

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

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

# The Point

May 2003

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  
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A.A. members. Nothing published  
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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.

## Is it Really about the Cash? by Steve S.

"It is now the time we practice our Seventh Tradition..." We've all heard these words too many times to count, and for most A.A. members they produce an instinctual reaction to reach for our wallets. Even members who are flat broke or who have left their wallet at home find themselves reaching into their pockets by reflex. We all know when we hear those words that it is time to pay our dues.

Whoops! Of course, A.A. has no dues or fees. So what's up with the baskets?

There are a couple of easy, glib answers to that question, each of which is true but only addresses part of the answer. Still, it can certainly seem like we're paying dues, so the question needs be addressed.

Answer #1: *Dropping a few bucks in the hat is voluntary.* We are under no obligation to financially contribute to the meeting, and that is a big part of what makes the distinction between dues and a voluntary contribution; it is solely our choice whether to put money in the hat.

Answer #2: *We paid our dues at the bar or liquor store.* The first time we wished we could stop drinking our "entrance fee" was paid in full. For membership in A.A., we do not even have to have a desire to stop drinking at the current moment. Sure, it helps to stay sober, but purely in terms of our membership requirement, someone experiencing cravings or who wants to drink can still consider herself a member so long as she has ever had the desire to stop drinking.

So fine. The money is not what gets us in the door and we are not under any orders to contribute it. Now what?

There is an oldtimer in Chicago who frequently admonishes, "Make your meetings." At first it sounds like he is suggesting that we make it to our meetings, but after listening to him speak for a while he clarifies what might not have been the obvious. Yes, he means that we should make it to our meetings, but he is also reminding us that meetings do not happen without us—that we have to show up to make it into a meeting. If no one shows up, there cannot be a meeting. No one but us can bring the meeting to the meeting place.

When the Seventh Tradition is read, it is just this sort of reminder. No government, no church, no hospital, no institution of any sort can make a meeting. Recovery is not provided to us through the generosity of any philanthropist, we cannot inherit it from our parents, our spouses and siblings cannot force it on us. Paradoxically, we make the meetings we ourselves need by showing up, by making coffee, by stacking chairs, by serving as treasurer and by reaching our hand out to the next suffering alcoholic. When

(Continued on page 6)

# May 2003....

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Secretaries: Please make these announcements to your groups</b> This calendar lists local AA service and conference planning <i>meetings</i> , 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.				1	2	<b>3</b> <b>Central Office Archives Committee</b> <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 10 am Business Meeting, 11 am work day</i>
4	<b>5 <u>FIRST MON</u></b> Spirit of SF Committee <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 7 pm</i>	6	<b>7 <u>FIRST WED</u></b> Intercounty Fellowship Board (IFB) <i>1187 Franklin at Geary First Unitarian Church 7 pm</i>	8	9	10
11	<b>12 <u>SECOND MON</u></b> SF Public Information Committee <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 7 pm</i>	<b>13 <u>SECOND TUE</u></b> Bridging The Gap <i>1111 O'Farrell, 6:30 pm</i>  SF General Service <i>1111 O'Farrell, SF Orientation: 7 pm Meeting: 8 pm</i>  Marin H&I <i>Lagunitas &amp; Shady Ln Ross 7 pm</i>	<b>14 <u>SECOND WED</u></b> 12th Step Committee <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco, 6:30 pm</i>	<b>15 <u>THIRD THU</u></b> Website Committee <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 6:15 pm</i>	16	17
<b>18 <u>THIRD SUN</u></b> Mission Fellowship Steering Committee <i>2900 24th / Florida San Francisco 1 pm</i>	<b>19 <u>THIRD MON</u></b> SF Teleservice <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 6:30 pm</i>  Marin General Service <i>9 Ross Valley Rd San Rafael GSR Sharing: 7 pm District Meeting: 8 pm</i>	<b>20 <u>THIRD TUE</u></b> San Mateo General Service <i>St. Andrews Church 15th &amp; El Camino Real San Mateo 7:30 pm</i>	21	<b>22 <u>FOURTH THU</u></b> Marin PI Committee <i>1360 Lincoln Ave (Alano Club) San Rafael 7:15 pm</i> <b><u>LAST THU</u></b> SF H&I <i>Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento / Van Ness San Francisco Orientation: 7:15 pm Regular Meeting: 8 pm</i>	23	<b>24 <u>FOURTH SAT</u></b> General Service CNCA Meeting <i>320 N. McDowell Petaluma DCMCs: 10:30 am Main Meeting: Noon</i>
<b>25 <u>LAST SUN</u></b> Living Sober Convention Committee <i>1668 Bush San Francisco 5:30 pm</i>	<b>26</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  CENTRAL OFFICE will be closed in observance, but will re-open at 10 am on Tuesday, May 27.	<b>27 <u>FOURTH TUE</u></b> Marin Teleservice <i>1360 Lincoln / Maple (Alano Club) San Rafael 7:30 pm</i>	<b>28 <u>FOURTH WED</u></b> Seven Seas Steering Committee Meeting <i>215 Leidesdorff</i> <b><u>LAST WED</u></b> IFB Orientation <i>Central Office, 1821 Sacramento San Francisco 6:30 pm</i>	29	30	31

# 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 <b>bold</b> ; flyers of <u>current</u> local events, if available, are printed as space allows.
May 2	Annual Spring Fling Gratitude Dance, Pacheco Community Center, Pacheco, CA <a href="http://www.PleasantHillAA.com">www.PleasantHillAA.com</a>
May 10	15th Annual Los Angeles Area Women's Luncheon, Hilton Torrance - South Bay, Torrance, CA
May 9 - 11	14th Annual Mountain High Conference, Pinecrest Christian Conference Center, Twin Peaks, CA <a href="http://www.mountainhighconf.com">www.mountainhighconf.com</a>
May 16 - 18	19th Tri-State Annual Roundup, Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino, Laughlin, NV <a href="http://www.tristate-roundup.com">www.tristate-roundup.com</a>
May 17	CNCA Post-Conference Assembly, Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds, 1 Citrus Fair Dr, Cloverdale, CA 95425
May 23 - 25	Monterey Bay Area Roundup 2003, Monterey Convention Center, Monterey, CA
May 23 - 25	Indian Wells Valley A.A. Roundup, Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Ridgecrest, CA <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/iwvroundup">www.freewebs.com/iwvroundup</a>
May 29 - June 1	South East Regional Conference of Young People in A.A., Holiday Inn, Jackson, TN <a href="http://www.sercypaa.org">www.sercypaa.org</a>
<b>June 4</b>	<b>2003 Annual Business Meeting, First Unitarian Universalist Church, San Francisco, CA</b>
June 13-15	Sunset Round-Up, Holiday Inn Beachside, Key West, Florida <a href="http://www.sunsetroundup.com">www.sunsetroundup.com</a>
July 3 - 6	19th Annual South Bay Roundup, Torrance Marriot, Torrance, CA <a href="http://www.southbayroundup.org">www.southbayroundup.org</a>
July 4-6	Whitewater Rafting & Camping Trip, American River, CA <a href="http://www.PleasantHillAA.com">www.PleasantHillAA.com</a>
July 11-13	Tehachapi Mountain Round-Up, Indian Hill Ranch Campground, Tehachapi, CA <a href="http://www.tehachapiroundup.com">www.tehachapiroundup.com</a>
July 16-20	47th Florida State Convention, The Registry Resort, Naples, FL <a href="http://www.floridastateconventionofaa.com">www.floridastateconventionofaa.com</a>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Broads Without Booze—Women's Luncheon and Speaker Meeting, United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA</b>

