

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

The Point

October 2002

A publication
of the Intercounty Fellowship
of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Spirit of San Francisco 10th Annual Convention

The Spirit committee was overwhelmed with the turnout for The Spirit of San Francisco 10th Annual Convention with Al-Anon participation. It surpassed expectations. The historic Ramada Plaza Hotel was perfectly suited for the many who filled the elegant Whitcomb Ballroom and settled in the mezzanine above to hear the experience, strength and hope of speakers from near and far.

Attendees arrived Friday afternoon for the first of the Marathon Meetings, which featured a line-up of speakers with over 10 years of sobriety. Others milled about the mezzanine visiting with the volunteers who staffed the service tables for Central Office, H&I, Public Information, TeleService, Bridging the Gap, and Living Sober. Some were lucky enough to spend time and nibble on chocolates at the Old-Timer's Table with its cheerful locals who have celebrated long-term sobriety. By 6:00 PM the Al-Anon Workshops had begun and happy faces were filling the cozy hotel, meeting new friends, shaking hands and settling into good seats for the kick-off A.A. and Al-Anon Speaker Meetings. At 7:30 Liz M., the Al-Anon Chairperson, opened that part of the Convention in the Union Square room and presented Brenda W. of Los Angeles as the speaker. In the Whitcomb Ballroom Spirit Chair, Mary B. welcomed A.A.s. Over 350 were present to hear Marilyn M. of Brentwood, CA relate with warmth and humor how sobriety worked directly in her life.

The Spiritual Extravaganza followed, incorporating the gifts of A.A.s and Al-Anons. Jimmy and Liz had the audience swooning and swaying to crisp acoustic guitar, soul-searing violin and strong vocals. Everyone joined in to sing "Blowing in the Wind." Then John Jay turned up the energy. With a talented and rockin' band, he told his story through original song and stand-up comedy.

Early Saturday morning, folks stopped only briefly for coffee before herding into the Ghirardelli Room to hear the first of Don B. and Dr. Mark's four Big Book Workshops. By 10 AM, the room had reached capacity and the workshop was moved into the ballroom, to the delight of those at the service tables in the mezzanine, which was abuzz with activity at the Arts and Crafts Table. Visitors there made God-boxes and other sober creations while they listened. At midday, Al-Anon speaker Father Tom addressed a packed house in the ballroom, delivering his powerful message that speaks to recovery at every level. In a quieter venue, Teri T. led an A.A. workshop on Staying Sober During Diffi-

(Continued on page 7)

The Point
is published monthly to
inform A.A. 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 A.A.
members. Nothing
published herein should be
construed as a statement of A.A.,
nor does publication
constitute endorsement
by A.A. as a whole,
the Intercounty Fellowship Board,
the Central Office, or
The Point Editorial Committee.
Letters and articles to
help carry the A.A. message
are welcomed, subject to
editorial review by
The Point Committee.

50 cents

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

October 2002... In the Fellowship

Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups

		1	FIRST WED 2 Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB) 1187 Franklin, SF 7:00 pm Spirit of SF Committee 415 566-3845 or www.spirit-sf.org	3 PI/CPC SPEAKER WORKSHOP 1821 Sacramento St, SF 7:00 pm	4	5
6	7	SECOND TUE 8 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 9 Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15p	10	11	12
13	SECOND MON 14 SF Public Information Committee Central Office, 7:00pm 1821 Sacramento St. San Francisco	THIRD TUE 15 San Mateo General Service St. Andrews Ch. 15th & El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p	16	THIRD THU 17 Website Committee Central Office, 6:15p 1821 Sacramento St. San Francisco	18	19 Tuesday Downtown's Fright Night Speaker & Dance , Women's Bldg. 3543 18th St, SF Speaker: 8:00 pm Dance: 9:00 pm \$5 advance/\$10 at Door
20 Mission Fellowship 2900 24th / Florida Planning Meeting for Holiday Alcothons at 1:00 pm	THIRD MON 21 SF Teleservice 1821 Sacramento, SF; 6:30pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd. San Rafael 7:00pm GSR Sharing; 8:00pm District Mtg.	FOURTH TUE 22 Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael: 7:30p	23	FOURTH THU 24 Marin PI 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15pm	25	FOURTH SAT 26 General Service CNCA Bus. Mtg 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; DCMCs: 10:30am Main Meeting: 12 noon
LAST SUN 27 Living Sober SF 1668 Bush, SF 5:30pm 2900 Steering Committee 2900 24th St., SF 12:15 pm	28	29	30	LAST THU 31 SF H&I Old First Church, Sacramento/Van Ness Orientation: 7:15p Regular Meeting: 8pm	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. Coming Events are listed on next page, flyers are on page 5.	

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 page 5.

Thu. October 3	San Francisco PI/CPC Speaker Workshop, Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St. (Nr. Van Ness), San Francisco, CA
October 4-6	Lake Tahoe 2002 Fall Festival, Horizon Casino Resort, So. Lake Tahoe , CA
October 4-6	55th NCCAA Fall Conference, Centre Plaza, 10th & K Streets, Modesto , CA
October 5	A.A. Grapevine Committee Workshop, 8350 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa , CA
October 11-13	16th Annual Gold Country Roundup, Amador Co. Fairgrounds, Plymouth , CA www.goldcountryroundup.org
October 11-13	The Monte Carlo Miracle AA Convention, Le Metroplie Palace, Monte Carlo , Monaco
October 12	4th AA Women of the East Bay Conference, 4000 Redwood Rd., Oakland , CA
October 19	Tuesday Downtown's "Fright Night" Speaker Meeting & Dance, Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St., San Francisco, CA
October 25-27	16th Caribbean Convention, Renaissance Grand Beach Resort, St. Thomas , U.S. Virgin Islands
October 25-27	6th The Gifts of Sobriety Women's Retreat, Redwood Glen Camp, Loma Mar , CA
November 1-3	18th Santa Barbara Convention, Elk's Lodge, 150 No. Kellogg, Goleta/Santa Barbara , CA www.sbaaconvention.com
November 2	31st Anniversary Galt Fellowship Dinner & Speaker Meeting, Littleton Civic Center, Galt , CA
November 14-17	41st Hawaii Convention, Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu , HI www.lava.net/~hconv

