

the Point

*The Point is that we are willing
to grow along gradual lines.*

from Chapter Five of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

2007
MAY

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

A publication of the
Intercounty Fellowship

of Alcoholics Anonymous

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DO COURT SLIPS “COURT SLIPS”... WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE?

by Li L.

In 1942, members from San Francisco brought the first A.A. meeting into San Quentin Prison at the request of the Warden, Clinton T. Duffy. This example led to A.A.'s cooperation with the court systems, including direct communications with judges and parole and probation officials. The sole purpose of this Twelfth Step work, then and now, was to carry A.A.'s message to the still suffering alcoholic. To fulfill that purpose, A.A.'s have learned how to share A.A. information within the court system. (According to A.A. Guidelines, Cooperating with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs, published by G.S.O. in New York).

So began a long and enduring A.A. tradition.

A.A. long ago made a commitment to accept within its fold those who are still on the fence, who may not

identify as alcoholics and who don't really want to be in a meeting. This has been one of the most exemplary commitments A.A. has made over the years to the community-at-large: its willingness to offer to individuals not yet blessed with the gift of conscious desperation an opportunity to find within themselves the desire to stop drinking.

The funny thing is, this sounds just like me in my first few meetings except that I wasn't sent by the courts, a probation officer or a treatment professional, but instead by my own pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization.

So, I have to ask myself, "Does this make me more likely to stay sober, more able to help other alcoholics or more loving and tolerant than those who arrive in A.A. via the proverbial

(Continued on page 6)

The Point is published monthly to inform AA members about business and meeting affairs in the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (San Francisco and Main Counties). The Point's pages are open to participation by all AA members. Nothing published herein should be construed as a statement of AA, nor does publication constitute endorsement of AA as a whole, the Intercounty Fellowship Board, the Central Office, or the Point Editorial Committee. Letters and articles to help carry the AA message are welcomed, subject to editorial review by the Point Committee.

monthly calendar

Events, Highlights and Happenings

may 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <u>FIRST WED</u> Intercounty Fellowship Board Orientation 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm, 1187 Franklin St./ Geary, First Unitarian Church, S.F. (Feb., May, Aug., & Nov in Sausalito at 180 Harrison Ave., Sausalito, CA: Star of the Sea Church)	3	4 <u>FIRST FRI</u> Trusted Servants Workshop Committee Central Office, 5:30 pm	5
6	7 <u>FIRST MON</u> Special Needs Central Office, 5:30pm	8 <u>SECOND TUE</u> SF Bridging The Gap 1187 Franklin St. at Geary, SF, 6:30 pm SF General Service 1187 Franklin St., SF Orientation: 7 pm Meeting: 8 pm Marin H&I 1360 Lincoln, San Rafael Orientation: 6:15 pm Bus. Meeting: 7:15 pm	9 <u>SECOND WED</u> 12th Step Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Bridging the Gap 1411 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael, 7 pm	10	11	12 General Service Post-Conference Assembly, Citrus Fairgrounds, Cloverdale, CA
13	14 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information Committee Central Office, 7 pm	15 <u>THIRD TUE</u> Outreach Committee, Central Office; 6pm San Mateo General Service St. Andrews Church 15th & El Camino Real San Mateo, 7:30 pm	16 <u>THIRD WED</u> Literature Review Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm	17	18	19 IFB Rep. & GSR Trusted Servants Workshop, 10am to 12pm, Central Office
20 <u>THIRD SUN</u> Archives Committee, Central Office, 2 pm Business Meeting followed by Work Day Living Sober Convention Committee, 1668 Bush, SF, 5:00 pm	21 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd, San Rafael, District Meeting: 8 pm	22 <u>FOURTH TUE</u> Special Events Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club, 7:30 pm	23	24	25	26 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> General Service CNCA Meeting 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; Business Meeting: 12:30 pm
27	28 Central Office Closed — Memorial Day	29	30	31 <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. SF Orientation: 7:15 pm Committee Meeting: 8 pm		

From the Editor

This month we bring you a rather weighty issue of *The Point*, focusing on our individual and collective experience with The Law.

We start off with a controversial subject within A.A.: mandated individuals at meetings and the practice of signing attendance slips. We present one person's opinion and are of course open to publishing any further thoughts on this subject. Just send us your articles, Bulletin Board pieces or whatever – but expect to be edited - for style, not content.

We also have an article on divorce in recovery and another on employers and A.A.

I'm sorry to say that Alky has been in a sulk lately. No one's asking for her opinion. She's crushed and ready to throw in the towel. Please, please, please for Alky's sake, ask her something! Anything! You can write her at alky@aaaf.org or send snail mail to Central Office, address on the cover of this issue.

"Happy, Joyous and Free" is the theme of our upcoming July issue. Please consider contributing an article for publication in *The Point*. Deadline is May 15. We love to hear from you and are especially seeking new voices from Marin.

-The Editor



TAURUS: APRIL 20-MAY 20

The most astounding drunkalogues ever to reverberate off the walls of church basements invariably come from those of you born under the sign of the bull. Insatiable in all things, you Taureans know the outer limits of addiction. Even in recovery, no one ever says to you, "Gee, you don't LOOK like an alcoholic."

As a Taurus, you come to A.A. from a variety of backgrounds—often following a stock market collapse, an insider


trading scandal, an armed bank robbery, or parole from San Quentin. Ruled by Venus, you are motivated only by immediate, tangible results. You expect recovery to mean replacing the alcohol in your cup with another suitable beverage—so you can get back out there. The Third Step sounds like voodoo to you. The Promises are a bore. If you want a new car, you want it NOW. As a Taurus, it's all or nothing. Without the prospect of instant gratification, you descend rapidly into abject



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sloth. In this state, you believe that keeping both eyes open at the same time is multi-tasking.

It takes an adroit and dedicated sponsor to restore a Taurus to sanity—a task made easier by the fact that you are so predictable. Subtlety escapes you and you respond well to physical threats. Your road to recovery isn't always smooth. There may be cattle prods involved. Only faith and patience will triumph in the end. 



New Meetings:

Fri	1:00pm	Western Addition	BIG BOOK BEGINNERS 1201 Fillmore/ Turk (BB, Bg)
Fri	7:05pm	Park Merced	NO WHINERS Church, 777 Brotherhood Way (BK, Wh, Wo)

Meeting Changes:

Mon-Fri	9:00am	Inner Sunset	SUNSET 9'ERS 1390 14th Ave./ Judah (was 1329 7th Ave./ Irving)
Mon-Fri	11:00am	Inner Sunset	SUNSET 11'ERS 1390 14th Ave./Judah (was 1329 7th Ave./ Irving)
Mon	6:30pm	Inner Sunset	CREATIVE ALCOHOLICS 1329 7th Ave./ Irving (was 6:00pm)
Wed	7:30pm	Laguna Honda	SOBER 5150's, (was 8:00pm)
Fri	5:00pm	Inner Sunset	FRIDAY AT FIVE 1390 14th Ave./ Judah (was 1329 7th Ave./ Irving)
Sat	12:00pm	Hayes Valley	THE GREAT FACT SF Alano Club, 1748 Market/ Octavia (was 12:15pm)
Sat	12:00pm	Hayes Valley	BIRTHDAY MEETING SF Alano Club, 1748 Market/ Octavia (was 8pm)

Please Note: Central Office occasionally receives reports that meetings listed in our schedules are not there. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes not. The office relies primarily on information that is given to us by A.A. groups, but when a group disbands, informing the Central Office is a common omission. **If you know anything about a meeting that has disbanded**, please call the Central Office immediately: (415) 674-1821. *Thanks for your help in keeping the schedule accurate!*

RECENTLY REGISTERED TRUSTED SERVANTS—MARCH 2007

Below are the meetings whose Trusted Servants registered with Central Office during March 2007— fifteen in San Francisco and eight in Marin. Thank you for registering!

