

the Point

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

from Chapter Five of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous

2012 **3**
March

A publication of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

A publication of the

Intercounty Fellowship

of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Incapable of Being Honest




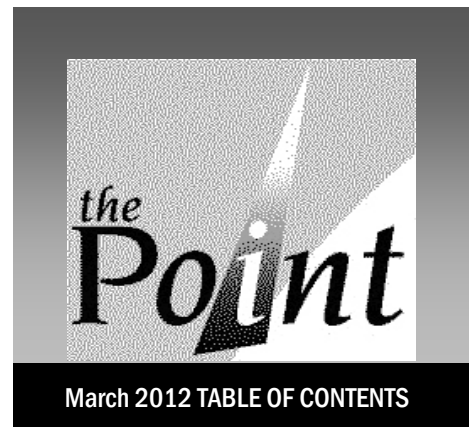
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The Point is published monthly to inform AA members about business and meeting affairs in the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (San Francisco and Marin Counties). The Point's pages are open to participation by all AA members. Nothing 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.

March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><i>Persons requiring reasonable accommodations at meetings of the IFB, COC, IFB committees or service events sponsored by the preceding entities, including ASL interpreters, assistive listening devices or print materials in alternative formats, should contact Central Office at (415) 674-1821 no less than five business days prior to the event.</i></p> <div>     </div>			
4	5	6 <u>FIRST TUE</u> Access Committee Central Office 6pm	7 <u>FIRST WED</u> Intergroup Meeting 1187 Franklin St. Orientation 6pm Meeting 7pm
11	12 <u>SECOND MON</u> SF Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Committee Central Office 7pm	13 <u>SECOND TUE</u> <i>The Point</i> Committee Central Office 5:30pm SF Bridging the Gap 1111 O'Farrell St 6:30pm Marin H&I 1360 Lincoln San Rafael 6:15pm SF General Service 1111 O'Farrell St 8pm	14 <u>SECOND WED</u> Marin Bridging the Gap 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club 6:30pm
18 <u>THIRD SUN</u> Archives Committee Central Office 2pm Business Meeting followed by Work Day	19 <u>THIRD MON</u> SF Teleservice Central Office 6:30pm Marin General Service 9 Ross Valley Rd San Rafael 8pm	20 <u>THIRD TUE</u> Outreach Committee Central Office 6:30pm	21
25 Trusted Servants Workshop Central Office 11am See flyer on p. 4	26	27 <u>FOURTH TUE</u> <i>The Point</i> Committee Central Office 5:30pm Marin Teleservice 1360 Lincoln Ave San Rafael Alano Club 7:30pm	28

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3
8	9	10
15	16	17 General Service Agenda Topics Workshop Urban Life Center 1101 O'Farrell St., 1pm See flyer on p. 16
22	23	24
29 <u>LAST THU</u> SF H&I Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St, SF Orientation 7:15pm Committee Meeting 8pm	30	31 



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“Today, there is absolutely nothing in the world more important to me than my keeping this alcoholic sober; not taking a drink is by far the most important thing I do each day.”

Big Book, p. 447



Meeting Changes

New Meetings:

Tue 6:00pm North Beach

COIT'S QUITTERS, 722 Columbus Ave. / Between Filbert and Greenwich

Meeting Changes:

Sun 12:00pm Novato
 Sun 6:00pm San Anselmo
 Mon 6:00pm San Anselmo
 Mon 7:30pm Mission
 Tue 7:00am San Rafael
 Sat 10:00am Parkside

NORTH MARIN SPEAKER, 789 Hamilton Pkwy / Palm Dr (was 646 Canyon Rd.)
 SUNDAY FRIENDSHIP, 921 Sir Francis Drake Blvd / Sais Ave (was 7pm, 1000 Sir Francis Drk)
 MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS, 921 Sir Francis Drake Blvd / Sais Ave (was 718 4th St)
 EXTREME MAKEOVER: WOMENS, 3555 Cesar Chavez / Valencia (Room changed to "ACR")
 REVEILLE, 1360 Lincoln Ave / Maple St (New focus on Living Sober book)
 WOMEN'S CAME TO BELIEVE, 2685 30th Ave / Wawona St (was Women Living Sober;
 Now a closed meeting)

PLEASE NOTE: We occasionally receive reports that meetings listed in our schedule are missing or no longer active. Sometimes these reports turn out to be mistaken—and sometimes not. **If you know *anything* about a meeting that has relocated or disbanded — even if only temporarily — please call Central Office immediately: (415) 674-1821.** This helps us direct newcomers, visitors and sober, local alcoholics alike to actual meetings and not to rooms that housed a meeting once upon a time. ***Thank you for contributing to the accuracy of our schedule!***

Central Office New Hours

Monday — Friday
10am – 6pm

****Saturday****

****10am – 2pm****

*Central Office will no longer be open
until 7pm on Mondays*

Saturday Hours are for a three-month trial period



Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous
 serving San Francisco and Marin Counties

What is the Intergroup? Who are the GSR's?
 Who? H&I? What do they do?
 GSR?? IFB?? WHAT?!?! I thought "AA as such
 ought never be organized"?!"

Confused? Want to know how to serve AA
 as a group representative? Join us!

TRUSTED SERVANTS WORKSHOP

***The Service Structure
 inside the AA group***

Sunday, March 25, 2012
11am to 1pm

Central Office
1821 Sacramento St.
Potluck lunch

From the Editor

We Are Capable of Honesty

by Kristen E.

"...[M]en and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves." These are the men and women who, according to Chapter Five in the Big Book, are among those who "cannot or will not give themselves completely to this simple program." And these are the *only* ones who "do not recover." At the root of failure to recover from alcoholism, then, is a lack of honesty with *oneself*. Powerful stuff, isn't it? It is the door that opens, or the door that closes: the very First Step. And having the power to see through our own lies often takes a power *greater* than ourselves – hence the sense of mystery (or of "God", as Rita L. would say in her story on p. 9) that often surrounds our entry into recovery.

Our March issue this year is full of hard-won wisdom and a number of important pronouns. Read as Kathleen C. shares her experience with coming to her moment of self-honesty in "How It Works" (p. 7), and as Rita L. surrenders the burden of "I" to the relief of "we" in "Step Three: Turning It Over." In "The Story

of We," Georgia L. talks about the active role *we* have to take in our battle against the awful "it" of alcoholism; and in "Turning it Over in Pieces," Suzan C. describes her long, slow surrender to a Higher Power.