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## This Month in AA History

May 10-12, 1936

Bill's first meeting with Dr. Bob in Akron.



May 1938

Writing the Big Book begins.

Ebby goes out after being sober since November 1936.

Alcoholic Foundation establishes trusteeship of A.A.



May 1939

Three new A.A. groups start (Cleveland and New York).

First alcoholic patient, a bartender by trade,

enters Deaconess Hospital in Cleveland.



May 1946

First issue of The A.A. Grapevine is published.



May 1949

Bill participates in symposium on alcoholism at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Montreal.



# MEETING CHANGES

## NEW MEETINGS

Wed	7:30 pm	Novato	TWICE BLESSED 853 Tamalpais (SD)
Fri	6:00 pm	South of Market	EVERY ROSE HAS IT'S THORN 125 Sixth St. / Mission, Rose Hotel SD wh
Fri	8:00 pm	Castro	ROOM TO GROW 152 Church, (ring bell at courtyard gate) SD YP wh

## MEETING CHANGES

Mon	7:00 pm	South of Market	A WOMAN'S PLACE 1049 Howard / Russ (was listed as Wed. at 8:00 pm)
Tue	10:00 am	Cathedral Hill	FIREFIGHTERS & FRIENDS 1187 Franklin / Geary, Fireside Room (was at St. Mary's)
Tue.	12:00 pm	Financial	TRAVELERS GROUP Russ Bldg., 235 Montgomery/ Pine, Mezzanine Conference Rm. (was at 57 Post)
Fri	8:30 pm	San Anselmo	FRIDAY NIGHT SAN ANSELMO FEARLESS SEARCHERS St. Anselms Gym, Richmond Ave. (was Ross Three Step)
		Now a SD SS wh	
Fri	8:30 pm	San Rafael	FREEDOM FINDERS Aldergate United Methodist Church, I Wellbrock Heights, San Rafael (was in Terra Linda)

## NO LONGER MEETING

Sun	8:30 pm	Marina	BIRTHDAY PARTY 2118 Greenwich / Fillmore, Marina Dock
Thu	5:00 pm	San Rafael	TEEN NIGHT 526 Third St., Suite A-1
Sat	8:00 pm	Inner Richmond	GARDEN VARIETY 7th Ave. / Geary

## REPORTED MISSING

Sun	7:30	Pacific Heights	ALTA PLAZA CPMC Buchanan & Clay, Conference Center, Main floor
Fri	8:30 pm	Western Addition	SOBER, SANE & SENSIBLE 1519 Ellis St.

**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!**

## Hey, Nice Basket!

Did I get your attention? Good. Read on. "AA is self-supporting through our own contributions". Ok. I can understand that. We are not part of a corporation or service organization with deep pockets, so we have to take care of ourselves as a membership. We need to do this together and not rely on one person or others to do all the work. That being said, now back to that Nice Basket. When the basket is being passed around during the Seventh Tradition at an AA meeting, just how much do I put in there anyway? I have been told to throw in a dollar. That is good and I can usually do that. There are times, not many, that I put in more than one dollar. That may be due to my gratitude for something in the meeting that day, like a great speaker or to cover the person that could not afford to contribute anything that day. When I have more, I will contribute more. When I don't, I won't. I've also been told to put in the same amount that I used to spend on a drink. That makes sense to me. I could always scrape up enough money for a drink (and more) so why not scrape up enough now? I have to remember

to keep it in today's price structure, though. If I got sober in 1950 and a drink was a dime, I don't think throwing a dime in the basket would do the self-supporting thing in today's dollars, now would it? I have to remember about inflation. To me, I am getting a life converting experience for free. I really don't have to contribute a dime! (There's that dime, again.) I understand that contributions of any sort are not mandated, only suggested. It is also my understanding that I need to carry on the message to other alcoholics and allow them to have the same life converting experience as I. That is not a 'no-cost' thing in my view. I guess my point is that those nice baskets going around are not something to admire but to contribute to, no matter what you can afford. It gives me a little peace of mind when I know that I can help the Membership as a whole in this way. And if I cannot afford monetary contributions, I can always do service. Service can contribute in ways that no amount of money ever could. So, no matter what you may think, sobriety ain't a free ride.

## Group Speakers for May 2003

### TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP	Sobriety
May 6	Marcy K.	Lush Lounge	5/19/94
May 13	Rex H.	Sunset Group	5/25/87
May 20	Mary P.	Washington Square	6/27/99
May 27	Sean S.	Back To Basics	9/09/92

### 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
May 2	Thursday Fell	Dennis B.	Rule 62
May 9	Creative Alcoholics	Buddy J.	Sunday Discussion
May 16	Women's Promises	Bob K.	Concord Originals
May 23	Sunset Speaker Step	Jody M.	Mission Terrace
May 30	Early Start	AnnaSophie L.	Friendship Group

### BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

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

DATE	SPEAKER	HOME GROUP
May 4	Bruce K.	San Francisco
May 11	Rich.	So. SF
May 18	Joyce G.	Brazil
May 25	Jeff	

# Who Runs A.A.? You do!

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: All Group Secretaries  
FROM: The Intercounty Fellowship  
of Alcoholics Anonymous  
RE: Central Office Operations

## 2003 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, June 4, 2003, 7:00 p.m.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
1187 Franklin at Geary

**EACH A.A. GROUP IS REQUESTED  
TO SELECT ONE GROUP DELEGATE  
(ONE YEAR SOBRIETY MINIMUM)  
TO REPRESENT THE GROUP AT THIS  
IMPORTANT MEETING.**

The group delegate will need to know the name  
of the group *exactly* as it appears in the schedule.  
If your group already has an Intergroup  
Representative, he or she will serve  
as your delegate.