San Francisco

10 AM Daily Reflections Thurs. 10:00; **5:15 PM Smokeless** Wed. 5:15pm; **A Is For Alcohol** Tues. 6:00pm; **Brokers Open Book** Tues. 1:30pm; **Fireside Chat** Sat. 9:00pm; **Friday Night Special** Fri. 8:30pm; **No Whiners** Fri. 7:05; **Rigorous Honesty Group** Thurs. 12:05; ; **Short Attention Span** Sun. 5:00pm; **Sought To Improve** Thurs. 7:30pm; **Ten Years After** Sun. 6:00pm; **Tuesday Downtown** Tues. 8:00pm; **Washington Square** Mon. 7:00pm; **Women's Kitchen Table Group** Tues. 6:30pm; **Women's Promises** Fri. 7:00pm

Marin

Beginner's Meeting Tue. 7:00pm; **Downtown Mill Valley** 8:30pm; **Gratitude** Tues. 8:00pm; **Happy, Joyous & Free** Tue. 12pm; **Island Group** Thurs. 8:00pm; **Mill Valley 7AM** Daily Fri. 7:00am; **Refugee** Thurs. 12:00n; **Women Who Drank Too Much** Mon. 7:30pm

CONTRIBUTIONS

to Central Office were made through April 15, 2007 honoring the following members:

ONGOING MEMORIALS

Morning After: Bob C.

ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis C. 11 years
Reality Farm: Derek D. 8 years
High Noon:
Brittany B. 1 year, Dawayne 1 year,
Eric 2 years, Franz 2 years,
Ilene 2 years, Jeff L. 2 years,
Martha 2 years, John 3 years,
Judo Ted 3 years, Lou 3 years,
Sean D. 3 years, Ashley 6 years,
Jaime G. 9 years, Steven 11 years,
Laura B. 12 years,
Adrianna M. 14 years, Lonnie 17 years,
Manny V. 31 years

COMING UP

mark your calendar

"The Sunshine Club", a new branch of the 12th Step Committee, is holding a Workshop at Central Office

The Sunshine Club brings meetings to AA members who can not get to regular meetings due to temporary illness or injury.

*Learn more about carrying the message on
Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 6:30 PM*

One year sobriety & attendance at one Sunshine Club workshop requested



BRISBANE BREAKFAST BUNCH

250 Visitation Way, Community Center
(under library), Brisbane, Sunday, 11AM

05/06 Speaker: Bruce K. From: Too Early Group, SF
05/13 Speaker: Joe O'C. From: San Francisco
05/20 Speaker: Holly N. From: San Francisco
05/27 Speaker: Patrick U. From: Brisbane Breakfast Bunch

TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

1101 O'Farrell St. Urban Life Center,
SF, Tuesday 8PM

05/01 Speaker: Kathleen Mc. From: Burlingame
05/08 Speaker: Fernando S. From: Concord
05/15 Speaker: Peggy T. From: San Jose
05/22 Speaker: Jeff L. From: Morgan Hill
05/29 Speaker: Dan-Dan From: San Jose

FRIDAY NIGHT ALL GROUPS

1101 O'Farrell St. Urban Life Center, SF,
Fridays 8:30 pm

05/04 Speaker: DK S. From: Tuesday Night "A" is for Alcohol
05/11 Speaker: Bruce K. From: Too Early
05/18 Speaker: Carol P. From: Saturday Meditation 5pm Group
05/25 Speaker: T.K. From: Saturday Serenity, San Rafael

7AM SPEAKER DISCUSSION

2118 Greenwich St. SF,
Marina Dock, Thursday, 7AM

05/03 Speaker: Gerri
05/10 Speaker: Gerard
05/17 Speaker: Vickey
05/24 Speaker: Dave
05/31 Speaker: Julie

BIRTHDAY MEETING

1748 Market St. Alano Club,
SF, Saturdays 12 pm
Fellowship Brunch 11am to 12pm

05/05 Speaker: Sidney
05/12 Speaker: Ed
05/19 Speaker: Larry D.
05/26 Speaker: Dale P.

The Trusted Servants Workshop Committee of the



Is pleased to present an

IFB and GSR Trusted Servants Workshop

Four knowledgeable speakers will talk on the roles of Inter-county Fellowship Board Representative and General Service Representative. Learn how they connect your group to our local Central Office and AA as a whole.

Where: Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St, SF

When: Saturday, May 19th, 10 AM to 12 noon
Coffee and snacks will be provided.

For more information call Patty M. at 415-923-9883
or Monika H. at 415-618-0426.



A fundraising event for

Western Roundup/Living Sober 2007

June 29 — July 1

Alcoholic Idol and Country Western Tea Dance (with free dance lessons)

Saturday, May 26, 2007

4:00 PM AA/AI-Anon Meeting

**6:00 PM Alcoholic Idol
Country Western Tea Dance**

John Sims Center for the Performing Arts.
1519 Mission Street (between 11th Street and South Van Ness)

For more information and complete contest rules,
visit our website at www.livingsober.org.



Persons requiring reasonable accommodations, including sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternate formats should contact the SF/Marin County Central Office (415) 674 - 1821 no later than *five business days prior to the event.



DEALER

by Anonymous


In my drinking days I used to sell marijuana. I gave a good deal for the money and my dope sales funded my drinking.

Fast forward. It's 2001 and I'm fifteen years sober, working with sponsees using the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Rumors are flying that the Fourth Edition will be out soon. I hear there is a shipment coming in and call Central Office. Can I reserve a case? Sure. When I get the call I am as

excited as I used to be when the boat came in from Thailand.

At Central Office I put the treasure chest in the trunk of my car and head for a meeting in my neighborhood. After the meeting I whisper to one of my sponsees that I'm holding - the new Big Book - does she or any of her sponsees need one? She gestures to a couple of women and follows me outside. Fortunately, we open the trunk and lift the

precious volumes from their hiding place.

Soon the word spreads and others from the meeting begin to gather 'round. Eying the growing crowd my sponsee laughs out loud. "I can't believe it," she chuckles. "My sponsor is dealing Big Books out of the trunk of her car!" Definitely a good deal for the money. 

(Court Slips: Continued from page 1)

nudge from the judge?" Probably not. As a matter of fact, the very first person who extended the hand of welcome to me in an A.A. meeting was a gentleman who had originally come to A.A. through DUI court. He is still here, eleven years later.

So why then do some groups refuse to sign court slips and, by default, make second class citizens out of those who come to A.A. through the legal system? This has long been a source of embarrassment for me as an A.A. member and as someone who has worked professionally and privately with DUI offenders and Proposition 36 (treatment rather than incarceration) probationers and parolees. That some meetings even specify in the schedules: "No Court Slips Signed" sounds to me judgmental and intolerant. Of course, any group can do as they please but that doesn't mean others can't question them.

It seems to me that rather than refusing to cooperate, we should show tolerance and love towards those who are in fact suffering from our disease. Who knows? They came. They just

might come to. They might even come to believe.

Several studies conducted at major universities have concluded beyond question that treatment, whether traditional "self-help groups" like A.A., or professionally provided, works no matter how you get there.


In the interest of A.A.'s tradition of not aligning with any outside enterprise, I won't list my sources here. Any interested member can feel free to contact me through Central Office. However, I would like to share some important points. One study reports that: "A group of men who completed court-ordered treatment for alcohol and drug problems reported lower intrinsic motivation at the beginning of treatment, but five years later, reported the same rates of abstinence, employment and re-arrest as peers who sought help on their own."

