

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

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

The Point

March 2003

A publication
of the Intercounty Fellowship
of Alcoholics Anonymous

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The Point

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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.

"Grupo Sueño" ...

and then some

On January 18, 1993, seven A.A.s, six of whom were from The San Francisco Bay Area, landed at José Martí Airport in Havana Cuba. This trip was a dream realized for a Cuban American Al-Anon woman living in Miami. For quite some time she had tried unsuccessfully to get A.A.'s in Florida to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to Cuba. She had heard of a group in San Francisco that might be willing to handle such an undertaking. She called members of this group and found a welcome interest in such a trip.

Carrying 100 pounds of A.A. literature translated into Spanish and an invitation from a Baptist church to carry the message to seven young alcoholics known to its pastor, the group of A.A.s arrived in Havana with a wide-eyed uncertainty about what was awaiting them. They met with many people from hospitals and clinics that were trying to treat alcoholic patients, but most importantly they met each day with the seven young alcoholics from the Baptist church. They told these prospects, most of them young men, about Alcoholics Anonymous and then led a few A.A. meetings with them. After a few days, they asked the Cubans to take over the meeting. The new A.A.s gave their group a name, "Grupo Sueño," or the "Dream Group." They chose a Secretary, Sergio D., and decided on meeting times.

The group of Americans left eight days later on January 25. As they flew back to the U.S. they wondered if the little band, the dream, they left behind had any chance of surviving. It was in God's hands.

Early in 2002, a message was received from Havana inviting the members of that first delegation to return to Cuba for the 10th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in Cuba.

Three of the original team were able to make the trip. Two other couples joined them for, again, a total of seven travelers.

We arrived in Havana at noon on January 15, 2003. After getting settled in a hotel, we went to what we were told was the General Service Office of A.A.. There we met some of the officers of Alcoholics Anonymous and some members from Mexico. A.A. in Mexico had played a big part in encouraging the growth of A.A. in Cuba during the decade after that first meeting in 1993. This was a moment of great joy, particularly for the three of us who had left the "Grupo Sueño" on its own ten years before.

(Continued on page 6)

March 2003....

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 <u>FIRST MON</u> Spirit of SF Committee Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 7 pm	4	5 <u>FIRST WED</u> Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB) 1187 Franklin at Geary First Unitarian Church 7 pm	6	7	1 8
9	10 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information Committee Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 7 pm	11 <u>SECOND TUE</u> Bridging The Gap 1101 O'Farrell, 6:30 pm SF General Service 1101 O'Farrell, SF Orientation: 7 pm Meeting: 7:45 pm Marin H&I Lagunitas & Shady Ln Ross 7 pm	12	13	14	15
16 <u>THIRD SUN</u> Mission Fellowship Steering Committee 2900 24th / Florida San Francisco 1 pm	17 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 6:30 pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd San Rafael GSR Sharing: 7 pm District Meeting: 8 pm	18 <u>THIRD TUE</u> San Mateo General Service St. Andrews Church 15th & El Camino Real San Mateo 7:30 pm	19	20 <u>THIRD THU</u> Website Committee Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 6:15 pm	21	22 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> General Service CNCA Meeting 320 N. McDowell Petaluma DCMCs: 10:30 am Main Meeting: Noon
23 <u>LAST SUN</u> Living Sober Convention Committee 1668 Bush San Francisco 5:30 pm	24	25 <u>FOURTH TUE</u> Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln / Maple (Alano Club) San Rafael 7:30 pm	26	27 <u>FOURTH THU</u> Marin PI Committee 1360 Lincoln Ave (Alano Club) San Rafael 7:15 pm <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, Sacramento / Van Ness San Francisco Orientation: 7:15 pm Regular Meeting: 8 pm	28	29
30	31					

Secretaries:
Please make these announcements to your groups
 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 15th of the previous month if you would like your event listed. Coming Events are listed on next page.

COMING EVENTS

2003	Call or visit the Central Office for copies of any flyers of interest to you or your group. Local events are in bold ; flyers of <u>current</u> local events, if available, are printed as space allows.
March 1	District 06 Agenda Topics Workshop, St. Marks Church Basement, 1101 O'Farrell, 9 am
March 6-9	31st All California Young People In AA Round-Up (ACYPAA), Sheraton Pasadena, CA www.acypaa2003.org
March 7-9	Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA), Reno Hilton Hotel, 2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV
March 21	Mission Fellowship's 3rd Annual Potluck / Speaker Anniversary, 2900 24th St., San Francisco, CA
March 21-23	Northern California Council of AA 56th Spring Conference, Radisson Hotel, 2233 Ventura St., Fresno, CA
March 28-30	31st Hospital and Institution Conference, Milpitas Community Center, 457 East Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, CA
April 5-6	CNCA Pre-Conference Assembly, McCormack Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo
April 18-20	31st North Shore Roundup, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver British Columbia Canada www.northshoreroundup.com
May 16-18	Tri-State Annual Roundup, Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino, Laughlin, NV www.tristate-roundup.com
May 17	CNCA Post-Conference Assembly, Cloverdale
May 23-25	Monterey Bay Area Roundup 2003, Monterey Convention Center, Monterey, CA
July 16-20	47th Florida State Convention, The Registry Resort Naples, Florida www.floridastateconventionoffaa.com

March 2003

Grupo Sueño	1
March 2003 Calendar	2
Coming Events	3
This Month in A.A. History	3
Meeting Changes	4
Humor in Recovery	4
Group Speakers	5
Broads Without Booze	5
Dear Alky	7
One Members Experience	8
Literature Review	8
December 2003 Group Contributions	9
Spotlight on The 9th Step Promises	10
IFB Minutes	11-12
Another Empty Chair	13
Recent Deaths	13
Honors and Memorials	14
IFB Summary	14
November 2002 Financial Statement	15

CONTENTS



This Month in AA History

March 1936

A.A. had 10 members.



March 1937

Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.



March 1938

Bill drafted 1st 2 chapters Big Book.



March 1941

Jack Alexander's *Saturday Evening Post* article is published. AA membership increases to 2,000.



March 1941

Bill and Lois purchase Stepping Stones, their home in New York State.



March 1947

Nell Wing started work at the A.A. fellowship, Alcoholic Foundation, 415 Lexington Avenue across from Grand Central Station in NYC.



