

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

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

# The Point

November 2002

A publication  
of the Intercounty Fellowship  
of Alcoholics Anonymous

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**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

## NOVEMBER IS GRATITUDE MONTH

**A**t the September meeting of the Intercounty Fellowship Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, it was resolved that November would be Gratitude Month not only this year, but indefinitely so that the IFB will not have to address the question each and every year.

Gratitude Month is a time set aside for us to express thanks to the fellowship. Traditionally here in the Bay Area, Gratitude Month is practiced in A.A. meetings by passing the Seventh Tradition basket a second time, with the entirety of the collection from the second basket being contributed to Central Office. However, groups around the country and around the world each have their own customs for celebrating Gratitude Month, including holding Tradition discussion meetings in place of the regular format, or by making "gratitude" the topic for the meeting discussion during the month.

There is no prescribed manner for celebrating Gratitude Month. Groups are encouraged to come up with their own imaginative ways to foster an attitude of gratitude among the fellowship. Box 459, the GSO's newsletter, put it so well "How about trying something new, something your group has never done before, which will make the members' gratitude more tangible and real?" Here in the Bay Area we've always been good about

finding new and inventive ways to do things, so let's be creative and show the rest of the country how it's done!

Of course, remember to note "Gratitude Month" on your group's contributions so that they may be properly recorded.

## IFB Seeks Treasurer

The San Francisco-Marin Intercounty Fellowship Board announces the following service position: Intercounty Fellowship Board Treasurer

This is an elected, volunteer position with a two-year term that can be extended for another two-years. The IFB Treasurer oversees accounting procedures for Central Office, reports to the IFB on financial matters, with the budget committee prepares the annual IFB budget, initiates outside audits, and serves as a member of the Central Office Committee. Knowledge of QuickBooks needed. A more detailed job description is available from the Central Office Manager.

It is not a requirement that the IFB Treasurer be a member of the Fellowship. The job requires a minimum of 10 hours a month.

Interested applicants send resume with cover letter to:

Central Office Committee  
1821 Sacramento Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Position available December 1, 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>November 2002 ... In the Fellowship</div> <div>Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups</div> <div>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 page 5.</div>					1	2
3	<div>FIRST MON</div> <div>Spirit of SF Committee 415 566-3845 or www.spirit-sf.org</div>	4	5	<div>FIRST WED</div> <div>Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB) Star of the Sea Ch. 180 Harrison Sausalito 7:00 pm</div>	6	7
10	<div>SECOND MON</div> <div>SF Public Information Committee Central Office, 7:00pm 1821 Sacramento San Francisco</div>	11	<div>SECOND TUE</div> <div>Bridging the Gap 1111 O'Farrell, SF; 6:30pm  General Service 1111 O'Farrell, SF Orientation: 7:00p Reg. Meeting: 7:45p  Marin H&amp;I Lagunitas &amp; Shady Lane, Ross 7 pm</div>	12	13	14
17	<div>THIRD MON</div> <div>SF Teleservice 1821 Sacramento, SF; 6:30pm  Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd. San Rafael 7:00pm GSR Sharing: 8:00pm District Mtg.</div>	18	<div>THIRD TUE</div> <div>San Mateo General Service St. Andrews Ch. 15th &amp; El Camino, San Mateo; 7:30p</div>	19	20	<div>THIRD THU</div> <div>Website Committee Central Office 6:15p 1821 Sacramento San Francisco</div>
<div>LAST SUN</div> <div>Living Sober SF 1668 Bush, SF 5:30pm</div>	24	25	<div>FOURTH TUE</div> <div>Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln (Alano Club), San Rafael: 7:30p</div>	26	27	<div>FOURTH THU</div> <div>Marin PI 1360 Lincoln, (Alano Club) San Rafael, 7:15pm  SF H&amp;I <div>LAST THU</div> Old First Church, Sacramento/Van Ness Orientation: 7:15p Regular Meeting: 8pm</div>
					28	29
					30	

# 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 <u>current</u> local events, if available, are printed on page 5.	
November 1-3	18th Santa Barbara Convention, Elk's Lodge, 150 No. Kellogg, <b>Goleta/Santa Barbara, CA</b>	<a href="http://www.sbaaconvention.com">www.sbaaconvention.com</a>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Unity Day hosted by SF General Service, Noon-6 pm, Fort Mason, Room C260, San Francisco</b>	
November 2	31st Anniversary Galt Fellowship Dinner & Speaker Meeting, Littleton Civic Center, <b>Galt, CA</b>	
<b>Nov 3– Dec 15</b>	<b>The Big Book Comes Alive (7-week Seminar), Sundays at 3550 Ceasar Chavez, San Francisco, CA</b>	
November 5	26th Anniversary Orangevale Open Fiesta Style! (Potluck 6 pm, Speakers at 8 pm), <b>Sacramento, CA</b>	
November 14-17	41st Hawaii Convention, Hawaii Convention Center, <b>Honolulu, HI</b>	<a href="http://www.lava.net/~hconv">www.lava.net/~hconv</a>
Nov 28-Dec 1	36th Las Vegas Roundup, Riviera Hotel, <b>Las Vegas, NV</b>	<a href="http://www.lvroundup.com">www.lvroundup.com</a>
Nov 29-Dec 1	Bermuda Convention, <b>Warwick, Bermuda</b>	<a href="http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.bm">www.alcoholicsanonymous.bm</a>
<b>December 7-8</b>	<b>Women's Holiday Sobriety Retreat, Mt. Tam (see page 5)</b>	
<b>Dec 23-26</b>	<b>Christmas Alcolthon, Mission Fellowship, 2900 24th / Florida Sts.</b>	
<b>Dec 30-Jan 2</b>	<b>New Years' Alcolthon, Mission Fellowship, 2900 24th / Florida Sts.</b>	
2003		
February 13-16	39th International AA Women's Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Seattle Airport, <b>Seattle, WA</b>	<a href="http://www.iwc2003.org">www.iwc2003.org</a>

