovely setting, great food and wonderful fellowship say it all about the 'pot-luck' picnic sponsored by "The Spirit of San Francisco" on Sunday, June 9 at Lindley Meadows in Golden Gate Park.

Well over 100 AAs attended the picnic and played volley ball, chatted, ate great food, slept, sunbathed and, generally, did all the things people do at picnics held in beautiful weather.

The event started off at 11 A.M. with folks coming in from here and there, getting organized, getting acquainted and getting things ready for everyone else. The grills were fired up, the volley ball net erected and the beautiful banner telling everyone where we were, was hung.

Things quickly took off from there. The volley ball games began and the food was finally ready. The food always seems to be the best part of any AA gathering, and this was no exception.

After everyone ate, a speaker meeting began at 1 P.M. Ben N. of San Francisco spoke while everyone relaxed on the grass, either in the sun or shade, as their preference dictated.

Following the speaker meeting, everyone resumed their picnicking activities and a great time was had by all, even by those who got a sunburn.

Chris and Mary of the Spirit of San Francisco Committee were the gracious host and hostess for the event.

Focus on the 12 Concepts

Hello, A.A.ers in Marin and San Francisco Counties, it's July and time for our discussion of Concept 7 from The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.

CONCEPT 7

"The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: That the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: That it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness".

This Concept covers a lot of territory, some of which is not applicable at the level of an Intergroup such as we have here. However, much of it does apply since, as we have seen in earlier discussions, the Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB) is a legal corporation and the Intergroup Representatives which each Group may send to the Board, serve as duly elected Board Members, a legal status.

The IFB also has Bylaws, which are mandatory under the laws of the State of California. These bylaws are legal instruments and must be written in conformity with the law.

So, that means that the IFB and its members serve on the Board of Directors of a Corporation. And, the individual members of the Groups who elect them, do not.

It means that the IFB members, as a Board, have legal rights and responsibilities to make policy concerning operations, management and finance. In fact, the Board may do this without consulting the Groups.

However, since this is A.A. and the Traditions of A.A., the Concepts for World Service and the laws of the State of California are not mutually exclusive, a "balance" can, and must be struck which insures that we continue to operate in accordance with the guidance of the Twelve Traditions.

How would this work? If the IFB decided to pass and enact a motion that the Groups found to be abhorrent or in



violation of the "spirit of A.A." and the Traditions, the individual Groups could demand of their representatives that the action be reversed. If it were not, then the Groups could withdraw support of the Board by refusing to send their contributions which support the Intergroup, the Board and the Central Office. That prerogative is a powerful inducement for the Board to act within the Traditions and within the best interests of the Fellowship.

The most effective means of assuring that all works well is for the Groups to be informed of the issues, pass the information on to their Intergroup Representative, who, in turn takes that information on to the Board and votes and acts in accordance with it. In turn, the Intergroup Rep must take the information back to the Group for discussion. This is part of what we mean by an "informed group conscience". It may well be one of the most important principles of A.A.

We have talked about just one aspect of this multi-faceted Concept. Space does not allow for full discussion. However, as I have said before, I am far from being an expert on the Concepts (or anything else in A.A.) and invite and welcome disagreement, correction, comment or criticism on this or any other article I write. Please feel free to let me (and, more importantly the Fellowship) know your experience with these Concepts. You may contact me at home at (415)239-0947, by e-mail at: xanadutoo@earthlink.net or, through Central Office. The Point will be happy to print your articles, comments or letters about this or other matters. Help me and all of us learn and grow in the Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben N.
IFB Chair

IFB Meeting Minutes

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

Ardis J.	As Bill Sees It-Fri, 7am	P	Ken C.	Marin General Service	P
Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step	P	Ken Y.	As Bill Sees It-Wed	P
Bill O.	Rose Garden Big Book	R*	Kent T.	Gen Services-San Mateo	P
Bill R.	Castro Discussion	A	Larry F.	Mid-Morning Support	A
Casey L.	Monday Night Stag	A	Leslie F.	How It Works-Sat	A
Charles G.	SF H&I	A	Li L.	Work in Progress	P
Charles M.	Federal Speaker	A	Lisa M.	Friday All Group	A
Damon B.	Tuesday Downtown	P	Mark C.	Candlelight (Novato)-Sun	P
Danny C.	Tiburon Haven	P	Maury P.	Central Office Manager	P
Danny F.	Ea. Day/New Beginning	P	Pat K.	Marin PI/CPC	A
David C.	Sunday Friendship	A	Pat M.	Sat As Bill Sees It	P
Deborah D.	San Francisco PI/CPC	A	Paul C.	Waterfront	P
Ellen C.	Big Book Basics	P	Ray M.	Sunday Rap	P
Frank B.	Each Day ... -Sun	P	Rich R.	Marina Dock 6 am	P
George S.	SF General Service	P	Samuel S.	Too Early-Sat.	P
J. E.	Friendly Circle Beginners	A	Shannon O.	A Step Beyond	P
Jason S.	Sesame Step	P	Si P.	SF CI/CPC	P
Jay H.	Gay Beginners	P	Silke T.	Wed. High Noon	P
Jeff T.	High Sobriety	P	Smithy B.	Ten Years After	P
Jim D.	Happy Joyous & Free	P	Stu S.	Live & Let Live	P
Joe G.	Marin Teleservice	P	Tim H.	SF Teleservice	A
Julie H.	Terra Linda (Marin)	P	Tom K.	Common Welfare	P
Kade H.	Fireside Chat	A	Tracy R.	Sunset 9'ers/Tuesday	P

Intercounty Fellowship Board Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Unitarian Universalist Church
1187 Franklin St. San Francisco
7:00 p.m.