MEETING CHANGES

NEW MEETINGS

M-F	7:00 pm	Financial	Daily 7:00 pm meeting at Seven Seas 215 Leidesdorff/Commercial
Fri	7:00 pm	Bernal Heights	WOMEN'S PROMISES 515 Cortland Ave./Andover, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (Speaker Discussion, Women's)
Fri	7:00 pm	Mission	BIG BOOK AND A MOVIE 1885 Mission St./15th St., 2nd floor (Big Book Study)
M-F	9:00 pm	Financial	Daily 9:00 pm meeting at Seven Seas 215 Leidesdorff/Commercial

**THERE IS A NEW A.A. MEETING IN TAGALOG / FILIPINO LANGUAGE AT THE WESTBAY ALANO CLUB: 7330 MISSION ST., DALY CITY
THIS MEETING IS FROM 6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM. CALL (650) 756-3322 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

MEETING CHANGES

Tue	8:30 am	Marina	GREENWICH SPEAKS 2118 Greenwich/Fillmore New name (was 8:30 AM SMOKELESS)
Mon	12:00 pm	Financial	PAX WEST 725 Sacramento St./ Kearny, enter at loading dock (was at Old St. Mary's)
Thu	12:00 pm	Financial	A.A. NOON 725 Sacramento St./ Kearny, enter at loading dock (was at Old St. Mary's)
Thu	12:00 pm	Financial	PAX WEST 725 Sacramento St./ Kearny, enter at loading dock New Name (was A.A. Noon)
Thu	6:00 pm	Mission	A.A. PARA GAY Y LESBIANAS EN ESPANOL 2837 Mission St., New location, new time (was at 7 pm at 2919 Mission)
Sat	4:00 pm	Novato	NORTH MARIN SPEAKER 853 Tamalpais, New location, meeting back on schedule (Speaker, Wheelchair)
Sun	12:00 pm	Novato	THE BARNYARD GROUP 853 Tamalpais, New location, meeting back on schedule (Closed, Wheelchair)

NO LONGER MEETING

Tue	6:00 pm	Financial	WOMEN'S RAP California/Sacramento, Old St. Mary's
Wed	7:30 pm	McLaren Park	INTO ACTION Yale/Wayland
Sat	10:30 am	Castro	WE REALLY DO MEDITATE 100 Diamond

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!**

Humor in Recovery

By the time I got to AA, I had forgotten how to laugh. I hadn't laughed in a very long time. There was nothing to laugh at.

Then, within three days of coming to AA, I was at a speaker meeting where the man delivering the lead was absolutely hilarious. I found myself laughing huge, wonderful belly laughs. It felt great!

Why did I find what he said so funny?

He was telling my story. Well, he was really telling his own story, but I had never, until that point in my life, identified more with what a person had to say. He was a master at self deprecating humor, and he put everything in such a non-threatening way that I could really hear what he was saying. I understood how it applied to me. I was laughing at myself.

Laughing at myself was a real first for me. I had taken myself so seriously all my life that I had become miserable. My ego was huge and my sensitivity great. I spent a lot of time ridiculing others to make myself feel better. I was only capable of laughing at others, certainly not with them.

The gift of laughter in A.A. is one of the greatest rewards of staying sober. It is helpful to me in several ways, not least of which is to make myself and others feel good. Recent scientific studies prove that there are many, many benefits to laughter.

I've now been sober for several years and have experienced the ups and downs that come with living life on life's terms. In a rough time I can lose my sense of humor rather quickly—a big warning sign for me. My laughter becomes less and less frequent. I'm not always able to identify that process as it is happening but as more time goes by I am better able to catch myself before I've slipped into a dry drunk. Dry drunks are dangerous places for me to be because they lead to getting drunk and, for me, to drink is to die. You might say that my life depends on laughing, to some extent.

One of the things I heard early on in AA, in a place far, far away is that "Alcoholism is the deadly disease that can be successfully treated with laughter. I don't think laughter is the only necessity to sobriety, of course, but it certainly can serve as the barometer of my spiritual condition. And, it's fun to laugh. ↑

Group Speakers for March 2003

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP	Sobriety
3/4	Damon B.	Tuesday Downtown	11/12/94
3/11	Georgia L.	Friendly Circle Beg.	4/18/86
3/18	Robert C.	Sesame Step	11/1/82
3/25	Carla O.	High Steppers	9/18/99

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
3/7	A Step Beyond	Gil A.	Mill Valley
3/14	Women's Kitchen Table	Jeannie D.	Sinbar
3/21	Design For Living	Brian F.	Castro Discussion
3/28	Castro Discussion	Barbara E.	Sesame Step

FOUR FORTY NINERS

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

Date	Speaker	Home Group	Sobriety
3/7	Bill T.	Friendly Circle	18 years
3/14	Molly M.	6AM Marina Dock	18 years
3/21	Earl D.	Artists & Writers	26 years
3/28	Lee M.	Gratitude Group	32 years

FIRESIDE GROUP

1011 Garfield/Junipero Serra Friday 8:30 p.m.

March 28th Si P

BROADS WITHOUT BOOZE



by Diane C.

My husband, Brian, goes to the Monday Night Stag meeting in Mill Valley and I'm envious. I love the way these guys talk about their meeting—the camaraderie, the laughter and the support. In my version of heaven, I'll be the greeter at the stag meeting. (Hey, old habits die hard! When I was drinking I followed one man into the men's room. I chased another to London and Rome. Since getting sober, I've only followed a fellow as far as Texas. Progress not perfection!)

So when Jude and Gerry organized the BROADS Without Booze luncheon in San Francisco, I was stoked. I told every woman I know, and on January 19, 120 women were packed into a funky banquet room upstairs in the New Pisa in North Beach. I've heard the bar in the New Pisa mentioned in many drunk-a-logs. Here we were in a place where some of these women had been falling down drunk off the barstool and today we were celebrating sobriety.

Jude and Gerry organized this luncheon similar to the one Sebrina does twice a year in Santa Rosa. I've been to her luncheon twice and won't miss it. The banquet room was so noisy with all these women greeting old friends and meeting new ones that you wanted to jump out of the window, but you loved it so much you had to stay. When Lynne with 29 years from San Carlos got up to speak there was that heavenly hush and reverence that falls over an A.A. room. Lynne had us laughing and crying, she was a pistol.

My sponsee, Jennifer, had 12 hours of sobriety at the last Santa Rosa women's luncheon. After the Sobriety Countdown, she'd got the Big Book from the woman with the most sobriety. At the New Pisa she had 90 days and got to witness a woman with 2 days get the Big Book from a woman with 30 some years. Also, during the countdown one of the waitresses stood up for 9 years and the waiter had 3, the cheers, hoops and hollers raised the roof. It just doesn't get any better than this.