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# MEETING CHANGES

## NEW MEETINGS

Tue 6:00 pm	Mission	A IS FOR ALCOHOL 2900 24th St./Florida (CI Di wh)
Thu 12:00 pm	Corte Madera	CONSCIOUS CONTACT 2 Tamalpais Dr, near Magnolia, (SpD SS W)
Fri 11:00 pm	San Rafael	FRIDAY NITE LATE NITE 1360 Lincoln Ave./Maple, Alano Club (D) Ends at 12:30 a.m.
Sun 8:00 pm	San Anselmo	SAN ANSELMO FIRESIDE MEETING 96 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo (M SpD)

## MEETING CHANGES

Sun 4:30 pm	Western Add.	GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE OF COLOR 1800 Market/Octavia (Gy Ls wh) - <i>was on Sat at 4pm 601 Dolores</i>
Tue 8:30 pm	Cathedral Hill	TUESDAY DOWNTOWN Geary/Gough (Sp Ch wh) - <i>no longer offers ASL interpreter for the hearing impaired</i>

## NO LONGER MEETING

Sun 7:30 pm	SOMA	HAWS PIPE GROUP 450 Harrison St., Sailor's Union
Fri 3:00 pm	Tenderloin	3PM BEGINNERS 410 Ellis St (First Place)
Fri 9:00 pm	Tenderloin	FIRST PLACE BEGINNERS 410 Ellis St (First Place)

## REPORTED MISSING

Tue 1:00 pm	SF State	SOBER AT STATE 12&12 Casablanca Rm., Creative Arts Building
Tue 7:00 pm	Treasure Island	FOGWATCH 227 Avenue of the Palms



**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 A.A. 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!***

## THE BIG BOOK COMES ALIVE 2002

November 3-December 15  
Sundays 7:30-9:30 pm  
At Salvation Army  
3550 Ceasar Chavez St., S.F.

*A Comprehensive Study of the Big Book of  
Alcoholics Anonymous in a 7-week  
"Seminar" form  
You will need to bring highlighters, Big Book  
and the 12 & 12*

*Hosted by: the **Back To Basics Group***

## Central Office needs volunteers

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



## SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL SERVICE

Invites you to

### UNITY DAY 2002

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2002**  
12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

#### Fort Mason, Room C260

Located between Fisherman's Wharf and the Golden Gate Bridge on the San Francisco Bay.

The entrance to Fort Mason is at the intersection of Marina Boulevard and Buchanan Street, in the Marina district.

<http://www.fortmason.org/directions/index.html>

Fort Mason offers easy access by MUNI.

Call MUNI at 415-673-MUNI for detailed directions.

**Come hear about the service opportunities available in AA.**

**Attend orientation workshops for PI/CPC, H&I, Teleservice, and Bridging the Gap.**

**Hear panel presentations and personal stories of service.**

#### Potluck Lunch

**So, please bring something to share!**

Coffee will be provided

## Women's Holiday Sobriety Retreat on Mt. Tam

White's Mansion  
December 7 & 8

Spend a weekend during this hectic season, in a secluded mansion with wonderful, sober women. Meetings, fellowship, cozy beds and great meals.

Contact: Diane C. 415 331-3780

## Group Speakers for Nov. 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
Nov. 1	Sunset Hlers	Fr. Tom W.	Oakland Fellowship
Nov. 8	TBA	Cathy C.	Cocanuts
Nov. 15	No Reservation	Veronica C.	Marin Fellowship
Nov. 22	TBA	Stu S.	Live & Let Live
Nov. 29	PI/CPC	Lee B.	S.F. Fellowship

### TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP	Sobriety
Nov. 5	Paul L	Cloverdale A.A.	2-12-85
Nov. 12	Ken K-D	S.F. Fellowship	11-4-84
Nov. 19	Jim B	2nd Tradition SJ	11-11-70
Nov. 26	Nora O	S.F. Fellowship	9-13-95

### FOUR FORTY NINERS

Slovenian Hall, Vermont & Mariposa  
Friday, 8:00 pm

449ers Speakers – August, 2002

Date	Speaker	Home Group	Sobriety
Nov. 1	Delilah		
Nov. 8	Marya T.	High Noon	5/24/94
Nov. 15	Alan K.	Sunset Niners	6/26/90
Nov. 22	Lord H.	Endless Summer	7/10/89
Nov. 30	TBA.		

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.

## Singleness of Purpose: Keeping It Alive In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Given the vast number of us who have used both alcohol and drugs, do we still need to be an “alcohol-only” organization? Does stressing the need to stick to your problems with alcohol exclude new members who can benefit from A.A.? Does it really matter if people identify themselves as an alcoholic/addict or just an addict? Doesn’t saving lives matter more than how people identify themselves? This is a shared and widely-debated concern in the A.A. fellowship

Recently at a business meeting, we discussed adapting the clarity message of Narcotics Anonymous and reading it in lieu of the blue card (*more information about the “blue card” below —ed.*). Listening to other members ideas during the discussion helped clarify our singleness of purpose for me.