And then there are the stories of *how* it works – as in, how our fellowship actually functions, day to day – from the copying and folding and mailing of this very issue of *The Point* in "Unsung Heroes," our Survey of Service article by Jane K., to the now updated definition of a "closed" meeting right here in our very own Intergroup in "Tradition Three and 'Closed' Meetings" by Charley D., and finally to MEM's article on the Third Concept, in which he writes about how "necessary our [A.A.] structure is for our survival." I had no concept of (or, in full disclosure and in keeping with our honesty theme, *interest* in) the Third Concept before reading this article, but now find myself surprisingly engaged by this topic and newly grateful to our A.A. founders (and MEM).

As we usher in the spring of 2012, let us wipe the dust off our mirrors and take a fresh, honest new look at ourselves!



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 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 summary; for the full editorial policy, please go to www.aasf.org.)



Faithful FIVERS!

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously pledge to contribute at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of Central Office. Faithful Fiver contributions go a long way in helping make our vital services possible. We thank the following members:

Alejandro D.	John V.	Rich G.
Andrea C.	Karen C.	Robert C.
Andy Z.	Kathleen C.	Robert W.
Ardella H.	Kathryn M.	Ron H.
Barbara L.	Kevin S.	Samuel W.
Barbara M.	Kristina F.	Sara D.
Blu F.	Kurt P.	Scott H.
Braden B.	Lauren H.	Sheila H.
Brian O.	Layne S.	Steve A.
Bruce K.	Lelan & Rich H.	Steve F.
Bruce S.	Leo H.	Stu S.
Carole K.	Linda L.	Susan G.
Caroline A.	Lisa M.	Teddy W.
Casey L.	Lynne L.	Thomas H.
Cathy P.	Mabel T.	Tim M.
Charles D.	Marit L.	Tom S.
Charlie O.	Mark A.	Tracy F.
Chris L.	Mark B.	William M.
Chris S.	Mark O.	
Chuck S.	Martha S.	Your
CJ H.	Mary C.	Name
Dan B.	Maryellen O.	Here!
Dan & Sherry T.	Mia M.	
David J.	Michael G.	Or
David S.	Michael P.	Here!
Dennis & Lucy O.	Michael W.	
Dianne E.	Michael Z.	Or
Ed H.	Mike M.	Here!
Eric P.	Mitch R.	
Erin S.	Molly G.	
Evan K.	Nancy W.	
Fay K.	Nathaniel W.	
Gregory G.	Niels R.	
Ian M.	Pat P.	
James W.	Patrick M.	
Jane K.	Paul M.	
Janet B.	Peg L.	
Jeanne C.	Pene P.	
Jeff B.	Penelope C.	
Jodie S.	Phillip B.	
John C.	Ralf & Jocelyn	
John G.	Ralf Z.	

If you would like to become a Faithful Fiver, please download a pledge form from our website.

You will receive a complimentary subscription to *The Point*. And remember, individual contributions are 100% tax deductible!

Survey of Service

Unsung Heroes

by Jane K.

If you are reading this newsletter in a hard copy version (real paper), you are enjoying the fruits of the labor of any number of volunteers at Central Office. The twelve times a year project of getting out one issue of *The Point* involves multiple steps and little automation. With elbow grease, good humor, and occasional snacks, A.A. members persevere to put *The Point* into your hands by the first of the month.

The editorial committee of *The Point* solicits, edits, writes, designs and finalizes the text and graphics. After that, production kicks in. Printing happens at the copy machines in the office; we have pre-printed covers (the part in color), our most recent design by the fabulous Jean M. in curves and cursive graphics. John H. is the “copy machine whisperer,” coaxing good behavior from recalcitrant machinery. Without his special touch, you might be reading this text catawampus on the page, or smudged and smeared. Then the pages are folded (multiple times, take a look at the issue in your hands, especially if it was mailed to you), various flyers inserted, stapled, and taped per postal service requirements.

Mailing labels are produced from the database maintained by our special workers. If you are a registered secretary or treasurer of a group, you are in the database to receive a mailed copy of *The Point* to share with the group, especially the information in the Secretary’s Monthly insert which has lots of material for the “A.A. related announcements” section of your

meeting. Likewise, if you are part of our “Faithful Fiver” program (pledging a monthly donation directly for the support of Central Office) or have paid for a subscription – only \$12 a year – you also are in the database. Or if you’ve written an article for *The Point* during the past year.

A local recovery house for women is a regular source for these volunteers

Labels are stuck on by office volunteers, too, often the same people who fold and tape. It’s fun service when several folks are gathered around the big conference table, assembling the issue. A local recovery house for women is a regular source for these volunteers; also, newcomers whose sponsors have told them to come into Central Office because service keeps us sober, especially if we’ve got time on our hands for one reason or another. (One of the recovery house volunteers said she reads the newsletter cover to cover and looks forward to each new issue. This warms the hearts of the editorial committee.) If you wander into Central Office while production is underway, you may be recruited to help on the spot.

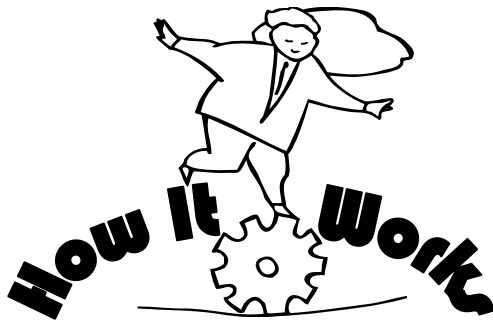
Finally, Ralph C. loads up his vehicle with the product, sorted by zip code, and negotiates the sometimes Through-the-Looking-Glass world of the postal service’s bulk mail permit process. We salaam to Ralph for his keenly-

honed ability to do whatever it takes to have our cartons of newsletters accepted, even when they are a little too thick or not tightly bound or whatever the problem of the month. His many years of sobriety come in handy here.

So if you have some time for service during the 23rd to 25th of almost any calendar month, consider helping at Central Office to get out *The Point*. Call first and ask when production is scheduled. It is righteous service and satisfying in that mysterious way that only concrete, hands-on tasks can be. And you probably can get a free copy if you ask nicely.

JP





by Kathleen C.

"Most of us have been unwilling to admit we were real alcoholics."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 30

When I first started going to A.A. meetings I introduced myself thus: "I'm Kathleen, I'm an alcoholic." However, mentally I had my fingers crossed behind my back because I didn't think I was really an alcoholic; I was a pothead. I didn't want to be an alcoholic like my depressed, violent father. I preferred to be a pothead because that was more spiritual, more in tune with my New Age philosophy. Besides, I thought I drank like other people. My life looked pretty good on the outside. After I came to San Francisco from the East Coast, I met a good man, had kids, and went to graduate school. My husband mortgaged his house to pay my tuition. Somehow, without compromising my wine and marijuana routine, I got my degree, but had to pass an exam to practice my profession. I hit bottom when I failed. I wept tears of self-pity and decided, in my willful alcoholic way, that the darned marijuana had ruined my short-term memory and made me

fail. My solution was to quit smoking marijuana. Sort of like substituting brandy for hard liquor or drinking only natural wines.

