

the Point

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

from Chapter Five of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*

2007
JUNE

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

A publication of the

Intercounty Fellowship

of Alcoholics Anonymous

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WHAT WOULD BILL AND BOB DO?

by Georgia L.

It was the Friday before Christmas and I was looking forward to a week off work. I came home to a voicemail message from a friend about an e-mail she had received from our Central Office Manager. The e-mail was from a frantic father in Los Angeles worried about his daughter who was drinking herself to death up here in San Francisco. He asked if we remembered her as she had once been a sober member of A.A. I did remember her. She had played an instrumental role in my achieving a childhood dream I had once thrown away to pursue my drinking.

I reached out to others in the program who I thought were this young woman's friends. In talking with them, I discovered that 12th-Step apathy in San Francisco A.A. is alive, well and appalling. Most of her "friends" said, "She knows where we are and what to do; when she's ready she'll find us." They had their sobriety and to heck with everyone else.

After I told my friend the result of my attempts to get help, she said something that really resounded with me—to ask ourselves "What would Bill and Bob do?" After all, the 12th Step says that we try to carry the message. Bill & Bob wouldn't wait for a drunk to come to them; they'd go get her, so that's what we did.

We went to her apartment on Christmas Eve day. She didn't answer the door or our cell phone calls. While at her front gate we called her father to ask what he wanted us to do. He tried calling her boyfriend who didn't answer, so I slipped one of my A.A. calling cards under the gate with a note for her to call me. I was very surprised when she left me a voicemail message on Christmas Day and we played phone tag for a while. She wanted to go to some meetings and get back into A.A. to get sober again. I kept leaving messages and e-mails saying I'd meet her at various meetings. She never showed, but I ended

(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 Marin 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

june 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 <u>FIRST MON</u> Special Needs Central Office, 5:30pm	5	6 <u>FIRST WED</u> Intercounty Fellowship Board Orientation 6 pm, Annual 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)	7	8	9
10	11 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information Committee Central Office, 7 pm	12 <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:	13 <u>SECOND WED</u> 12th Step Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Bridging the Gap 1411 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael, 7 pm	14 <u>SECOND THU</u> Trusted Servants Workshop Committee Central Office, 6:00 pm	15	16
17 <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	18 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd, San Rafael, District Meeting: 8 pm	19 <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	20	21	22	23 <u>FOURTH SAT</u> General Service CNCA Meeting 320 N. McDowell Petaluma; Business Meeting: 12:30 pm
24	25	26 <u>FOURTH TUE</u> Special Events Committee Central Office, 6:30 pm Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club, 7:30 pm	27	28 <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. SF Orientation: 7:15 pm Committee Meeting: 8 pm	29	30 

From the Editor

Welcome to the June issue of the *The Point*. This month, we are commemorating A.A.'s Founders and Founding (June 10th) with special articles devoted to the beginnings of A.A. We are reprinting a beautiful tribute to Bill W., first delivered at his memorial service in 1971, and written by Dr. Jack Norris, who, at the time was the then non-alcoholic chairperson of the General Service Board and a trustee for 27 years. Deeply felt, it is conscious of the spiritual principles behind Bill W.'s work and his place in A.A. lore and history.

We also share a poignant story about the real nature of Twelfth Step work and how easy it is to forget our own personal beginnings. Next time some-

one you know relapses, try this one on for size.

We also have a delightful article about the beginnings of Gay meetings in San Francisco and the Fellowship as a whole. It'll shed some light on what was then a most controversial subject, listing Gay meetings in the schedules.

We hope you enjoy also our regular features, Soberscope, Dear Alky and our regular articles on the Three Legacies – Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

As always, we welcome any submissions for *The Point*. May your summer be happy, joyous and free

-The Editor 

SoberScope

GEMINI: MAY 21-JUNE 21

Flitting from meeting to meeting, step to step, sponsor to sponsor, the recovering Gemini is a wonder to behold. Symbolized by the sign of twins, Gemini surpasses the entire cosmos in camouflaging his or her alcoholism under a medley of other fanciful conditions. For some it's creative genius, or a search for higher meaning. Others profess to having heightened sensitivity to this wounding world, while still other, less cerebral Gems may swear that their seasonal allergies are acting up. Or maybe it's something they ate. A clever female Gemini may insist that it's just a bad case of PMS.

No one can be certain just when the Gemini crosses that line from denial over to the First Step because not a one of them has ever stopped talking long enough to notice. Ruled by Mercury, the Gemini purports to be a great communicator. Talk talk talk. At meetings, before meetings, on cell-phones, emails, letters, speeches, opinions. It requires a sponsor of great fortitude—possibly a Libra with mild narcolepsy—to listen as long as a Gemini can talk.

Eager to put those communication skills to good use—as well as deeply perceptive to the faults of others—

the Point


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Gemini longs to serve as a Fourth Step consultant. Helping other alcoholics take a fearless and thorough moral inventory of themselves, pointing out the flaws and character defects they may have missed—a Gemini can only dream...

Ted Kaczynski was born under this sign.

Although most newcomers are advised not to enter a new romantic relationship for at least a year, the air-born Gemini usually requires eleven or twelve. Sponsorship of others, another twenty. 



New Meetings:

Sun	2:00pm	Hayes Valley	ONLY A LITTLE AT A TIME SF Alano Club, 1748 Market St.. (BB)
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	1:00pm	Inner Sunset	MONDAY AT A TIME 1390 14th Ave/Judah (was 1329 7th Ave./ Irving)
Tue	11:00am	Inner Sunset	SUNSET 11'ERS 1329 7th Ave./ Irving (remove CI)
Tue	1:00pm	Inner Sunset	GETTING FIT AT ONE O'CLOCK 1390 14th Ave/Judah (was Tuesday Sunset Nooners)
Wed	7:30pm	Laguna Honda	SOBER 5150's, (remove CI)
Fri	10:00am	Marina	CAME TO BELIEVERS 2118 Greenwich St. (was Big Book Backwards)

No Longer Meeting:

Mon	7:00pm	McLaren Park	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY St. Luke's Hospital, 3555 Cesar Chavez
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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—APRIL 2007