Dr. Bob’s reference to drugs is commonly quoted in an attempt to justify the place of drugs in our fellowship. Actually, this example presents the solution to this dilemma. While both Bill and Bob mention drugs in passing in their stories, they keep the focus on their experience with alcohol and their identification as alcoholics. As quoted in the pamphlet Problems Other than Alcohol. “We have to confine our membership to alcoholics, and we have to confine our A.A. groups to a single purpose”

Many of my friends and I have drugs “in our stories”. Did introducing myself as “an alcoholic” and focusing my discussion on my problems with alcohol make it impossible for me to stay sober? Not at all, in fact it allowed me to be just another drunk. It also allowed me to be mindful of others’ feelings and to look for the similarities not the differences.

Those of us who have problems with drugs as well as alcohol have the (dubious?) luxury of attending other fellowships as well as A.A. Those who have a problem only with alcohol, however much in the minority they may be, have only A.A. to save their lives.

Since A.A. was started by alcoholics, for alcoholics, isn’t it selfish of us to dilute the message? We have been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that the hand of A.A. is always available to any person with a desire to stop drinking. I think it is imperative that we protect our legacy.

The Clarity Statement as it was adopted by group conscience at the Blue Book Special Meeting.

“In Alcoholics Anonymous we are presented with a dilemma. When A.A. members identify themselves as ‘addict and alcoholic,’ ‘cross-addicted,’ or talk about living ‘clean & sober,’ the message of A.A. is blurred.

“While A.A. accepts anyone with a desire to stop drinking as members, regardless to other problems, we encourage those members to identify themselves simply as ‘alcoholics’ at A.A. meetings and to discuss their problems at meeting level in terms related only to alcoholism.

“The above statement is offered in the spirit of A.A. unity. Please remember this request is not made to rule, censor or dictate behavior. Mindful that not all persons walking through our doors have problems other than alcohol, we make this request in order to provide an atmosphere of recovery where we hear the simple, non-confusing and life-saving message of Alcoholics Anonymous”

- by Anonymous

### The “Blue Card”

Although it is commonly mentioned in discussions of A.A. singleness of purpose, many people don’t know what the “blue card” is. In 1987, The General Service Conference made two

#### **THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here — especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking”, we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol.

statements available for groups who wish to use them. These statements are distributed on light blue cardstock, hence the name “blue card”. It is available for no charge on at Central Office. These statements are included here for your information.

#### **THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. In support of A.A.’s singleness of purpose, attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism.

# The Bumble Bee:

By Cindy W.

Last Thursday we experienced a “hot” day in San Francisco; I actually left the house without a jacket. That day I was doing a cleaning job at the Presidio. I left my car windows rolled down for air circulation so that I wouldn’t come back to blazing vinyl seats. I finished the first house and returned to my car to drive to the next job. As I opened the door and was about to climb behind the wheel, I heard a loud, angry buzzing—a giant bumble bee was bumping against the glass of the rear window, trying to escape, and though all the side windows were open and a slight breeze was blowing, he didn’t seem to be aware that he could escape in any other direction. I was afraid that if I started the car and began to drive, the disoriented bee would clumsily fly into me and sting me, causing a catastrophic wreck and my probable demise. Irritated and in a hurry to get to the next job, I began to devise a plan to get rid of this nuisance. Should I hit him with a shot of Tilex or oven cleaner? No, that seemed too cruel (I knew, since I myself had to breathe the stuff all day.) Instead, I grabbed a long-handled duster and attempted to prod him towards a side window. He wouldn’t budge! The glass was clear, and he was determined that this was the only way out.

In frustration, I plopped down on the trunk of the car, wondering how much of my valuable time this bee was going to waste. As I sat, I began to observe him closely through the glass. After all, how often did I have the opportunity to put my face right up to a bumble bee without fear? His body was bright yellow and black striped, round and fuzzy; he looked like the cute stuffed toy I had recently given my niece. I thought of bees in the garden, distributing pollen and thereby participating in the creation of beauty in the world. I’m a gardener, so I could appreciate this aspect of the bee’s work. I began to feel sorry that the bee was so frustrated, as I knew all he wanted was to

be free. Suddenly I asked myself, “In what ways in my life do I bang against a window, surrounded by so many alternatives, yet completely blind to them?” I imagined God watching me as I pounded against my window—watching compassionately and waiting patiently for me to finally notice the many paths to freedom that are already open for me. I realized at that moment, I was the bee.



“I realized at that moment, I was the bee”

Just then it occurred to me that if I blocked the light source at the back window, the bee would fly towards light from one of the open windows. I popped the trunk, pulled out a black plastic trash bag and covered the window. Instantly the bee discovered his escape route, and I watched as he flew over my head and into a nearby eucalyptus grove. I hopped into my car and headed to the next job.

*A.A. Slogan of the Month...*

## Live and Let Live

“Live and Let Live” means a few different things to me in my program. First, it means that if I get agitated with someone in a meeting for sharing things that I disagree with or think are a self-pity tirade, I can take a deep breath, sit back and remember that we can share anything we desire in A.A. Live and Let Live. Also, if someone I work with as a sponsor goes out again and doesn’t seem to want what I have, I don’t need to get upset or beat myself up. I can let him or her go and hope he or she returns. Live and Let Live. This slogan provides great practice in humility.