This just confirms the wisdom of my sponsor who says that it doesn't matter why you go to a meeting as long as you go and that the only way to do the Twelve Steps wrong is not to do them at all.

And this, "The investigators believe that, in addition to the other positive aspects of treatment, mandated patients may acquire motivation to change. "The high level of camaraderie... where these individuals interacted with self-motivated peers, may have contributed to a shift in attitude.""

If this ain't one drunk working with (and on) another, I don't know what is. Once again, the wisdom of A.A. becomes part and parcel of professional treatment practices.

So, every A.A. member can of course decide for themselves how to approach "mandated" newcomers. But I remind you (and me) that love and tolerance is our code and quote once again from the A.A. Guidelines mentioned above:

"As A.A. members we are not qualified to judge, endorse or oppose any other program in the field of alcoholism, nor is it a good idea to give the impression that we are professional, scientific experts. We can help only with our own experience." 

Dear Alky...



Dear Alky,

We have been losing money out of our till. One time someone stole the money directly that was saved in the storage box and another time we came up short with money at the meeting and very few donations. I've never seen anyone directly take money, although I'm suspicious of one certain person. Any suggestions?

--B. H.

Dear B.H.,

The A.A. group's finances are primarily the responsibility of the group's treasurer, which is why many groups require the treasurer to have a minimum length of sobriety (and some require a bank account and a source of income, as well). Group money should not be kept in a "storage box"

but should regularly be deposited in a bank and distributed to the various recipients of the funds: the rent for meeting space, reimbursing those who buy literature for the meeting, and refreshments, if the group has agreed to provide those. Any excess funds, beyond the group's agreed-upon prudent reserve, should promptly be sent to the A.A. service entities according to the established group conscience.

In order to keep money from disappearing out of the basket during the collection for the Seventh Tradition, some group treasurers stand at the end of the row as the basket is being passed, moving around the room while keeping an eye on the basket. If you use more than one basket, get someone to help with that small task. With respect to the person you "suspect," unless you actually observe someone stealing from the treasury, I recommend simply setting aside your suspicions and placing principles before personalities. If you actually see some-

one stealing money, your group should probably have an urgent business meeting to discuss what recourse, if any, you want to take.

Finally, making regular treasurer reports to your group (during announcements or at a regularly scheduled business meeting) will keep the group up-to-date on its finances, making it less likely that money will go missing unnoticed. It is the responsibility of every member of the group, to the extent s/he is able, to keep the meeting self-supporting and financially healthy. By keeping the rent paid and Central Office and other service entities operating, we each contribute to the ongoing life of our fellowship and ensure that whenever a suffering alcoholic reaches out for help, "the hand of A.A. will be there."

--Alky

If you have a question for Alky please send an email to alky@aasf.org




TO SIGN OR NOT TO SIGN?

by Anonymous

I've gone to hundreds of A.A. meetings and have had the pleasure of being secretary at many of them for the six-month commitment. The process of chairing the meeting is pretty routine for me, but I do get dumbfounded at times when someone hands me a slip to sign. Sometimes it is handed to me before the meeting, sometimes 5 or 10

minutes into the meeting, or at the end of the meeting. Some meetings don't accept the slips at all. It is just my opinion that the slips, whenever they're presented to the secretary, should be held and signed at the end of the meeting and not returned to the owner until then.

I know it's none of my business to make sure the slip holders remain present at the meeting from start to finish, but I also don't think it's doing them any good if they get a slip signed at the start of the meeting and then disappear. The easier, softer way doesn't work for any of us. 

The Three Legacies: Steps, Traditions and Concepts

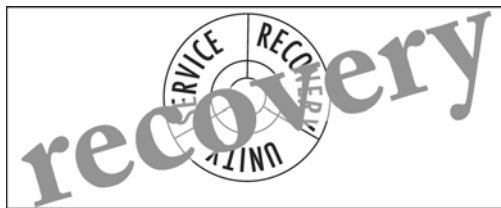
Almost everyone in A.A. who has been around for a few days is aware of the Steps. We may not understand them at first or know how to apply them but we know what they are. A dawning of awareness usually comes a bit later for the Traditions. We are told that they are for the Group what the Steps are for the individual. Sometimes we may even glimpse the spiritual qualities embodied in the Traditions but usually we ignore them until a conflict arises in the Fellowship. We are then reminded of their importance.

The Twelve Concepts, on the other hand, are rarely discussed at the individual or group level. Yet they are an important part of A.A. heritage and as such should be understood, especially by those who seek to be of service to the Fellowship at large.

As Bill W. explained, "These Twelve Concepts therefore represent an attempt to put on paper the why of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the conclusions that we have drawn from it cannot be lost..."

"Hence, a prime purpose of these Twelve Concepts is to hold the experience and lessons of the early days constantly before us. This should reduce the chance of hasty and unnecessary change."

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STEP FIVE

by Nkechi E.

"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

When I was new and first read Step Five on the wall of one of my earliest A.A. meetings, I felt like I was about to be persecuted and sentenced for being me. In my head I envisioned Step Five required me to stand before a court of law, raise my right hand and tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Step Five seemed a tall order for an alcoholic of my type, who at the end of her drinking could not discern the true from the false. I had made the creation of alibis such an art form that I mostly believed them. Step Five directs me to get honest with my innermost self. Up until I worked this step I had always believed I was the goodiest goodie two shoes of them all. "THEY" had always been at fault. "THEY" were the bad people of the world whom I had a knack for attracting. While drinking I had shared my idea of myself with anyone who would listen. In my story as I told it I was the victim, I was the one harmed and THEY were to blame.

As I wrote out my Fourth Step and started sharing bits and pieces of it with my sponsor, the denial started to lift. Now I could admit the resentments, fears, and harms done others which I had neatly hidden from myself in the privacy of my alcoholic mind. Had I stayed too long in relationships, had I drunk away opportunities, had I lied to myself and others

about who I really am?

The answer was a resounding yes, yes, yes!

When I was almost done my sponsor took a long vacation and I freaked. By this time I had witnessed others drinking again by not working a Fifth Step. I was frightened I would suddenly become unwilling. My sponsor suggested that if I finished my Fourth Step while she was gone I should find a closemouthed trusted friend who had experience with the Fifth Step.

I went to any lengths to find someone by going to women's meetings all about town searching for a woman I could trust. When I found her she wasted no time in scheduling me for the long talk. I found out later that she was completing a thesis and in a crunch for time, yet she prioritized hearing my Fifth Step. While listening to me, she related some of her own experiences and sometimes told stories worse than mine.

When we were done, she said "Not guilty by reason of insanity." These words radically changed my life and gave me the break I needed to continue on. I had a spiritual experience that day. I felt light and lifted up. I finally felt at peace with the world! I have never looked back since. **P**

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The following is a list of names and email addresses for IFB Officers and for most of the IFB committees. If you are interested in doing service on a committee, or if you wish to receive more information about a committee, please email that committee at the address.

INTERGROUP OFFICERS:

CHAIR

Scott N. chair@aasf.org

VICE CHAIR

Chuck K. vicechair@aasf.org

TREASURER

Danna P. treasurer@aasf.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Chris T. secretary@aasf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

CENTRAL OFFICE COMMITTEE

David P. coc@aasf.org

12th STEP COMMITTEE

Victor V. help@aasf.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Bruce K. archives@aasf.org

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Steve N. literature@aasf.org

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Anthony J. orientation@aasf.org

THE POINT

Victor V. thepoint@aasf.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chair Needed

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

Chris H. snack@aasf.org

TRUSTED SERVANTS

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Monika H. tsw@aasf.org

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Dan Z. website@aasf.org

SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Judi C. sfteservice@aasf.org

SF PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Jill H. picpc@aasf.org



TRADITION FIVE

by Morgan L.