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

San Francisco

10 AM Daily Reflections Thu. 10:00; **Brokers Open Book** Tue 1:30pm; **Cow Hollow Men's Group** Wed. 8pm; **Fireside Chat** Sat. 9 pm; **First Place Speaker Discussion** Thu. 5:30pm; **Happy Hour** Thu. 6pm; **High Sobriety** Mon. 8pm; **How It Works Now** Sat. 3pm; **Ingleside Beginners: Big Book Study** Sun. 5pm; **Join the Tribe** Tue. 7pm; **Just Alkies** Fri. 7pm; **Keep It Simple** Sat. 8:30pm; **Like a Prayer** Sun. 4pm; **Live & Let Live** Sun. 8pm; **Lush Lounge** Sat. 2pm; **Mission Terrace** Wed. 8pm; **Monday Monday** Mon. 12:15pm; **Rigorous Honesty** Thu. 12:05pm; **Six O'Clock Step** Thu. 6pm; **Sober & Centered** Fri. 7:15pm; **Speaker-Discussion** Fri. 1pm; **Sunset 11'ers** Mon. 11am; **The Parent Trap** Mon. 12:30pm; **Wits End Step Study** Tue. 8pm; **West Portal** Wed. 8:30pm

Marin

A Woman's Journey to Recovery Tue. 10am; **Fairfax 12x12** Tue. 7:30pm; **Happy, Joyous & Free 5D** 12pm; **Kids Welcome** Mon. 11:30am; **Mill Valley Gay/ Lesbian (All Are Welcome)** Wed. 8pm; **Saturday Night** Sat. 8pm; **Sausalito 12 Step Study Group** Mon. 12pm; **Women on Monday** Mon. 7pm

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

ONGOING MEMORIALS

Morning After: Bob C. 32 years

ANNIVERSARIES

Ken M. 35 years
Alameda: Jim H. 19 years
Marcus H. 3 years
High Noon: Michael B. 20 years,
Felicia H. 18 years, Susan 18 years,
Jean-Marie M. 11 years,
Barnaby 8 years, Della W. 4 years,
Jamie G. 3 years,
Mike 2 years, Allyce 1 year,
Barret 1 year, Jen 1 year

coming UP

mark your calendar

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 Central Office no less than five business days prior to the event.



TUESDAY DOWNTOWN

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

06/05 Speaker: Dawn From: Burlingame
06/12 Speaker: Eli From: San Jose
06/19 Speaker: Jeff T. From: El Sobrante
06/26 Speaker: Kathleen D. From: San Francisco

FRIDAY NIGHT ALL GROUPS

1101 O'Farrell St. Urban Life Center, SF,

06/01 Host Group: Come and Get it Speaker: Kevin C. From: R & R
06/08 Host Group: Tuesday Hi Noon Speaker: Pegen C. From: Sundown
06/15 Host Group: Cow Hollow Young People Speaker: Dolores T. From: Sunday Morning Step
06/22 Host Group: Friday Morning 12 Steppers Speaker: Harry M. From: Marina Dock
06/29 Host Group: Nursery #1 Group in Oakland Speaker: Mike M. From: Sunday 11'ers



FOUNDER'S DAY

at

STAFFORD LAKE

Saturday JUNE 9th 2007

All day 9 AM to 5 PM ♦ Celebrating 72 years of A.A.

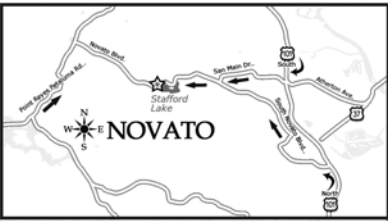
Speaker at 2:00 pm: Mary S from Petaluma

Coffee starts at 8:00 am ~ Bar-B-Que at Noon - \$10.00 suggested donation
50/50 Raffle ♦ Live Music by Joe and Friends
Volleyball, Softball (Bring Your Stuff), Horseshoes, Fishing and Lots of Fun
No Dogs Allowed in the County Park ~ Thank You ~
\$8.00 per car fee for entering the Park, Bring your friends & a Newcomer
🚗 Carpool if you can. 🚗

For group sponsoring or individual commitments please call
Chris 415-250-4203 or Erin at 415-509-2069

Kids Eat FREE!

(12 yrs and under)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SPONSORSHIP

Author Unknown

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. So he descended a bit and shouted to a man on the ground, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man on the ground replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be a sponsor," said the balloonist. "I am," replied the man, how did you know?" "Well," answered the

balloonist, "everything you told me is, I believe, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information and fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've probably delayed my trip."

The man below responded, "You must be a sponsee." "I am," replied the balloonist, but how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect

other people to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault!

TP



(What Would Bill and Bob Do? Continued from p. 1)

up going to more meetings. My sponsor told me that's how it works.

On a Monday in early January, she called me at my office, drunk, scared, saying she knew she was dying from alcoholism and wanted help but did not know where to go or what to do.

Once again I got on the phone with my 12th Step comrade; I wasn't sure how to get this young woman the help she needed. My friend got busy making phone calls and was put in touch with a wonderful doctor from San Francisco's Mobile Crisis Unit who was willing to help us get the young woman to safety. When I got home from work that day I called. She answered the phone, very drunk, and I gave her the doctor's phone number. She was at the desperation

stage and actually called the doctor, who not only talked to her, but also contacted her building manager and her father. The building manager called my friend twice with concerns and offers to help. I think this shows how people will rally to help if someone raises the cry - a whole team of us, both A.A. and normies, were working together to get this young woman the help she was asking for.

What unfolded after that evening were a couple of days of busy phone calls and e-mails with the young woman's father, the doctor, the building manager and many treatment programs. A few days later, her parents flew up from L.A. and took her to a treatment program up North. She was in very rough shape. Her father e-mailed and called me with regular reports that she was "coming back."

While she was in treatment she called me and asked me to be a temporary sponsor. I agreed that I would assist her on her release from the treatment program and we made plans to meet.

She's now out of treatment and maintaining her sobriety. She is going to meetings, has a new sponsor and is on her path.

I've done H&I work for many years, but never anything as personal as this 12th Step. I didn't know I had it in me to do something like this. There were times I felt extremely powerless and prayed a lot that my Higher Power would guide me to do the next right thing. I am humbled and awestruck by the experience of the past few months. My Higher Power trusts me to do some amazing work with the still suffering alcoholic and for that I am extremely grateful. **TP**

Dear Alky...