October 2002

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**Central Office
needs volunteers**

**Please call for information on how
you can be of service
(415) 674-1821**





MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

Wed 7:30 pm	Noe Valley	MIRACLES OFF 24TH STREET 735 Diamond/Elizabeth (SD wh)
Th 8:30 pm	USF	A VISION FOR YOU III Parker/McAllister, Church, Pedro Arrupe Room (Bk)
Fri 12:00 pm	Mill Valley	MORE WILL BE REVEALED 60 Tennessee Valley Rd/Shoreline, Log Cabin (BB Wo)
Sat 11:00 am	Western Addition	NEW BIG BOOK STUDY 1201 Fillmore/Turk - 2 HOURS (BB wh)
Sat 8:15 pm	Crocker-Amazon	CLAADAAGH 951 Geneva/Mission (SD wh)

MEETING CHANGES

Wed 8:00 pm	Laguna Honda	SOBER 5150S SFGH - Now at 501 Laguna Honda/Woodside, Church at 8pm. <i>Was at SFGH on Sat at 6:30pm</i>
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NO LONGER MEETING

Fri 6:00 pm	SOMA	FRIDAY NIGHT SURPRISE PARTY 88 Perry/3rd & Harrison
Sat 7:30 pm	SOMA	OPEN A.A. MEETING 291 10th/Folsom

REPORTED MISSING

Sun 7:30 pm	SOMA	HAWS PIPE GROUP 450 Harrison St., Sailor's Union
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**REPORTED
MISSING**

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.

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!**

DO YOU GET *The Point*?

The Point is your newsletter. It is the means of communicating the A.A. program among the members in Marin and San Francisco Counties. The information is all about what goes on in your groups, in Central Office, in the IFB and all around A.A. It includes “business” information, meeting changes, coming events, and anything else you think is important.

You are eligible to receive a complimentary issue if you are a registered Secretary or Treasurer, serve on the Teleservice Committee, or serve on the Intercounty Fellowship Board as an Intergroup Representative. Additionally, we trade copies with other Fellowships around the state and country and keep a library of their newsletters here at Central Office.

Finally, we send *The Point* to those who subscribe. It is published monthly and a 12-month subscription is \$6.00. (Individual copies can be purchased for \$.50 at Central Office.) *If you are receiving this publication and do not have a paid subscription or are not currently serving in one of the capacities listed above, we would appreciate your letting us know.* Additionally, we invite you to subscribe; there is a subscription form on p. 15

Each issue of *The Point* cost approximately \$.32 to print and an average of \$.15 to mail. Furthermore, the way bulk mail works, every time an issue comes back as undeliverable, it costs an additional \$.75 (on average). As you can see, it is not an inexpensive process. In fact, the volunteer efforts that go into publication are invaluable. *So please help us maintain an accurate database by letting us know if and when you move; if you should be receiving The Point and are not; and finally, if you are receiving it and should not be. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

Tuesday Downtown Fright Night

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002
THE WOMEN'S BUILDING
3543 18TH STREET @ VALENCIA, SF
8:00 to 9:00 PM - AA SPEAKER MEETING
with SPEAKER Si P.
9:00 to the WITCHING HOUR - DANCE
\$100.00 for Best Costume
Also 50/50 Raffle

\$5.00 ADVANCE PURCHASE
\$10.00 AT THE DOOR

SPEAKERS WANTED!!

Carry the message to schools, professional organizations, the medical community, drunk driving classes, and into jails and prisons.

PI/CPC SPEAKER WORKSHOP

(Requirement: two years of continuous sobriety in A.A.)

Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m.

SF Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St.

For further information, call the
 Central Office: 674-1821

Group Speakers for Sept. 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
Oct. 4	SF Teleservice	Ralph S.	Bernal Big Book
Oct. 11	Mon. High Noon	Angie S.	Mid-Morning Support
Oct. 18	Th Afternoon SS	Mary M.	Walk Of Shame
Oct. 25	Mid-Morning...	LA Gene	Benicia Straits

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP	Sobriety
Oct.1	Martin	The Deep Blue, SC	10/1/88
Oct. 8	Nora O'C.	SF Fellowship	9/13/95
Oct. 22	Charlie D.	Friendly Circle Beg.	9/11/77
Oct. 29	Sharon S.	Santa Rosa Fellowship	9/3/75

BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
Oct. 6	Steve	San Francisco
Oct. 13	TBA	???
Oct. 20	Walking Don	Marin
Oct. 27	Jim	San Jose

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.

AA Meetings Along the Marin Coast This (Miwok) Indian Summer

by Craig W.

Marin is the Bay Area county with the sole distinction of being a partner to San Francisco by sharing our common A.A. central office. City dwellers may not realize this unless they are involved in service outside of the group level. Most people know Marin fairly well. A quick trip over the Bridge for lunch or hiking down a familiar trail is as typical for some as running to the drycleaner's or stopping by Farmer's Market on their way home from work. As San Francisco is perceived on a national level as special and unique, Marin's towns are each distinctive unto themselves. Each area of the county has something different to offer. An enormous percentage of land is part of a protected area for public enjoyment.