“Each Group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

“Shoemaker, stick to thy last.”

This proverb comes from an ancient story about a shoemaker criticizing the work of a painter named Apelles, exclaiming that the shoe in his picture was not correctly portrayed. Apelles quickly made the suggested adjustments, whereby the emboldened shoemaker suggested that additional changes be made to a table leg in the picture. To this request Apelles remarked, “shoemaker, stick to thy last,” (the “last” is part of a cobbler’s shoe-repairing equipment). This translates to, “don’t meddle in business you don’t know.”

This adage is included in the Fifth Tradition to remind the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that members best serve the group and the community when the program of A.A. is used only to help other alcoholics. This is easier said than done. I often restrain myself from making party favors of my Twelve Step “tool kit” to friends, family and co-workers. Similarly, the group must keep out of matters unrelated to helping alcoholics recover. The *Twelve and Twelve* provides several reasons for having one primary purpose. Firstly, when A.A.’s purpose is diversified, we handicap our ability to help other alcoholics. Secondly, recovering alcoholics working outside our singleness of purpose forfeit the personal opportunity to operate at our spiritual best and risk relapse.

The problems with advising ‘beyond our last’ are exemplified in the Washingtonian Group. In 1840 the group formed a total abstinence society which quickly multiplied until 1847 when membership began declining. One factor affecting the group’s demise was its departure from its original purpose, “reforming drunkards.” The group’s purpose was diluted by the large percentage of members who were not drunks, but non-alcoholic temperance advocates furthering their own agenda. This affected the group because their focus was on ever-changing socio/political issues rather than the ever-present and fatal disease of alcoholism.

Another reason A.A.’s purpose must be kept singular is related to the manifestation of the disease in alcoholics. Chapter Five of the Big Book states that, “Selfishness—self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles.” In order for recovering alcoholics to stay sober, we must relieve ourselves of this ego-centric thinking through working with others. Helping another alcoholic, we temporarily shed our self-centered ruminations and operate on a higher spiritual plane. Operating on this plane we maintain conscious contact with God and receive a daily reprieve from alcoholism. Simply put, working with others keeps us sober.

The need for A.A. to stick to its “last”

(Continued on page 11)



Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of Central Office. As a Faithful Fiver, your personal contribution can and will make our vital services possible. We'd like to thank the following members for joining:

Ami Joy Y.	Jeanne C.
Andy T.	Jeff B.
Barbara M.	Jim H.
Brian N.	Karen K.
Brian P.	Loran W.
Brent H.	Marty C.
Callista S.	Matt S.
Caroline A.	Michael W.
Casey L.	Nancie G.
Catherine S.	Patti W.
David H.	Paul M.
David J.	Paul W.
David P.	Peg L.
Dennis & Lucy O.	Peggy M.
Doug C.	Pene P.
Elizabeth S.	Ralph P.
Esther R.	Rich G.
Frances L.	Robert K.
Giles H.	Sheila H.
Greg W.	Stephanie D.
Herman B.	Stephen R.
Jane H.	Steve A.
Jane K.	Steve B.
Janet B.	Steve F.
	Tim M.

If you would like to become a Faithful Fiver, please download a pledge form from our website or call or stop by Central Office! You will receive a complimentary subscription to *The Point*. And remember, individual contributions are 100% tax deductible!



CONCEPT V

by Liz B.

“Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.”

Amazingly enough, there is room for all of our opinions at business and Intergroup meetings, area assemblies, and the Conference. That’s not to say that we don’t argue. We argue a lot, in fact. But we can afford to. First, our traditions guarantee us the right to be wrong. Then, our concepts protect us against being bulldozed by a majority that may or may not have the best idea, even if it is the most popular one.

This proved to be true for a suburban meeting that was started with the idea of exploring “all spiritual concepts” by sharing and discussing material that was not necessarily A.A. Conference-approved. Members brought in short readings, and then the group discussed them in the light of A.A. experience. In every other aspect, it was just like any ordinary A.A. discussion meeting. The idea was to support members’ spiritual development by sharing experience, strength, and hope.

The meeting was approved and registered with the A.A. General Service Office in New York, yet for years it did not have the benefit of being on the local schedule because the Intergroup had decided it didn’t fit their criteria for a “real” A.A. meeting. Yet even with word of mouth as the only publicity, the meeting continued for a number of years.

Every year a representative from the group would go to an Intergroup gathering and present a case for being listed on the schedule — and every year the Intergroup declined with a simple majority. After the vote, the Intergroup chairman always asked for the minority opinion. Every time, the same man argued that Tradition Four guarantees the autonomy of the group. His speech seemed to have little effect on the voters, whose primary concern remained that the meeting did not use only Conference-approved literature.

Last year, when the case was again brought before the Intergroup — and again defeated — the man with the minority opinion again referred to Tradition Four, but this time he noted that the group had voted backwards. The issue was not whether this was a bona fide A.A. group, he said. The G.S.O. had already sanctioned it as such. The real issue was simply whether Intergroup wanted to exclude this particular bona fide A.A. group from its meeting schedule.

People groaned and grumbled, but they started talking again. Eventually the chairperson asked if there was a motion to exclude the meeting, explaining that this type of action would require “substantial unanimity,” or at least a two-thirds majority.

(Continued on page 14)

“TO EMPLOYERS” AND THE LAW:

A.A. FORESAW THE FUTURE

by Greg W.

Many people who are exposed to the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous are amazed to find that a program that was founded in the 1930s is not only still relevant today, but in many ways was actually ahead of its time. As a recovering alcoholic and an attorney practicing employment law, this revelation is nowhere more dramatic to me than when I compare the suggestions “To Employers” in Chapter Ten of the Big Book with the current laws protecting disabled employees – including alcoholics – from employment discrimination.


The federal Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as well as many state laws (including California), generally prohibit employment discrimination against “qualified individuals with a disability” and require employers to provide “reasonable accommodation” to disabled employees. While these laws do not specifically list alcoholism – or any other medical condition – as a “disability,” the laws usually define “disability” as a physical or mental condition that has a substantial adverse effect on one or more “major life activi-

ties.” Similarly, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous teaches us that alcoholism is a disease of both mind and body that causes our lives to become “unmanageable,” and, in the chapter “To Employers”, challenges employers to “discard the feeling that you are dealing only with habit, with stubbornness or a weak will” and acknowledge that the alcoholic employee is “gravely ill.”


Page 143 of the Big Book encourages employers to “suggest a definite course of action” to an alcoholic employee who wants to stop. The book recognizes that a leave of absence – paid or unpaid – may be appropriate so that the alcoholic employee may obtain medical treatment. It also suggests that employers may need to “curb [the alcoholic’s] desire to work sixteen hours a day”, and to provide recovering employees with a “reasonable amount of latitude” to work their Twelve Step program. Likewise, the law requires employers to provide “reasonable accommodation” to disabled employees. Although “reasonable accommodation” is ana-

lyzed on a case-by-case basis, such accommodations may include leaves of absence, modified work responsibilities, and scheduling flexibility.