Dear Alky:

I have been a member of A.A. for quite some time now. When I first came in, I was determined that I would help modernize A.A. by re-writing the Big Book (and other literature) in modern terms so that it would appeal to a wider audience. It soon became clear to me that most A.A. members prefer it as it is, old fashioned language and all. I now feel that way too. But I wonder, perhaps we're not doing enough to reach out in the modern world and perhaps we need to look at this more closely? What are your thoughts on this and do you think it would be worthwhile to take this to General Service?

Earnest Alcoholic

Dear Earnest:

Alky, too, has had moments of frustration with some of the phrasing and archaic lingo in the Big Book. However, what I've found is that the more I read A.A. literature, espe-

cially aloud or in a literature meeting, the more I appreciate the underlying message. And somehow, the language doesn't bother me nearly so much but rather, I've come to find it endearing and charming, much as you have.

The great thing about our fellowship, however, is that nothing is carved in stone. All significant decisions – including changes to our literature – are brought about through the collective conscience of A.A., as determined and communicated through the General Service structure. That structure includes every single A.A. group—speaking through its humble local GSR – with reporting “by representation” all the way through the trustee members of the General Service Conference, known as the General Service Board. This means that decisions are made about things like updating the literature through a slow (and to some, tedious) but extremely representative method of democracy.

Alky has been around for one round of updating the Big Book—which resulted in the Fourth Edition. Alky was one of countless alcoholics who participated in group consciences about specific changes in wording

or whether we thought particular stories should be kept or jettisoned. The upshot of all of those collective group consciences was that the first 164 pages of the Big Book continue to be kept almost completely unchanged, while certain stories are added or deleted, in an effort to reach a wider variety of alcoholics and therefore continue to allow our fellowship to reflect the real, diverse population of alcoholics worldwide. The same method has resulted in the production of new pamphlets, or the removal from the list of “conference approved literature” of pamphlets considered outdated.

All of this is to say, if there is a specific change you would like to see in how the literature is worded, or what efforts your group or the fellowship as a whole is making to reach out to a broader audience, you can do something to effect that change. Participate in business meetings and group consciences, get involved in General Service, and let your voice be heard. You will find that A.A., unlike so many organizations Alky has observed, actually responds and adapts, albeit with a glacial slowness, to the input of its ever-evolving membership.

-Alky 



MORE NEW FEATURES ON WWW.AASF.ORG!!


Once again the website committee has upgraded our website. You can now search for meetings by type, area and zip code, and you can continue to search by meeting name. This new feature will be particularly helpful for Central Office and Tele-service volunteers and for our many

out-of-town visitors.

Also new, and long awaited, the SF Meeting schedule is now available to download. The Marin schedule which has been available for some time, continues to be.

Recent Meeting changes are also

available to print and can be viewed as changes for the past week, two weeks, month or six months based on your preference.

Please visit our website and make use of the valuable information contained therein. 

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 SIX

by Liz B.

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character"

If you stick around Alcoholics Anonymous long enough, you'll find that many of us have a habit of looking up words in the dictionary whenever we are uncomfortable with the obvious connotation. Take the word "defect" for example. Few of us could immediately cozy up to the idea that we were fundamentally flawed – and fewer still to the notion of passively sitting by while God robbed us of our favorite coping mechanisms. So, I decided to do an internet search on the word "defect." Dozens of definitions appeared and dozens were flatly rejected. Then I came across one which defines "defect" as "a flaw or imperfection that creates an unreasonable risk of harm in its normal use."

There it was. My most intractable imperfections – fear and pride – had driven me to unreasonable thinking and behavior that had put me (and others) in harm's way again and again. I had become aware of that in Step Four. And my sponsor had helped me to see, in Step Five, that my thoughts and behavior were a natural consequence of living in fear and then relying on pride to try to protect myself.

So when I was trying to work Step Six, my sponsor asked me, "Is there any reason why the Power that kept you alive when you were drinking, the same One that got you sober, couldn't also free you of all the other

things that stand in the way of your peace and happiness?" She stressed that Step Six is not about me trying to turn over a new leaf. It's about being ready to let God do it for me. It's about being ready – with no fear or reservations – to be transformed. My job is to try to open my mind and my heart to the possibility that a life beyond my broken dreams could truly be mine. My sponsor used to say, "Just try it on. See what it feels like."

Then my sponsor reminded me that Step Six does not say we were "entirely willing." It says we were "entirely ready." That means I have to be prepared to be changed in whatever way the God of my understanding sees fit. Courage to say no might not be the first thing on His agenda for me. Turning me into a courteous driver might be higher on his list. I may have to smile and say, "You first," while waving in my rear view mirror for a hundred years before God changes me into someone who can tell my sister that family barbecues just aren't my thing.

I don't know – and I can't know – how I am going to be changed. But Steps One through Five showed me that I could trust God, the steps, my sponsor, and A.A. with my life ... and I was ready to let go of any old ideas that would get in the way of that. That, said my sponsor, was enough to move on to Step Seven.



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. 12thstep@aasf.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Bruce K. archives@aasf.org

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Currently Inactive

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Anthony J. orientation@aasf.org

THE POINT

Victor V. thepoint@aasf.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Brian C. events@aasf.org

ACCESS COMMITTEE

Virginia M.. access@aasf.org

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WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

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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 Six

by Steve R.

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”

This discussion always brings to mind a filmed interview with our co-founder, Bill W., in which he described coming to terms with the personal reality of Tradition Six. His white-light mountaintop spiritual experience in the presence of the godhead was the core of his sobriety and contained explicit visions of hospitals and recovery centers.

The pertinent trial-and-error commentary for Tradition Six in the *Twelve and Twelve* is in no small part due to Bill's efforts in the next fifteen years to honor his vision. He never really surrendered until the formal adoption of the Twelve Traditions. Imagine, each of us, what it would feel like to give up any single thread of our own awakening.

Fortunately, we are now the beneficiaries of that personal sacrifice and also of more than seventy years' collective experience. The Traditions are entrenched enough that we'll not likely have to fend off proposals for us to establish hospitals and detoxes, or stock and real estate schemes to fund our meetings or world services. Our vigilance must be more subtle, if no less thorough.

AA is often portrayed in stories and film. Individual members write books for the mass market. Radio

stations list meeting times and locations. The emerging electronic media are too vast and complicated for discussion here. The day may come sooner rather than later when the perception by the public, if not ourselves, is that AA endorses the foregoing and financially supports the product or the medium itself.