The current estimate of the population of the county as a whole is in the neighborhood of 250,000 or about one-third the number of residents of The City. San Rafael and Novato at the Northern border comprise roughly half of that total. Marin provides an escape from the pace of life that many people find recharges them for the 24 hours ahead. In and among the remaining towns and villages edging the 101 corridor between the mountain and the Bay are communities that range from 1,500 residents in Ross or Belvedere up to 12,500 people in San Anselmo.

Throughout these areas, there are several meetings that regularly draw San Franciscans each week. Tiburon's Monday Evening Men's Stag has a loyal following of attendees who live in the city. Always extremely popular, Sunday's noontime Strawberry Recreation Center meeting sometimes fills the basketball court it doubles as. So, aside from the towns that are traditionally thought of in terms of bedroom communities or tourist spots, some may wonder what else elusive Marin is hiding. Since we're all part of the same Sober Family, it's a great experience to discover what else is going on across the Bay.

Lodged between the Mountain to Bay corridor and the Pacific Coastline are verdant fertile valleys with Ranches, Famous Film Studios, tiny woodsy alternative communities and active dairies which stock the supermarket shelves. Recovery is active in the San Geronimo Valley, including recovery, meditation, and spirituality centers. That leaves the coast of Marin, known for its dramatic twisting roads, sweeping vistas, quiet beaches and quaint towns with names

like Tomales, Marshall, and even a bend in the road, incorporated as Dogtown. The trip beginning from the Marin side of the Bridge up the coast to Point Reyes Station is roughly 35 miles. Whether approached from Muir Beach up the coast on Route 1 or exiting Highway 101 at the Richmond Bridge Exit and following Sir Francis Drake Boulevard all the way to Olema, allow for a 60 to 90 minute drive. Both routes are beautiful and completely different from one another. It is especially nice to come in by one and leave by the other.

Further North, following Highway 1 past the junction of Sir Francis Drake Road, the town of Point Reyes Station is directly ahead and the charming and historic town of Inverness is a few miles further to your left heading out onto the Point Reyes National Seashore. The Miwok tribe, also known as the areas first residents, has been present in and around Tomales Bay as far back as 1,000 B.C. You can find out their contributions and traditions after attending an A.A. meeting with it's own special traditions just a few miles up the road. Sunday mornings at 10 AM, Inverness' Jack Mason Museum is the place to start a really revitalizing day. The meeting is held in the inviting cottage surrounded by gardens, complete with picket fence and arbor just adjacent to the yellow clapboard building this historian of West Marin bequeathed to the residents and is tended to by dedicated, local volunteers. The sense of community, calm and serenity is soothing. The dedication to recovery is as evident as the fragrant air that permeates the sunny front porch. Albeit a small contingent by city standards, visitors are always welcomed, as they are at the other four weekly meetings the two towns host. There are people who live outside the area who attend regularly as they did on a recent sunny July morning. With so many other ways to enjoy the rest of the day, it is no wonder that people want to return. There is information about the National Seashore, its history, and the various recreation available which can be found at a Ranger Station a few miles back (as well as numerous sites on the Web.)

Stinson Beach and Bolinas are friendly rivals in the annual 4th of July tug-o-war across the 1/8-mile of water that separates what is a 6-mile drive by car. On alternating nights, a meeting is held in either town,

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1) **Spirit...**

cult Times. Micki B. from Bryan, TX then rounded out the afternoon program for AA, delivering her share in her delightful Texas twang.

The Ramada's own Chef Jean-Paul served up a delicious banquet of pesto chicken and vegetarian ravioli. Not only was this the best-attended Spirit banquet ever, but many proclaimed it the finest tasting. Things were filling in other ways, too. More than 500 filled the house for keynote speaker Sherri R. of Fort Worth, TX. Or maybe they came for Si P.'s sobriety countdown. Or to applaud Marion A. and Dr. Gil as they received gift baskets in recognition of long-term service to A.A.

As the line formed to thank Sherri, volunteers got to work clearing chairs and rolling up the carpets. D.J. Damon was in the house! Thousand of watts of sound and lights let San Francisco know that we are not a glum lot! Even the huge dance floor could not contain the masses gyrating beneath the crystal chandelier. Dozens took to the stage in a frenzy of sober energy.

Sunday morning of a convention weekend often feels like the morning after the night before. Softer, quieter. Strong coffee and rooms full of leftover clutter. To the credit of the hotel staff and our tireless volunteers, by early morning the ballroom was spic and span. Those lucky enough to hear Marin's own Dr. Gil and then Kip C. of Vista, CA heard inspiring messages on the value of service to sobriety. A reminder that service takes priority in our lives. A perfect conclusion to a fantastic event.

We are people who normally would not mix, but fortunately we do. Young and old, from near and far, all walks of life, we mix to share experience, strength, hope, a few laughs, and an appreciation of the new life we have been given.

Spirit is about fellowship and service. We are delighted with this year's success. Over 750 A.A.s and Al-Anons attended. Many declared it a wonderful experience and look forward to the next one. However, this event needs broader participation to plan and organize. Our small and dedicated committee struggled this year to save the Convention from the brink of dissolution. A committee for the next Convention is now forming. We have an enthusiastic group. As one new committee member put it, "the service is what made my weekend good." Indeed.

Thank you everyone who attended. And a special thanks to everyone who pitched in to make it happen.

For information about how to get involved with Spirit or to send comments or suggestions, e-mail info@spirit-sf.org, call 415-566-3845, or visit <http://www.spirit-sf.org/>

—Chris F., Spirit Chair

(Continued from page 6) **Marin...**

except Saturday, which must be date night. Visitors are welcomed year round.