It feels like the whole Bay area is covered with wonderful women's events happening bi-annually. The luncheons are in San Francisco and Santa Rosa and the retreat is in Marin. Yes, I still want to be greeter at the Stag but in sobriety I've learned to cherish and love my women friends. ↑

All open speaker (or speaker / discussion) meetings are welcome to publish their month's listing in The Point. The deadline for submission of the information is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please call Maury at Central Office, 674-1821.

Cuba (Continued from page 1)

That evening we had the amazing experience of attending a meeting of the “Grupo Sueño.” None of the original members had stayed sober, but they had hung in long enough to bring others into the group—which got large enough to split into two separate groups—and to get A.A. started elsewhere in the city.

That night there were about 30 members present. There were, perhaps, ten speakers at that meeting, including two of us from the original group. We told the story of how A.A. had begun in Cuba in 1993 as we were to do many times during the next few days. The A.A.s in Cuba were hungry to know their history. It was an emotional moment for us, bringing tears of joy to some of us.

The next day, we were given a guided tour of Havana, particularly the Old City.

On Friday, January 17, we flew to the city of Holguin, and were bused to San José Church, the site of the 10th Anniversary celebration. People were gathering for the festivities in the sanctuary. Our bus drove us to two private pensions where we were to stay. After a very late lunch and a chance to get settled in to our new quarters, we went back to the church. It was filling up rapidly and we were taken to be seated in the front rows.

Then the fun began. The opening ceremony was a combination of speakers one of whom was the Catholic Bishop of Holguin and in reference to A.A. said, “Cubans need not reject foreign ideas which are good for the Cuban soul.”

There was lots of entertainment—a flood of Cuban musical numbers and a comedy couple. The 28 Regions of A.A.

paraded up the center aisle holding signs with the name of each region on them. There was a candlelight number where we all held small candles and swayed to the music. We learned that presently there are 160 groups and over 3000 A.A. members in Cuba.


And at one point we Americans were asked to stand and receive recognition. We were met with loud applause and cheers. We didn’t have to understand Spanish to feel and thoroughly enjoy the grateful spirit in the that place.

The next day, Saturday, was a day of workshops—41 of them! Three of us had been asked to speak (with interpreters) at workshops on the Seventh Tradition, Emotional Maturity, and The Family Afterward. On into the evening, we were taken to a very large A.A. meeting in Holguin where one of our number, fluent in Spanish, was one of the speakers.

**We learned that now there
are 160 groups and over
3000 members of Alcoholics
Anonymous in Cuba.**

The closing ceremony was on Sunday, January 19, 2003. It had been ten years to the day since the then unnamed, “Grupo Sueño” met for the first time in the upstairs room at the Baptist church in Havana.

At the ceremony, there were a number of speakers including one of our group who in fluid Spanish very briefly told of the founding of the “Grupo Sueño.” Then there was another brief message. This one from the Cuban American Al-Anon woman who had called the San Francisco group those many years before and whose dream it had been to take Alcoholics Anonymous to Cuba. When those two rose to leave, the crowd gave them a standing ovation as they walked down the center aisle.

It truly was “Grupo Sueño”...and then some. 

Dear Alky

This is only one drunk's opinion. For a more in depth discussion, CALL YOUR SPONSOR!

Dear Alky,

At my home group elections three people were nominated. After a motion to close the nominations was seconded, an old-timer piped up that everyone who wanted to nominate someone should be allowed to do so. The secretary acquiesced and let the nominations keep coming in. When we got to ten (!) names the old-timer allowed the nominations to close so the voting could begin.

The secretary asked the nominees to stand so we would know who we were voting for, but that was all that happened—they stood when their names were called and then left the room. Am I supposed to base my vote on popularity or good looks? Whatever happened to the custom of asking that the nominees give their sobriety dates? (This is about sobriety, right?) Should secretaries be advised on election procedures? Is something on this in the secretary's starter kit or is it mentioned at the secretary workshops?

Old Fart

Dear Old Fart,

Congratulations on being an Old Fart Oldtimer—the alternative could be much worse. I share your concern about A.A. group elections. During a recent election a similar thing occurred—no thought was given to each candidate's sobriety date or service experience. My sponsor pointed out that it was our collective duty to elect the *best* person for each job and so the group needed to know these things. In Tradition Two in the 12&12, Bill reminds us that “the good can be the enemy of the best” in A.A. Other traditions say we need be able to *trust* these “trusted servants.” The secretary ideally would know how to run an election!

As far as the number of nominees goes, bring it up at your next business meeting. Use the recent example to illustrate how cumbersome elections can become and suggest a few guidelines. For instance, the group could agree to nominate only three candidates. While forming group election guidelines, the group may ask if each person is *available* for the position and not merely being railroaded into it.

Central Office does not offer secretary workshops, but a draft of the “Guide to Group Service” dedicates seven pages to secretary's issues. Inquire at Central Office.

Lastly, you can always voice your frustration and concern in your share. You'll give some members pause, or at least feel you had been honest and done your part.

Good luck,

Alky



Dear Alky,

I have been a sober member of A.A. for over 11 years. Nary a drink has passed my lips. I have, however, smoked marijuana. It got to the point that I couldn't stop. I was sober but not clean. The only way I knew to end the marijuana cycle was to start my A.A. program over.

My questions for you are: 1) Did I do the right thing? I hear my committee say “But I did not *drink*! And, what about all those pillheads, compulsive overeaters, and smokers? I don't see them starting over!” 2) How can I continue to share about my desire to use marijuana in an A.A. meeting and still honor the Traditions?

Please print this as I know other good A.A.ers are smoking pot but don't know how to come home.

Signed,

Clean and Sober

Dear Clean and Sober,

Thank you for your excellent topic. Here are my (oversimplified) answers: 1) Yes, you did the right thing. Don't worry too much about what anyone else in A.A. does or doesn't do about their other addictions. Share your experience, strength and hope in meetings regarding these issues.

You aren't the only one wrestling with this, and you could help someone who is struggling with the same thing.

2) That you even *think* to ask about how to abide by the Traditions sharing about drug use is wonderful—thank you. It's wise to focus your share on what we have in common, and in A.A. that is alcoholism. I, for instance, was never addicted to other drugs, and can't relate about marijuana addiction. That said, it is an integral part of your story. It dramatically affected the quality of your sobriety. Others can greatly benefit from your experience. This issue of identifying as an addict and speaking about drugs is less about restriction than consideration of others. If you are in a room full of alcoholics, keep focused on alcoholism so that all can feel included. There is an art to telling the truth and being considerate of others. You will find the balance.