At more local levels, groups purchase their meeting houses. Other groups form non-profits to lease their space. Individual A.A.s may found recovery centers and income-producing meeting halls. Clubs encourage groups to meet there. Not only must there be no promotion of these entities by the groups, there must be an active disavowal of any connection. During the formation of the Traditions it was determined that a group's act of paying rent does not constitute endorsement. It's safe to say that neither we nor the public consider us to be financing the thousands of churches where we meet in their basements.

This Tradition definitely serves up some bitter pills to swallow. A.A. cannot match speculative prices when our historical manuscripts and other memorabilia come to market – early A.A. has been discovered by collectors. As A.A. members or

(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

Ami Joy Y.	Karen K.
Andy T.	Liz & Aiden D.
Barbara M.	Loran W.
Brent H.	Marty C.
Brian N.	Matt S.
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.	Peggy M.
Elizabeth S.	Pene P.
Esther R.	Ralph P.
Frances L.	Rich G.
Giles H.	Robert K.
Greg W.	Sheila H.
Herman B.	Stephanie D.
Jane K.	Steve A.
Janet B.	Steve B.
Jeanne C.	Steve F.
Jeff B.	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 VI

by Ted R.

“On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the the conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

I am probably not the person to write about the Concepts. Concepts are defined as abstract ideas generalized from particular instances, conceived in the mind.

I had trouble reading the Big Book and finding the directions for the Fourth Step. Abstract ideas don't come easily to me. I translate literally almost everything I read. I was at a convention and I saw some women sitting under a banner that read, "WOMEN FOR CHANGE." I placed my hand in my pocket, walked over to the table and offered them some change. They were not amused. I am writing this to encourage others to read the A. A. Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Concept VI and the next two Concepts define the trustees' powers and activities. I only know "trustee" as a term used for a prison inmate who has special work-related privileges, usually as a result of good behavior. That is not what the service manual is talking about in Concept VI.

Trustees are delegated a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board. They are the active guardians of our Twelve Traditions.

The Trustees are A.A.'s bankers. The 1998 revenue of A.A. World Services and the Grapevine was over 15 million dollars.

Our Trustees must function almost exactly like the directors of any large business corporation. They must have ample authority to really manage and conduct A.A.'s business.

Bill writes: "We have deliberately chosen the corporate form rather than the institutional or governmental model, because it is well known that the corporation is a far superior vehicle when it comes to the administration of policy and business."

"It is well known." I didn't know that. I have to take it on faith that the above statement is true. I have no corporate or business sense. I can't balance a checkbook month to month. I need to trust those handling

(Continued on page 18)

FIRST OFFICIAL GAY A.A. MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO (AND MAYBE THE WORLD)

by Conrad G.

Around 1968 a group of around ten gay men met in an apartment on Central Avenue in Haight/Ashbury. Our meeting was called to discuss starting the first official Gay A.A. meeting in San Francisco. We agreed to start the meeting. We rented space at 261 Fell St., where this meeting is still going even today. Our object in starting the meeting was to encourage members of the Gay community who were reluctant to come into mainstream A.A. We felt we could then encourage them to access A.A. as a whole when they became more comfortable living sober.

Our local Central Office was not at first comfortable about Gay meetings being identified as such in the meeting schedule. We therefore did not list this meeting there. We were listed elsewhere though, in non-A.A. publications, where we thought we could reach Gay alcoholics.

Since we were unable to use the space at 261 Fell St. for our very first meeting, two of our members invited us to use their place in the Haight; a classic "hippie pad". They had decorated their pad with several metal

"Who knew just how important our actions then would be to several thousand suffering Gay and Lesbian alcoholics?"


wall-sculptures, all brightly painted in pastel colors. After reading the usual opening literature, we added the last paragraph of page 68, and all of page 69 ending with the first paragraph on page 70 from Alcoholics Anonymous. This is the section that begins: "Now about sex."

Then, the black light was turned on and all the others off. We were surrounded by beautiful psychedelic art illuminated with black light. No alcohol was consumed. No drugs were taken. No marijuana smoked. Coffee, jasmine tea and cake were served. It was a beautiful first official Gay meeting in San Francisco.

There was another meeting, the Thirty-five and Under Group of Alco-


holics Anonymous, which met on Thursday nights in St. Francis of Assisi in North Beach and was San Francisco's unofficial Gay group. This meeting was open to anyone who wanted to attend and was not Gay identified in the schedule. We had a lot of very good friends who came regularly. We had what was then a very large Gay attendance, "maybe twenty."

Little did we ever dream our community would be as large as it is today with Gay A.A. meetings throughout the Bay Area and throughout the country. There are also Gay A.A. conferences yearly throughout the U.S., Canada and other parts of the world. The very first was, however, our own Living Sober conference here in S.F., held yearly around Gay Pride Parade time so travelers can come to both.

Who knew just how important our actions then would be to several thousand suffering Gay and Lesbian alcoholics? "Change the things you can" the Serenity Prayer tells us; sometimes change is a good thing. 

(Tradition Six: Continued from page 9)

groups, we cannot offer financial support for the preservation of our co-founder Bob Smith's home and artifacts, or even announce the activities of the private foundation which owns

and maintains the estate. We have to step around the veil of separation as private individuals. That's the sacrifice that we of this era must make. 

Would you like to write on a Step, Concept or Tradition?

For details on how to contribute articles email us:
thepoint@aasf.org.

We'd love to hear from you!