—Anonymous

*Next month’s slogan is: Came to Believe  
Please submit your thoughts, insight and  
experiences regarding this slogan  
to The Point by November 15th.*

## Tales of Teleservice:

by Ben N..

I was just over 8 years sober when I moved to San Francisco from Indianapolis. In Indianapolis, I had been heavily involved in service work and knew, if I wanted to stay sober in San Francisco, I'd better get involved here, too.

So, one evening not long after my inauspicious arrival here—General Service Office had NOT contacted San Francisco A.A. and told them I was coming!—I was sitting in a meeting and someone announced that there were openings for Teleservice volunteers.

As I sat there, I was torn between two basic survival instincts. On the one hand, I had learned in the Army to never volunteer for anything. On the other hand, I had learned in A.A. never to say no when asked to do service.

To cut to the chase, I volunteered. I was told to attend the next Teleservice meeting/orientation, which would be at Central Office, the third Monday of the month at 6:30PM. We were a motley crew that night. There were a few "coordinators", all hungrily looking for new volunteers to fill their vacant slots. There was a Chairman and an Information Chair, who, it turns out, has the hardest job in all of Teleservice.

We new recruits sat there, apprehensive, anxious but fearful of leaping into combat. Finally, we had all been selected for service in a particular "platoon." I wound up in the "Saturday Platoon."

My job was to be at home on one Saturday evening each month from 6PM to 10PM to serve as "back-up" to the "on-line" person. The telephones from Central Office are "rolled-over" to the "on-line" person's home at the close of business and they are passed over at the end of each (usually) four-hour shift.

The job of the on-line person is to take the calls as they come in, giving out information regarding meetings and current A.A. events. In the case of a person needing "more intensive" discussion, the on-line would pass the caller on to the back-up for lengthier conversation. As back-up, after talking with the caller for a while, I determined that he or she was interested in a "12<sup>th</sup> Step Call", I would pass the call on to someone from the 12<sup>th</sup> Step list.

However, most of the time, the caller was someone who was having a hard time and would just need to "touch base" with someone. I could listen, then share my experience, strength and hope. That often did the trick.

Of course, we also have other "regulars" who called. Usually, they were drunk and not interested in getting to a meeting or having a 12<sup>th</sup> Step call or in getting sober, for that matter.

Often times, they just wanted to wallow in self pity or argue about how bad A.A. is. Those calls always give me a lot of gratitude. I can identify with the attitudes and feelings they are having and can remember having them myself. The memories remind me I don't want to "go back there."

Eventually I also became a Coordinator. That meant I was responsible to see that all the slots were filled on Thursday nights, from 5PM until 8PM the next morning. I had to deal with lots of vacancies, last minute cancellations, foul-ups by the Answering Service who forwards our telephones... things of that nature. There was never a dull moment.

And I got a second Teleservice slot. Interestingly enough, I've kept both those slots from that time, now over 14 years.

Then the time came when I became Teleservice Chair. Most of you know how that sort of thing happens—it's called the "A.A. Railroad". And, that's pretty much what happened to me. Nobody else wanted it. The outgoing Chair held on for a couple of months past his term, hoping for a volunteer. None stepped forward so he just quit. I don't blame him. That's as it should be. Anyway, I finally stepped grudgingly forward and accepted the job.

One of the good things about being Chair was that I got to spearhead the volunteer recruitment effort. Since we had trouble keeping a sufficient number available, I decided to come up with some new ideas. The old, "We need Teleservice volunteers..." didn't seem to have the flair I wanted.

So, I began announcing in meetings that any volunteer for Teleservice would be given a new car. Lots of people laughed. A few people thought I was serious (ugh). But few people volunteered.

Then it hit me! What is the one thing about Teleservice that is unique, that sets it apart, that could make it more attractive to folks? I began telling prospective volunteers that "Teleservice is the only service you can do naked".

Well, that got lots of laughs. It also got lots of groans from folks who know me. They advised me that the thought of me in that state was too gruesome to contemplate.

I'm still doing Teleservice, even though my terms as Coordinator and Chair are long passed. I do it twice a month and always remember: the Teleservice volunteer is most frequently the very first line of contact for the still-suffering alcoholic seeking help. As I sought help over twenty-two years ago, someone was there for me. I am responsible to see that, whenever anyone reaches out for help, the hand of A.A. is there.



# AA Group Contributions - September 2002

Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous - San Francisco and Marin Counties