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

A. REVIEW OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

C. IFB SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **SF Teleservice.** No members present. A written report was submitted.
2. **PI/CPC.** Si P. reported the groups on the March meeting. The committee will meet with the PI/CPC committee from Marin to discuss their request for funding of literature.

D. GROUP REP REPORTS:

Tracy R. discussed the problems her group was having with rent increases. She also noted that her group had many attendees who were not contributing to the basket at her group.
Damon B. thanked IFB members for their support of Tuesday Downtown's fundraiser.

E. NON-IFB LIASON REPORTS:

1. **General Service, San Francisco.** George S. reported that the delegate had met for a post conference assembly.
2. **General Service, Marin.** Ken C. requested that Central Office have a table at Unity Day in Marin. He announced that Marin General Service would fund one-third of the Marin PI/CPC Committee's requested literature budget. There had been a plan to ask the IFB for funds to cover the balance of the budget. However, the request had been tabled for the present.
3. **Marin Teleservice.** Julie H. invited IFB members to attend the committee's meetings.
4. **Bridging the Gap.** Ken Y provided information about Bridging the Gap.

(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)

5. **H&I.** No report
6. **Others.** Kent T. announced that San Mateo now had Teleservice, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

F. IFB REPORTS:

1. **Chair.**
 - a. Ben feels as if there may be some misunderstanding and some misperceptions about the IFB and is working to change that situation. Ben and Maury have been making an effort to attend as many committee meetings as possible. There has been some discussion of making Marin PI/CPC a standing or special committee of the IFB. That effort has been tabled for now.
 - b. The Board voted to meet in Marin four times a year. The next meeting in Marin will be August 6th.
2. **Treasurer.** A written report was submitted. Pat announced that the March contributions were down in comparison to the budget. April was below the budget as well. She noted that this was true last year as well. The balance sheet still reflected some move-related entries
3. **Central Office Manger.** Maury's report included the following: a new recycling program was started; an update on the telecom situation; the volunteer manual is being updated; discussion of a new format for the meetings schedule; and pay-roll functions are now done in house.
4. **Central Office Committee.** A written report was submitted. One member of the COC will be designated as a "mentor" for the Central Office manager. The mentor is usually, but not always, the IFB Chair. Ben will act as the mentor for the time being. The committee approved a leaflet with information about the IFB. The leaflet will be distributed to the groups through the bookstore. The Committee has revised the "Central Office Operations Policy Manual." The Board voted to share the manual with the groups for their input.
5. **Website Committee.** A flyer was distributed with information about a new website feature.

E. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Lease Committee.** no report
2. **Literature Review Committee.** Frank B. gave an update on the "Guide to Group Service." A detailed Literature Review Committee report will be published in *The Point*.
3. **Bylaws Review Committee.** Revisions are being made. Tracy and Ben asked for volunteers to serve on the committee.
4. **Orientation Committee** – No report

F. OLD BUSINESS: none

G. NEW BUSINESS: none

K. SEVENTH TRADITION: Jason S. read the 12 Traditions. \$56.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
Jeff T., Secretary

**Next IFB Meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 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

May 23—June 18

***Honoring the following
members***

ONGOING MEMORIALS

*Bob
RW*

ANNIVERSARIES

Carmelita C. - 7 years

David Y. - 10 years

Jeff B. - 11 years

Ken M. - 30 years

Birthdays
for
*Endless
Summer
Group*

Anthony	1 Year
Brian	1 Year
Hector	1 Year
Lee	1 Year
Stefan	1 Year
Trisha	1 Year
Ken	2 Years
Jay	3 Years
Gretchen	5 Years
Ryan	8 Years
Lord	13 Years
Gary	16 Years

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

*Central Office would like to
thank all those who do service!*

*We appreciate all you do for the
Fellowship*

SUMMARY

June 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. Review of Previous Year Accomplishments

1. Central Office move
2. New Central Office Manager
3. Improvements to the website
4. New focus for *The Point* committee
5. New IFB member orientations started
6. *Guide to Group Service* draft published
7. Sobriety chips for sale in the bookstore
8. Operations Policy Manual revised
9. A flyer describing the work of the IFB was designed and is now distributed at the bookstore

B. Highlights from Monthly Meeting

1. A committee was formed to make proposals for changes to the monthly meeting schedule
2. Upcoming volunteer staff meeting is being planned
3. The next IFB meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on July 3 in San Francisco at the Unitarian Center, Franklin and Geary Streets.

C. Upcoming Business

1. Elections of next year's officers
2. Revisions to the Personnel Policies Manual

D. Service Opportunities

1. Teleservice volunteers
2. Central Office Phone volunteers
3. *The Point* committee

WANTED:

ARTICLES FOR THE POINT

Share your experience, strength and hope with us.
Or, your opinions.

You may send your articles to
Central Office by e-mail:

aa@aasf.info

Note: Articles are due no later than the
first Tuesday of the month

Financial Statement

April 2002 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

AA Slogan of the Month:

***XNIHL
XNIHL
XNIHL***

This familiar AA Slogan appears in a format most people have grown accustomed to: white background, red and black lettering. In rooms where The 12 Steps and The 12 Traditions are prominently displayed, these placards are a typical sight. Recently, while visiting several New York City meeting rooms, a San Francisco member noticed that THINK THINK THINK was shown upside down everywhere he went. Do you know why this local tradition was started and in what other place inside or outside of the US this is a common occurrence? Can you think of any other unusual examples of how other Slogans have been spotted? We will print your responses in the August issue of The Point. Remember; please try to forward any and all submissions before the first Tuesday of each month so we can give them our full attention.

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 # _____

A.A. Central Office 1821 Sacramento St. San Francisco,
CA 94109-3528 (415) 674-1821



JULY 2002