My younger sister had been Twelfth-stepping me ever since she got sober in A.A., just six months before. I had seen the dramatic changes in her life, and part of her program was dragging me to A.A. meetings whenever I visited her in Los Angeles. I called her and announced that I had quit smoking marijuana. There was a long silence on the other end of the phone line. Finally she asked, "And . . .?" "And what?" I answered. "What about alcohol?" she asked. I sputtered, "Oh, I don't even like alcohol. It isn't my drug of choice. I don't drink that much." Then she asked me, "Why don't you try not drinking?"

On September 11, 1986 I tried not drinking. I got a home group and a sponsor and began working the program, reluctantly, since I still didn't think I was really an alcoholic. I went to one meeting a week, worked the steps minimally with my sponsor and didn't sponsor anybody myself. Not surprising. I wouldn't have wanted what I had either.

After I had been sober for a while, that pattern of "purposeful forgetting" that is described on page 79 in *Twelve Steps and Twelve*

Traditions began to be removed. I thought I didn't really have any consequences from my drinking: I never got so much as a speeding ticket, much less a DUI. I didn't hurt anybody, except maybe myself. But when I began making my Eighth Step list of people I had harmed by my drinking, I started remembering: Driving drunk with my baby girls in the car, breaking promises to friends and family, showing up late to work or not at all. Because of my drinking. I realized that drinking a whole bottle of cognac alone in my apartment is alcoholic drinking. Showing up for an evening class with a thermos of hot tea laced with brandy is alcoholic drinking. Having a few drinks before I went to a party is alcoholic drinking. I'm an alcoholic all right.

When I finally admitted my alcoholism to myself and my sponsor, I joined A.A. I worked the steps, got commitments, went to lots of meetings, and worked with sponsees. Instead of being ashamed, I became grateful to be a sober alcoholic in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am really an alcoholic!



I would like to subscribe to *The Point*

\$12.00 for one year — 12 issues!!!

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: The Intercounty Fellowship of A.A.

MAIL CHECK TO: Central Office with this request for subscription to *The Point* — 1821 SACRAMENTO ST., SF CA 94109

The Story of We

How “It” Works

by Georgia L.

We hear it read at almost every meeting we go to when “How It Works” is read from Chapter Five: “Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now.”

And yet time after time after time after time, a speaker will begin their story saying they will stick to the format of what “it” was like, what happened, and what “it” is like now. Sometimes my mind snaps shut when I hear that because it tells me the speaker hasn’t read the Big Book or paid attention to the words that are read at meetings. I know this is something I need to work on; I often end up praying for them that they stay and read the Big Book.

I’ve searched high and low, on the internet and in bookstores, and have yet to come across a copy of *Alcoholics Anonymous* that has the “it” version of this passage written in Chapter Five, so I have no idea who is passing on this secret version. I

wish they’d stop as those are not the words Bill Wilson and his friends wrote back in the 1930s.

“It” is the disease of alcoholism: cunning, baffling, powerful and deadly. I’ve been sober for a while and have learned over the years that “it” does not change; it hasn’t changed for hundreds of thousands

*“It” was killing alcoholics
like me long before
I got to the rooms.*

of years. “It” was killing alcoholics like me long before I got to the rooms. “It” killed my grandfather and my father and probably my uncle, too. In his case, “it” was disguised as diabetes; alcoholic health negligence killed him.

“It” almost killed me, but my friends, who had gotten sober, noticed that “it” was killing me and intervened in the spring of 1986. I was ready to stop fighting “it” and willing to start

working on changing me. What made me stay is that I saw a way out from “it” – my disease of alcoholism – through the Twelve Steps.

The Twelve Steps give me a formula for living with “it,” because what they do is change me. The words in Chapter Five say, “what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now,” which indicates that something happened to affect a change in our lives. I am not the same drunk woman who was carried into a locked psych ward over 25 years ago. The steps and the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous worked on me and changed me into the sober person I am today.

So what I was like was a hopeless, helpless drunk dying from “it.” What happened is that my friends intervened. I was introduced to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps of recovery and was willing to do the work to change myself into a sober person. And what I am like now is sober.

“It” doesn’t change, but *we* have to – or “it” will kill us.



Plea For Information

The Access Committee of the Intercounty Fellowship is working to increase awareness and solutions for people who experience difficulties in accessing the recovery message of A.A. This may be of a visual, auditory, mobility, literacy or other nature. Our mission is to ensure the inclusion of all those who seek to stop drinking in our fellowship of recovery.

Toward that end we are seeking input from people who encounter barriers to accessing the message of A.A. as presented in traditionally structured meetings and literature. Have you or anyone you know experienced any barriers that we can work to remove? Please contact us at access@aasf.org.



YEAR OF THE TWELVE

Step Three: Turning It Over

by Rita L.

In starting to write about Step Three, I noticed I (mis)worded the step as follows:

Made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of G_d as I understand G_d.*

So, right off the bat, I see I need to make some corrections in my approach. The exact words of Step Three, from the A.A. *Twelve and Twelve*, are:

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of G_d as we understood Him.

I need to remember that this is a “we” program, and not a “me” program. If it were entirely an “I” program – if I am all there is, if I am the be-all and end-all, the alpha and the omega, if I am both my helpless self and my own higher power, both my autonomous self and my own fellowship, both the sponsee and the sponsor, if I am the whole enchilada, the proverbial snake eating its own tail, an enclosed, seamless circuit consisting of me, myself, and I, if I am all there is, if it is all about me, if I am wall-to-wall Rita with no room for you or You – then, I am in deep trouble. There is no way I can pull my heavy self up by my own flimsy bootstraps. How could I possibly let go and let whomever (my fellow addict/ alcoholics, or a higher power of any sort) if I am all there is, if I am my own engine, if I must continually keep pedaling or risk falling over? If I am both the managed and the manager, the employee and the employer, I am in deep do-do (and so

are you). The very idea of total self-sufficiency is exhausting.