Date	Memo	Amount	Date	Memo	Amount
<b>FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			<b>SF GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS, con't</b>		
09/10/2002	Brisbane Breakfast Bunch Su 11am	21.80	09/16/2002	Sunset 9'ers W 9am	48.10
09/04/2002	Living Sober Western Roundup	1,846.64	09/26/2002	Sunset 9ers Su 8am	92.40
09/25/2002	Mendocino AA	25.27	09/11/2002	Suset 11'ers Sun 11am	164.62
09/06/2002	Sept IFB Meeting	102.25	09/18/2002	They Don't Know Who We Are Sa 7pm	123.70
09/25/2002	Spirit of San Francisco Convention	1,560.61	09/16/2002	Unidentified Group	257.41
Total FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		3,556.57	09/12/2002	Valencia Smokefree F 6pm	131.18
<b>MARIN - GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			09/09/2002	We Care Tu 12pm	120.00
09/04/2002	11th Step Meeting M 8pm	67.50	09/04/2002	Wednesday Sunrise Smokefree W 7am	60.00
09/04/2002	7AM Urgent Care Group 7D 7am	100.00	Total SF1- GROUP CONTRIBUTION		3,460.42
09/10/2002	Friday Night Unmanageables F 8:30pm	180.00	<b>TOTAL ALL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
09/13/2002	Marin City Discussion Tu 6:30pm	103.00			<b>8,946.30</b>
09/23/2002	Mill Valley Discussion W 8:30pm	159.00			
09/12/2002	Monday Blues M 6:30pm	87.40			
09/04/2002	Terra Linda Th 8:30pm	175.00			
09/25/2002	Thursday Night Miracles Th 8:30pm	60.00			
Total MARIN1 - GROUP CONTRIBUTION		931.90			
<b>SF1- GROUP CONTRIBUTION</b>					
09/25/2002	A Vision For You II Tu 7:15pm	226.20			
09/09/2002	A Vision For You Su 6:30pm	27.50			
09/19/2002	Afro American Beginners Sa 8:30pm	37.20			
09/19/2002	Afro American F 8pm	116.94			
09/11/2002	Buena Vista Breakfast Sun 12pm	115.20			
09/13/2002	Each Day A New Beginning Th 7am	150.00			
09/23/2002	Embarcadero Group W 12:10pm	45.38			
09/09/2002	Endless Summer F 8:30pm	65.52			
09/04/2002	Federal Speaker Su 12pm	135.72			
09/04/2002	Gold Mine Group M 8pm	91.08			
09/10/2002	Goodlands Su 2pm	97.71			
09/25/2002	High Noon Friday	49.25			
09/04/2002	High Noon Tuesday Tu 12:15pm	123.75			
09/18/2002	High Noon W 12:15pm	64.19			
09/26/2002	Home Group Sa 8:30pm	66.00			
09/13/2002	Hoodlum Haven F 8pm	480.00			
09/10/2002	How It Works Sa 2pm	78.93			
09/18/2002	Luke's Group W 8pm	55.78			
09/23/2002	Meeting Place Noon W 12pm	36.00			
09/04/2002	Mission Terrace W 8pm	59.71			
09/25/2002	Monday Fit Spiritual Condition M 1:30pm	79.22			
09/12/2002	Monday Men's Meeting M 8pm	14.65			
09/18/2002	New Highs W 1:30pm	203.70			
09/10/2002	Nooners M 12pm	52.40			
09/04/2002	Parkside Th 8:30pm	52.24			
09/18/2002	Potrero Hill Sunday Night S 8pm	85.95			
09/16/2002	Rule 62 W 10pm	40.00			
09/25/2002	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	180.00			
09/13/2002	Sesame Step Tu 7:30pm	240.00			
09/04/2002	St. Francis Men's F 8:30 pm	180.00			
09/18/2002	Stepping Out Sa 6pm	60.00			
09/09/2002	Stonestown M 8pm	100.20			
09/04/2002	Sunset 11'ers M 11am	50.00			

**Treasurers: it helps a lot if you...**

...identify your group by name (as it is listed in the schedule as well as when and where it meets) when you send in your group's contribution.

...send your group's contribution more frequently than at the end of your term. Quarterly distribution helps Central Office to better manage its cash flow.

...register with the Central Office at the beginning of your term. Having at least one trusted servant on record helps tremendously if someone has a question about your group—and may even come in handy in 12th step work!

...include a self-addressed stamped envelope in which Central Office can return your receipt. Postage adds up!

Thanks again for your service!

# Focus on the 12 Concepts

## CONCEPT ELEVEN

It's November and we're nearing the end of the Twelve Concepts. This month, we're talking about Concept II:

*While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers will always be matters for serious care and concern.*

Whew! That's a mouthful! What does it all mean? What does it mean to us here in Marin and San Francisco, with respect to our Intergroup (IFB) and Central Office? It means that the long-term success of our Fellowship depends on the quality and dedication of our officers, special workers and committees.

This all begins at the most important level, the individual groups. That is where the Intergroup Representatives are selected. They are the voice of the Groups at the Board meetings. They elect the Intergroup officers and fill the committees. They recruit, select and supervise the Central Office Manager and Special Worker and have overall responsibility for the operation of Central Office, with its related functions, such as the Bookstore.

Therefore, it is important that the Groups select representatives who are qualified and who take their responsibilities seriously; being an Intergroup Representative takes a high level of commitment. The more care that goes into the selection process, the greater success we will have at Intergroup.

At the Intergroup level, committees integral to the efficient functioning of the Fellowship are selected. These include the Central Office Committee, the Literature Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Website Committee, among others.

Most committees require, besides dedication, a degree of skills and experience. The Central Office Committee depends heavily on its members' experience in the areas of business, management, not-for-profits as well as general office skills. The Budget Committee... well, that more or less speaks for itself, as do the Website Committee and others.

Hopefully, there is an adequate number of qualified members on the IFB to fill these committee positions. It's all up to the Groups, who select the membership of the Board.

The discussion in the A.A. Service Manual on this is lengthy and well worth reading. There is too much for me to cover in

## CONCEPT XI

this article. However, one area I think is important to discuss, our Special Workers.

The overall well-being of the Central Office, arguably our most important function, depends on the quality of our Central Office Manager and our Special Worker.