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

MARCH

2007

Name	March	YTD	Name	March	YTD	Name	March	YTD
Fellowship			Sisters In Sobriety Th 730pm (M)		300	Candlelight Meeting Th 10pm		42
Brisbane Breakfast Bunch	56	96	Six O'Clock Sunset Th 6pm		90	Castro Discn (Show Of Shows) W 8pm	341	341
Contribution Box	50	155	Sober & Serene F 7pm	375	375	Castro Monday Big Book M 8pm		84
2900 Alcolthon		389	Steps To The Solution W 715pm	40	92	Cow Hollow Men's Group W 8pm		109
Fellowship Contribution		9	Stinson Beach Fellowship Th 8pm		225	Design for Living Sat 8am		211
IFB		182	Sunday Express Sun 6pm		100	Each Day a New Beginning F 7am		254
Novato Fellowship Events Committee	109	149	T. G. I. Tuesday 6pm		52	Each Day a New Beginning M 7am		43
Total Fellowship	\$215	\$980	T.G.I.F. F 6pm		139	Each Day A New Beginning Su 8am		460
			Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag Th 8pm		77	Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am		173
Honors			The Fearless Searchers F 8pm		78	Each Day a New Beginning Tu 7am		120
High Noon Friday 1215pm		80	Three Step Group Sa 530pm	659	659	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am		165
Total Honors		\$80	Thursday Night Speaker Th 830pm		190	Early Start F 6pm	713	713
			Tiburon Beg. & Closed Tu 7pm & 830pm		590	Easy Does It Tu 6pm		241
Marin Group Contributions			Tiburon Haven Sun 12pm	100	345	Epiphany Group Th 8pm	60	60
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am		658	Tiburon Women's Candlelight W 8pm		42	Eureka Step Tu 6pm	257	257
Beginner's Help Th 8pm	100	100	Wednesday Mid-Week W 6pm		182	Eureka Valley Topic M 6pm	680	680
Beginners W 7pm	350	350	What's It All About F 12pm		92	Federal Speaker Su 12pm	252	252
Blackie's Pasture Sa 830pm		295	Women on Monday M 7pm		54	Fell Street F 830pm		131
Closed Women Step Study Tu 330pm		150	Women's Big Book Tu 1030am		119	Fell Street Step Su 8pm		91
Creekside New Growth Sun 7pm		144	Total Marin	\$4,707	\$13,044	Fireside Chat Tu 8pm		345
Downtown Mill Valley F 830pm	108	528				Fogwatch Tu 7pm		23
Fireside F 8pm Bolinas		76				Founders' Group Sa 5pm	20	20
Freedom Finders F 830pm	1200	1200	SF Group Contributions			Friday All Groups F 830pm		229
Gratitude Tu 8pm	309	577	7am Marina Dock		154	Friday Knights Th 730am		36
Happy, Joyous & Free 5D 12pm		750	7am Speaker Discussion Th 7am	75	139	Friday Night Special F 8pm	10	10
Hillside Candlelight F 830pm		50	7am Step Discussion Tu 7am	15	15	Friday Noon F 12pm		68
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am		76	830am Smokeless Th		22	Friday Smokeless F 830pm		83
Island Group Th 8pm		168	A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm	16	102	Goodlands Su 2pm		36
Keepin' It Real Th 6pm	60	60	A New Start F 830pm		553	Greenhouse Meditation		82
Keepin' It Real Th 6pm	48	48	AA As You Like It Tu 530pm		119	Happy Hour Ladies Night F 530pm		178
Kids Welcome Group M 1130am		45	AA Step Study Su 6pm		109	High Noon Monday 1215pm		127
Living in the Solution F 6pm		405	Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm		52	High Noon Thursday 1215pm		322
Marin City Groups 5D 630pm	250	250	Afro American F 8pm	53	53	High Noon Tuesday 1215pm	398	577
Monday Blues M 630pm		212	All Together Now Th 8pm	23	46	High Noon Wednesday 1215pm	64	106
Monday Nooners M 12pm	180	180	Amazing Grace M 7pm		16	High Sobriety M 8pm		566
More Will Be Revealed F 12pm		78	Any Lengths Sat 930am		478	High Steppers W 7pm		90
Nativity Monday Night Big Book M 8pm	100	100	As Bill Sees It Sat 8pm		66	Hilldwellers M 8pm		118
Noon Discussion Th 12pm		1002	As Bill Sees It Th 6pm		274	Home Group Sat 830pm		127
Noon Hope F 12pm	55	172	Ass in a Bag Th 830pm		152	Huntington Square W 630pm		240
Noon Tu 12pm	440	440	Beginner's Warmup W 6pm		70	Join the Tribe Tu 7pm		491
Primary Purpose W 830pm	25	25	Bernal New Day 7D	490	490	Joys of Recovery Tu 8pm		36
Quitting Time		100	Big Book Basics F 8pm		174	Keep It Simple Sat 830pm		118
Refugee Th 12pm	260	260	Big Book Study Su 1130am	114	114	Like A Prayer Su 4pm		32
Reveille 7D 7pm		600	Birthday Meeting Sa 8pm		250	Lincoln Park Sat 830pm		97
San Geronimo Valley M 8pm	49	49	Brokers Open Book Tu 130pm		34	Live and Let Live Su 8pm		172
Saturday Serendipity		99	Came To Believe Su 830am		108	Luke's Group W 8pm	58	125

BILL WILSON EULOGY

by Dr. Jack N.

The Following story is a transcript of Dr. Jack Norris' talk at Bill Wilson's memorial service. New York, New York, February 14th, 1971.

Our beloved Bill is dead. Even as I stand before you and say the words, I cannot really believe that it is true. In my heart I choose to believe that Bill is here with us at this very moment. And I somehow can almost hear him saying in that half-amused, half embarrassed way of his, "Oh come on now Jack, do you really think all this fuss is necessary?"

Two weeks ago, at a meeting of your Board of Trustees, shortly after Bill's passing, there was a rather lively discussion about a matter involving the whole fellowship. When it had

...so that A.A. will always be here to extend a hand to the drunk who is at this very moment crying out in the darkness of his night as he reaches for help.

reached a certain level of intensity, I found myself waiting to hear Bill speak up, as he so often did and say those few words that would put everything in perspective. But he didn't speak. And it was then that I realized way down deep that we would never hear his voice again ... that we could

no longer count on the constant presence of his wisdom and strength. We could never again say as we had said so many times before, "Bill, what do you think?" And I at least, have not yet come to accept this completely.

Bill was no saint. He was an alcoholic and a man of stubborn will and purpose. How else could he have lived through the years of frustration, failure, and discouragement while the steps, the traditions, and the conference were being hammered out on the anvil of hard experience with the first few groups? That he had the self-honesty, the clarity of vision to see the vital necessity for the Third Step, and turning one's life and will over to

(Continued on page 14)

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS, CON'T...