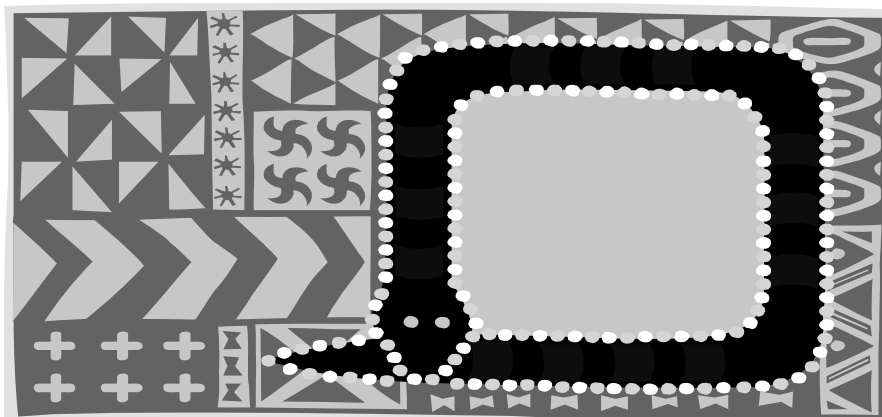
So, the concept that I don’t have to do it alone is such a relief and a comfort. If I cannot be both powerless and powerful, if I cannot possibly manage it/me alone (Step One); and if I am coming to believe that a power greater than my little, imperfect, damaged, incomplete and needy self exists and is capable of restoring me to a sanity I never really have had (Step Two); then, I am ready to take the action of Step Three, the leap of faith of making a decision to turn not *my* will and *my* life but *our* will and *our* lives over to the care of G_d as, not just I, but *we* understood G_d.

For me, this shift from the solitary “I” to the collective “we” is enormous. Growing up not only as a self-reliant American, but as an independent Baby Boomer, and an insular and isolated addict/alcoholic, I am horribly attached to the illusion of autonomy. I must constantly remember that surrendering to the “us” of the program is not an act of weakness, but an act of great comfort and sacred trust. The only way I can

let go (and allow healing change to happen) is if I can believe that the safety-net of the fellowship and of my higher power are truly there for me, to catch me in a caring, compassionate, and capable embrace. After all, I am not turning it over to a punitive, sadistic, passive-aggressive, alcoholic, and untrustworthy G_d, but to a caring higher power, the “care of G_d as we understood G_d”.

Finally, a few thoughts about this word “understand.” I need to stand under G_d, a protective shelter, a loving parent, my champion. I need G_d to stand under me, a solid foundation. I need to understand G_d even if I do not understand G_d. My loving G_d will surely understand that I do not understand, but can make a decision to turn it over anyway. It is a huge and heavy burden: what a relief to decide to turn it over.

**The Point makes every effort to comply with an author’s choice around what to call our Higher Power. In this article, the author chooses to use “G_d.”*



Turning it Over in Pieces

The Process of Becoming Entirely Willing

by Suzan C.

When I first read the Third Step, I noticed that it only required me to “make a decision.” Knowing I hadn’t been the best at following through with decisions, I shrugged and declared, “Decision made, Step Three completed.” When I began to notice God falling down on his new management job, I decided he should only handle one thing at a time.

I considered my damaged relationships, rocky career, and volatile temper. I decided it was only safe to give God a test drive with my main problem, alcoholism. After all, I had been magically deposited in A.A. and God had earned a merit bonus for that. So I prayed each day to be kept sober and I started working Steps Four through Twelve.

Working all Twelve Steps to the best of my ability and having no delusions about my alcoholism are the only things I have done right in A.A. I have not always had a sponsor or sponsees. I have not gone to enough meetings or done enough service. I have “made a decision” to improve in those areas. By working my program according to the Big Book, I have turned my alcoholism over to the care of God.

Eventually I realized that living sober and having a productive life were great, but I was still annoyed by lingering character defects that I had humbly offered up for removal. I finally understood that I was not “entirely willing” to have these problems removed because I was not entirely willing to turn over certain aspects of my life to my Higher Power. I was still handing God sample sizes of my existence.

The toughest thing for me to hand over to God was my career, never mind that I had nearly torpedoed it myself on many occasions. Surely if I had put God in charge of my work, my ambition would have suffered. God did not seem to be the go-getter type. More likely to sit in the office trying on halos. And so I schemed, spied and manipulated. But the corporate ladder was cordoned off.

*I was still handing
God sample sizes of
my existence.*

When I finally became utterly miserable at my dead-end job, I made a decision to turn my career over to God. Outside my office building there was a courtyard where I went for cigarette breaks. Just on the other side of that courtyard is Old Saint Mary’s church. I am not religious, but I do like places of worship. Several

days a week for the next six months, I went into that church. I sat a few minutes and quieted myself. Then I got down on my knees in the pew, business skirt and all. First I thanked God for my sobriety and for taking care of all my basic needs. Next, I told God that my job sucked and if he had a new one in mind, I would greatly appreciate some direction.

After six months of praying and wondering if anyone was listening, I got up the courage to quit my job and start my own company. I had no clients, and not enough money saved. But I was good at my profession. The first day I opened the doors, a fantastic new client walked in and gave me enough work to occupy a quarter of my time. Two months later, a multinational corporation found me and kept me busy full time for the next seven years. I finally had to admit that God was more of player than I gave him credit for. Halo over pinstripe suit. Have your people call my people.

TP



Why The Pink Cans?

by Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

[Editor's Note: Our local H&I committee is, due to historical reasons, not a committee of our Intergroup as are most H&I committees throughout the U.S. We have been asked to publish this report and do so in the spirit of cooperation within the fellowship.]

The Hospital & Institution Committee of Northern California is an organized committee of Alcoholics Anonymous with the commitment of carrying the message of A.A. to those who are confined in prisons, hospitals, and other institutions. Northern California H&I provides almost 42,000 meetings a year, servicing 22 major state and federal institutions and hundreds of local jails, hospitals, rehabs and other community facilities. Those who are confined have no money to buy the A.A. literature brought in by the H&I volunteers, so the Pink Can, with your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars, covers the cost.

In the fiscal year ending November 2011, Nor Cal H&I spent \$369,821.00 for books and literature from A.A. World Services; \$40,186.40 for the A.A. *Grapevine* in both English and Spanish; \$9,128.16 to purchase Meeting Directories from the local Central Offices; and \$23,383.05 to ship these items throughout Northern California. These necessary categories comprise over 93% of the total Nor Cal 2011 expenses and amounts to the cost of just one Big Book, one Twelve and Twelve and a small handful of pamphlets and schedules per meeting.

The Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee has for many

years been one of the largest purchasers of literature from the A.A. General Service Office in New York, contributing greatly to World Service income. No H&I members are paid for service, nor are they reimbursed for expenses incurred carrying the message into these institutions, regardless of the distance. It is not unusual for an H&I volunteer to drive well over 200 miles for a weekly or monthly institution meeting. These travel expenses are a personal contribution of the individual.