Both of these employees must be dedicated and hard working. Both must be highly competent. Central Office is a very busy, stressful environment. It takes exceptional people to keep it running smoothly. And, let us not forget, the lives of alcoholics depend on the services provided there.

Which brings me to the issue of salary. Here in San Francisco, we have traditionally paid our employees abysmally low salaries. We justify these salaries by complaining that money is tight, expenses are high, then rationalize that the "honor" of working at Central Office will offset the low wages.

This issue is addressed in Concept II. It says, "We believe that each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world." That says "in the commercial world," not "in the not-for-profit world" or anywhere else.

Do we comply with this guideline? Not by a long shot. We have recently taken steps to improve, but there's a long way to go. If we want to keep good, competent, motivated employees, we need to be mindful of this aspect of our responsibilities.

The Service Manual discussion goes on to say that expecting our paid workers to labor cheaply, just as charity (not-for-profit) workers often do, would "mark our service workers for unusual financial sacrifices, sacrifices that we would ask no other A.A.'s to make".

This salary issue I would like to see rectified in the foreseeable future. It needs to be addressed and can be worked out.

This is by no means a comprehensive discussion of Concept Eleven. I encourage you to read the A.A. Service Manual and become familiar with these concepts. This will enable all of us to be of better service to the Fellowship.

If anyone has any questions, comments or discussion regarding this or any of the other Concepts articles, please let me know. You can reach me at home, 415-239-0947, by email [xanadutoo@earthlink.net](mailto:xanadutoo@earthlink.net) or through Central Office. Please feel free to respond by writing your own article or a letter in response. We will publish it here in *The Point*.

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  
Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St/Geary, San Francisco  
Wednesday, September 4, 2002

## 1. Roll Call

Intergroup Rep	Group		Intergroup Rep	Group	
Anna I.	Native American Healing Circle	R	Jim D.	Happy Joyous & Free	A
Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step	P	Joe G.	Wednesday Beginners	P
Bill R.	Early Start	P	Julia D.	Castro Discussion	A
Charles M.	Federal Speaker	P	Julie H.	Terra Linda	P
Clay K.	Cocanuts	P	Julia W.	Friendship Group	P
Dan C.	Tiburon Haven	P	Larry F.	Mid-Morning Support	R
Dan L.	Artists & Writers	P	Leslie F.	How It Works-Sat	A
Danny F.	Each Day A New Beginning	P	Li L.	Work in Progress	P
David P.	The Sunset 9'ers	P	Lisa M.	Friday All Groups	P
David C.	Sunday Friendship	P	Mark C.	Sunday Night Candlelight	P
Doug F.	No Reservation	P	Pat M.	Sat As Bill Sees It	P
Doug S.	As Bill Sees It - Thursday	P	Paul C.	Waterfront	P
Ellen C.	Big Book Basics	P	Ray M.	Sunday Rap	P
Frank B.	Each Day A New Beginning - Su	A	Rich R.	Marina Dock 6am	R
Irene K.	Bernal Big Book	P	Sam W.	Monday Night Stag	P
J. E.	Friendly Circle Beginners	P	Samuel S.	Too Early	P
Jacob M.	Home Group	P	Silke T.	Wed. High Noon	R
Janet B.	Thursday Night Women's	A	Smithy B.	Ten Years After	P
Jason S.	Sesame Step	P	Steven S.	Tuesday Downtown	P
Jay H.	Gay Beginners	P	Timothy G.	7AM As Bill Sees It	A
			Tom K.	Common Welfare	P

## New IFB Reps Present

Craig W.	Fireside Chat	P
Dick T.	Attitude Adjustment Hour	P
Geoff R.	High Noon Saturday	P
Jean C.	First Place Group	P
Justin S.	High Noon Wednesday	P
Mollie B.	Joys of Recovery	P
Zoe B.	Mill Valley 7AM	P

## Non-IFB Liaisons Present

Mary B.	Spirit of San Francisco	
Joe G.	Marin Teleservice	P
Ken C.	Marin General Service	P
George S.	SF General Service	P
Debra D.	SF PI/PCP	P
		P

2. Review of Agenda—The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of August 2002 minutes—The minutes were approved.

## 4. IFB Standing Committee Reports:

a. Teleservice San Francisco—Timothy H. provided a written report. The training manual for Teleservice has been updated. New 12 step lists for Marin and San Francisco have been distributed. Teleservice Committee meets the third Monday at the Central Office at 6:30 PM.

b. PI/CPC—Debra D. gave report. Speaker workshop for new speakers will be on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Central Office. PI/CPC participated in the Spirit of SF. Public Information from New

York is distributing information in the Bay Area. PI/CPC has formed a sub-committee to go to recovery houses. This committee will share information on what A.A. is and what A.A. is not.

## 5. Group Rep Reports:

a. Tuesday Downtown—Steve S. gave report. ASL will be discontinued without further financial assistance. Joe G. made motion to provide 50% financial assistance for one month. The motion was amended to provide two months assistance and this motion passed 19 in favor; 3 opposed; 5 abstaining. There will be a speaker meeting and dance on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

b. Waterfront Group—Paul C. reported that the Waterfront

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Group would like a monthly recording of every group financial donations to Central Office. Li L. stated that every group that donates is in the group contributions. If your group is not listed, it has not donated.

c. Friday All Groups—Lisa M. reported that volunteers are needed for running the meeting.