Enjoy life sober,

Alky 

If you have a question for Alky, please send to:
Alky C/O Central Office
1821 Sacramento St.
San Francisco, CA 94109-3528
OR E-Mail it to: ThePoint@aasf.org

My First Service Commitment by Lee C.

I hadn't been sober long when I got my first AA commitment. And I definitely didn't have a sober attitude. My thinking was: why lock myself into any job when I don't have to? Especially one that would force me to go to AA meetings? I think my sponsor knew better, he made it a requirement that I get a service commitment. So when the secretary asked for a coffee maker, I raised my hand. I think I was trying to impress my sponsor who was at the meeting. It worked, he nodded and said "good work".

So there I was, 49 days sober and coffee maker at Monday High Noon. I don't know if you've ever been to a High Noon. But those meetings have a real passion for Alcoholics Anonymous, and an even greater passion for coffee. When the doors open 15 minutes before the meeting, the AA fanatics rush for the ringside seats and the homeless rush for the coffee.


From the first day, I started discovering un-expected rewards from service. I shared the commitment with Jenn a beautiful and funny lady. So far service seemed OK! I got to go into the church when it was all quiet, and I wasn't sneaking in. I felt like I had a backstage pass, a sense of purpose. I no longer felt like a foreigner in the meeting.

For High Noon coffee, you arrive at 11:00 AM, that's an hour and 15 minutes before the show. The preparations take 10 minutes, but the giant pots need an hour to ferment the 90-100 cups of coffee. This leaves a lot of time for the coffee makers to

hang out. That became my favorite time of the week, as we would go to the coffee shop on 18th and Dolores. Drink coffee, talk AA, and meet the other High Noon faithful who congregated there daily.

I learned that service and drama don't have to go hand in hand. The second week of my commitment, there was no coffee. I panicked, sure that all 120 people would resent me. A few months later I worked up a rage, an ugly argument with a well intended alcoholic. She wanted me to be a 'High Noon waitress', bringing coffee to the alcoholics in their seats, bussing tables. I ended up shouting at her "Service is supposed to keep me sober. Girl, you make me want to drink!". In a snit, I called my sponsor and he said. "Hey Lee, you're both arguing over Gods' coffee, just relax".

At six months, my commitment was complete and two new alcoholics took over the coffee. It was then that I realized how much I loved my Mondays, how grateful I felt for the chance to be of service, and how much I had grown. I now belonged to a colorful and vibrant fellowship. (Six months earlier I was sure they all hated me). As luck would have it, the next coffee maker didn't work out, and they asked for a replacement. My hand shot up, and this time for all the right reasons. I got the part, and loved it even more the second time around.

Today I have 3 service commitments. I do each cheerfully, gratefully. AA service! Give it a try. 

Literature Review by Steve S.

The long-awaited Fourth Edition of our fellowship's central text, Alcoholics Anonymous, has met with acclaim throughout the fellowship. New stories in the new edition reach a wider variety of newcomers and represent A.A. as the diverse body it has become.

Unfortunately not all the stories from the Third Edition made it to the Fourth Edition. Some stories had to make way for the new ones. *Lifesaving Words* is one of these stories that can only be found in the Third Edition. *Lifesaving Words* is an unusual story of recovery, as it was written by a man who got sober without attending a single A.A. meeting. A resident of Lucknow, India, he writes that his life was saved by correspondence with the A.A. General Service Office and by studying the literature sent to him in the mail.

This gem of a story illustrates not only how the message can be carried to people in remote locales where meetings are not accessible, but also because it challenges our ideas about what is necessary to stay sober. Here in the Bay Area, we have hundreds of meetings every week at different times of day. We have the luxury of going to as many meetings as we need. Just as it's comforting to know that there are meetings


to be found all over the world, it is also of great comfort that should we find ourselves in a place without any A.A. meetings the hand of A.A. will be there if we reach out for help.

Today, the story in "Lifesaving Words" is no longer unique. There is a very active outreach by the World Service Office called the "Loners" group, which puts sober alcoholics in touch by mail, email, and/or phone with those in remote areas who can't find a regular meeting.

Though "Lifesaving Words" did not make it into the Fourth Edition, it is still a powerful reminder that the power of one alcoholic communicating with another transcends face-to-face meetings.

For information about the Loners' group, contact

A.A. World Services
Box 459 Grand Central Station
New York NY 10163

In addition to correspondence with geographically remote alcoholics, AAWS also coordinates correspondence by mail with alcoholics in jails and institutions who can't get out to regular meetings. 

AA Group Contributions - December 2002

Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous - San Francisco and Marin Counties

FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		High Noon Wednesday W 12:15pm	\$24.60	Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am	\$75.36
Apollo Hotel Speaker	\$9.00	Hilldwellers M 8pm	\$180.00	Each Day A New Beginning Th 7am	\$124.83
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch Su 11am	\$24.00	Home Group Sa 8:30pm	\$211.80	Each Day A New Beginning Tu 7am	\$125.21
Central Office Donation Box	\$56.23	How It Works Sa 2pm	\$51.82	Each Day A New Beginning W 7am	\$108.02
IFB December	\$111.00	Join The Tribe Tu 7pm	\$53.80	Early Joyous & Free Th 7am	\$41.00
Total FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBU-	\$200.23	Living Sober W 8pm	\$277.30	Early Start F 6pm	\$240.85
Marin - GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		Luke's Group W 8pm	\$71.40	Easy Does It Sa 12pm	\$148.00
Attitude Adjustment Hour Daily 7am	\$650.00	Monday Steps & Traditions M 12:10pm	\$104.97	Experience, Strength & Hope W 7:15pm	\$62.44
Awareness/Acceptance M 10:30 am	\$40.00	New Hope Big Book M 6:30pm	\$20.85	Fell St. Step Su 8pm	\$13.43
Gratitude Tu 8pm	\$81.00	New Wednesday High Noon W 12:15pm	\$284.78	Friday Morning 12 Steppers F 7am	\$47.51
Inverness Sunday Serenity Su 10am	\$40.00	No Regrets Tu 7am	\$35.61	Friendly Circle Su 7:15pm	\$256.98
Marin City Group M-F 6:30pm	\$150.00	Rap Discussion Th 12:10pm	\$33.00	Gay Beginners Q&A F 7pm	\$110.00
Marin Newcomers M 8:30pm	\$60.00	Rule 62 W 10pm	\$48.00	Happy Hour F 6:30pm	\$39.30
Noon Discussion Th 12pm	\$125.50	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	\$300.00	High Noon Friday F 12:15pm	\$148.22
Ross-San Anselmo M 8:30pm	\$29.00	Second Cahnce Th 2:15pm	\$71.01	High Noon Monday M 12:15pm	\$143.75
Sunday Express Su 6pm	\$70.03	Serenity Seekers M 7:30pm	\$533.00	High Noon Tuesday Tu 12:15	\$27.50
Survivors M 12pm	\$48.50	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am	\$57.36	High Noon Wednesday W 12:15pm	\$156.89
Wednesday Mid-Week W 6pm	\$94.78	Sunday Sunrise Sa 7am	\$60.00	High Sobriety M 8pm	\$50.00
Women On Monday M 7pm	\$50.00	Sunset 11ers	\$41.43	High Steppers W 7pm	\$78.02
Total Marin - GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,438.81	Sunset 11ers M 11am	\$50.00	Hilldwellers M 8pm	\$40.00
Marin - GROUP GRATITUDE		Sunset 11ers Su 11am	\$47.00	Home Group Sa 8:30pm	\$168.00
Gratitude Tu 8pm	\$48.00	Sunset 11ers Su 11am	\$48.32	How It Works Sa 2pm	\$85.40
Newcomers Step M 7:30pm	\$92.54	Sunset 11ers Tu 11am	\$105.75	Huntington Square W 6:30pm	\$105.75
Noon Discussion Th 12pm	\$53.00	Sunset 9ers M 9am	\$313.84	Monday At A Time M 12:30pm	\$31.00
Noon Tu 12pm	\$35.16	Sunset 9ers Th 9am	\$36.76	Monday Fit Spiritual Condition M 1:30pm	\$68.00
On Awakening Group Daily 5:30am	\$198.00	Sunset 9ers Tu 9am	\$40.20	Monday Night Lesbian M 7:30pm	\$13.93
Ross-San Anselmo M 8:30pm	\$19.00	Sunset 9ers W 9am	\$41.65	New Highs W 1:30pm	\$75.65
Saturday Serenity Sa 8pm	\$169.00	Sunset Speaker Step Sa 7:30pm	\$47.00	New Hope Big Book M 6:30pm	\$105.25
T.G.I. Tuesday Tu 6pm	\$98.50	Sunset Speaker Step Su 7:30pm	\$25.57	Newcomers Tu 8pm	\$35.00
Total Marin - GROUP GRATITUDE	\$713.20	Surf Th 8pm	\$171.43	One Liners Th 8:30pm	\$77.13
San Francisco- GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		Thursday Night Women's Th 6:30pm	\$261.47	Park Presidio M 8:30pm	\$17.00
Afro-American F 8pm	\$93.60	Tuesday Night Step Tu 7pm	\$76.32	Rose Garden Big Book Th 12:05pm	\$53.36
All Together Now Th 8pm	\$100.31	Tuesday Women's Tu 6:30pm	\$34.00	Second Chance Th 2:15pm	\$24.85
Alumni Group W 8:30pm	\$141.75	W.O.S. W 7:30pm	\$100.00	Serenity Seekers M 7:30pm	\$210.00
Any Lengths Sa 9:30am	\$561.74	We Care AA Tu 12pm	\$144.00	Sesame Step Tu 7:30pm	\$205.09
As Bill Sees It Sa 11am	\$14.00	Total San Francisco- GROUP CONTRIBU-	\$7,991.38	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am	\$133.51
As Bill Sees It Sa 11am	\$36.50	San Francisco - GROUP GRATITUDE		Stepping Out Sa 6pm	\$48.56
Back 2 Basics F 7:30pm	\$166.52	449ers F 8pm	\$81.53	Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag Su 10:30am	\$135.75
Boys Night Out Tu 7:30pm	\$120.00	6AM Marina Dock	\$481.00	Sunday Sunrise Su 7am	\$16.00
Castro Discussion W 8pm	\$569.51	A.A. As You Like It Th 5:30pm	\$44.93	Sundown W 7pm	\$66.20
Cocoonuts Su 9am	\$116.76	AA Step Study Su 6pm	\$57.85	Sunset 11ers	\$17.00
Come & Get It F 6:30pm	\$192.53	All Together Now Th 8pm	\$43.00	Sunset 9ers M 9am	\$149.45
Compass W 9pm	\$154.00	Amazing Grace M 7pm	\$35.00	Sunset 9ers Th 9am	\$39.00
Each Day A New Beginning F 7am	\$236.15	Any Lengths Sa 9:30am	\$260.79	Sunset 9ers Tu 9am	\$109.80
Each Day A New Beginning Th 7am	\$111.73	As Bill Sees It Sa 11am	\$45.55	Sunset 9ers W 9am	\$191.34
Early, Joyous & Free Th 7am	\$59.00	B.Y.O.L. W 12:30pm	\$50.00	Thursday Night Women's Th 6:30pm	\$90.80
Endless Summer F 8:30pm	\$68.92	Back 2 Basics F 7:30pm	\$100.82	Time To Start Living Th 4pm	\$120.00
Fireside F 8:30pm	\$5.27	Big Book Study Su 11am	\$45.50	Too Early Sa 8am	\$347.08
Friday Morning 12 Steppers F 7am	\$75.00	Blackie's Pasture Sa 8:30pm	\$105.00	Tuesday's Daily Reflections Tu 7am	\$37.00
Friendship Group W 8pm	\$251.00	Boys Night Out Tu 7:30pm	\$62.83	Tuesday Downtown Tu 7:15 & 8:30	\$194.19
Greenhouse Meditation Sa 5pm	\$100.00	Cocoonuts Su 9am	\$77.18	Wednesday Sunrise Smokefree W 7am	\$38.00
High Noon Friday F 12:15pm	\$98.68	Cocoonuts Su 9am	\$16.35	Work In Progress Sa 7pm	\$50.00
High Noon Friday F 12:15pm	\$82.30	Come & Get It F 6:30pm	\$59.12	Total San Francisco - GROUP GRATITUDE	\$6,967.97
High Noon Monday M 12:15pm	\$553.25	Design For Living Sa 8am	\$159.85		
High Noon Tuesday Tu 12:15	\$78.82	Each Day A New Beginning F 7am	\$145.27	TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$17,311.59

“We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.” by John H.