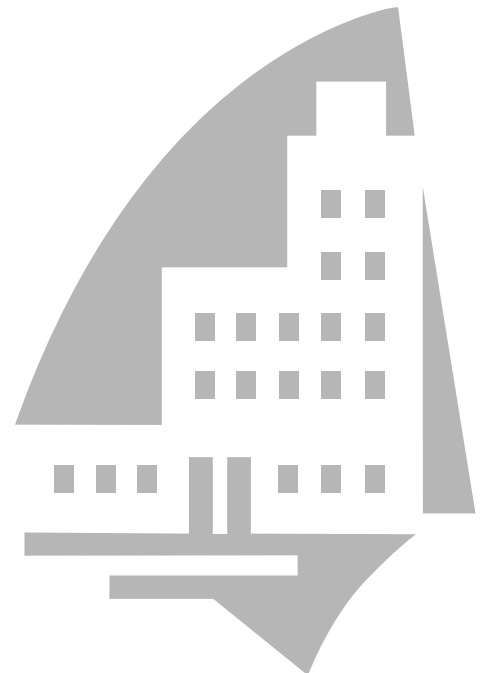
One of the fears expressed early on in the implementation of the Pink Cans was that they would subtract from the support of the meetings. This is entirely contrary to the intention of the Committee, and should not happen if the A.A. group secretaries announce (before the baskets are passed) the importance of supporting the 7th Tradition first (thereby supporting the service entities it contributes to) and the purpose of the Pink Can. The Nor Cal H&I Committee requests that the Pink Cans be passed separately from and after the baskets to avoid subtracting from support of the 7th Tradition, and encourages all members to remove the cans from the baskets if they are being passed together.

In 1942, the highly respected Warden Clinton Duffy invited some local A.A. members to bring the first A.A. meeting into San Quentin Prison; by June of 1946, A.A. was invited into Folsom Prison and the organization we now know as H&I was born. Because of the increasing interest of A.A. members outside the San Francisco area to participate in prison work, the committee resolved to become an autonomous

committee of NCCAA, thus forming the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee.

Nor Cal H&I has been carrying the A.A. message of recovery to confined alcoholics for over 70 years, and is one of the oldest service committees of A.A. We maintain strong and mutually beneficial relations with the Corrections and Treatment Committees of the A.A. General Service Board in New York, and are humbly grateful for the generous contributions, both financial and in service, of the A.A. members who make our mission possible.

For additional information, please write to the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee, P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco, CA 94119-2490 or visit our website at www.handinorcal.org.



Tradition Three and Closed Meetings

A Desire to Stop Drinking

by Charley D.

A minority of meetings in San Francisco and Marin designate themselves as “closed.” Until recently, schedules printed by our Intergroup Central Office stated these meetings were restricted to “alcoholics.” At their January 2012 meeting, Intergroup Representatives for San Francisco and Marin decided to change that designation to “limited to those who have a desire to stop drinking.” This change in nomenclature may sound insignificant. To me, however, it opens a window on A.A.’s Tradition Three: “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

variety. They’ve likely tried all the futile means I tried to curb or control their drinking and have turned to A.A. as a last resort. The desire to stop can burn brightest when a newcomer is, say, hung over—but it can flicker or even douse altogether at other times, especially after he’s taken that first drink. By the time he gets to looking at a meeting schedule, a statement restricting a meeting to “alcoholics” may put him off, not just from the meeting the schedule designates, but from the A.A. program altogether.

In his February 1948 Grapevine editorial, Bill W. wrote of the alcoholic, “the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to

difficult or impossible. Yet, many will go so far as to admit to a desire to stop drinking. The foreword to the first edition of the Big Book said, “The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking.” By the time the traditions appeared, the word “honest” had dropped out of the requirement. Why? Because by then we’d realized any sort of desire would do – honest or dishonest, ardent or weak, sincere or feigned. That’s all a member needs to satisfy A.A.’s entrance exam. Some meetings restrict themselves to those who’ve passed that simple self-administered test. They exclude others, including spouses, family members, and the general public. These meetings call themselves “closed.” The key to entry must, however, always be only a desire to stop drinking.



Many newcomers feel as I did. They want only somehow to stop drinking and get on with a normal life.

The distinction can make a world of difference. Many newcomers attend their first meeting reluctantly. They don’t know if they’re alcoholics, which can sound like a very serious shortcoming to them. It can take a lot to admit you have alcoholism, which is, after all, a disease. Who wants to admit to having that? I didn’t want to cop to being an alcoholic when I first got sober. I just didn’t want to drink any more.

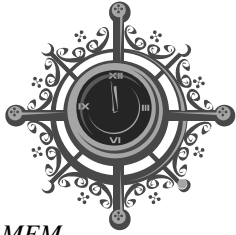
Many newcomers feel as I did. They want only somehow to stop drinking and get on with a normal life. That desire to stop drinking may fall well short of zealotry. It often turns out to be of the “51% yes, 49% no”

conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist.”

A.A. caters to that nonconformist by dispensing entirely with conformity. The Twelve Steps are recommendations, not requirements. Each group governs itself, with a minimum of rules. No hierarchy sets policy, much less requirements, for A.A. members.

Getting a rebellious nonconformist to confess to being an alcoholic may be





by MEM

“III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional ‘Right of Decision.’” (The Twelve Concepts, Short Form, from *The A.A. Service Manual*.)

As a new InterGroup Representative, I was surprised listening to a fellow IGR report on Concept I at the January InterGroup meeting. He was actually enthusiastic about The Twelve Concepts. From what I knew of them from the group level, I thought they were written in a forgotten language and harder to get through than a Fourth Step.

So many A.A.s view the larger organization with suspicion, if not downright hostility, or else try to completely ignore it. They feel trusted servants don’t need to register with Central Office, and we don’t need to concern ourselves with the Seventh Tradition other than to pay for our own rent, coffee and cookies. The view seems to run along the lines of, “We hold absolute power and let’s not give any of it away. Those fat cats in New York don’t need our money and we don’t need them.”

These same folks apparently think the literature on their tables appears like manna from heaven or money from the tooth fairy. Meeting schedules and web sites and the ability to find meetings when traveling out of town or out of the country are also part of the great magic act of larger A.A. – it appears

YEAR OF THE TWELVE

Concept III: Right of Decision

without our involvement.

Bill W.’s writing in *The Twelve Concepts* makes clear how necessary our structure is for our survival. He reminds us about the trial, error, and common sense behind every idea in our literature. In Concept III, the principle of “group conscience” is applied to those holding the responsibility and authority for our structure of world service. It’s pretty much that simple.