**PLEASE HELP US ENSURE THAT EVERY  
A.A. GROUP IS REPRESENTED. THE DELEGATE YOUR  
GROUP SELECTS AND SENDS TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT  
BUSINESS MEETING WILL HELP DETERMINE THE POLICEIS  
BY WHICH CENTRAL OFFICE WILL OPERATE.**

Call us at Central Office with any questions.  
**(415) 674-1821**

**THANK YOU!**

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.

# Our Meeting in Print Celebrates 57 Years

by Irene K.


Happy Birthday to AA's "meeting in print," The AA Grapevine, which turns 57 years old this month. I have been a subscriber for several years and would like to express my immense gratitude for The Grapevine. This small, nothing-fancy magazine has traveled with me on trips and followed me to numerous new residences, including residences abroad. I have frequently given subscriptions as gifts to sponsees and friends.

Why the enthusiasm? I believe that The Grapevine is truly a reflection of today's issues in AA world-wide. I enjoy reading the 12X12 and the Big Book. I even enjoy the outdated language and references (most days). However, The Grapevine fills a void and discusses a variety of today's AA issues from numerous perspectives. You are able to read about chanting (pros and cons of the "keep coming back, etc." chants), the use of the Lord's Prayer in meetings, whether AA is reaching minority communities, AA online and AA in prison, among many other topics.

The Grapevine has, however, had its share of problems. The

publication still is not self-supporting after all these years. Discussion frequently arises about The Grapevine's financial woes, as well as the same woes of the Spanish-language equivalent of The Grapevine called La Vina. The San Francisco/Marin Central Office has experienced monthly problems with distribution, and this problem exists for most Central Offices in the country. The Grapevine claims to be sorting out these issues but Central Offices are still waiting to see the improvements. That being said, individual subscriptions are usually handled well and arrive on time.

There are many ways that you can participate in The Grapevine. You can subscribe or buy copies at Central Office. You can submit articles, illustrations/cartoons, photos, and humor for possible publication. (It can happen – I'm being published in April!)

For more information about subscriptions or submissions, contact The Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive, NY, NY 10115, Phone 212.870.3404, Email [gvcirculation@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gvcirculation@aagrapevine.org). 

## **Cash?** (continued from page 1)

we show up together, it becomes possible for our Higher Power to speak through the group. We ourselves make our meetings.

So why do we pass the basket? If it all comes together through the participation of A.A. members, what do we need money for? The answer is related to why we elect trusted servants to serve the groups in a variety of roles. Meetings must happen regularly if newcomers are going to find them, and so the ingredients that make up meetings as we know them must be there regularly. We ask a single person to be the secretary every week for a period of time to make sure the meeting always has a secretary. Since we are self-supporting declining outside contributions, that person is always a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. We do not accept the contribution of services from outside the fellowship.

Likewise, we do not accept the contribution of meeting space from outside the fellowship. Nonetheless, it is important to have space for meetings just as it is important to have a facilitator for a regular meeting. There are many possible solutions for this, but the most common is for groups to pay rent from their own pockets in fair exchange for meeting space. The rent is set by the owner of the meeting space and we pay just as any other group wanting to use the space would.

That last phrase of course makes things tricky. Often in A.A. we get used to getting things for free because our fellow members contribute time and energy freely as a part of doing service. This can create quite a temptation to accept the free or reduced-rate services offered by well-meaning institutions outside the fellowship. Maybe its holding a meeting in a church hall that allows us to set our own rate or does not ask for any financial compensation. Maybe it is buying coffee at a

discount reserved for non-profit organizations.


Ask yourself a few questions before you drop your customary buck or two into the basket.

Is my group self-supporting? Do we pay real rent or do we get a donation of space? What would happen if we had to pay the rent that any other group would pay? Are there enough members doing service? Do we have regular business meetings? Is there rotation of service commitments or do the same people seem to do all the service month after month?

Is my Central Office self supporting? Do they have the equipment and supplies they need to ensure that the message is carried to the alcoholic who still suffers? Do our special workers get paid what they would doing the same work for a business? Or are they expected to work for non-profit rates?

Does my group support General Service and Central Office? Do we send representatives to service meetings above the group level? Do we send a portion of our collection to these service entities? Do our group representatives give regular reports about what goes on at those service levels?

These are all tough questions, and no group is expected to be perfect. But if we cannot answer these questions to our own satisfaction, there is something that can be done. We can put an extra buck or two in the basket when it comes around, sure. But even before that we can start with volunteering for service *before* looking around the room to see if someone else raises their hand first. We can show up on time and help stack chairs afterwards. We can speak up in the meetings instead of hoping someone else will. We can ask questions during the business meetings instead of running on home to escape them.

We can *make our meetings*. 



# Dear Alky

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

Dear Alky,

I have a difficult question for you, one that I'm afraid is controversial, but I'm going to ask anyway. I am now a grateful member of AA after many years of relapsing. I believe that part of the problem with all of my relapses was that I was only going to meetings where there were only AA members from a particular sub-group (for lack of a better term). There I felt constantly pressured that I wasn't doing AA the "right" way and that I had to do it "their" way. I felt that it was an atmosphere of fear and chaos. After one relapse I decided that if that's all AA could offer me, then AA didn't have much to offer me. It was a very hopeless and desperate (and potentially fatal) situation. Later, I arrived back at AA and attended different meetings. I was surprised to discover people who seemed happy, joyous and free and who were not constantly writing inventories! Now, I don't know what to do with my prior experience with this sub-group. I really feel that I want to help certain people in the sub-group to see that there is a different way. Also, how can I be helpful to the newcomer or the visitor who finds himself at one of their meetings?

Signed,

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

Thank you for your letter. You bring up some interesting, and, yes, potentially touchy issues. In an attempt to minimize the controversy level, I'm going to temper all remarks in the spirit of "love and tolerance" for *all* of my fellow AAs. I'm sure I will still offend, and for that I apologize in advance. We are printing this letter and response *only* in the interest of generating discussion, not generating judgment.

For newer AA members who may not know about this sub-group (I'm going to stick with that term), this sub-group stresses daily written inventories, calling those inventories into others in the sub-group, and learning and practicing Transcendental Meditation, among other things. They have a very tight-knit group and, I believe, they have their own meetings – some listed in the directory, some not. Obviously many of these AA members stay sober (and presumably sane and happy) by these methods.