Sunday evenings at 8 PM, there is a candlelight meeting at the Community Church just behind the fire station in Stinson Beach. Summer vacationers, day visitors, and locals all gather in a tranquil common conference area. It is a perfect setting in which to unwind before beginning the week.

Summer weather is changeable and rarely what is anticipated. The same holds true for West Marin. Foggy, gray and cold could become sunny and warm over the mountain at the beaches. The marine layer can also roll in a matter of minutes. Sweaters and swimsuits are good ideas. No matter what the temperature, the scenery is forever changing and always dramatic, unspoiled, and beautiful. The local sober community was very gracious and encourages new faces to bring an added element to any meeting during the week. These towns, the largest of which has a full time population of barely 1,000 people are part of our larger A.A. family. Meetings for Marin County are updated monthly with the San Francisco A.A. Web site so check them out. They have special people with a unique spirit that should not be missed.

NEW FROM A.A. WORLD SERVICES!!

The Fourth Edition of the Big Book is now out on CD-Rom and audio cassette. While we will not stock these items, you are welcome to special order them through the Bookstore. They are priced as follows:

4th Edition Text & Audio CD (3 CD's)	\$60.00
4th Edition Audio (16 CD's)	\$85.00
4th Edition Audio Cassette (14 tapes)	\$60.00

Daily Reflections is now available in LARGE PRINT and will be carried here at Central Office. The price is \$6.75.

All items include 8.5% sales tax

Anonymous Camp: Really, Really Dry A.A. at Burning Man

Most of us in the Bay Area have heard of Burning Man. It's a week-long festival held in the Black Rock Desert of Northern Nevada each year during the week before Labor Day. It has a reputation as a wild, drug-fueled party where the participants run around naked setting things on fire. This picture is not *entirely* inaccurate.

It is surprising to some that any recovering alcoholic would choose to go to such an event. Mention of a trip to Burning Man to a fellow A.A. member is often met with surprised laughter or a friendly warning to "stay away from slippery places". It may be more surprising to some that there are A.A. meetings held regularly at the festival, just a short walk from Center Camp. The location is marked on Burning Man's Theme Camp map: Anonymous Camp.

Burning Man is more than a festival; it is in itself a small city—called Black Rock City—a dry lakebed. In 2002 an estimated 28,000 people stayed in Black Rock City. Unlike most cities, this one appears in a few days and disappears a few days later. Tents, shacks, and even multistory buildings are erected and then torn down (or sometimes burned) and taken home again when it's all over. Despite the temporary nature of the city, the needs of the city aren't that different from that of any other city. There are coffee stands, bicycle messenger services, dance clubs and movie theaters out there during that week. Swing dancing lessons and academic lectures are available to those that make up Black Rock City. It's only natural that the hand of A.A. would be there.

Anonymous Camp is not A.A., but it is a place where A.A. meetings (and 12-step meetings of any variety) can be and are held. It started after a San Francisco A.A. member visited Burning Man in 1997 and discovered that there was a lot more to it than an excuse for drinking and drug use. In 1997 there were 12,000 attendees of the festival. Steve S. thought, "there's no way I could be the only recovering alcoholic out of 12,000 people," and subsequently went to the Burning Man Website and registered Anonymous Camp.

"I was surprised by the response... how many people had been thinking exactly the same thing and then saw the camp on the schedule and wrote asking for information." He also received a telephone call from one of the theme camp coordinators, known as Maid Marian. Marian was

extremely supportive of Anonymous Camp, explaining that there would always be more dance club theme camps, but that 12-step meetings are a need of the community, and that a growing city should have them. Although Steve S. was unable to return to Burning Man in 1998, Dan A. from Minnesota and several others made certain that the camp was there, and that the coffee was brewing.

Ever since, Anonymous Camp has grown as the Burning Man festival has grown. In 2002, meetings were held three times each day, and attendees varied from old-timers with over 20 years sober to relative newcomers with just a few months. People came from around the country and in fact around the world to show up in the little dome tent that housed the meetings. Literature and meeting formats were available for at least five different twelve-step fellowships,

meetings held were all designated as meetings, each meeting had a variety of members from other fellowships tending. According to Dan A., the largest meeting had 60 members present, which is pretty good turnout when you consider that the entire festival makes up a city of "only" 28,000 people.

Anonymous Camp serves another vital purpose for the recovering alcoholic at Burning Man. Those skeptical of a week long party as a healthy place for recovering alcoholics have a point. Sometimes members get frustrated with the

environment in general, have conflicts with their campmates, or become uncomfortable with the drinking and using that happens in their own camp. Anonymous Camp always keeps enough space so that people with these sorts of issues can "move out" and set up their tent at Anonymous Camp's site. At least one person took advantage of this offer this year. Of course it's better if there's no need to move, but it's nice to know that there is a place any of us can go.

One of the tenets of Burning Man is that each person must bring to the festival everything that they need to survive in the desert. That means packing all of one's food, water, bedding and shade structures needed for the stay. For the recovering alcoholic, "items needed for survival" also includes A.A. meetings.

For information about Anonymous Camp, if you'd like to do service, or for meeting schedules, send email to anonymouscamp@p90.net



Chip given at Anonymous Camp

Bridging the Gap: Carrying the Message and Practicing the 12th Step

by Peter M.