He writes about systems of governance and effective management, and other ideas that flow from his early career of assessing the suitability of businesses for investment. He always had a pretty good eye for what works and what doesn’t. In the case of the A.A. world service structure, the idea is that those in authority must walk a line between exercising their delegated authority in a responsible yet effective way.

Bill disputes the notion that each local group should give its GSR detailed instructions that must be inflexibly carried forward. Clearly this doesn’t work at the higher level of conferences and assemblies, where debate and free discussion among participants will always reveal facts, strategies or situations that could not have been foreseen by the local group back home. Our “trusted servants” on all levels must have our trust to consider our position but represent us in a way that accounts for the larger picture.

Concept III also recognizes that the “Right of Decision” means that the Conference and the Trustees exercise their own authority as to which matters they will act upon as



their own responsibility, and which they will refer to the groups or their GSRs, or (in the case of the corporations, committees, staff or executives) the next higher authority.

Bill concludes: “This ‘Right of Decision’ should never be made an excuse for failure to render proper reports of all significant actions taken; it ought never be used as a reason for constantly exceeding a clearly defined authority, nor as an excuse for persistently failing to consult those who are entitled to be consulted before an important decision or action is taken. Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other. Therefore, we cannot do less than trust our leaders in service. The ‘Right of Decision’ that we offer them is not only the practical means by which they may act and lead effectively, but it is also the symbol of our implicit confidence.”

It’s pretty much common sense, folks. Nothing to be afraid of and something we should be interested in if we truly wish the hand of A.A. to be there for anyone who reaches out for it.



Intergroup meeting summary – February 2012

The following meetings (and *service entities*) have registered Intergroup Representatives who were in attendance at the last Intergroup meeting. If your meeting was not represented, consider electing an Intergroup Representative (IGR) and /or an alternate so your meeting is effectively represented

Artists & Writers	Each Day A New Beg. (M-F)	Marina Discussion	Sunday Night Castro SD	Walk of Shame
As Bill CCs It	Each Day A New Beg. (Su)	Miracles (Way) Off 24th St.	Sunday Rap	Wits End
Back To Basics	Friday Morning 12 Steppers	Newcomers	Sunset 9'ers	Women's Mtg. There is a Solution
Blackie's Pasture	Girls Night Out, Marin	On Awakening Group	Ten Years After	Women's Promises
Blue Book Special	High Noon	Queers, Crackpots and Fallen Women	Thursday Thumpers	
Came to Believe	High Noon F	Saturday Beginners	Tiburon Haven	<i>SF General Service</i>
Come 'n Get It!	Huntington Square	Saturday Easy Does It	Too Early	<i>GGYPAA</i>
Cow Hollow Men's Group	Join The Tribe	Sesame Step	Tuesday Beginners	<i>SF H&I</i>
Design for Living	Marin Stag	Sober 5150's	Tuesday Chip	

This is an unofficial summary of the February 2012 Intergroup meeting provided for convenience; it is not intended to be the completed approved minutes. For a complete copy of the minutes and full committee reports see "Intergroup" on our website.

The purpose of the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is to carry on the movement of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) in keeping with the intent and spirit of the Fellowship as exemplified in the books Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age.

The Intercounty Fellowship has been organized by, and is responsible to, the member groups of A.A. in San Francisco and Marin for the purpose of coordinating the services that individual groups cannot provide.

The monthly Intergroup meeting was held on Wednesday, February 1st, 2012 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 180 Donohue, Marin City, CA.

Officer Reports

Chair Report, Margaret G.

Attended Marin General Service meeting; Similar to ours in many ways, different groups represented. Difference is that Intergroup is "Bottom of the pyramid" whereas General Services is accountable to World Services in New York.

Thanks for all who helped, attended, promoted the 65th Anniversary of Central Office event on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Old Timers panel was amazing!

Treasurer Report, Michelle C.

See Income and expense bottom line actual for 2011 was \$583 in deficit!

Group contributions were way down, by \$20,000 while individual contributions partially made up for decline in group contributions. A last minute individual contribution of \$3000 at the end of the year really helped out.

Expenses were under by \$20,214, with savings netting out for the very small loss at the end of the year. Intention is to do more metrics to track and report income trends. Next year will be tighter with increase in expenses

Central Office Committee Chair, David S.

Last month at January 23 COC discussion included:

Central Office Anniversary event planning

New staff members, accommodation of new part-time employee schedules and how employee handbook would reflect changes.

Review of financial statements.

Expenses are as lean as possible.

Goal is to get more groups involved.

Central Office Manager's Report, Maury P.

Central Office 65th Anniversary Party: More than 300 attendees, old timers' panel received most praise. More than 40 members volunteered, not including residents of two local recovery homes.

Regarding last month's discussion of definition of open and closed meetings. Refer to "The AA Group" pamphlet, available on line or in hard copy from Central Office.

Concept-a-Month, Douglas K. A DCM (District Committee Member) from West Marin. Second Concept: Read from Concepts, General Service of AA. Conscience for all of AA in one week of meeting in NY decided. Delegate from Northern California. Conference meets in late April. Gathering process around the country GSRs preceding. Area conference solidifies. Delegate for Region takes issues to national conference.

New Business

Service Sponsor, Margaret suggests that we investigate, perhaps have a presentation. A service Sponsor helps work the 12 concepts and guides through service, much the same way as a regular sponsor helps guide through sobriety. Show of hand for those who would be interested in being a service sponsor or having a service sponsor.

Online contributions update: Website now has additional individual contribution options. Faithful Fivers now online, along with Anniversary contributions, gratitude month or memorial. See link from opening page of AASF.org

Committee Review; Margaret P.

With new focus on committees within the Intergroup Fellowship we want to take this time to review all. Some committees have been struggling, or are without a chair. Others will have the opportunity to check in for a brief report.

Individual Contributions

to Central Office were made through February 15, 2012
honoring the following members:

IN MEMORIAM

Jonathan L., Matt S., Joe R.

ANNIVERSARIES

Phil L.,
Perry — 1 year, Daisy E. — 3 years (High Noon)
Rory K. — 5 years, Colleen C. — 6 years,
Carmen M. — 7 years, Alejandro D. — 9 years,
Jeffrey S. — 16 years, Scott B. — 21 years (Friday Night Blast)
Maury P. — 23 years, Adelina A. — 25 years
Bob J. — 26 years, Susan L. — 27 years

Hospitality Committee, Ted R.; Provides meals for Intergroup meetings.

Orientation Committee, Blu F.; Conducts orientation for new IGR's each month.