The possibilities of not regretting the past nor wishing to shut the door on it were unimaginable even in early sobriety. My life had become a non-ending attempt to turn my back on the past, to deny it in endless evasions and "geographics:" to lie, run, hide and then lie, run, and hide again. One of my worst fears was being in the presence of two or more people I knew at the same time. My web of lies got more and more elaborate. I built a wall to keep anyone from seeing me as I feared I was. The cardboard cut-outs I held up to everyone took on a life of their own and I justified my lies, at least to myself, with "It could have been true," towering with righteous indignation when challenged or unmasked at last.

One of my deepest problems was a compulsive search for love combined with unending people pleasing. Occasionally, some hapless victim would say he had fallen in love with me. And like a jet pilot hitting the red eject button, I would catapult out of the picture immediately. I was helpless to do otherwise because there was no-one home in my skin and I knew he would discover that in short order.

Lie, run, hide and lie, run, hide again. And always, gut wrenching fear.

That impulse still occurs, but it is lifted when I spot it happening, accept that it is part of my machinery forever, and humbly ask God to take it from me. I have been amazed that the urges come less frequently and with less urgency. Perhaps some day they won't appear at all, but in the meanwhile, the steps are here, plus the humility to know I cannot do it alone, and the willingness to ask God for power beyond my own unsteady willpower. It is always granted when I remember to ask for it.

A big step in recovery was the at-first-faltering willingness to let another know of my failings and foibles. That did not come easily. Ridding myself of the fear that I would be automatically and summarily rejected if anyone knew how bad, how truly awful I was, did not happen all at once. Hearing other AAs talking about their pasts with frankness and openness astounded me. Seeing that the ground did not open up and swallow them was riveting; I was fascinated and afraid. But ever so slowly, I began to reveal my secrets. And ultimately experienced the freedom that comes when fear or shame is acknowledged at group level.

Seeing that I survived and even thrived, my courage grew bit by bit. And then a miracle occurred. What I revealed was visibly useful (sometimes astonishingly so) to another

THE THIRD PROMISE

alcoholic. There began to appear purpose and meaning in life of which I had never had an inkling. Simultaneously, the whole process gained momentum. What had been my worst fear and shame became my most important tool, transformed in sharing with others to help them find peace of mind, serenity and sobriety.


My sponsors over the years and many AA friends have given me a huge gift - a realization that every character defect

is just a character trait at an extreme limit. At one time, they had looked like survival and became part of my basic wiring. And even though they no longer worked, they told me it was the only way. Unable to see any evidence to tell me otherwise, I kept digging deeper and deeper until I could dig no longer.

In working the steps, my character defects have found their gentler aspects - behind reckless spending of money I didn't have was appropriate generosity with what I did have; behind the craving for love was compassion and caring for others. These defects are still in my wiring, but they don't act out anything like their former scale.

Somewhere along the way, when I was not aware, the past became my gift to myself and to those I love. The me behind the cardboard cut-outs stepped in to the sunlight and left them behind. They had looked like they were essential to survival for a long time, but I can look at them now with the fondness I might feel for an oil-soaked, grimy life preserver that had once saved my life. I never want to forget that, but I don't miss the shipwreck.

Now, in my 22nd year of sobriety, I am completely grateful for all of it. The nightmares and the failures, the pain and sorrow, the grief, rage, and overwhelming sense of loss that dogged my days led inexorably to surrender and ultimately to the Promises. Promises that include peace of mind, sense of purpose and meaning in life that still surpasses my fondest hopes and dreams. This all became possible because I miraculously (if slowly) became ever more willing to face reality, see and accept myself as I had become; became willing for God to remove these defects (no longer survival); prayed for God to do so; made amends wherever possible; and sought more and more a relationship with God as I understand God.

In my case this means to love God, whatever that is, wherever that is, whenever I can, and to dedicate my life to working with other alcoholics so that we can achieve sobriety, one day at a time, together. 

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, January 8, 2003

1. Meeting opened with the serenity prayer.
2. Meeting called to order: Statement of Purpose: Ben N., IFB Chair read Statement of Purpose.
3. Roll Call: Joe G, Recording Secretary called the roll.
4. Introduction of new members: New members were introduced, see roll call below

Intergroup Rep	Group		Intergroup Rep	Group	
Ben N.	Sunset Speaker Step	P	Jolie K.	Weds and Fri High Noon	R
Bill R.	Early Start	A*	Joe G.	Wednesday Beginners Meeting	P
Charles M.	Federal Speaker	P	Julia D.	Castro Discussion	A*
Clay K.	Cocoanuts	A* (proxy)	Julie H.	Terra Linda	P
Craig W.	Fireside Chat -T Tue S	P	Julia W.	Friendship Group	R
Dan C.	Tiburon Haven	P	Justin S.	High Noon Wednesday	A**
Dan L.	Artists & Writers	A*	Larry F.	Mid-Morning Support	R
Danny F.	Each Day A New Beginning	A*	Leslie F.	How It Works-Sat	P
David B.	Beginner's Warmup W 6pm	P	Li L.	Work in Progress	P
David C.	Sunday Friendship	P	Lindsay B.	Walk of Shame	A* (proxy)
David P.	The Sunset 9'ers	P	Lisa M.	Friday All Groups	P
Dick T.	Attitude Adjustment Hour	P	Mark C.	Sunday Night Candlelight	P
Doug F.	No Reservation	P	Mollie B.	Joys of Recovery Tue 8pm	P
Doug S.	As Bill Sees It - Thursday	P	Norma W.	Friendship Group	P
Ellie C.	Big Book Basics	A*	Pat M.	Sat As Bill Sees It	P
Frank B.	Each Day A New Beginning - Sunday	A*	Paul C.	Waterfront	A*
Geoff R.	High Noon Saturday 12:15	A*	Ray M.	Sunday Rap	P
Gretchen F.	Hot Java F 10pm	A**	Rick P.	Parkside Th 8:30pm	R
Irene K.	Bernal Big Book	P	Sam W.	Monday Night Stag	P
J. E.	Friendly Circle Beginners	R	Samuel S.	Too Early	P
Jacob M.	Home Group	R	Silke T.	Wed. High Noon	R
Janet B.	Thursday Night Women's	P	Smithy B.	Ten Years After	P
Jason A.	Midnight Meditation Sa 12am	P	Steven S.	Tuesday Downtown	A**
Jason S.	Sesame Step	A*	Tim McC.	Join the Tribe Tue 7pm	P
Jay H.	Gay Beginners	P	Timothy G.	7AM As Bill Sees It	P
Jean C.	First Place Fellowship	P	Todd M.	Rule 62 W 10pm 2900 24th St.	P
Jim D.	Happy Joyous & Free	A*	Tom K.	Common Welfare	P
Jocelyn R.	Sunset 9'ers Tue 9am	P	Zoe B.	Mill Valley 7am - Daily	P