Like its name implies Bridging the Gap (BTG) works to "bridge the gap" between treatment and correctional facilities and Alcoholics Anonymous on the outside. As a BTG volunteer, I have had the opportunity to meet with many alcoholics who are getting ready to rejoin their home communities after extended periods of time, having either begun their recovery in a treatment facility or behind bars in a correctional facility. In my own early recovery, my A.A. sponsor and other A.A. members were my most important resource in getting a handle on what to do to stay sober and to begin to lead a life not overwhelmed by alcohol. Establishing a connection with A.A. through having a sponsor and a home group were essential parts of staying sober. BTG works to provide that same kind of opportunity for alcoholics who are making the transition to A.A. outside of an institutional environment.

Making presentations about A.A. and BTG in different facilities, I have been surprised at some of the misconceptions that people have about what A.A. is about. Or at least the A.A. that I know. Some are unclear about what a sponsor does or how to find one. Others do not understand that sharing at an A.A. meeting may differ from the kind of group work they participate in at their facility. Many alcoholics in treatment facilities have become accustomed to attending A.A. meetings with

others from their treatment program and do not always realize that this support will not exist once they have returned home. Faced with family and work responsibilities, sometimes A.A. and recovery gets put on the back burner. The purpose of BTG is to make this transition easier for newly released alcoholics—to help them to find a sponsor and a home group and a place in A.A. that will work for them. I know that for myself, the people that I met in my first days of recovery have made all of the difference.

Working with other alcoholics has been crucial to my own recovery and being a BTG volunteer has provided many opportunities to pass along what was made available to me when I was new to Alcoholics Anonymous. Some A.A. members are wary of getting involved with A.A. in treatment or correctional facilities. I was never involved with either before volunteering with Bridging the Gap. What I always try to remember is that it is recovery and sobriety that I am sharing with these fellow alcoholics and that it is the similarities in our experience that is most important. There are many opportunities for service in Alcoholics Anonymous, but if you are looking for a way to reach out directly to alcoholics in need, Bridging the Gap is great way to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

AA Slogan of the Month:...

EASY DOES IT.

Life can be very hard, even after admitting defeat from alcohol and beginning a new life through AA. I have found that even though I now have tools and steps to keep me sober, there are times when I still become overwhelmed with life and living life on life's terms. If I step back, take a breath, and remember the many things for which I am grateful, I begin to see that all is good and that nothing is too insurmountable. Even if there are days when just making a meeting is all I can do, that's enough to keep me sober one more day. "Easy Does It" means these things and more to me and I am grateful for this slogan.

- Anonymous-

*Next month's slogan is: **Live and Let Live**
Please submit your thoughts, insight and experiences regarding this slogan to The Point by October 15th.*

Bridging The Gap

Meet individuals being discharged from hospitals, correctional facilities, and treatment centers and accompany them to their first A.A. meeting

Join us for the next orientation on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 pm in the St. Mark's Church basement (1101 O'Farrell near Franklin).

For more information contact Peter M. at 415-440-9627 or e-mail: sfbridgingthegap@hotmail.com

AA Group Contributions - August 2002

Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous - San Francisco and Marin Counties

Date	Memo	Amount	Date	Memo	Amount
FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS			GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - SF, cont.		
08/08/2002	August IFB Meeting	\$130.46	08/07/2002	Midnight Meditation Sa 12am	\$24.00
08/22/2002	Brisbane Breakfast Bunch Su 11am	\$23.20	08/16/2002	Millionaire's Club Th 6pm	\$50.00
08/12/2002	Deer Park AA Discovery Group St. Helena	\$12.00	08/27/2002	Mission Terrace W 8pm	\$83.59
08/12/2002	We Are Not Saint Francis Willits, CA	\$25.00	08/12/2002	Monday Men's Meeting	\$27.58
Total FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		\$190.66	08/28/2002	New Hope Big Book M 6pm	\$89.26
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - MARIN			08/07/2002	New Hope Big Book M 6pm	\$180.70
08/12/2002	Attitude Adjustment Daily 7am	\$610.00	08/01/2002	New Life W 7 pm	\$105.70
08/07/2002	Larkspur Beginners Fr 7pm	\$30.00	08/08/2002	New Wednesday High Noon W 12:15pm	\$190.20
08/05/2002	Monday Night Stag M 8pm	\$400.00	08/05/2002	Nooners M 12pm	\$99.69
08/19/2002	Noon Hope F 12pm	\$69.74	08/22/2002	Rule 62 W 10pm	\$81.00
08/19/2002	Saturday Women's Speaker Sa 6pm	\$204.00	08/14/2002	Seacliff Th 8:30pm	\$107.59
08/14/2002	Spiritual Testosterone S 8:15am	\$200.00	08/27/2002	Second Chance Th 2:15pm	\$79.88
08/29/2002	Steps To Freedom M 8:30pm	\$234.60	08/28/2002	Serenity Seekers M 7:30pm	\$659.71
08/22/2002	Sunday Express Su 6pm	\$288.76	08/08/2002	Sesame Step Tu 7:30pm	\$473.83
08/22/2002	T.G.I. Tuesday Tu 6pm	\$39.00	08/27/2002	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am	\$73.20
08/28/2002	The Extra Support Group F 8:30pm	\$100.00	08/07/2002	Sunday Bookworms Su 7:30pm	\$53.06
08/22/2002	Tiburon Tuesday Beginners & Closed Tu 7:10 & 8:30	\$925.00	08/19/2002	Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag Su 11am	\$584.60
08/12/2002	Tiburon Women's Candlelight W 8pm	\$50.85	08/05/2002	Sunday Rap Sun 8pm	\$72.00
08/15/2002	Tuesday Smokeless Big Book Tu-8:30pm	\$20.40	08/19/2002	Sunset 9'ers W 9am	\$162.25
Total MARIN GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		\$3,172.35	08/05/2002	Thought For The Day F 7:30am	\$40.00
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - SF			08/16/2002	W.O.S. W 7:30pm	\$55.87
08/30/2002	Acceptance Place M 5:30pm	\$50.00	08/28/2002	Wilson Step F 12:10pm	\$79.20
08/28/2002	Afro-American Beginners	\$26.12	08/19/2002	Work In Progress Sa 7pm	\$247.83
08/07/2002	Artist & Writers F 6:30pm	\$379.02	Total SF1- GROUP CONTRIBUTION		\$3,112.36
08/12/2002	As Bill Sees It Sa 11am	\$110.79	TOTAL - ALL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		
08/05/2002	Beginners Warm Up W 6pm	\$60.71	\$10,096.11		
08/16/2002	Bernal Big Book Sa 5pm	\$360.21			
08/05/2002	Brokers Open Book Tu 1:30pm	\$98.00			
08/15/2002	Come N Get It F 6:30pm	\$49.03			
08/08/2002	Compass Group W 9pm	\$187.00			
08/13/2002	Creative Alcoholics M 6pm	\$80.00			
08/05/2002	Each Day A New Beginning Th 7am	\$150.00			
08/05/2002	Each Day A New Beginning W 7am	\$221.48			
08/05/2002	Endless Summer F 8:30pm	\$52.29			
08/27/2002	Fell Street F 8:30pm	\$111.63			
08/12/2002	Franciscan Noon Discussion M 12pm	\$60.00			
08/27/2002	Friday Night Women's Meeting F 7:15pm	\$100.00			
08/28/2002	Friendship Group W 8pm	\$115.80			
08/07/2002	Garden Variety Sa 8:30pm	\$76.85			
08/12/2002	Haight Street Explorers Th 6:30pm	\$164.00			
08/07/2002	Happy Hour Fr 6:30pm	\$60.00			
08/07/2002	High Noon Friday F 12:15pm	\$154.00			
08/07/2002	High Noon Tuesday Tu 12:15pm	\$123.16			
08/29/2002	High Noon Wednesday W 12:15pm	\$94.48			
08/14/2002	High Sobriety M 8pm	\$101.40			
08/16/2002	Higher Power Lunch Group Th 12:10pm	\$43.67			
08/27/2002	Join The Tribe Tu 7pm	\$82.72			