Name	March	YTD	Name	March	YTD	Name	March	YTD
Marina Discussion F 830pm		625	Sesame Step Tu 730pm	184		The Drive Thru W 1215pm	62	253
Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am		731	Sisters Circle Su 6pm	131		The Parent Trap M 1230pm	28	343
Miracles Off 24th St W 730pm		292	Sisters In Sobriety M 7pm (SF)	4		Thought For The Day F 730am		36
Monday Monday M 1215pm		52	Sober Across the Board M-Sa 830am	40	100	Transrecovery F 630pm		18
New Clay M 2pm	27	27	Step Talk Su 830am	90	288	Trudgers Discussion Su 7pm		180
New Hope Big Book M 630pm		106	Steppin' Up Tu 630pm		53	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	164	296
Newcomers Tu 8pm	277	277	Stonestown M 8pm	58	99	Tuesday Step Meeting Tu 130pm		2
Noon Smokeless Th 12pm	10	10	Straight Jackets Th 9am	22	85	Twelve Steps to Happiness F 730pm		123
Park Presidio M 830pm	60	60	Sunday Rap Sun 8pm		90	Unidentified Group	103	103
Pax West Th 12pm	519	519	Sundown W 7pm		360	Unidentified Group	68	68
Pure & Simple Su 6pm	179	179	Sunset 11'ers F		45	Valencia Smokefree F 6pm		420
Queers, Crackpots & Fallen Women		26	Sunset 11'ers M		50	Walk of Shame W 8pm		263
Rebound W 830pm		185	Sunset 11'ers Su		134	Washington Square M 7pm		171
Rodeo Drive Birthday Cake Style F 10pm		31	Sunset 9'ers F		82	West Portal W 830pm		234
Rule 62 W 10pm		525	Sunset 9'ers M		194	Wits End Step Study Tu 8pm		131
Saturday Afternoon Meditation Sat 5pm		60	Sunset 9'ers Su		432	Women's 10 Years Plus Th 615pm	90	504
Saturday Night Regroup Sat 730pm	480	480	Sunset Sobriety Th 730pm		360	Women's Kitchen Table Group Tu 630pm		148
Second Chance Th 215pm		105	Sunset Speaker Step Sun 730pm	285	285	Women's Promises F 7pm	50	50
Serenity House		300	Ten Years After Su 6pm	202	354	Work In Progress Sat 7pm		68
Serenity Seekers M 730pm	57	57	The 24 Hour Plan M 7am	42	42	YAHOO Step Sa 11am		106
			Total SF			\$6,553 \$24,005		
			Total Contributions			\$11,475 \$38,109		


(Eulogy: Continued from page 13)

a Higher Power is just one part of our great good fortune that Bill lived. I have seen Bill's pride and I have seen his humility. And I have been present when people from far countries have met him for the first time and started to cry. And all Bill - that shy Vermonter - could do was stand there and look like he wanted to run from the room. No, Bill was no saint, although many of us wanted to make him into one. Knowing this, he was insistent that legends about him be kept to a minimum - that accurate records be kept so that future generations would know him as a man. He was a very human person - to me an exceptionally human person.

Bill's constant concern during almost all of the years that I knew him was that Alcoholics Anonymous should always be available for the suffering alcoholic—that the mistakes that led to the fading of previous movements to help alcoholics should be avoided. To me one measure of his greatness is the clarity of his vision of the future in his determination to let go of us long before we were willing to let go of him.

Bill was a good sponsor, - the wise old timer determined to relinquish the role of founder because he knew that A.A. must, as he would say, come


of age and take complete responsibility for itself. He had an abiding faith that our Fellowship not only could, but should run without him. Repeatedly, during the last few years, he has said in General Service Conference sessions "We have nothing to fear." Bill believed that the wisdom of A.A. came out of church basements and not from the pulpit; that it was directed from the groups to the Trustees rather than the other way around. He sometimes felt, though, when the Conference disagreed with him as it sometimes did, that its conscience needed to be better informed, but it was this way that we really shared experience and developed strength and confidence that the answers would work out. Bill knew that it was not one voice that should be heard, but many thousands of voices. And it was his gift that he was able to listen to them all, then, out of the noise and confusion discern the group conscience. Then he would put it all together, the tension of argument would fade, and everyone would realize that his answer was right. What Bill's death means to me now is, that all of us—all of us: you, the delegates, the Trustees—will have to listen much more carefully than we once did in order to make out the voice of the group conscience. And I know that this is possible. Bill has

trained us for it beginning in St. Louis in 1955. For this was Bill's vision - to create a channel of communication within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that would make it possible for everyone to be heard: from the individual through the group, to the delegates and to the Trustees, so that A.A. will always be here to extend a hand to the drunk who is at this very moment crying out in the darkness of his night as he reaches for help. In closing, I want to say that it has been an honor for me to have had this opportunity to participate with you in giving thanks to God that Bill lived and was given the wisdom and strength and courage to make the world a better place for all of us. There are many more things I could say, but what can one say finally of a man's goodness and greatness? How many ways can you take his measure? I cannot do it or say it for any of you - only for myself. He was the greatest and wisest man I ever knew. Above everything, he was a man. And I believe that he left his goodness and greatness and wisdom with us, for any of us to take in what measure we can. May God grant us the wisdom and strength to keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive, vital, attractive, unencumbered by the egocentricities that can so easily spoil it. 

ARE YOU GETTING *THE POINT*?

We do our best to get a copy of *The Point* to the Secretary of each group, free of charge, in order to keep our Fellowship informed about current AA activities and events. *The Point* includes personal stories, AA announcements, reports and financial

statements. It is important that this information be made available to all the members of our fellowship. Information expands the Group Conscience, one of the strengths that holds Alcoholics Anonymous together.

If you haven't heard these announcements or seen a copy of this newsletter at your meeting, let us know. And let your Secretary know that registration forms are available on our website: www.aasf.org. 

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE

by Kathleen C.

As I'm reading *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* I start to notice that the material seems really familiar. Then I realize that it's straight out of the A.A. literature. These are the original source materials that became the A.A. literature. It's as if I am sitting in a back room of the A.A. Archives, poring over yellowed pages. Here is "The Doctor's Opinion". Here is "Religion Looks at A.A." Here is Bill's explanation of the need for anonymity. This is the Dead Sea Scrolls of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Written in 1957, it chronicles A.A.'s tumultuous adolescence, from 1935 to 1955. In speeches, letters and lectures, founders and friends of A.A. tell us what it was like, what happened and what it was like then, at the historic St. Louis Convention on A.A.'s twentieth anniversary.