PI/CPC, Bruce K.; Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community, AA's official contact with the professional community.

SF Teleservice, Seth H.; 24 hour coverage of calls coming into AA through Central Office during off-hours. It's a rewarding way to be of service. We always have openings.

Sunshine Committee, SF; Brings meetings to members of fellowship who are temporarily not able to attend. Orientation and 1 yr. sobriety requirement.

12 Step Committee, Gloria E.; Provides a list of members who are willing to make a 12 step call or visit for those reaching out for help.

The Buzz committee, Michael P.; The Buzz is a bi-weekly email of local AA news, events, committee openings, etc.

The Point, Charles D.; Monthly newsletter published in hardcopy and online.

Web Committee, David S.; Responsible for content and design of aasf.org website.

Fellowship Committee, Blu F.; Organizes local events.

Archives Committee, Michael P.; Organizes materials that document the history

of AA in SF and Northern California.

Access Committee, Brian C.; Engage with groups about accessibility issues, sometimes receive requests for specific needs.

Trusted Servants Workshop, Ted R.; To educate people who are newly elected to a service position in their groups., (Secretaries, Treasurers, etc.)

Announcement; Maury P.; New bookstore hours. Open on Saturdays 10am - 2pm for a 3-month trial period. Will no longer have extended hours on Monday.

Liaison reports:

GS District 6, San Francisco, Andy T.; There are a lot of new GSRs and the topic of service sponsors has been important in the discussion. Agenda topics assembly coming up in Lakeport. 62nd annual General Conference. Post conference assembly.

GGYPAA, Jen H.; Next event is Bay-wide Dance, living sober conference. Ft. Mason, Feb 11. At 7:00 there will be a panel meeting, followed by dance.

H&I, Lynn D. General Committee meeting coming up February 12, San Mateo. 41st annual big conference in May. Report back from general committee of issues with finances. SF is bringing in most from H&I cans!

Next Month's meeting will be held Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin, SF.

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

Margaret J. chair@aasf.org

VICE CHAIR

Rich G. vicechair@aasf.org

TREASURER

Michelle C. treasurer@aasf.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Thayer W. secretary@aasf.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

CENTRAL OFFICE COMMITTEE

David S. coc@aasf.org

12th STEP COMMITTEE

OPEN 12thstep@aasf.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Michael P. archives@aasf.org

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Blu F. orientation@aasf.org

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Michelle A. fellowship@aasf.org

THE BUZZ

Li L. thebuzz@aasf.org

THE POINT

Charley D. thepoint@aasf.org

ACCESS COMMITTEE

Brian C. access@aasf.org

TRUSTED SERVANTS

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Ted R. tsw@aasf.org

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

David S. website@aasf.org

PI/CPC COMMITTEE

Glen R. picpc@aasf.org

SF TELESERVICE COMMITTEE

Seth H. sfteleservice@aasf.org

aa group contributions

Fellowship	Jan. '12	SF Contributions	Jan. '12	SF Contributions	Jan. '12
Gratitude in Action	658	Design for Living Sat 8am	385	Serendipity Sa 11am	137
Intergroup	116	Dignitaries Sympathy W 815pm	295	Serenity House	150
Spirit of San Francisco	141	Each Day a New Beginning Th 7am	993	SFPOA Th 7pm	200
Fellowship Total	\$ 915	Each Day a New Beginning W 7am	812	Sinbar Su 8pm	101
		Extreme Makeover M 730pm	23	Sober Saturday Sa 830am	94
Marin Contributions	Jan. '12	Firefighters & Friends Tu 10am	102	Sometimes Slowly Sa 11am	306
10am Big Book W 10am	235	Fireside Chat Group Th 8pm	43	Sunday Express Sun 6pm	150
10am Big Book W 10am	40	Fireside Chat Sa 9pm	156	Sunday Night 3rd Step Group 5pm	81
Awareness/Acceptance M 1030am	156	Friday All Groups F 830pm	245	Sunday Night Castro Speaker Disc	454
Closed Women Step Study Tu	95	Haight Street Blues Tu 615pm	475	Sunset 11'ers Th	122
Crossroads Sun 12pm	1000	Happy Destiny Sa 630pm	302	Sunset 11'ers Tu	91
East San Rafael Big Book	100	Happy Hour Ladies Night F 530pm	135	Ten Years After Su 6pm	1474
High & Dry W 12pm	129	Hilldwellers M 8pm	362	Ten Years After Su 6pm	14
Intimate Feelings Sa 10am	168	How Was Your Week? Sa 10am	175	Terra Linda Thursday Men's Stag	300
Living in the Solution F 6pm	139	Huntington Square W 630pm	221	The Dry Dock Fellowship	195
Mill Valley 7D 7am	580	Join the Tribe Tu 7pm	199	The Leaky Cauldron Su 1030am	183
More Will Be Revealed F 12pm	50	Like A Prayer Su 4pm	250	There is a Solution Tu 6pm	373
Morning Attitude Adjustment	125	Living Proof Th 630pm	113	Thursday Night Book Club Th 7pm	42
Nativity Monday Night Big Book	100	Living Sober W 8pm	65	Thursday Thumpers Th 7pm	100
Pathfinders Tu 12pm	175	Mid-Morning Support Su 1030am	292	Tuesday Downtown Tu 8pm	27
Primary Purpose W 830pm	46	Mission Fellow. No Reservations	30	We Care Tu 12pm	124
San Geronimo Valley M 8pm	344	No Reservation M 12pm	388	Wharfrats Th 815pm	105
Streetfighters Sa 9am	112	Off Broadway Book Th 730pm	31	Women's Promises F 7pm	271
TGIF F 6pm	158	Pax West Th 12pm	289	Women's Promises F 7pm	170
The Fearless Searchers F 8pm	396	Queers, Crackpots & Fallen Women	57	YAHOO Step Sa 1130am	357
Tiburon Beginners & Closed Tu	402	Quitting Time MWF 530pm	500	SF Total	\$16,003
Tuesday Chip Meeting Tu 830pm	350	Saturday Easy Does It Sa 12pm	658		
We, Us and Ours M 650pm	150	Say Hey Group M, Tu, F 6pm	153	YTD	\$22,068
Wednesday Night SD W 7pm	42				
What's It All About F 12pm	60				
Marin Total	\$ 5,150				
San Francisco Contributions	Jan. '12				
7am Living Sober W 7am	247				
7am Smokeless Su 7am	29				
7am Speaker Discussion Th 7am	218				
830am Smokeless F 830am	165				
A is for Alcohol Tu 6pm	45				
Afro American Beginners Sat 8pm	126				
As Bill CCs It Sun 8am	100				
As Bill Sees It Th 830pm	15				
Attitude Adjustment 7D 7am	494				
Bernal New Day 7D	396				
Blue Book Special Su 11am	68				
Brokers Open Book Tu 130pm	26				
Brothers in Arms M 8pm	131				
Came to Park Sat 7pm	120				
Code Blue Big Book Study W 7pm	425				
Deer Park Discovery Group	29				

Calling All GSRs

Baffled By The General Service Conference Agenda Topics?