What about the alcoholic employee who achieves some sobriety, but then relapses? The law does not require employers to allow an actively drinking alcoholic to remain on the job. Chapter Ten of the Big Book provides similar guidance: “In case [the alcoholic employee] does stumble, even once, you will have to decide whether to let him go. If you are sure he doesn’t mean business, there is no doubt you should discharge him. If, on the contrary, you are sure he is doing his utmost, you may wish to give him another chance. But you should feel under no obligation to keep him on, for your obligation has been well discharged already.”

Perhaps it should not be surprising that the advice in the Big Book so closely parallels the evolving law regarding disabled employees. After all, Bill W. himself received legal training before embarking on his business career! 

(Tradition Five: Continued from page 9)

is essential in maintaining the group as well as serving new members. When we remember our singleness of purpose we can wholly give of ourselves and help others, which in turn ensures a solid fellowship, a strong connection with our higher power, and another day of sobriety. 

Recent Deaths

Suzanne W.
Ann Z.
Freddy G.

We print the names of any members who have recently died when the names have been sent to us. Unlike the **Ongoing Memorials** section, which appears on Page 4, **Recent Deaths** is for information only. This one-time listing is not dependent upon a contribution in the name of the deceased.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

FEBRUARY

2007

Name	Feb. 2007	YTD
Fellowship		
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	40	40
Contribution Box	56	105
2900 Alcolthon	389	389
Fellowship Contribution	9	9
IFB	94	182
Novato Fellowship Events Committee		40
Total Fellowship	\$ 588	\$ 765

Honors		
High Noon Friday 1215pm	50	80
Total Honors	\$ 50	\$ 80

Marin Group Contributions		
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am	658	658
Blackie's Pasture Sa 830pm	295	295
Closed Women Step Study Tu 330pm	150	150
Creekside New Growth Sun 7pm	144	144
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	420	420
Fireside F 8pm Bolinas	76	76
Gratitude Tu 8pm		267
Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm	750	750
Hillside Candlelight F 830pm		50
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am		76
Island Group Th 8pm		168
Kids Welcome Group M 1130am	45	45
Living in the Solution F 6pm	405	405
Monday Blues M 630pm	212	212
More Will Be Revealed F 12pm		78
Noon Discussion Th 12pm	57	1002
Noon Hope F 12pm	118	118
Quitting Time	100	100
Reveille 7D 7pm	600	600
Saturday Serendipity		99
Sisters In Sobriety Th 730pm (M)	300	300
Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm		90
Steps To The Solution W 715pm		52
Stinson Beach Fellowship Th 8pm		225
Sunday Express Sun 6pm		100
T. G. I. Tuesday 6pm	52	52
T. G. I. Tuesday 6pm	52	52
T.G.I.F. F 6pm	139	139
Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm	77	77
The Fearless Searchers F 8pm	78	78
Thursday Night Speaker Th 830pm	190	190
Tiburon Beginners & Closed Tu 7pm & 830pm		590
Tiburon Haven Sun 12pm	245	245

Name	Feb. 2007	YTD
Tiburon Women's Candlelight W 8pm	42	42
Wednesday Mid-Week W 6pm		182
What's It All About F 12pm	92	92
Women on Monday M 7pm	54	54
Women's Big Book Tu 1030am	119	119
Total Marin Group Contributions	\$ 5,417	\$ 8,337

SF Group Contributions		
7am Marina Dock	125	154
7am Speaker Discussion Th 7am		64
830am Smokeless Th	22	22
A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm		86
A New Start F 830pm	553	553
AA As You Like It Tu 530pm	119	119
AA Step Study Su 6pm	109	109
Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm	30	52
All Together Now Th 8pm	23	23
Amazing Grace M 7pm	16	16
Any Lengths Sat 930am	183	478
As Bill Sees It Sat 8pm	66	66
As Bill Sees It Th 6pm		274
Ass in a Bag Th 830pm	152	152
Beginner's Warmup W 6pm	70	70
Big Book Basics F 8pm	84	174
Birthday Meeting Sa 8pm		250
Brokers Open Book Tu 130pm	34	34
Came To Believe Su 830am	70	108
Candlelight Meeting Th 10pm	42	42
Castro Monday Big Book M 8pm	84	84
Cow Hollow Men's Group W 8pm	109	109
Design for Living Sat 8am		211
Each Day a New Beginning F 7am		254
Each Day a New Beginning M 7am	43	43
Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am		460
Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am		173
Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am		120
Each Day a New Beginning W 7am		165
Easy Does It Tu 6pm		241
Fell Street F 830pm	131	131
Fell Street Step Su 8pm	91	91
Fireside Chat Tu 8pm	345	345
Fogwatch Tu 7pm	23	23
Friday All Groups F 830pm		229
Friday Knights Th 730am	36	36
Friday Noon F 12pm		68
Friday Smokeless F 830pm	83	83
Goodlands Su 2pm	36	36

GROUP

CONTRIBUTIONS, CON'T...

FEBRUARY

2007

Name	Feb. 2007	YTD
Greenhouse Meditation	82	82
Happy Hour Ladies Night F 530pm	178	178
High Noon Monday 1215pm	127	127
High Noon Thursday 1215pm	87	87
High Noon Thursday 1215pm	154	154
High Noon Thursday 1215pm	80	80
High Noon Tuesday 1215pm		179
High Noon Wednesday 1215pm		42
High Sobriety M 8pm		566
High Steppers W 7pm		90
Hilldwellers M 8pm		118
Home Group Sat 830pm		127
Huntington Square W 630pm		240
Join the Tribe Tu 7pm		491
Joys of Recovery Tu 8pm	36	36
Keep It Simple Sat 830pm	118	118
Like A Prayer Su 4pm		32
Lincoln Park Sat 830pm	97	97
Live and Let Live Su 8pm	172	172
Luke's Group W 8pm	67	67
Marina Discussion F 830pm		625
Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am	174	731
Miracles Off 24th St W 730pm		292
Monday Monday M 1215pm		52
New Hope Big Book M 630pm	106	106
Queers, Crackpots & Fallen Women	26	26
Rebound W 830pm	185	185
Rodeo Drive Birthday Cake Style F 10pm	31	31
Rule 62 W 10pm	525	525
Saturday Afternoon Meditation Sat 5pm	60	60
Second Chance Th 215pm		105
Serenity House	300	300
Sesame Step Tu 730pm	184	184
Sisters Circle Su 6pm	131	131
Sisters In Sobriety M 7pm (SF)	4	4

Name	Feb. 2007	YTD
Sober Across the Board M-Sa 830am	40	60
Step Talk Su 830am	198	198
Steppin' Up Tu 630pm		53
Stonestown M 8pm	41	41
Straight Jackets Th 9am	30	62
Sunday Rap Sun 8pm	90	90
Sundown W 7pm	360	360
Sunset 11'ers F	45	45
Sunset 11'ers M	50	50
Sunset 11'ers Su		134
Sunset 9'ers F		82
Sunset 9'ers M	194	194
Sunset 9'ers Su	145	432
Sunset Sobriety Th 730pm	360	360
Ten Years After Su 6pm		152
The Drive Thru W 1215pm	127	190
The Parent Trap M 1230pm	315	315
Thought For The Day F 730am	36	36
Transrecovery F 630pm	18	18
Trudgers Discussion Su 7pm		180
Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	132	132
Tuesday Step Meeting Tu 130pm		2
Twelve Steps to Happiness F 730pm		123
Valencia Smokefree F 6pm	195	420
Walk of Shame W 8pm		263
Washington Square M 7pm		171
West Portal W 830pm	234	234
Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm		131
Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm		414
Women's Kitchen Table Group Tu 630pm	46	148
Work In Progress Sat 7pm	68	68
YAHOO Step Sa 11am	106	106
Total SF Group Contributions	\$ 8,433	\$ 17,452
Total Group Contributions	\$ 14,488	\$ 26,635

GRATITUDE MONTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Feb. 2007	Name	Feb. 2007
Marin Gratitude Month		Brokers Open Book Tu 130pm	83
Greenfield Newcomers Sun 7pm	125	Fell Street F 830pm	55
Monday Night Stag (Tiburon) 8pm	347	Greenhouse Meditation	40
Quitting Time	10	High Noon Tuesday 1215pm	93
Total Marin	482	Serenity Seekers M 730pm	337
		Sunset Sobriety Th 730pm	53
SF Gratitude Month		Total SF Gratitude Month	737
A New Start F 830pm	76	Total Contributions	\$1,219.19

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Steve S.