A.A. "came of age" at this convention by adopting the form of governance it had been experimenting with for the previous five years - the General Service Conference, which continues to this day as the governing body. It was a new structure, a true grass roots model, that Bill W. had been suggesting for years and that the trustees ultimately adopted as the best form of governance for this radically different organization.

The book is written in the elegant prose of the pre-blog era yet it brims with emotion and enthusiasm. The

*The stories are the
 founders' firsthand
 account of the
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 of thousands of men
 and women...*

stories are the founders' firsthand account of the growth of A.A. from two drunks sitting at a kitchen table in Akron to hundreds of thousands of men and women, ready to govern themselves.

The political is intermingled with the personal. Bill, in three talks at the convention, describes the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. As background he recounts his own story of powerlessness over alcohol, discovering the physical allergy and the mental obsession, and his encounter with his old friend Ebby after he "got religion," got sober and became involved with the Oxford Group. This in turn led to Bill's own spiritual awakening and his first meeting with Dr. Bob.

Bernard Smith, a New York lawyer, who served as non-alcoholic trustee

and the first Chairman of the General Service Board, describes his first fateful meeting with Bill W. "It struck me, as a nonalcoholic, that A.A. was a way of life for me, too, and for countless others like me who had never sought escape in a bottle or in those other refuges to which men turn from the pressures in a materialistic world."

Clerics in the book include Jesuit Father Ed Dowling, who heard Bill's Fifth Step, and Sam Shoemaker, an Episcopal priest who helped develop the Twelve Steps. They describe A.A. as a sign of a spiritual awakening in their time, and its program as experimental rather than dogmatic.

In the chapter "Medicine Looks at Alcoholics Anonymous", Dr. W.W. Bauer of the American Medical Association and Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, "A.A.'s first friend in the profession of psychiatry," discuss the medical basis of addiction, all the past unsuccessful attempts to treat addicts, and the revolutionary discovery that groups of addicts working together could help each other recover, and that surrender and the spiritual experience are essential to the process.

This is the kind of book you don't need to read from beginning to end but can sample and savor one or two chapters at a time. It is fascinating reading and a window into how it all began.

The story continues in *PASS IT ON*, a chronicle of how the AA message reached the world; both books are available in the Central Office bookstore

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

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	
Brian C.	Hit It & Quit It		Amy B.	Marin Teleservice
Erica	Miracles on 24th St.		Karen S.	District 06
			Ray M.	District 05

The following is an unofficial summary of actions, information, upcoming business and service opportunities discussed at the May 2007 IFB meeting. We provide it for your convenience and do not intend it to be the complete and approved minutes of the IFB. For a complete copy of the minutes, please contact Central Office.

IFB Reports:

IFB Chair's Report: Scott N. gave his

report. Committee Chairs are required to submit written reports in advance of the Annual Meeting next month. The IFB Treasurer position still needs to be filled. The Nominating Committee needs to meet to assist in electing COC members for next term.

Treasurer's Report: Danna P. gave the report. The Net Loss for March of (\$1,057) was less than the budgeted Net Loss of

(\$4,768) by \$3,711. Unrestricted cash as of March 31st totaled \$50,982, and is sufficient to pay for budgeted expenses for 3 months.

COM's Report: Maury P. gave the report. Central Office needs substitute volunteers for phone shifts during the summer months. Central Office continues to look for office volunteers for administrative

(Continued on page 17)

(IFB Summary, continued from page 16)

projects. Bilingual 12th step volunteers are still needed; please continue to announce this need at meetings.

Central Office Committee: Chuck K. gave the report. The COC determined that committee chairs must either be elected by the committee or appointed by the IFB Chair, per our Bylaws. Founder's Day is a significant special event; the IFB should take responsibility for having an event to celebrate. The IFB should have a liaison attend the GSR District meetings so that the IFB is more informed of topics being discussed there.

Bylaws Change and Vote: The Chair read the proposed bylaws change that would permit officers to serve a second one-year term. This was the final reading. There was a short discussion, and then David P. made a motion to adopt the proposed bylaws change. Steve N. seconded the motion. The motion carried with 34 votes in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Group Inventory: A final discussion was had regarding the remainder of the Group Inventory summary.

Committee Reports:

12th Step Committee: Victor V. gave report. The last workshop went well. The Committee will henceforth rotate the agenda for its meetings, with regular business meetings, 12th Step workshops and Sunshine Club orientations. The committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on second Wed. of the month at Central Office.

Archives Committee: Bruce K. gave the report. The committee did not meet last month, but will bring a request to the IFB for funds to purchase equipment and document preservation supplies.

Special Events Committee: Brian C. gave the report. Brian wants to re-form this committee. The committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tues. of the month at the Crepevine, 216 Church Street @ Market.

Orientation Committee: Steve S. gave the report. All new members must go to orientation. The Orientation Committee needs new members to serve.

The Point Editorial Committee: Victor V. gave the report. The committee recently did a group inventory, which was positive. The committee is documenting information relating to production issues in order to "pass it on."

Trusted Servants Workshop Committee: Patty M. gave the report. There is a May 19th workshop on IFB/GSR positions. Several other workshops are also in the works for the coming months.

Website Committee: Dan Z. gave the report. New hosting for the website is in the works. Within the next month, users can download the SF schedule directly from the website. Members should consider anonymity when providing information to Central Office to put on the website.

Outreach Committee: Jaime G. gave the report. Volunteers have been assembled to do the outreach project; 71 meetings in San Francisco do not have coverage. Marin has coverage for all but 12 meetings.

Special Committee Reports

Teleservice, S.F.: Judi C. gave the report. The committee plans a volunteer appreciation event. Four new volunteers have made themselves available.

PI/CPC: Bruce K. gave the report. The committee has plans for a table at an an-

The next IFB meeting is on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 1187 Franklin Street in San Francisco at 7:00 p.m. Orientation starts at 6:00 p.m. and is required for all new members.

If your group does not have an elected Intergroup Representative, also known as an IFB rep., please join us to see if it is a service position for you.

The IFB is the policy-making group for you Central Office and a good resource for questions or problems related to groups in San Francisco and Marin. It serves as the Board of Directors for the Central Office, a legal requirement for any California non-profit corporation.

nual health fare and a table at the Homeless Connect event as well as a table at a meeting of judges.