However, the concerns you mentioned above resonate with some of the concerns I've heard expressed by other AAs:

"What about the newcomer or visitor who goes to one of their meetings by mistake? Will they think that all AA meetings are like that? Will they be turned off from AA and not return? Do they promote their brand of recovery too much (vs. attraction)? Why do they demand you learn Transcendental Meditation – why not another type of meditation? Why don't I get to choose – I thought I was supposed to find freedom of



thought and action in AA? And even worse, what if I can't afford the cost to learn Transcendental Meditation?"

"I thought the AA program was about becoming less self-centered. Don't daily inventories such as this sub-group does keep you excessively self-absorbed? Why do so many of these members sound so unhappy?"

"It's true that each group is autonomous unless it affects other groups or AA as a whole. Does this sub-group affect other groups or AA as a whole? (Opinions on this vary.) Why do these members all sound the same, laugh at the same things, say the same things? Why do many of them separate themselves from the rest of AA? Is that healthy for them? Is that healthy for all of us in AA?"

The list of concerns could continue. There are obviously no "right" answers to any of these questions, only, I hope, informed discussion in the spirit of love, service and tolerance. Every one is entitled to their own experience and opinions.

I know of several AA members who were once a part of this sub-group and no longer are. They are grateful to be out of the sub-group and into what they say is a more free and healthy recovery environment. On the other hand, other members have been happily involved with this sub-group for many years.

As far as how to approach a visitor or newcomer who has questions or confusion about this sub-group, it may be helpful to approach these individuals and explain (with love and tolerance) the difference between this sub-group and other San Francisco and Marin meetings. Regarding your friends who are still in the sub-group, I encourage you to speak your conscience (with love and tolerance), letting them know that you care about their sobriety and sanity and that you are concerned for them. After doing your part, you will need to let go and trust your HP. If needed, Al-Anon could also be a very useful tool in dealing with our relationships with each other.

Always remember that each group *and each individual* is autonomous. We each get to choose which meetings to attend and how to work the AA program. We need to learn to accept each other's choices and "live and let live."

Thanks for writing and good luck,

Alky 

If you have a question for Alky, please send it to:

Alky C/O Central Office  
1821 Sacramento St.  
San Francisco, CA 94109-3528  
OR E-Mail it to: [ThePoint@aasf.org](mailto:ThePoint@aasf.org)

## Living AA's Principles Through Sponsorship: Pre-Conference Assembly 2003 by Peter M.

The theme for this year's General Service Conference, held April 27 to May 3 in New York City, was "Living AA's Principles Through Sponsorship." My personal theme in general service recently has been "unity." I am one of those alcoholics that was never much of a joiner. I made a pretty good Cub Scout, but alcohol, drugs and puberty meant I was a terrible Boy Scout and never made it past Tenderfoot. Being in AA has meant having a Home Group, an AA group where I show up consistently, provide service and support for the group and help to insure that the hand of AA is there for the newcomer as it was for me.

My Home Group is the First Place Group of Alcoholics Anony-

mous located on Ellis Street near Jones in San Francisco. I have been active with First Place for about 6 years and for 4 years served as the group's General Service Representative (GSR). Meeting many new people and learning how general service worked meant it took a while for me to feel at "home" as a GSR. However, attending monthly GSR district meetings and quarterly California Northern Coastal Area Assemblies has meant finding a new home for me in AA.

The Pre-Conference Assembly is held in March or April of each year. This year's assembly was April 5 - 6, 2003 in Vallejo. At the assembly, GSRs have the opportunity to express the group

(Continued on page 11)

## Literature Review: The Language of the Heart

by Paul C.

Bill Wilson wrote extensively over the course of his life. The Language of the Heart is the compilation of these writings. The readings in this book are all short, written for the monthly magazine, our meeting in print, the A.A. Grapevine.

There are three main sections of this book, which divide Bill's articles and letters into the years from 1944 to 1950, 1950 to 1958, and 1958 to 1970. Just as our Big Book covers new information each time it is read, these articles cover new information each time they are read. Truly The Language of the Heart lives in the moment. This volume is valuable to pick up over and over.

Frank B. showed me clearly that the program of AA is what comes to life, in the moment, when two alcoholics sit down together, open the book, and read the words. Our use of a dictionary to clue into the meaning of specific words used, the language, and our discussion of the phrases and sentences as we read, is where we enjoy the "program". Any one person can fellowship with Bill, with these readings. Yet, the words take on a new dimension, when read together, discussed, and pondered. Emotions run deep. The Language of the Heart is really a gem when read by two or more. What we find in this volume is good for the enrichment of our lives and our lives as A.A.'s. So what does Bill cover in this collection?

The anvil of experience has taught us all many things. This process allows us each to receive a custom built individual program gifted to each of us at the result of our taking certain steps, honestly, and simply, with our experienced rewards. To our groups and meetings, we learn and re-learn the value of our Traditions. Bill discusses his perspective on our Traditions in detail as well as other matters: Clubs, Large Gifts, Use of Money, Anonymity, Press Relations (Print, Film, TV, Radio, and now we get to apply the concepts to the Internet....). Bill walks us through the Traditions, and more. What can seem dry material takes on a life of its own, when read, and more importantly:

discussed and acted on. The ideas from the forge of the early times are current today.

Since when have any of us had to ponder our decisions? How about problems other than alcohol? How about mental, emotional, and spiritual sobriety? What about Humility, Honesty, Fear, Acceptance, and the reality of Step Eleven?

Maybe you are interested in Bill and Carl Jung's letters, or his perspective on responsibility, and what that means to each and every one of us.

The book includes Bill's memorial articles written for Dr. Bob and his wife Anne S., and others. The testimonials to Father Ed D., Sister Ignatia are wonderful. Sam Shoemaker gave Bill our Steps. Maybe you might be interested in Bill's testimonial to Sam.

Bill's perspective on Service is as valid today as it was when he walked among us. In many ways The Language of the Heart lives in the fellowship, in the rooms, and in the group spaces we now know exist wherever we gather to read and work together.

So what is this Language of the Heart? Maybe the text will come alive in your reading as it does for me. How do we each remain teachable, re-teachable? How do we each show love honor and respect to ourselves humbly, and how do we affect all those we meet along the way? One thing is certain: Each and every one of us is important in God's spiritual economy. What we searched for, we found we searched with. As we navigate and take action in reality, it's good to pay attention to our common language. When all is said and done, our actions say so much more than our words ever will. How is your communication going with those you love? Are you in fear? Or angry? What step are you working? What have you done to help somebody else today? Are you still sober? Really? Love and tolerance have their own dimension. ↑



# No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

by Michele F.