GROUP TREASURERS

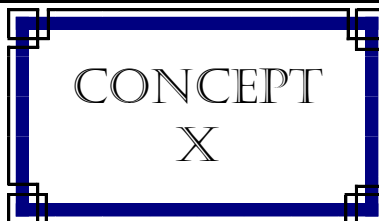
Receipts??

Central Office is considering the discontinuation of Treasurer Receipts. We would like feedback on this issue from the Groups. Please let us know if you find the receipts helpful and if you would like to continue receiving them or not.

Contact Maury P. at (415) 674-1821 or aa@aasf.info or let your Intergroup Rep (IFB Representative) know.

Focus on the 12 Concepts

Even when I was a little child, the coming of October meant excited anticipation for me! Can you guess why? No, it was not because of Halloween. I was excited because October is the time of the year to talk about... CONCEPT 10!!!!!! Just kidding, of course. As a child, I had never heard of Concept 10 or any of the other Concepts, for that matter. But, now that I'm in service in AA, I have to be familiar with the Concepts and Concept 10 is one that deals with a sensitive subject in A.A.: Authority.



Concept 10 reads as follows:

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

What does all this mean? Well, let me give you an example from my own experience. One time I was coffee maker at a meeting where the coffee cups had always been set up in a particular manner. It was nothing fancy, just a way of setting them out. Everyone was used to it.. Along I come, the Rembrandt of A.A. I decided I wanted to set them out in a different way, in a way that was at once artistic and significant to A.A. So, every week, I came in early and arranged the cups in a large triangle within a circle, like the A.A. symbol. As coffee maker, that was up to me, as I had the responsibility; I was given the authority to make such decisions.

However, say I decided that the group should no longer have coffee but, instead, should have only soft drinks, my preferred beverage. Would I have the right to make such a decision, just because I had the responsibility of the position, I could not make such a sweeping decision that would affect the entire group without their permission.

So, that's how it seems to work.

Now, let's take some other service positions. Say a person is the Treasurer of a group. Does the Treasurer, by virtue of his or her position, have the authority to count the money in whichever order he or she chooses? To keep the money in whichever bank he or she sees fit?

The answer, of course, is yes. However, say the Treasurer decides that, rather than sending any of the Group's funds to Central Office, he or she decides to send all of it to H&I because he or she got sober in a hospital as the result of an H&I meeting. Does he or she have the right to make that decision? No, of course not. Such a decision can be reached only by group conscience. The Treasurer may present such a proposal to the Group and the Group is free to make their

own determination. But, the Treasurer, being a trusted servant, must comply with the group's conscience.

The discussion of this Concept in the "A.A. Service Manual", says that trusted servants who are delegated authority to execute their duties, need to have enough "operational authority" to carry out his or her functions AND to feel he or she has the confidence of the Group to do so.

Furthermore, the discussion goes on to say, "the influence of ultimate authority must always be felt, but it is perfectly clear that when delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with. Otherwise, those charged with operating responsibility will be demoralized because their authority to do their work will be subject to arbitrary invasion, and because their actual responsibility will be made greater than their real authority."

What does this mean? Well, say we elect a trusted servant to perform a particular function. The group, of course, is always the ultimate authority and has final say-so about what happens. However, the group must give the delegated authority (the trusted servant) the freedom and authority to do what has to be done to accomplish the task.

There are many positions in A.A. which entail considerable responsibility. As Intergroup Chair, I occupy one. And, while I always ultimately answer to the Fellowship as a whole, I have to have the authority to perform several functions—many of them very disagreeable, by the way—without constant interference from others.