IFB Liaison Reports

General Service, S.F.: Karen S. gave the report. The annual Pre-Conference Assembly was in April, and the theme was 12th Step responsibility. The Post-Conference Assembly will be in Cloverdale in May.

Teleservice, Marin: Amy gave the report. The committee is trying to find a solution for volunteers using non-415 area codes for their shifts because this is causing problems.

Living Sober: Alejandro D. gave the report. The Spring Fling Drag Show was successful. Next fund raiser is called Alcoholic Idol, and flyers are available for this event.

In service,
Anthony J.

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.

MY ABC'S: ACCEPTANCE, BELIEF AND CHANGE

by Sam B..

My early years were spent going to a Southern Baptist church most Sunday's with my family. We were Christ loving, God fearing people. I lived an active life that was as normal as possible for a Negro family living in the segregated south. One Christmas day when I was nine years old, a childhood friend invited me to share some of his father's sherry wine. I got drunk and my grandmother whipped my butt. This led to a cautious relationship with the bottle.

Life started to change when I left home and joined the army, nineteen years old and on my own for the first time. Free at last, do as I please, I met and became friends with an atheist who had a good argument against the existence of God. "There is a God," I said. He said, "Prove it" so I prayed and asked God to prove his existence. That didn't happen to my satisfaction and I became an unhappy agnostic.

Drinking became my best friend. Church or no church, God or no God, when I had problems I could depend on my buddy alcohol to come to the rescue. There was a long slow slide into a world that was strange, lonely and painful. My friend alcohol no longer could save me from my mis-

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ery. I tried adding drugs to the equation; things got worse. The slide continued until I hit bottom.


Reluctantly I entered the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous to begin my educational adventure and was told by my new associates there were new things to learn.

"First things first" they said and before I could deal with my problem I had to admit I had a problem. Denial was not a river in Egypt. My first question was, "Are you sure you're an alcoholic?"

"What is an alcoholic?" I asked. They answered. An alcoholic is a person who has lost the ability to control his/her drinking. I knew I probably wouldn't be there if I could control my drinking; so yes, I admitted, I am an alcoholic.

The next question: What is the difference between admitting and accepting? To admit to something means to be aware, to acknowledge the truth. Accepting means doing something, taking hold of the action. Yes, I accept, I am an alcoholic and am willing to do something about it.

My new friends in the fellowship said, "When you are powerless, you must find a power greater than yourself to help you to think straight." I was willing. I would do anything to stop hurting and have the pain go away. I prayed, "God please help me." I accepted and came to believe and my thinking started to change.

My treatment center had a big poster with huge lettering that said, "I can change." But, I didn't want to change I just wanted the pain to go away. I also remembered the Serenity Prayer on the wall at my grandmother's house in Louisiana. Why was it so important to change the things I can? A light came on. I knew that I had to change everything, my thinking, my actions, my behavior and my clothes. I thought of an old blues song that said, "The things I use to do, Lord I won't do no mo (re) Wise man will change but a fool will never." 


(Concept VI: Continued from page 10)

A.A.'s money to have some experience.

In reading *Alcoholics Anonymous. Comes of Age*, I found a most inspiring and wonderful chapter written by a trustee, Bernard B. Smith, Chairman, General Service Board of A.A. Bernard wrote: "We need a Confer-

ence to insure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of the few. We need it to insure that the doors of the halls of A.A. shall never have locks on them, so that all people with an alcoholic problem for all time to come may enter these halls unmasked and feel welcome.

We need it to help insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs help what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, or what his or her social position is."

Doesn't that inspire you to become active and informed about the Concepts to ensure the future of A.A.? 

Intercounty Fellowship of AA

Financial Statement

March 2007

	<u>Mar 07</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 07</u>		<u>Mar 07</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 07</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			Software Purchased	15.15	40.85
Income			Shipping	181.92	243.26
Contributions from Groups			Printing	0.00	840.88
Group Contributions	11,474.56	38,029.40	Equipment Lease	0.00	1,771.25
Honors	0.00	80.00	Repair & Maintenance	195.00	664.23
Total Contributions from Groups	11,474.56	38,109.40	Security System	33.50	100.50
Contributions from Individuals			Special Events	0.00	892.96
Individual - Unrestricted	525.00	9,813.20	Telephone	529.83	1,049.92
Faithful Fiver	1,105.00	2,763.00	Phone Book Listings	158.00	316.00
Honorary Contributions	219.00	391.00	Utilities	172.59	516.41
Total Contributions from Individuals	1,849.00	12,967.20	Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	65.51
Gratitude Month			Total Expense	17,117.67	55,038.70
Gratitude Month - Groups	191.94	2,735.55	Net Ordinary Income	-778.73	9,798.71
Total Gratitude Month	191.94	2,735.55	Other Income/Expense		
Sales - Bookstore	7,956.79	29,370.59	Other Income		
Special Event Income	0.00	923.64	Interest Income	72.11	3,624.21
Newsletter Subscript.	99.54	387.10	Total Other Income	72.11	3,624.21
Total Income	21,571.83	84,493.48	Other Expense		
Cost of Goods Sold			Depreciation Expense	75.67	227.01
Cost of Books Sold	5,036.57	19,061.59	Amortization Expense	45.91	137.73
Credit Card Processing Fees	196.32	594.48	Total Other Expense	121.58	364.74
Total COGS	5,232.89	19,656.07	Net Other Income	-49.47	3,259.47
Gross Profit	16,338.94	64,837.41	Net Income	-828.20	13,058.18
Expense					
Employee Expenses					
Wages & Salaries	8,545.31	25,407.39			
Employer Tax Expenses	729.72	3,040.55			
Health Benefits	952.00	2,856.00			
Total Employee Expenses	10,227.03	31,303.94			
Professional Fees					
Computer Consulting	104.31	281.25			
Total Professional Fees	104.31	281.25			
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00			
Postage					
Bulk Mail	200.00	200.00			
Postage - Other	118.00	235.00			
Total Postage	318.00	435.00			
Rent - Office	3,987.10	11,961.30			
Rent - Other	300.00	375.00			
Special Needs Expenses	375.00	525.00			
IFB Literature	0.00	39.79			
PI/CPC	0.00	46.40			
Filing/Fees	0.00	20.00			
Insurance	0.00	1,932.00			
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