When I got to AA, almost four years ago, I could not stand the Promises. I knew what a promise was—it was something I said to get someone off my back, or to get what I wanted, and when I made one I had every intention of breaking it. Or, there was that promise I made with as much sincerity, or solemnity, or determination as I could muster at the time—and broke over and over again, daily, for years—Today, I'll stop. Tomorrow, I'll stop. Yeah. Tell me another.

So I knew all about promises when I got here. I figured they were just some trick AA used to keep stupid people coming back. I wasn't stupid, I was desperate! Now, I am still not a cheerleader for The Promises. I do think that they are extravagant. I don't relate to newcomers who hope they might come true. However, stupid, desperate, or whatever, I have seen every one of them come true in my sobriety, in varying degrees and sometimes only temporarily, but true, nonetheless.

As far as that scale goes, I was obsessed with it when I got to AA. I pictured a stock-market-type graph, the jagged line plunging from the upper left corner, that first drink, down to the bottom right corner—death. And where did I fall? I worried, self-obsessed as ever. Although my Higher Power kept my heart listening for the similarities, my alcoholic brain was all over the differences at those first meetings. Descend five spaces on the scale for a trip to the Psych ward? Twenty for a prison term? Drop ten spaces for drug use, but go back up the scale if you were able to control your drinking? What if you controlled it with drugs? I'm pretty sure that my mind was looking for any reason why my place on the scale wasn't good enough, why this AA thing would work only for people who had cirrhosis of the liver, housewives, people who got sober young (that is, younger than me!), etc. I compared relentlessly, and no matter to whom I was listening, whatever my experience was became not good enough. "Sure you had seizures," my brain would say, "but you never had them in a detox like so-and-so. Go on, you don't belong here." Or, "You only got one DUI, but he got four—who do you think you're fooling?"

Lucky for me, like it says in *Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict*. "...we can't argue about our feelings." My experience consists not just of those concrete experiences that I was so quick to compare, but also of feelings. I couldn't go to a meeting and say, "Wow, his self-loathing seems so much cooler

than mine—I wish I had hated myself *his way*!" I couldn't argue when someone would inevitably share "...and then the alcohol stopped working." The Four Horsemen—Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, and Despair—now, these were experienced feelings I couldn't help but relate to. Don't forget shame, demoralization, lonely, and hopeless. All that good stuff. When I had thirty or sixty days, I heard a speaker at a chip meeting say "I finally realized that the only 'bad enough' for me was death." I got that. I, too, began to suspect that I could *not have enough* right into the grave.

Other pivotal eye-openers for me about my place on the scale were the Fourth and Fifth steps. Here was where I got to own exactly what I had and hadn't done, did and didn't feel. And paradoxically—like so much of AA has been for me—I think that telling it to another person made it more my experience than keeping it inside ever did. It was like, here I am, in God's world—not that little-yet-vast one in my head—telling someone who I am. Not the baddest, not the best. Now here is where we get to the Promise part, because my sponsor thanked me for keeping her sober! I was like, uh, sure? I could see how having a sponsor was helping me, but me helping her?

But this is my experience. Long before I was ever able to reach out my hand to someone with less sober time than I had, I was helping those who were practicing the twelfth step. I began to see how my experience could benefit them. And this was at about six months sober—right as I was getting ready to switch sponsors a couple times to try to avoid masking those amends. I finally did make the majority of them, which seemed also to coincide with my being able to raise my hand in meetings—again, since I had gotten so much out of others' shares in meetings, I could see how my experience might be useful to others. This on more of a theoretical level, not a direct, I-said-this-and-then-this-newcomer-felt-better-about-that, cause-and-effect one. I have no clue if I'm actually benefiting others, I just see that potential now.

I wish I had a story about how I made a certain amends and that was when this promise came true for me, but that's not my experience, and maybe telling it like it happened for me will benefit someone else. ■

## THE FIFTH PROMISE

The Ninth Step Promises appear on pages 83 and 84 of the Big Book

# AA Group Contributions - February 2003

Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous - San Francisco and Marin Counties