However—and this is a big however—if it becomes apparent that I am not discharging my duties properly, I must be held accountable. And, as a trusted servant, it is my responsibility to keep the Fellowship advised of what is going on and what I am doing. It is also my responsibility to seek out and accept input from the Fellowship. That's how it works.

As always, I invite your feed back, questions, comments, discussion, letters or articles regarding these "Concepts Articles". It's how I learn. Also, I strongly encourage everyone to get a copy of the "A.A. Service Manual" and read for yourself what it says about the Concepts. It's interesting reading and important to our ability to see that A.A. survives and thrives. Please feel free to contact me at 415-239-0947 or by email at: xanadutoo@earthlink.net or through Central Office.

Respectfully submitted, Ben N.

IFB Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Monthly Meeting
Intercounty Fellowship Board
 Star of the Sea Church, 180 Harrison St.
 Sausalito, California
August 7, 2002
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ben N. followed by the Serenity Prayer.
 Pete K. read the 12 traditions.

Intergroup Rep	Group	Intergroup Rep	Group	
Anna I.	Native American Healing Circle	A Julia D.	Castro Discussion	P
Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step	P Julie H.	Terra Linda	P
Bill R.	Early Start	P Kenny Y.	As Bill Sees It-Wed	P
Charles M.	Federal Speaker	A Larry F.	Mid-Morning Support	A
Clay K.	Cocoanuts	P Leslie F.	How It Works-Sat	P
Dan C.	Tiburon Haven	A Li L.	Work in Progress	P
Dan L.	Artists & Writers	P Lisa M.	Friday All Groups	P
Danny F.	Each Day A New Beginning	P Mark C.	Sunday Night Candlelight	P
Dave F.	Sunset 9'ers Tuesday	A Pat M.	Sat As Bill Sees It	P
David C.	Sunday Friendship	P Paul C.	Waterfront	A
Doug F.	No Reservation	P Ray M.	Sunday Rap	P
Doug S.	As Bill Sees It - Thursday	P Rich R.	Marina Dock 6am	A
Ellen C.	Big Book Basics	P Sam W.	Monday Night Stag	P
Frank B.	Each Day A New Beginning - Sun.	P Samuel S.	Too Early	P
J. E.	Friendly Circle Beginners	A Silke T.	Wed. High Noon	P
Jacob M.	Home Group	P Smithy B.	Ten Years After	P
Janet B.	Thursday Night Women's	P Steven S.	Tuesday Downtown	P
Jason S.	Sesame Step	P Timothy G.	7AM As Bill Sees It	P
Jay H.	Gay Beginners	P Tom K.	Common Welfare	P
Jim D.	Happy Joyous & Free	P Tony P.	Amazing Grace	P
Joe G.	Wednesday Beginners Meeting	P		
New IFB Reps Present		Guests Present		
David P.	The Sunset 9ers	David G.	DCMC Alternate, District 10	
Irene K.	Bernal Big Book	Pete K.	District 10 Registrar	
Julia W.	Friendship Group	Alan R.	GSR Tiburon Tuesday Beginners	
Non-IFB Liaisons		Fenn P.	Marin County Teleservice Chair	
Mary B.	Spirit of San Francisco-liaison	David H.	5 O'clock Quitting Time, S.A.	
Joe G.	Marin Teleservice	Lauren K.	GSR Wednesday Los Ranchitos	
Ken C.	Marin General Service	Rich H.	GSR, Blackies Pasture, Sat Night	
Lisa M./proxy	San Francisco General Service	Dick T.	Fairfax 7AM Chairperson	
Pat K.	PI/PCP, Marin			
Peter M.	Bridging the Gap			
Ken T.	San Mateo Fellowship			

- A. REVIEW OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved.
- B. APPROVAL OF JULY 2002 MINUTES: The minutes of the July meeting were approved.
- C. IFB STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - a. Teleservice - San Francisco: No report was given.
 - b. PI/PCP: - San Francisco: No report was given.
- D. GROUP REP REPORTS:
 - a. San Francisco Tuesday Downtown: Steve S. reports the meeting is getting stronger. There is an upcoming Halloween Dance and speaker meeting. ASL will be discontinued, unless further financial assistance is provided. The meeting cannot pay the cost of ASL and be self-sufficient. Bill R. suggested presenting this issue to the Special Needs Committee for further review.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

E. NON-IFB LIASON REPORTS:

- a. General Service, SF: Lisa M. gave proxy report on several topics being discussed on San Francisco General Service. The regular General Service liaison will be attending next month's meeting.
- b. General Service, Marin: Lora O. gave proxy report for Ken C. She discussed costs of meeting schedules, removal of percentages from schedule for fund distribution and announced that there is an on-going ad hoc meeting for Marin reps to discuss what Marin meetings' needs from the Central Office in San Francisco are. There is no action being taken at this time.
- c. Teleservice, Marin: Fenn P. gave report on Marin Teleservice. He announced that Marin Teleservice has a new website and that Marin Teleservice is fully functional and financially self-sufficient. Fenn also reported on the successful Marin Teleservice annual picnic.
- d. PI/CPC, Marin: Pat K. gave report and provided information. Letters are going out to all high schools to set up presentations at this time.
- e. Bridging the Gap: Doug S. gave a proxy report. He provided a written report to the IFB. This report consisted of on-going presentations to recovery facilities.
- f. H&I: No report was given.
- g. Spirit of San Francisco: Mary B. gave a report. They need help in distribution of sign-up forms for their Labor Day convention. Please contact the Spirit of San Francisco. For further information go to www.spirit-sf.org.
- h. Others: No other reports given.