New IFB Reps Present

Paul S.	Sunday Support	P
Shain T.	High Noon Tuesday & Friday	P
Steven B.	Too Early	P

Non-IFB Liaisons Present

David M.	Marin Teleservice	P
David C.	Marin General Service	P
Georgia L.	H&I	P
Kent T.	San Mateo Fellowship	P
Mary B.	The Spirit of San Francisco	P
Todd M.	San Francisco General Service	P

- 5.A.A. Anniversaries: None recorded.
6. Review of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.
7. Approval of December 2002 Minutes: Minutes were approved.
8. Special Orders of Business (Action Items):
 - a. Operations Manual: Ben N. asked how many people have the operations manual. More than 5 do not. Changes proposed to this draft: 1) Appendix - Definition of PI/CPC and 2) Definition of Teleservice. Maury stated that we will also include as an additional appendix, the need for a 100% advance deposit on special order items from Central Office.
9. IFB Standing Committee Reports:
 - a. Teleservice: No report given.
 - b. PI/CPC: Maury reported for Debra D. PI annual meeting will be Sat., Jan. 18 at Fort Mason, Bldg C.
10. Group Rep Reports:
 - a. Norma W., Friday 7-8 announced a new meeting.

b. Zoe B. from the Mill Valley 7AM, Daily Group asked if each 7AM meeting needs an individual rep. The chair answered "yes".

c. Julie H. from the Terra Linda Group said her group wants more information on the financial status of H&I.

11. Non-IFB Liaison Reports:

a. General Service, SF: Todd M. reported. The 2003 budget for CNCA was approved. Elections were held for CNCA as well. District-level money was stolen out of a car, approximately \$1,000.00. There is also a push for more DCMs and the possibility of redistricting.

b. General Service, Marin: David C. reported. A new panel was filled for Marin County PI/CPC and Bridging the Gap. Marin General Service discussed the finances of H&I. There was discussion on the separation of the 7th Tradition and the pink cans.

c. Teleservice, Marin: Dave M., the new liaison, reported. Elections were held; all positions were filled. Marin County Teleservice will hold its annual Spaghetti Feed/Fund Raiser on February 22nd at the Masonic Temple in San Rafael. A panel discussion and speaker meeting will follow the dinner. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

d. PI/CPC, Marin: No report given.

e. Bridging the Gap: Doug S. reported. Bridging the Gap meets alcoholics being released from treatment and correctional facilities. The new chair for BTG is Ritchie R. The next BTG orientation is January 14th before the monthly GSR meeting at 6:30pm at the Old First Church, Sacramento and Van Ness. The regular meeting is at 8:00pm.

f. H&I: Georgia L., H&I Liaison, reported.] H&I is working on a statement for finances. Northern California H&I has decided to keep a prudent reserve of \$59,400.00. The H&I business meeting is the last Thursday of the month. Maury asked why the book inventory is not included in the assets for H&I. Li L. suggested publishing the H&I financial statement for better clarification throughout the Fellowship.

g. Spirit of San Francisco: Mary B. reported. Spirit of San Francisco has signed a contract with the Ramada Inn for the Spirit of San Francisco convention on Columbus Day weekend, October 10th - 12th. The New Year's dance was successful. No financial statement given. Mary further stated we need community help to have more dances. We need inexpensive places to hold the dances and more people to fill committees. The Spirit of San Francisco Committee has decided that all 7th Tradition funds will go to the Central Office.

h. Others: None.

12. IFB Reports:

a. Chair's Report: Ben N stated he had a discussion with the chair of H&I. The H&I chair said that H&I cans are not intended to be passed with 7th Tradition baskets. H&I suggests placing the pink cans on literature tables at meetings. Committees: We need new people for the following committees: Archive Committee, 12-Step Committee, Nominating Committee, and we need an immediate replacement on the COC Committee. Ben then asked Joe G to call the roll to poll the IFB for availability to fill the COC vacancy. Those available were Sam W. and Joe G.

b. Treasurer's Report: Pat M. submitted written report and gave oral highlights. We are profitable and self-supporting for November. YTD we are now self-supporting by \$1,000.00. Pat attributed this to the Gratitude Month donations that have come in during November and December. December should also be a profitable month. Pat stated that tax returns will need to be done shortly. Pat's commitment as Treasurer is up and we need a new Treasurer. We have two applicants for the position so far.

c. CO Manager's Report: Maury submitted a written report and gave oral highlights. Maury announced a 12-Step Workshop is scheduled for

Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm. Maury reported that the Holiday Party was a success. Parking at Central Office: we cannot park longer than 15 minutes in the service alley west of the building. We need subs for phone shifts at Central Office. One permanent shift is available on Thursday from 12:00-3:00 pm. Maury announced the website is as the information comes to her. New meeting must meet for a month or more to be included and a group information form needs to be submitted.

d. COC Report: Smithy B. submitted a written report and gave oral highlights. The COC agreed to make the "2 in 2003" posters available in Central Office. The COC approved an annuity package for the Central Office Manager in lieu of health insurance coverage. Treasurer vacancy: The COC is still looking for more candidates for IFB Treasurer. Smithy thanked the Spirit of San Francisco Committee for 7th Tradition donations.

13. Housekeeping: None.

14. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

a. Literature Review Committee: Doug F. reported. Procedures Manuals should be ready in January.

b. Bylaws Review Committee: No report.

c. The Point Committee: Irene K. reported. The Point is going to run articles on the promises in each month's issue. They are looking for articles to be written by members of the Fellowship. An article is 700-800 words. The Point debuted "Dear Alky". IFB reps: please ask your group to pay for a subscription of the Point. This will help The Point be self-supporting. The Point meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm at the Central Office. Any information from the area can be published in the Point.

d. Orientation Committee: The next meeting of the Orientation Committee is January 29th, at 6:30 pm at the Central Office

e. Website Committee: Sam S. reported. The Website Committee needs assistance with design and content ideas. The new website is <http://www.aasf.org>. The Website Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6:15 pm at the Central Office.

f. Schedule Committee: Schedule Committee did not meet in December due to the holidays. It will meet in January at the Central Office.

g. Special Needs: No report.