Gro up	2003	YTD	Mo .	Gro up	2003	YTD	Mo .
<b>FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				<b>SAN FRANCISCO CONTRIBUTIONS, c o n't.</b>			
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	\$20.00	\$44.00		Each Day A New Beginning M 7am		\$256.00	\$102.00
Central Office Donation Box	\$74.00	\$185.30		Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am		\$225.89	
Deer Park Discovery Group F 8pm		\$2.24		Each Day A New Beginning Tu 7am		\$388.91	
IFB February Meeting	\$96.30	\$185.35		Each Day A New Beginning W 7am		\$408.75	
Mission Fellowship X-mas Potluck		\$30.00		Endless Summer R 8:30pm	\$85.23	\$142.53	
Spirit of SF NYE Event		\$191.06		Federal Speaker Su 12pm	\$151.55	\$151.55	
Sunday Step Study Su 4pm Pacifica		\$30.00		Fell Street F 8:30pm	\$105.23	\$105.23	\$78.43
Unidentified Group	\$60.00	\$60.00		Fellowship of the Spirit Su 1:30pm	\$150.00	\$150.00	
	<b>\$250.30</b>	<b>\$727.95</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	Fireside Chat Sa 9pm	\$205.86	\$205.86	
<b>TOTAL FELLOWSHIP GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				Fireside Chat Th 8pm		\$148.08	\$50.50
<b>MARIN CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				First Place Daily			\$31.55
7am Urgent Care Daily 7am	\$100.00	\$100.00		Friday All Groups F 8:30pm			\$357.32
Blackie's Pasture Sa 8:30pm		\$286.00		Friday Big Book F 12pm			\$51.07
Crossroads Su 12pm		\$750.00		Friday At Five F 5pm		\$135.27	
Experience, Strength & Hope Sa 6pm	\$130.00	\$130.00		Friday Lunchtime Step F 12pm	\$140.00	\$140.00	
Gratitude M 12pm	\$70.00	\$70.00		Friday Smokeless F 8:30pm		\$122.51	
Happy Hour Th 6pm	\$130.00	\$130.00		Friendly Circle Su 7:15pm & 8:30pm		\$1,210.23	
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am	\$50.00	\$50.00		Friendship Group W 8pm		\$84.60	
Mill Valley 7AM Daily 7am	\$940.50	\$1,346.09		Golden Gate Seniors Tu 1:30pm	\$87.60	\$87.60	
M. V. Original Smokeless Th 8pm		\$0.00	\$89.00	Haight Street Blues Tu 6:15pm		\$25.65	
Monday Blues M 6:30pm		\$121.88		Happy Hour F 6:30pm		\$60.00	
Monday Night Meeting M 8pm	\$50.00	\$50.00		High Noon Friday F 12:15pm	\$190.27	\$190.27	
Monday Night Stag M 8pm	\$425.00	\$425.00		High Noon Tuesday Tu 12:15pm	\$224.43	\$224.43	
Noon Hope F 12pm		\$83.08		High Noon Wednesday W 12:15pm	\$110.00	\$207.80	
Noon Tu 12pm	\$352.08	\$352.08		High Sobriety M 8pm		\$203.40	
Novato Big Book Tu 12pm		\$196.00		Higher Power Lunch Group Th 12:10pm		\$51.46	
On Awakening Daily 5:30am		\$140.00		Hilldwellers M 8pm		\$120.00	
Sisters in Sobriety Th 7:30pm	\$90.00	\$90.00		Join the Tribe Tu 7pm	\$62.70	\$62.70	
Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm		\$90.00		Joys of Recovery Tu 8pm	\$554.40	\$554.40	
Sober Mom's F 11:30am	\$74.73	\$74.73		Keep It Simple Sa 8:30pm		\$124.36	
Sunday Night Mill Valley Smokeless Su 7:30pm		\$10.00		Light Brigade Discussion Su 7pm			\$12.25
Survivors M 12pm	\$239.50	\$286.00		Like A Prayer Su 4pm		\$20.00	
Terra Linda Th 8:30pm	\$75.00	\$375.00	\$117.58	Living in the Solution F 6pm		\$310.16	
The Extra Support Group F 8:30pm		\$67.17		Living Sober with HIV W 6pm	\$102.28	\$196.34	
Thursday Night Speaker Th 8:30pm		\$500.00		Luke's Group W 8pm	\$63.60	\$63.60	
Tiburon Tuesday Beginners & Closed	\$763.00	\$763.00		Meeting Place Noon F 12pm		\$66.62	
Tuesday Smokeless Tu 8:30pm		\$1.28		Mid-Morning Support Su 10:30am		\$1,629.99	
Wednesday Mid-Week W 6pm		\$86.29		Midnight Meditation Sa 12pm	\$33.90	\$33.90	\$43.75
Wednesday Night Candlelight W 8pm	\$77.00	\$77.00		Mocha Group Th 12:10pm	\$29.01	\$29.01	\$80.75
Wednesday Noon W 12pm	\$236.00	\$236.00		Monday Beginners M 8pm		\$190.82	\$47.75
Women's Big Book Tu 10:30am		\$75.00		Monday Men's Stag M 8pm			\$19.25
Women's Step Study Group M 12pm	\$146.02	\$146.02		New Big Book Study Sa 11am	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Working Dogs W 12:05pm		\$200.00		New Highs W 1:30pm		\$75.57	
<b>TOTAL MARIN CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>\$206.58</b>	New Hope Big Book M 6:30pm	\$41.14	\$95.51	
<b>SAN FRANCISCO CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				Newcomers Tu 8pm		\$158.27	
7AM Grab Bag M 7am	\$55.00	\$55.00		No Reservation M 12pm		\$57.13	
A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm	\$60.00	\$60.00		Noon Smokeless Th 12pm	\$124.20	\$124.20	
A Vision For You Su 6:30pm	\$26.11	\$26.11		Parkside Th 8:30pm		\$120.00	\$28.00
AA Step Study Su 6pm		\$150.04		Pax West M 12pm		\$295.81	
Acceptance Group M 5:30pm		\$55.00		Pure & Simple Group Su 6pm		\$39.86	
Afro Ameican Fr 8pm	\$82.04	\$82.04		Richmond Big Book Study Th 7:30pm		\$100.00	
Amazing Grace M 7pm	\$258.00	\$258.00		Rise-N-Shine Su 10am		\$58.00	
As Bill Sees It Sa 11am		\$127.60		Saturday Matinee Sa 2pm		\$60.00	
Beginners Step Study Sa 6:30pm		\$81.86		Seacliff Th 8:30pm	\$43.26	\$43.26	
Beginners Warm Up		\$60.00		Serenity Seekers M 7:30pm	\$412.20	\$412.20	
Big Book Basics F 8pm	\$187.19	\$187.19		Sesame Step Tu 7:30pm	\$194.55	\$194.55	
Big Book Study Sun 11am	\$88.67	\$88.67		Seven Seas Su 3pm		\$36.00	
Blue Book Special Su 11am		\$48.85		Sober & Centered F 7pm		\$46.80	\$20.04
Brokers Open Book Tu 1:30pm		\$153.44	\$63.51	Sunday Bookworms Su 7:30pm	\$60.00	\$60.00	
Buena Vista Breakfast Su 12pm		\$126.70		Sunday Morning Gay Men's Stag Su 10:30am		\$689.33	
Castro Discussion W 8pm		\$234.60	\$123.00	Sunday Rap Su 8pm	\$57.00	\$57.00	
Castro Monday Big Book M 8pm	\$107.83	\$107.83		Sunset 9'ers F 9am	\$179.00	\$179.00	
Civic Center Nooners M 12pm	\$134.00	\$134.00		Sunset 9'ers Th 9am	\$102.00	\$165.00	
Common Welfare Th 8pm		\$136.53	\$58.85	Sunset 9'ers Tu 9am	\$13.32	\$13.32	
				Ten Years After Su 6pm	\$269.61	\$269.61	\$102.75

## AA Group Contributions 2003 continued

Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous - San Francisco and Marin Counties

Group	Feb. 2003	YTD	Grat. Mo.
Too Early Sa 8am		\$253.80	
Tuesday's Daily Reflections		\$39.10	
Unidentified Group	\$52.80	\$52.80	
We Really Do Meditate Sa 10:30am	\$96.00	\$96.00	
Women's AA W 12:05pm		\$51.00	
Women's Kitchen Table Tu 6:30pm	\$311.00	\$311.00	
Work in Progress Sa 7pm	\$156.00	\$156.00	
<b>TOTAL SF CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$5,856.98</b>	<b>\$15,934.45</b>	<b>\$1,295.62</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$10,056.11</b>	<b>\$24,159.43</b>	<b>\$1,502.20</b>

## Teleservice Elections

In addition to the monthly orientation for new Teleservice volunteers, the San Francisco Teleservice Committee of the IFB will be holding its elections for chairperson and information chair of the committee. Other Daily Coordinators positions are also available due to rotation.

The meeting will be held Monday, May 19 at 6:30pm at Central Office at 1821 Sacramento St. near Van Ness. For more information, please call Central Office at (415) 674-1821.