Recently Central Office received an announcement for a new group whose name suggests it may have “other affiliation.” Central Office and the Intercounty Fellowship Board need your help in reaching a group conscience on this issue.

The question is quite valid: When does a special topic, focus, or other kind of group constitute a dual purpose? When does an A.A. meeting become so specialized that it ceases to be an A.A. meeting? Often there is agreement about extreme cases, but disagreement about those “in-between” cases are less obvious. Let’s ask ourselves some questions:

Does the group accept all alcoholics regardless of the focus?

What does the group do when a newcomer shows up, not fitting the description? Is a men’s meeting that won’t welcome an alcoholic woman who shows up keeping with our Third Tradition?

Is the primary purpose to carry the message to the alcoholic, regardless of any other designated topic or focus?

Our Twelfth Step suggests that we practice these principles in all our affairs. It’s natural to seek one another’s support in practicing the principles in our personal lives. Here, however, we see disagreement over the distinction of “primary purpose”, as stated in our

“Does the group accept all alcoholics regardless of the focus?”

Fifth Tradition. Can a meeting have a topic other than alcohol and remain an A.A. meeting? Of course, so long as the discussion centers on that topic as it relates to our recovery from alcoholism.

Does the group promise or suggest that the Twelve Steps applied to another area will bring recovery in that other area?

A group supporting A.A. members who live with another chronic illness is one thing, but a group seeking to use the Steps to address that other issue is carrying quite a different message.

Does naming the group so as to attract those who want to participate in a meeting around a topic constitute an outside affiliation?


“Alcoholics in Relationships” for example, is quite broad and suggests no other association. “Alcoholics Troubled by the Noise Generated by the XYZ Factory” on the other hand, is probably better described as a

neighborhood or activist group than an A.A. group.

The difficulty arises not with the more extreme examples that we can think of but with the well-intentioned and sometimes necessary measures taken by those of us that want to help others. There will be those who cry out for greater expansion and those who adhere to the narrowest possible interpretations.

Meeting names alone should generate some opinions, but there’s no substitute for showing up to a meeting to see how they practice having but “one primary purpose”. But, then again, who’s to judge? Are any of us arbiters of how a group chooses to practice the Traditions?

The practical question that faces the Intercounty Fellowship and Central Office is this: Regardless of a group’s adherence to the Twelve Traditions, when does a group’s name indicate that it should not be included in the schedule? The pamphlet *The AA Group* suggests that groups not be named after persons (living or dead) or places. Does that include neighborhoods? How far does the spirit of this suggestion extend?


In A.A., authority and power flow from the bottom up. Please tell us what the answers to these questions are. *The Point* will happily publish relevant responses. 

(Concept V: Continued from page 10)

The motion was made and seconded, but died on the floor for lack of a large enough majority.

That meeting was put on the next

schedule. The controversy died, and the group is thriving, making regular contributions to the local service center, the area committee, and the G.S.O. in New York. This happened

because Intergroup followed Concept Five to the letter, providing a forum for the minority view in every case and requiring ‘substantial unanimity’ before excluding any group. 

THE “D” WORD

by Anonymous

When I was four months sober, my husband of 17 years handed me divorce papers. God doing for me what I could not do for myself. While I welcomed this turn of events, I also thought about the oft-uttered suggestion made in A.A.: make no major changes in the first year. The Third Step entered my life when I became aware that I had absolutely no control over the outcome.

During that first year, I attended daily meetings and listened. Somehow I managed to hear and follow the “do the next right thing” part. I also heard that I should focus on the present. But I had no sponsor and worked no steps. I erroneously thought I needed to deal with this divorce before I found a sponsor and worked the 12 steps. Every time I mentioned the divorce the cacophony of old-timers began. “What an opportunity for spiritual growth,” they would exclaim. (Who were they kidding?) or “Have you talked to a newcomer today?” they’d inquire. (They really didn’t understand the magnitude of my situation) Or “I can’t wait to see what happens,” they’d smile. (Were they sadists?). Or the best: “God will take care of you, he’s brought you this far hasn’t he?” Over time, I began to realize they were right.

Eventually I found a sponsor and learned the obvious: the steps teach me how to handle life’s situations. At one point she suggested that I pray the Fourth Step prayer for my ex. As if. Upon further reflection I thought I might pray the first half – he was an angry man after all. But that be of service part? You must be kidding. I came to understand that the prayer is really for me, and I can be of service by not


reacting to his emails and by remaining honest. I can also pause, ask for God’s will, and most importantly trust God.

Sometimes willingness was difficult. I remember telling a friend that I faced a situation where I knew what was the right thing to do, but I felt really - uncomfortable. He said, “That’s why it’s called do the right thing not do the comfortable thing.”

It’s been three years since we separated. The divorce became final on Halloween. After more than a decade, I returned to work at a job I enjoy. My children and I live in our same home; they attend the same schools and

maintain their same neighborhood friends. I met the man of my dreams on A.A.’s campus.

I attend a lot of meetings, meet with my sponsor once a week, continue to work the steps and try and be of service. I also pray for the knowledge of God’s will and the power to carry it out.

Recently I heard a share from a man who said after a little time in sobriety he understood that everything was going to be all right. Now after more time he understands that everything is all right. What an amazing solution we have in Alcoholics Anonymous. 

WHO RUNS A.A. IN SF AND MARIN?

YOU DO!

The Intercounty Fellowship of A.A. invites you to our:

2007 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held June 6, 2007 at 7:00 pm at 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA.

- ✓ Annual Report to the Fellowship
- ✓ Seating of new Intergroup Reps

PLEASE HELP US ENSURE THAT EVERY A.A. GROUP IS REPRESENTED IN DETERMINING THE POLICIES ESTABLISHED TO OPERATE THE CENTRAL OFFICE BY HAVING YOUR GROUP SEND A DELEGATE TO THIS MEETING.

**Call Central Office if you have any questions:
(415) 674-1821**

THANK YOU!



Persons requiring reasonable accommodations, including sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternate formats should contact the SF/Marin County Central Office (415) 674 - 1821 no later than *five business days prior to the event.



IFB MEETING SUMMARY — APRIL 2007

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

The following groups have registered Intergroup Representatives. Those marked “P” attended the most recent IFB meeting. If your group was not represented, consider electing an Intergroup Representative (IFB) and/or an alternate so your group’s voice is heard.