15. Old Business: None.

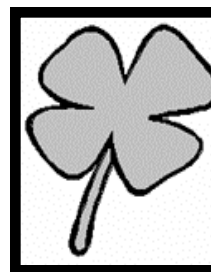
16. Reading of the 12 Traditions and practice of the 7th Tradition: Julie H. read the 12 Traditions at 8:40 pm. The basket was passed.

17. New Business: None reported.

18. Adjourn with the Serenity Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

19. Respectfully submitted,
Joe G, IFB Recording Secretary

The next IFB meeting will be on Wednesday, March 5, 2003
at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. at Geary, 7 pm



Another Empty Chair by Niners Anonymous

We lost another one the other day. This one was sober almost three decades, went to a meeting every day, and often voiced his recovery in terms of acronyms, clichés, and metaphors. Although some of us found this trait to be a bit of an irritant when the floor time was his, we all knew this AA could always be depended upon to deliver experience, strength and hope, do it unwaveringly, and in a way that was easy to remember and pass on to newcomers. Our AA friend in this case was relatively young, and seemingly healthy, and gave freely of his time, his phone number, his sobriety and his love. His chair is now empty, but it soon will be filled.

When we lose a staple of our home group or regular meeting – whether expectedly or not – it's difficult and painful and it makes us feel a bit less secure. When it's a member who we try so very hard not to think of as an icon, or a deacon, or an elder (because we know that this is just another form of personality before principle), we nevertheless sense that another large chip of bedrock has fallen away from the solidarity that is our regional fellowship.

We might at first think that this loss has weakened the whole, compromised the foundation, and left it just a bit weaker and more vulnerable to erosion. But eventually that newcomer moves from coffee maker to literature person to secretary to treasurer to GSR, then takes on any of those commitments at any number of other meetings. And eventually we cheer him or her on as they get to their feet – cleaned-up, opened-up, stand-up members of the fellowship and the citizenry as a whole – to walk forward and receive their own double digit chip.

“As So-and-so. always use to say, before he went to that big meeting in

the sky...” Eventually we refer to them frequently, quote them and speak of them in reverential terms both inside and outside the rooms, because not only did their departures prove not in any way to erode the strength of the whole, but instead actually managed to create another layer of bonding material cementing us even closer to Bill, Bob, Ebbie and the others who went before.

We miss Frank. And Gene and Beverly and Joe and Charlotte and Terry and Ron and Pat and George and Harriett and Kathy and Tom and Dick and Harry. Whatever their names, we miss them all. We miss their medical updates, their job woes, their children-a-logs, their pains, joys, their laughter, their tears. But we try to remember their words and their love, and walk with that spirituality over to the newcomer who came in an hour ago and sat in that empty chair – the newcomer who's now looking furtively for the nearest exit, and say “Welcome. Here's my phone number C a l l me anytime if you want to talk.” ↑

Recent Deaths

Paul J. - 4 years, 9 months
Roy S. - 20 years
Luis T. - 20+ years
Frank V. - 29 years

The Point will print the names of any members who have recently died and whose names have been sent to us. Unlike the Honors section which appears elsewhere, Recent Deaths is for information only and a one-time listing is not dependent upon a contribution being made in the name of the deceased.

THIRD EDITION BIG BOOK NEWS

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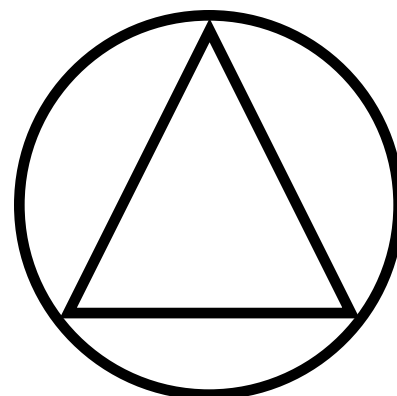
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CONTRIBUTIONS

to the Central Office were made
through February 18, 2003
honoring the following members

ONGOING MEMORIALS

*Bob
R.W.*

ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck V. - 13 years
David J. - 20 years
Fred R. - 42 years
Jane McF. - 42 years

Endless Summer:

Craig - 1 year
Christine - 1 year
Lisa - 1 year
Dan - 3 years
Elizabeth - 3 years
Scott - 3 years
Linda - 5 years
Duke - 8 years
Constance - 16 years

SUMMARY

February 2003 IFB Meeting

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business, and service opportunities discussed at the February 2003 IFB meeting. It is provided for your convenience and is not intended to be the complete or approved minutes.

A. Business conducted.

1. The Central Office Committee asked for IFB approval to post a job opening for a new special worker on the website. This was approved.
2. The COC presented it's recommended candidate for IFB treasurer. This is Patrick M.. Patrick was approved by the IFB.
3. The nominating committee presented it's recommended candidate to fill the vacancy on the Central Office Committee. This is Joe G.. Joe was approved by the IFB.
4. The budget committee presented the operating budget for 2003. This proposal was approved by the IFB.

B. Information.

1. Pat M delivered her final treasurers report. December donations were up. We are now self-supporting for the year 2002 due to Gratitude Month contributions.
2. The Central Office has a staff position open for a Special Worker.
3. The operations manual will be discussed at the next IFB meeting.
4. The literature review committee has completed the Guide to Group Service.
5. The Point committee announced that a new chairperson had been appointed. This is Irene K. The Point needs more subscriptions from the fellowship to be self-supporting.
6. Todd M announced that the pre-conference assembly is April 5th and 6th in Vallejo. The Post conference assembly is May 17th in Cloverdale. The General Service Conference in NY is April 27th thru May 3rd.
7. Central Office Manager report-Maury announced there will be another 12 step workshop, but no date as yet. She will attend the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, March 7th thru 9th in Reno, Nevada. Look out Reno!
8. Ellie C announced that the next meeting of the Orientation committee will be Feb 26th at the Central Office at 6:30 PM.
9. Li I announced that the new schedule format for San Francisco should go into effect around April.
10. The Teleservice committee announced two coordinator shifts and the chair are rotating out. Please contact Central Office.
11. Marin Teleservice will be having it's annual spaghetti feed and meeting February 22nd in San Rafael. Please attend.
12. Georgia from H&I announced that they are looking for new coordinators. She also brought a financial statement from H&I.

The meeting closed at 9:35.

Joe G.,

Recording Secretary



Financial Statement

DECEMBER 2002 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA



The Point

Subscription Form

\$6.00 for one year — 12 issues!!!

(Please circle one)

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March 2003

ISSUE 303