### *Assembly (continued from page 8)*

conscience for the groups they represent on the Agenda Items being considered at the General Conference in New York. There were over 400 AA members at the assembly on Saturday, April 5 representing thousands of AA members from all over Northern California. Our Area's Delegate, Doug G. from San Jose, is our Area's representative at the conference and he listens attentively as GSRs approach the microphone to express the conclusions their groups have reached. In listening to the group consciences being presented, the delegate is particularly interested in the reasoning that led to each group's conclusions and in the "minority opinion" of those that disagree with the general consensus of the group consciences being expressed. Then it is up to the delegate to carry the collective group conscience of our area, California Northern Coastal to the General Service Conference in New York. This may sound dry, but in practice, things move pretty quickly and it is exciting to see AA democracy in action.

The district GSR meetings and the Area Assemblies have helped me feel a part of the greater whole that Alcoholics Anonymous is beyond my Home Group. Over the last 4 years, I have gotten to know many of the people involved in general service in San Francisco and Marin and also throughout our area of California Northern Coastal. Like my Home Group, we do not always agree on how AA business should be conducted, but we practice the principles of AA in our collective efforts to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

On Saturday, May 17, 2003, the Post-Conference Assembly will be held in Cloverdale. Our delegate, Doug G., will be reporting back to our area about the General Service Conference and the decisions reached on the agenda items that our groups considered. I would encourage anyone interested in A.A. and General Service to attend. For more information or a ride, please call (District 06) San Francisco's District Committee Member Chair, Brian F. at 415- 260-7312.

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.

## Recent Deaths

*Ann C. - 20+ years*

### Special Needs

#### Literature

AA World Services has asked the Central and Intergroup offices, areas, and groups to help determine what literature is most important to the sight and hearing impaired members. They are trying to formulate a publishing plan that will take place over a five year period. They would like to know:

- What literature should be converted and which are the highest priorities?
- What formats should be used in the conversion and which are the highest priorities? (The options for formats are Large Type, Braille, Audiotape, American Sign Language (ASL) Video Tape, and ASL Scripts.)

There is already converted literature available to these members. Please call your Central Office for more details.

If you would like to voice your opinion on this issue, please talk to your IFB representative or forward information to the Central Office.

CENTRAL OFFICE  
BOOK STORE  
1821 Sacramento Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Bookstore@aasf.org

# 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  
First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin/Geary, San Francisco, CA  
Wednesday March 5, 2003

1. Meeting opened with the serenity prayer at 7:05 pm.
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 above.
5. A.A. Anniversaries: Tim, 3 years; Danny F., 18 years; Ellie C., 12 years; Laura B., 8 years.

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

## New IFB Reps Present

Beth L.	High Noon Tuesday	P
Jeremiah P.	All Together Now	P
Kristine F.	Castro Discussion	P
Scott M.	Friendly Circle Beginners	P

## Non-IFB Liaisons Present

David M.	Marin Teleservice
Todd M.	San Francisco General Service
Gerardo C.	San Mateo General Service
Paul P.	SF PI/CPC

P = Present; A = Absent; R = Resigned; X = Proxy. The \* above indicates an absence; more than one indicates the number of consecutive absences. A Board member who has three consecutive absences from IFB meetings is no longer a member of the Board, as stated in the Bylaws.

6. Review of Agenda: The agenda was approved.
7. Approval of February 2003 Minutes: Minutes were read and approved.
8. IFB Reports:
  - a. Chair's Report: Ben N. announced to the IFB that we received a letter from the IRS stating we were delinquent on our 2002 tax return. We are working with a CPA to clear this up and to prevent this from occurring again. It was announced we have a vacancy on the Central Office Committee. Ben asked the recording secretary to poll the IFB to see who is available to be on the COC. The following members stated they were available: Justin S., Li L., Stephen S., Todd M.
  - b. Treasurer's Report: Patrick M. submitted a written report and gave oral highlights. Patrick reported January had better income than we had budgeted. Our costs are in line with budget; our gross profit is

ahead of the budget. We paid a severance to the outgoing special worker, so we were over budget in employee expenses. We changed the locks at the Central Office. Net income is ahead of budget.

Patrick then explained the prudent reserve calculations to the IFB, and explained that we need to fund the prudent reserve. There was no further discussion.

c. CO Manager's Report: Maury P. submitted a written report and gave oral highlights. Volunteer phones are fully staffed. Literature volunteers are fully staffed. We can always use substitute phone people, you need one year of sobriety. Maury stated she is interviewing candidates for the special worker position and will have a selection soon. Maury stated there was an error on the schedule for tonight's meeting and that some people may have been confused as to the location of the meeting, as it could have been in Marin. Sam S. made a motion to set the months that we meet in Marin as: February, May, August and November. A vote was taken; it was approved with 28 for, none against and 2 abstentions.

d. COC Report: Smithy B. submitted a written report and gave oral highlights. The COC met on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The COC welcomed new members Joe G. and Patrick M. The COC screened resumes for a special worker. The COC discussed the current IRS situation and authorized Patrick M. to write a letter to the IRS. The COC discussed the possibility of upgrading financial software and equipment.

#### 9. Special Orders of Business (Action Items):

a. Out-sourcing of Schedule Printing: Li L., of the Schedule Committee reported that it costs us about the same amount of money to out-source the printing of the new schedule as it does to produce it in-house. A member of the committee obtained bids to produce the schedule. After review the schedule committee recommended out-sourcing the printing of the new schedule. Li recommends that we print approximately 7,500 of the new schedules for the first printing, which will cost about .50 cents each. The cost up-front will be about \$3,750. Bill R. made a motion to proceed with the pilot printing of the new schedule for 7,500 copies. A vote was taken, 28 voting for, none against and 2 abstentions.

#### 10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

a. Literature Review Committee: Frank B. reported. The Literature Review Committee on reducing the wordage in the 12 Concepts. They talked to New York and New York said "go for it."

b. *The Point* Editorial Committee: Irene K. reported stating that *The Point* loses money every month. The 2002 expense report for *The Point* is as follows: Income: \$496, Expenses: \$4,200 with 71 paid subscriptions. Many people get *The Point* for free; she suggested that those who are able pay for their subscriptions. If you have ideas on how to help, or if you are receiving *The Point* and currently not paying for, and would like to, please contact Irene K. at: thepoint@aasf.org

c. Orientation Committee: Ellie C. reported. New members should attend the orientation committee meeting. The next meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Central Office.

d. Website Committee: Sam S. reported. The committee met last month. We need help. Please contact Samuel S. Samuel announced the service meeting dates and times are now online.

e. 12th Step Workshop: Lisa M. reported. The next workshop will be Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

#### 11. IFB Standing Committee Reports:

a. Teleservice: Russell G. reported. San Francisco Teleservice will be rotating out the information chair position and one coordinator

position. Please contact Russell at the Central Office if interested in either of these two commitments.

b. PI/CPC: Paul P. gave report. He reported the elections for PI/CPC Committee with Debra D. as the new chair and Paul P. as the IFB liaison. The next speaker workshop will be Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Central Office at 10:00 am.