F. IFB REPORTS:

- a. Chair's Report: Ben N. gave a report. Ben is optimistic about the upcoming year. He reports that new volunteers for different committees are needed. There are many committees and we need help. Contact Ben or Maury at Central Office.
- b. Treasurer's Report: Pat M. submitted a written report and income statement to the IFB. Pat reported that the Central Office is not staying financially even. We are presently not getting enough group support to pay our monthly expenses at the Central Office. Income statements were provided to support this. Then, Bill R. led a discussion on possible ways to increase donations to the Central Office. No further action was taken.
- c. Central Office Manager's Report: Maury P. submitted a written report. She announced that the Central Office has accepted a bid for janitorial service at the cost of \$150/month for weekly cleaning. She announced that the 12 Step List has been updated and distributed to Teleservice volunteers. She announced that she's added the Central Office address to the Pac Bell phone directories, upon renewing the contract.
- d. Central Office Committee Report: Smithy B. submitted a written report. She discussed literature pricing, Marin schedules and questionnaire of Marin membership needs. She announced the election of the COC Chair for the following one-year term is Smithy B., and Recording Secretary is Danny F.. There was a motion to approve the recommended adjustment of pricing of three pamphlets to the cost of .10 cents each. The three pamphlets are: "For Beginners", "The 20 Questions" and "Daily Tips for Old and New Members". Also, to pass on the increased cost of "The Grapevine" to purchasers who buy "The Grapevine" at Central Office, for increased postage, at .25 cents per issue. COC also recommended that the "Box 459" Newsletter price to be increased to .10 cents each, which is our cost. The motion was made and seconded. After the discussion, the vote passed 28 to 0, with 4 abstentions.
A discussion of the description of the relationship of the COC, the IFB and the Central Office ensued. Smithy stated she thought this was a valuable discussion; we don't have representation in a majority of groups and this is something we will work on in the COC. No further action was taken.

G. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Lease Committee: No report given.
- b. Literature Committee: Frank B. gave report. He wants more input. His next committee meeting at 6:00pm.
- c. Bylaws Review Committee: Ben N. gave report. The bylaws are ready for review by our attorney. Once reviewed, they will be available to the IFB.
- d. The Point Editorial Committee: Steve S. gave report. New help is needed. The committee meets first and third Tuesday: 4:30 – 5:30 at the Central Office.
- e. Orientation Committee: Ellen C. gave report.
- f. Schedule Committee: Li L. gave report. He discussed possible improvements to the schedule. Next month, possible mockups will be available for review.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Operations Manual: Ben N. read changes to the IFB Operations Manual. The changes are minor and there will be discussion on the changes next month.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ambassador to the Groups: Maury asked for consideration in sending a Central Office representative to groups donating over \$1,000 annually. No action was taken.

J. SEVENTH TRADITION: The seventh tradition was practiced. \$130.46 was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, Joe G., Recording Secretary

CONTRIBUTIONS

To the Central Office were made

August 20 – September 19

***Honoring the following
members***

ONGOING MEMORIALS

*Bob
R.W.
Ralph M.
Bonnie R.
Bill D.*

ANNIVERSARIES

*Andrea G. - 12 Years
Bill R. — 13 Years
Frances F. - 13 Years
Marit L. - 15 Years
Charles M. - 24 Years
Frances L. - 40 Years*

Endless Summer Group:

*Joie - 1 Year
Jennifer - 2 Years
Clint - 4 Years
Matt - 4 Years
Lisa - 5 Years
Brian F - 5 Years
Mark - 6 Years
Justin - 9 Years
Jude - 10 Years
Mike J - 11 Years
Trent - 14 Years*

Thanks to all who
honor their sobriety
through giving!



Recent Deaths

*Jim C.
Sandra W.*

SUMMARY

September 2002 IFB Meeting

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

A. Business Conducted

1. Tuesday Downtown reported the discontinuation of ASL due to lack of funding. Motion was made and passed to continue supporting 50% of the cost for two more months with a referral to the Special Needs committee.
2. Treasurer reported that Central Office expenses are exceeding monthly contributions.
3. Central Office Committee Report:
 - a. Project 20 - Motion was made and passed to discontinue participation in this program.
 - b. Motion made and passed that any additions to the Operations Manual be added as an Addendum every six months until incorporation to text body is warranted.
4. Motion made and passed to observe the month of November as Gratitude Month every year.
5. Lease Committee reported that final inspection has been completed.

B. Information

1. Tuesday Downtown is sponsoring a Halloween dance on Oct. 19.
2. Marin Teleservice - Elections are in November.
3. Bridging the Gap - Marin and SF Chairs met with Warden at San Quentin.
4. Spirit of San Francisco convention was self-supporting.
5. Marin Schedules will be printed every other month.
6. Next IFB Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at the Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street/Geary, San Francisco. Call the Central Office at (415) 674-1821 if you need further information.

C. Service Opportunities

1. PI/CPC - Speaker Workshop Oct. 3rd. at the Central Office at 7PM.
2. There is a need for additional support on committees of the IFB. The Orientation Committee meets every last Wednesday of the month at the Central Office, 6:30 PM. New IFB reps, or people interested in the IFB are encouraged to attend. Please contact Ellie through the Central Office.

**Next IFB Meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, October 2, 2002 at the Unitarian Church,
1187 Franklin Street/Geary, San Francisco.
Call the Central Office at (415) 674-1821 if you need
further information.**

Financial Statement

JULY 2002 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

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



October 2002

Moving? Please Give Us Your New Address and Phone Number!!

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Old Address: _____

You Can Also E-mail or Phone Us With Your New Contact Information
Addresses Are on the Front Cover