#### 6. Non-IFB Liaisons:

a. General Service, San Francisco—George S. gave report. There was a workshop on August 3<sup>rd</sup> for new General Service Reps. They are considering another workshop in the future. The CNCA summer assembly is Sept. 14 in Antioch. There will be a business meeting and workshop.

b. General Service, Marin—Lora O'C. gave proxy report for Ken C.. A joint schedule for Marin and San Francisco could be favorable. GSRs in Marin will take this to their groups and report back next month.

c. Teleservice, Marin—Joe G. gave report. Marin Teleservice will be electing new officers for the upcoming year in November. Marin Teleservice is self-supporting and is donating to Central Office, funds above our prudent reserve and monthly expenses.

d. PI/CPC, Marin—No report was given.

e. Bridging the Gap—Doug S. gave report for Peter M. The San Francisco and Marin chairs for Bridging the Gap met with the Warden of San Quentin on August 9. Bridging the Gap continues to work with A.A. members recently released from different facilities in our area. Bridging the Gap also hosted the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Friday All Groups. The new E-mail address is [sfbridgingthegap@hotmail.com](mailto:sfbridgingthegap@hotmail.com). The monthly orientation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at St. Marks Church, 1111 O'Farrell St.

f. H&I—No report given.

g. Spirit of San Francisco—Mary B. gave report. The convention was self-supporting and was a success. The convention had expenses of about \$17,500.00 and raised about \$20,600.00. H&I and 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations are near \$1500.00 and will be dispersed. The Ramada Plaza has been reserved for next year. The suggested prudent reserve for next year is \$9000.00.

#### 7. IFB Reports:

a. Chairs report—Ben N. gave the report. The lawyers still have the bylaws. We need committee volunteers. There are many committees that need new people. Bill R. then passed a sign-up sheet for members of the IFB. It was greeted with great enthusiasm.

b. Treasurers report—Pat M. provided a written report. Pat stated that we are almost even through July, but we are still not self-supporting. Please report back to your groups that the Central Office needs your groups support.

c. Central Office Managers report—Maury provided a written report. Central Office needs new part time volunteer help. We need subs to volunteer for the phones. There will be a 12-step workshop facilitated by Ben W. on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. The Central Office participated in the Spirit of San Francisco. We are looking into an accounting system that includes YTD totals along with monthly contributions.

Maury will attend the Central office roundtable discussion in Monterey.

d. Central Office Committee—Smithy B. provided a written report. There were two recommendations from the COC to the IFB. They were as follows:

1. Project 20. People working off parking tickets or other minor violations. The COC recommended to not participate in this program. A motion was made to follow this recommendation and this motion passed. 25 in favor. 0 opposed. 3 Abstaining.
2. Operations manual. The COC agreed to keep a list of needed changes to the operations manual for incorporation at the IFB every six months. There was a motion to follow this recommendation. This motion passed 25 in favor. 0 opposes. 3 abstaining.
3. Treasurer's receipts. The COC wishes the IFB members to ask their groups if their treasurers want a receipt sent back after sending a donation. The cost of mailing a receipt was discussed.
4. The COC would like to encourage members to take trusted servant and 12 step orientation forms back to their groups, as well as share their copy of The Point with their group.

8. Housekeeping—Ben N. entertained a motion to make November a permanent gratitude month in San Francisco. The entire amount collected from participating groups to go to Central Office. This motion passed 26 in favor. 0 opposed. 2 abstaining.

9. Special Orders of Business—There was nothing special reported.

#### 10. Ad Hoc Committee reports

- a. Lease Committee—Charles M. gave report. The City has signed off on the job card. The Landlord contributed final funds toward tenant improvement to Central Office. The Contractor has been paid. The maintenance contract for the lift needs to be finalized.
- b. Literature Review Committee—Danny F. gave report. The Committee met on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Bylaws Review Committee—Ben N. gave this report during the Chairs report.
- d. The Point Editorial Committee—Steve S. gave report. The Point Committee meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at the Central Office from 4:30 to 5:30. A great way to get involved!
- e. Orientation Committee—Ellie C. gave report. This committee meets every last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 at the Central Office. New IFB Reps or people interested in the IFB are encouraged to attend.
- f. Schedule Committee—Li L. gave report. Li brought the new proposed schedule to the IFB. He suggested that meeting Reps take these schedules back to their meetings for discussion. These schedules were

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for San Francisco meetings only. The cost for this schedule would be .50 cents ea. A combined schedule for Marin/San Francisco would be possible for about .75 ea.

**11. Old Business—Operations Manual.** This was tabled until next month.

**12. New Business—Founders Day.** J. E. suggested a possible fundraising activity in June for Founders Day. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

**13. Reading of the 12 Traditions and the practice of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition—**Doug read the Traditions and the basket was passed. \$102.25 was collected.

**14. Adjourn with the Serenity Prayer—**The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph G., Recording Secretary.