Intergroup Rep	Group		Intergroup Rep	Group		Intergroup Rep	Group	
Alejandro D.	Living Sober With HIV	P	Derek D.	Reality Farm	P	Nathan M.	Too Early	A
Amy B.	Tuesday Chip	P	Doug W.	Fireside Chat	R	Nicholas L.	Some Are Sicker Than...	P
Andy T.	Waterfront	P	Drea B.	Serenity Seekers	R	Nicholas S.	Sutter St. Beginners	R
Anil K.	Tiburon Monday Mens Stag	P	Dylan C.	They Stopped in Time	R	Patty M.	Huntington Square	P
Anthony J.	Serenity Seekers	P	Gaspar L.	Keep It Simple	P	Penelope P.	A is for Alcohol	P
Armando R.	Home Group	P	Harold A.	Marina Discussion	A**	Rebecca D.	Valencia Smokefree	A*
Beatrice L.	Mid Morning Support	P	Jaime G.	Sesame Step	P	Rebekah D.	Fell Street Step	A*
Blanca S.	Women's Promises	A*	Jenifer W.	Like A Prayer	P	Richard R.	We Care	P
Brian P.	Queers, Crackpots and Fallen Women	R	Jess B.	Tiburon Big Book	A*	Rick K.	Join the Tribe	P
Bruce K.	Sunset Speaker Step	A*	Johnny G.	High Noon (Wed)	A**	Rick R.	Goodlands	P
Bryan H.	Men's Gentle Touch	R	Joe H.	Gratitude Group	A**	Robert C.	Beginners Warmup	P
Carol E.	Happy Hour	P	Judi C.	Tuesday's Daily Reflections	P	Roger C.	Early Start	P
Casey L.	Sunday Corte Madera	P	Judy S.	Diamond Heights Group	P	Scott B.	High Noon Sa	A*
Chris H.	Friendly Circle	P	Karen A.	West Portal	P	Scott N.	Sunset 11'ers Sat.	P
Chris T.	Keep Coming Back	P	Karen S.	Alumni Group	A*	Shawn M.	Regroup	P
Chuck K.	Ten Years After	P	Karin K.	24 Hour Plan	P	Steve N.	Terra Linda Group	P
Clifford B.	Spawn of Straight Jacket	R	Ken J.	High Sobriety	A*	Steve S.	Past Chair	P
Cynthia H.	Sunset 9'ers F	A**	Larry B.	Castro Discussion	P	Tedra M.	Come N Get It	A*
Dan C.	Downtown Mill Valley	A	Liz C.	Mill Valley Speaker	P	Tom K.	High Noon (Monday)	P
Dan C.	Sunday Night Castro SD	R	Lucas M.	They Stopped in Time	P	Tom R.	Mill Valley 7AM	P
Dan Z.	Each Day a New Beginning	P	Luis M.	High Noon Tuesday	P	Tracy G.	Wits End	P
Dana R.	Saturday Sunset 9'ers	A*	Mark W.	Blue Book Special	A*	Vickey D.	Sisters Circle	P
Danna P.	Treasurer	P	Matt T.	Fairfax Friday Night	A*	Victor V.	Creative Alcoholics	P
David D.	Keep it Simple	P	Maury P.	Central Office Manager	P	Vincent L.	Artists and Writers	P
David P.	Eureka Step	P	Michael L.	Fairfax Attitude Adjustment	P	Virginia M.	Women Who Drank Too Much	P
Della	Friday High Noon	A*	Monika H.	SFPOA	P			

P = Present; A = Absent; R = Resigned; X = Alternate. 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.

New IFB Reps Present		Visitors		Liaisons Present	
Steve K.	Eureka Valley Topic	Brian C.	Prom Hopeful	Amy B.	Marin Teleservice
Kevin N.	SFPOA			Jeff O.	SF General Service
Patti M.	Bernal New Day			Ray M.	San Mateo General Service
Olive B.	Steppin Up				

Following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business and service opportunities discussed at the April 2007 IFB meeting. It is provided for your convenience and is not intended to be the completed approved minutes. For a complete copy of the minutes, contact the Central Office.

IFB Reports:

Chair's Report: Scott N. gave his report.

Scott asked the IFB subcommittee chairs to submit written reports two days prior to the IFB meetings so they can be included in the meeting packets. We need a volunteer to fill in as Recording Secretary at the May IFB meeting. Tony J. volunteered.

Treasurer's Report: Danna gave her report. Net Income for February of \$5,784 exceeded budgeted Net Loss of (2,452) by \$8,236. Unrestricted cash as of February 28th totaled \$58,741, and is sufficient to

pay budgeted expenses for over three months.

Central Office Manager: Maury gave her report. There are phone shifts available. Volunteers with flexible schedules are needed. We are still in the process of converting to the new database, but all meeting changes are on the website. Many meetings at 7th and Irving have relocated

(Continued on page 17)

(IFB Summary: continued from page 16)

due to construction at the regular meeting place. Check the website for updates. We need bilingual 12th Step volunteers. If you have sober friends who are bilingual, encourage them to attend Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 6:30pm.

Central Office Committee Report: Carol E. gave the report. We will address the issue of A.A. groups using our tax ID number, by visiting these groups. Occasionally Central Office receives requests to list meetings with questionable names or focus. The COC identified a need to look at the process how meetings get listed and decided we need a broader group conscience on this and on other aspects of how the Central Office helps and educates new meetings as they are formed. We decided to ask the full IFB to create an ad hoc committee to consider the new meeting set up process. If you are interested, please see Scott N.

Special Committee/Salary Review Committee: Chuck K. gave the report. The committee recommended the following changes; that the COM's salary range is changed to \$50-78K, and that the Special Worker's salary range is changed to \$39-59K. The vote passed 35-2-2.

Proposed Change to Bylaws: Last month Pene P. made a motion that the IFB officer terms be amended in the Bylaw to allow officers to make themselves available for a second term. This was the second month that the proposed change was read. We will vote on this motion at the May IFB meeting.

Group inventory follow-up: Scott led the discussion. Most of the discussion was about how we can be more inclusive of Marin groups and meetings.

Special Needs Accommodation Statement: Chris H., SNAC Chair, made the report. The committee proposes that the IFB adopt the following Reasonable Accommodations Policy: *Persons requiring reasonable accommodations at meetings of IFB, COC, IFB committees and service events sponsored by the preceding entities, including sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternative format should contact the SF/Marin County Central Office (415) 674-1821 no later than five business days prior to the event.* The motion carried 35-0-5.

Pass the Basket/ Read the Traditions. Danna P. made a motion that the IFB allow the surplus beyond the \$75 rent go to cover part of the cost of coffee. The motion passed 28-5-6.

Committee Reports

12th Step Committee: Victor V. gave the report. The next 12th Step Workshop is on 4/11/07 at 6:30pm. The Sunshine Committee is part of the 12th Step Committee and takes meetings to those who are homebound or in hospitals. Call Central Office to schedule a meeting.

Archives Committee: Jennifer gave the report. There are now 5 committee members. The committee is scheduling oral interviews with old timers to record the history of AA in San Francisco and Marin.

Literature Review Committee: Steve N. gave the report. The committee met this month and discussed goals.

The Point Editorial Committee: The committee is soliciting participation from Marinites for both articles and to serve on the committee.

Orientation Committee: Steve gave the report. Orientation is one hour prior to the IFB meeting. The committee is looking for volunteers.

Special Needs Committee: Chris H. gave the report. The NADY equipment has been tested and some technical issues are being worked on. The committee is creating a 'Feed-back' form to gather information about how the equipment is working. The committee asked the IFB to poll home groups about whether they are available to host ASL signers. He asked for members to email him at chris_huffman@hotmail.com with responses.

Trusted Servants Workshop Committee: Monika gave the report. The committee is holding a workshop on GSR and IFB Rep. on Saturday, April 19. The committee is also planning a workshop to be held in Marin and will be holding a workshop at Living Sober, and possibly at the Marina Dock. The committee is looking for volunteers.

Website Committee: Dan Z. gave the report. The database conversion will eventually be linked to the website. The committee is looking for an assistant Webmaster. Aspects of the website may

be reformatted to improve the number of times search engines produce AASF in results to searches.