#### 12. Group Rep Reports:

a. Tuesday Downtown: Steve S. reported. He submitted a letter from the Steering Committee of the Tuesday Downtown meeting. This letter stated that the Tuesday Downtown is losing money. It is not self-supporting and that if it continues, it will be unable to meet its expenses in about 8 months. Steve asked for support from the Fellowship to please attend the meeting. The meeting will be changing its meeting times. Effective April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Beginner's Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, and the Chip Meeting will be 8:00 pm. Discussion followed from the IFB on suggestions for support.

#### 13. Non-IFB Liaison Reports:

a. General Service, SF: Todd M. reported. At the area level, there was a motion to send surplus money to New York General Service Office. CNCA to send \$3,000 to the General Service Office. This motion passed. At the district level, there is still \$812 outstanding from stolen treasury. The district held Agenda Topics Workshop on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, with participation by members of District 7 and District 16.

b. General Service, Marin: No report.

c. Teleservice, Marin: Dave M. reported. Russell and Peter from San Francisco Teleservice attended the monthly meeting in Marin County and discussed a shared 12-step worker list. Dave also reported that the Marin County Fundraiser Spaghetti Feed was a tremendous success.

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

e. Bridging the Gap: Ritchie R. submitted a written report and stated that the next orientation meeting for those interested in BTG will be March 11<sup>th</sup> before the GSR meeting at 6:30 pm at St. Mark's Church in San Francisco.

f. H&I: No report.

g. Spirit of San Francisco: Chris F. reported. He stated that the next Spirit of San Francisco is October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn in San Francisco. They need people to help facilitate the convention. There are tentative plans for a Dance-Fundraiser that will be scheduled in the future. Please contact Chris if you want to get involved in any of these events.

h. Others: None.

14. Housekeeping: None.

15. Old Business: None.

16. New Business: None reported.

17. Reading of the 12 Traditions and practice of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: Irene K. read the 12 Traditions. The basket was passed.

18. Adjourn with the Serenity Prayer: Ben N adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe G., IFB Recording Secretary

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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

### ONGOING MEMORIALS

*Bob*  
*R. W.*

### ANNIVERSARIES

David P.—2 Years  
David VanE.—3 Years  
Barnaby W.—4 Years  
Robin L.—4 Years  
Tracy R.—8 Years  
Channing C.—9 Years  
Judy W.—9 Years  
Dick S.—16 Years  
Veronica McC.—22 years  
Marty B.—30 Years

Endless Summer  
Tom—1 Year  
Anthony—2 Years  
Meg—2 Years  
Wilson—2 Years  
Andrew—3 Years  
Silka—3 Years  
Derek—4 Years  
Nikki—5 Years  
Eric—9 Years  
Jason—12 Years

Thanks to all who  
honor their sobriety  
through giving!

To observe  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
the San Francisco/Marin  
**Central Office**  
1821 Sacramento Street  
will be closed on  
**Monday, May 26.**

## SUMMARY

### April 2003 IFB Meeting

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

#### A. Business conducted.

1. Chairs report: Ben N. reported that both the personnel manual and the operations manual are being reviewed for possible revision. The annual meeting of the IFB will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM
2. Treasurer's report: Patrick M. reported for the period ending Feb. 2003. Total income was ahead of budgeted income. We are presently ahead of budget for expenses. Our overall financial condition is good.
3. Central Office Managers report: Maury P. reported. We need substitute phone volunteers. PRAASA was an informative seminar. Maury will be hosting the Northern California Central Office Managers meeting.
4. Central Office Committee report: Smithy B. reported. The COC voted to authorize Maury to hire a computer consultant to help us with the system at the Central Office. The COC voted to make the vice-chair of the IFB a standing member of the orientation committee. The COC decided to have a one-day off site meeting during the summer of 2003 for current and new COC members in order to take a group inventory and to orient new members. The COC reviewed the Central Office Managers job performance and voted her a pay increase.
5. COC election: Ellie C. reported for the nominating committee. Three nominees were presented. After a vote, Leslie F. was elected to the COC.
6. Special Events committee: Ben N. suggested that the IFB should have an annual event to promote fellowship in our Intergroup. A special events committee was formed to discuss this and bring suggestions back to the IFB.
7. Special Needs committee: Bill R. reported on the needs of the hearing impaired and how our area does not have enough ASL meetings. He also suggested that we should attend meetings that we have listed as Handicapped accessible. We need to ensure that these meetings are in fact wheelchair accessible
8. Literature Committee: Frank B. gave his report. The Literature Committee has ordered 200 copies of a new publication, which has all of the stories from the first three editions of the Big Book, which are not included in the fourth edition. The book is entitled Experience, Strength, and Hope. There will be no Committee meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
9. Point Committee: Irene K. reported. We need writers for new articles.

#### B. Information.

1. Orientation Committee: Ellie C. reported that the IFB Orientation is always at 6:30 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Central Office.
2. Schedule Committee: Li L. reported. The schedule committee is hoping to have the new SF schedule next month.
3. 12th step workshop: Lisa M. reported. The next 12th step workshop will be April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Central Office.
4. Teleservice committee meets the third Monday of the month at the Central Office at 6:30 PM. The Committee needs 2 coordinators and a new chairperson.
5. PI/CPC-The next speaker workshop will be April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Central Office. The next meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Central Office at 7PM.
6. Group Rep reports: Tuesday Downtown will be changing times. The meeting may be moving location.
7. General Service SF: Todd M. reported. The pre-conference assembly will be April 5 & 6 in Vallejo. The Post Conference assembly will be May 17<sup>th</sup> in Cloverdale. The summer assembly will be Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> in Antioch. The treasurer reports that the funds that were stolen from the previous treasurer will probably not be covered by insurance. SF General Service meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1101 O'Farrell.
8. General Service Marin: Christy M. introduced herself as the new liaison for the IFB.
9. Teleservice Marin: Dave M. reported. Marin Teleservice is answering the phone and is self-supporting.
10. Bridging the Gap: meets before the SF General Service meeting at 6:30 PM at 1101 O'Farrell St. ↑



# Financial Statement

FEBRUARY 2003 - Intercounty Fellowship of AA

## Correction:

In the April Point, the article entitled "How It Works in NYC" stated that the General Manager position at GSO is a two-year rotating position. This is not correct. It is a standard permanent position.

Our apologies.  
Editor



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**May 2003**

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