## SUMMARY

### October 2002 IFB Meeting

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business, and service opportunities discussed at the October 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 declined IFB 50% support of ASL because they couldn't afford the other 50%. Motion passed to support ASL at Tuesday Downtown at 100% until the November IFB meeting. Before that IFB reps will collect feedback from their groups on continued IFB support for ASL at Tuesday Downtown and on funding requests to support special needs from any A.A. group on a case by case basis.
2. Treasurer reported YTD Group Contributions are \$1,720.37 short of meeting Central Office expenses thru August. Shortfall expected to increase once the books are reconciled for Sept.
3. Central Office Committee Report:
  - a. Approved expenses for Central Office manager attending Intergroup Seminar in Pittsburgh.
  - b. Approved Spirit of San Francisco monthly meeting in Central Office the 1st Monday at 7 PM.
  - c. Agreed to supply Marin & SF PI/CPC with leftover schedules & 100 new schedules /month.
  - d. Pat M. resigned as Treasurer. Applications for Treasurer will be accepted by the COC. This non-paid position requires a business background and familiarity with QuickBooks.
4. Maury, Central Office Mgr, implemented IFB decision to terminate affiliation with Project 20.
5. All suggested changes will be incorporated into 'The Guide to Group Service' before the end of October. There are still 175 copies of the first printing available.
6. Motion passed to continue to collect feedback from A.A. groups on the proposal to change the San Francisco meeting schedule to a booklet format. The current format cannot accommodate any additional meeting listings and the typeface cannot be made any smaller and still be readable. Group feedback will be presented to the IFB at the December meeting.
7. Motion passed to create a committee to explore fund raising ideas for June 2003 Founders Day.

#### B. Information

1. A 12<sup>th</sup> step workshop was conducted for 15 attendees on September 16.
2. Monthly and YTD group contributions will be in The Point beginning January 2003.
3. General Service San Francisco approved a request for an area website.
4. Unity Day will be held at Fort Mason, room C260, Saturday, November 2.
5. Meeting liability insurance is available from Recover Source in Minneapolis, MN.
6. 'Daily Reflections' large print editions are back ordered & will be available in Central Office.

#### C. Service Opportunities

1. Central Office volunteer needed to assist with printing, stocking, & shipping 2-3 days a week.
2. Substitute phone volunteers needed to cover shifts at Central Office when regular volunteers are absent. There is a one-year sobriety requirement.
3. IFB reps are needed for meetings that do not have them.

Next IFB Meeting is scheduled for  
Wed. Nov. 6, 2002 at the Star of the Sea Church, 180 Harrison Street, Sausalito, CA  
Call the Central Office at 415-674-1821 if you need further information

## CONTRIBUTIONS

To the Central Office were made

**September 20 – October 22**

***Honoring the following  
members***

### ONGOING MEMORIALS

*Bob  
R.W.  
Bill D.*

### ANNIVERSARIES

*Terry H. - 23 Years  
Esther R. - 27 Years  
Bert T. - 46 Years*

#### **Endless Summer Group:**

Ethan - 1 Year  
Melanie - 1 Year  
Nick - 1 Year  
Jake - 2 Yrs.  
Mr. Cunningham - 2 Yrs.  
Randy - 2 Yrs.  
Bobby - 3 Yrs.  
Scottlogic - 3 Yrs.  
Lynz - 5 Yrs.  
Cecilia - 7 Yrs.  
Tom - 10 Yrs.  
Lynnore - 14 Yrs.  
Tom - 14 Yrs.

Thanks to all who  
honor their sobriety  
through giving!



### **Recent Deaths**

*Eddie D.*

## How Did That Schedule Get Into My Pocket? - by Anonymous

I recently picked up a meeting schedule at my home group. I had been eyeing the literature rack, hoping to find something more current than June, wondering what it takes to get a current meeting schedule.

The literature person told me he was elected by the group to serve in this capacity. He had made himself available because his sponsor suggested a commitment would help him stay sober. He told me that he'd purchased schedules for the group at Central Office. The schedule was free for me, paid for from the Seventh Tradition collection. I thanked him and went on to Central Office.

I was met by two pleasant volunteers at Central Office who offered me a free schedule. One noted that more schedules and other literature were in the bookstore, right behind me. On the rack were schedules for San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo, neatly folded and bundled. The price? A nickel per schedule. Curious how they got printed, folded and bundled, I spoke to Mike D, Central Office's Special Worker.

Mike conducts the bookstore and printing operation. He is helped by volunteers who help stock the shelves and run the high-speed printer. Once both sides are printed, the schedules are folded by any member wishing to be of service. Some are newcomers, others are oldtimers. The only requirement to fold schedules is sobriety and a desire to be of service. The rewards can be substantial. New friends are made, old acquaintances reconnect, feelings of uselessness and self-pity disappear.

How did all the meeting information get into the schedule? Members inform Central Office about new meetings, missing meetings, changes and closures in various ways: by phone, email, and visiting. These are entered into a database and published on the Web site and in the printed schedule. The monthly master process is time consuming and requires faith that all changes are reported. I know I'd have a resentment if I went to a meeting that had moved or no longer existed!

According to Maury P, the Office Manager, Central Office sells schedules at a loss. Paper and printing alone costs over six cents. This loss is absorbed along with the cost of rubber bands, single schedules given away, and envelopes and postage for schedules mailed to those who request them. The IFB has formed a Schedule Committee to review schedule prices and format, which I'm glad to hear as I've been having a hard time reading the tiny print as I get younger at heart and older in body.

How can I help? I can contribute generously to the basket so that my group is able to make regular contributions to Central Office. I can elect (or serve as) a responsible literature person so that my group has updated schedules. My group can elect an Intergroup Representative interested in serving on the Schedule Committee. I can inform Central Office when I am aware of group changes, even if they are temporary. I can volunteer at Central Office to fold schedules or in any capacity that I am able to serve. I am responsible.

# Financial Statement

AUGUST 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

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

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



November 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

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