Outreach Committee: Jaime G. gave the report. There was representation from both Marin and San Francisco at the last committee meeting. Many IFB members who signed up last month did not attend the orientation. General Service was in attendance to discuss strategies. Teams of two, including one IFB and one GSR, will visit meetings who have not had contact with the CO. Each rep will give a short talk about their respective entity.

Special Committee Reports:

PI/CPC: Jaime G. gave the report. Last month's activities included: DUI classes, high school classes, City College classes. The next speaker workshop is Saturday, April 21 at the CO.

IFB Liaison Reports:

General Service, SF: Jeff O. gave the report. Jeff has copies of proposed agenda items for the Pre-conference assembly. District 06 is happy to be involved with the Outreach Committee.

Teleservice, Marin: Amy S. gave the report. The spaghetti feed was a fun success, which made \$300.

Living Sober: Alejandro D. gave the report. He corrected the time listed in *The Point* for the general planning meeting, which is held on the fourth Sunday at 5:30 PM. During the next meeting, the planning committee will finalize speaker selection. The Spring Fling Drag Thing is being held April 14. The meeting is at 6:00 PM and the show begins at 7:30 PM.

Group Rep Reports:

Karen A. addressed the IFB suggesting that the IFB treasurer position be a paid position.

Brian C. addressed the IFB, stating that he plans to join the IFB and is hoping to plan a Prom later this spring.

Chris T.
Recording Secretary 

The next IFB meeting is May 2, 2007 at 180 Harrison in Sausalito at Star of the Sea Church. Orientation is at 6pm; the meeting is at 7pm. Call Central Office if you need to carpool.

P.R.O.G.R.A.M.— PEOPLE RELYING ON GOD RELAYING A MESSAGE


by Callista

The reason that I continue to attend A.A. meetings and work a program after years of sobriety is because I receive guidance that I cannot realize alone about how to grow in sobriety through life's challenges. Also, every newcomer that walks in the door carries a message from God to me of what it was like and what I can have back again if I ever forget that I am an alcoholic and think that I can have just one again someday.

It's not only that God began talking to me, guiding, safeguarding or inspiring me after I got clean and sober in the program. My Higher Power, who for the sake of convenience I call God, has ALWAYS been with me trying to get my attention in order to show me the right way to live and the loving thing to do. However, due to the nature of the disease of alcoholism and addiction, I could not hear or make sense of God's

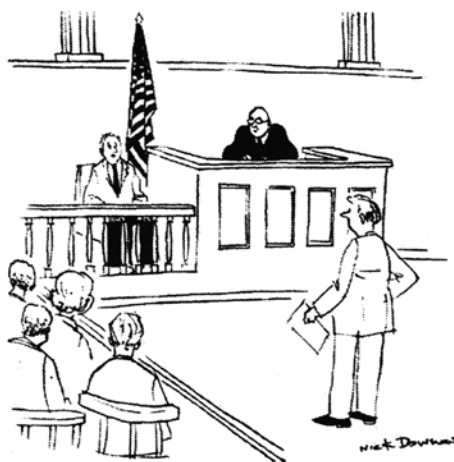
wisdom and grace being whispered to me at every turn. Even at those times when I could hear I could not follow through because I was already enslaved to addiction. Alcohol was my Higher Power when I was in the disease and I followed its messages and served its demands utterly. I had no choice about my physical allergy to alcohol and the obsessive compulsion to continue to feed it. Over the years the disease progressed with the mental and emotional twists characteristic of alcoholic thinking that obscured any awareness I may have ever had of grace in my life. Until I got to the program I certainly did not have the tools for being able to discern the true guidance from my Higher Power from the self-serving thoughts and behaviors of my addict self.

I finally truly joined the program after six months of going to nine meetings a

week. I REALLY needed you guys but I had trust issues not to mention a lot of pride and wrong understanding about alcoholism; what God was and wasn't; and what the program was and wasn't. Fortunately, I discovered that the way the program works is that everyone is welcome who has a desire to stop drinking and there are no other requirements. That singleness of purpose is what allowed me to keep coming around to meetings and learn about the program. I hung around long enough for me to hear the message that God was trying to relay to me through all of your shares. Fear and shame around the unmanageability of my life lessened its stranglehold as I realized that I was not alone. I began to identify with you and believe - then I was ready. Finally I was able to accept the First Step of the program completely as I joined you on the Broad Highway. 

Pepper . . . and Salt

WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Then there were 85 bottles of beer on the wall. We took one down and passed it around, and after that, it's a complete blank."

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Point is published monthly to inform A.A. members about business and meeting affairs of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Francisco and Marin counties.

In addition, *The Point* publishes original feature articles submitted by local A.A. members that reflect the full diversity of experience and opinion found within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining the editorial content, the editors rely on the principles of the Twelve Traditions.

(This is a brief summary of the editorial policy of *The Point*.) For the Long Form, please go to the Central Office website—www.aasf.org.

Intercounty Fellowship of AA

financial statement

february 2007

	<u>Feb 07</u>	<u>Jan - Feb 07</u>		<u>Feb 07</u>	<u>Jan - Feb 07</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			Postage	0	117
Income			Rent - Office	3987	7974
Contributions from Groups			Rent - Other	75	75
Group Contributions	14438	26555	Special Needs Expenses	0	150
Honors	<u>50</u>	<u>80</u>	IFB Literature	0	40
Total Contributions from Groups	14488	26635	PI/CPC	34	46
Contributions from Individuals			Filing/Fees	0	20
Individual - Unrestricted	3993	9288	Insurance	0	1932
Faithful Fiver	893	1658	Internet Expense	135	210
Honorary Contributions	<u>172</u>	<u>172</u>	Office Supplies	227	607
Total Contributions from Individuals	5058	11118	Paper Purchased	280	280
Gratitude Month			Software Purchased	26	26
Gratitude Month - Groups	<u>1219</u>	<u>2544</u>	Shipping	84	61
Total Gratitude Month	1219	2544	Printing	0	841
Sales - Bookstore	10344	21414	Equipment Lease	1771	1771
Special Event Income	0	924	Repair & Maintenance	195	469
Newsletter Subscript.	<u>232</u>	<u>288</u>	Security System	34	67
Total Income	31342	62922	Special Events	600	893
Cost of Goods Sold			Telephone	272	520
Cost of Books Sold	6891	14027	Phone Book Listings	79	158
Credit Card Processing Fees	<u>184</u>	<u>398</u>	Utilities	153	344
Total COGS	<u>7075</u>	<u>14425</u>	Miscellaneous Expense	<u>66</u>	<u>66</u>
Gross Profit	24267	48497	Total Expense	<u>18650</u>	<u>37921</u>
Expense			Net Ordinary Income	5617	10576
Employee Expenses			Other Income/Expense		
Wages & Salaries	8430	16862	Other Income		
Employer Tax Expenses	1075	2311	Interest Income	<u>58</u>	<u>3552</u>
Health Benefits	<u>952</u>	<u>1904</u>	Total Other Income	58	3552
Total Employee Expenses	10457	21077	Other Expense		
Professional Fees			Depreciation Expense	76	151
Computer Consulting	<u>177</u>	<u>177</u>	Amortization Expense	<u>46</u>	<u>92</u>
Total Professional Fees	177	177	Total Other Expense	<u>122</u>	<u>243</u>
Bank Charges	0	0	Net Other Income	<u>-64</u>	<u>3309</u>
			Net Income	<u>\$ 5,552.86</u>	<u>\$ 13,884.54</u>

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