THE AGENDA TOPICS WORKSHOP

**The Urban Life Center: Saturday, March
17, 2012 1pm – 4:15pm**

Stop by to eat cake - drink tea or coffee - meet other GSRs
learn what an "informed group conscience" is
and how to help your group find one
learn about the hot topics to share with your group
mix and mingle with folks who adore AA

*Presented by District 6 in Cooperation with District 16
Simultaneous English/Spanish Interpretation Available*

A.A. Central Office's 65th Anniversary

Anniversary Party Was a Hit!!

by GFG

On Saturday, January 28, over 300 people attended the 65th anniversary party for the San Francisco A.A. Central Office. The room at the Urban Life Center was almost full long before the event actually began at 6:00 PM. In fact, as the evening progressed, and more people arrived, it was standing room only.

There was plenty of room to walk around, socialize, meet old friends, and make new friends. The weather was mild, so the outdoor area became the destination for socializing – not just for smoking. Exhibits illustrating the history of A.A. were displayed in both the main hall and in a room adjacent to it. These exhibits provided plenty of opportunity for people to learn about A.A. history, meet new people, chat, and exchange ideas. The local

Archives Committee did a splendid job of making our collective past come alive.

People formed lines to sample the feast after the food arrived. Yes, there was good food served, and plenty of it: turkey, dressing, gravy, rolls, salad, vegetables, and dessert. At the end of the evening there was even a cake to celebrate birthdays.



Speaking of birthdays, the Sobriety Count-down was impressive. It was good to see a person with 24-hours of sobriety at this event. I admit that, as a newcomer, I would have been too intimidated by this event to attend. Therefore, I salute those in early sobriety who have the courage to stand up and get recognized. The person with the longest time has 57 years: very impressive and encouraging!

After dinner, we listened to the Old-Timer panel. Six A.A.s with long-term sobriety shared their experience, strength, and hope. The speakers



Prestigious Lasker award (facsimile) to Alcoholics Anonymous (1951) – “In recognition of its unique and highly successful approach to that age-old public health and social problem: alcoholism”

were Herman B., Shirley K., Jim A., Lynne P., Ruth S., and Ray C., emceed by Bruce K., a former Central Office manager. It's important to note that each of the panelists have over 40 years of sobriety. They have seen and done it all – and have remained sober!

Karen C. was the main speaker after the panel; she expertly related her harrowing experiences with demon rum and her redemption when, as a

(Continued on page 19)



Central Office, 1821 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94109

Write to THE POINT! — The Point Committee values your input

Or e-mail us at: thepoint@aasf.org

profit and loss statement: December 2011

	Dec 11	Budget	Jan - Dec 11	Budget		Dec 11	Budget	Jan - Dec 11	Budget
Income/Expense					IFB Literature				
Contributions from Groups					Sunshine Club	0	30	0	152
Group Contributions	12740	15,235	145078	165,235	IFB Literature	0	20	145	200
Honors	0	-	100	-	Total IFB Literature	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 145	\$ 352
Other Group Contributions	0	-	75	-	PI/CPC	0	30	103	250
Total Group Contributions	\$12,740	\$15,235	\$ 145,253	\$165,235	Sunshine/12th Step	0	-	0	250
Individual Contributions					Archives Committee	0	20	0	200
Individual - Unrestricted	6685	1,178	22368	12,178	IFB Sponsored Events	0	-	1204	1,500
Faithful Fiver	1155	1,140	14365	13,677	Filing/Fees	0	-	93	80
Honorary Contributions	190	370	3945	4,439	Insurance	0	-	2383	2,915
Total Individual Contributions	\$ 8,030	\$ 2,688	\$ 40,677	\$ 30,294	Internet Expense	93	102	1249	1,422
Gratitude Month					Office Supplies	189	125	1560	2,210
Gratitude Month - Groups	10834	6,500	16640	17,400	Paper Purchased	0	175	2713	2,585
Gratitude Month - Individual	81	200	456	680	Software Purchased	0	-	145	-
Total Gratitude Month	\$10,914	\$ 6,700	\$ 17,096	\$ 18,080	Printing	0	-	38	-
Sales - Bookstore	7436	9,714	107994	114,214	Equipment Lease	1597	1,577	6566	6,515
Newsletter Subscript.	0	30	318	360	Repair & Maintenance	262	262	5682	3,340
Total Income	\$39,121	\$34,367	\$ 311,339	\$328,183	Security System	118	118	472	472
Cost of Goods Sold					Payroll Expenses	-1092	40	-441	475
Cost of Books Sold	5451	6,519	77141	77,194	Telephone	429	242	3093	2,992
Inventory Adjustments	275	-	315	-	Phone Book Listings	87	86	1038	1,038
Shipping	-15	31	673	372	Travel	0	31	655	1,051
Credit Card Processing Fees	313	295	3979	3,496	Training	0	-	25	25
Total COGS	\$ 6,024	\$ 6,845	\$ 82,108	\$ 81,062	Bad Checks	-12	-	0	45
Gross Income	\$33,097	\$27,522	\$ 229,231	\$247,121	Misc. Expense	0	-	-1	-
Expense					Total Expense	\$12,591	\$20,068	\$ 224,831	\$245,045
Employee Expenses					Net Ordinary Income	\$20,506	\$ 7,454	\$ 4,400	\$ 2,076
Wages & Salaries	5781	9,430	109291	112,465	Other Income/Expense				
Employer Tax Expenses	-344	795	10801	10,315	Interest Income	119	210	2025	2,460
Health Benefits	572	1,317	15897	16,367	Depreciation				-
Deferred Comp	0	-	7809	7,809	Comp & Office Equip	207	211	2484	2,488
Workers Comp Ins.	0	-	846	792	Furniture & Fixtures	6	8	72	74
Total Employee Expenses	\$ 6,009	\$11,542	\$ 144,644	\$147,748	Leasehold Improvements	371	159	4452	1,974
Professional Fees					Total Depreciation	\$ 584	\$ 378	\$ 7,008	\$ 4,536
Accounting	0		1515	1,750	Net Other Income	\$ (465)	\$ (168)	\$ (4,983)	\$ (2,076)
Computer Consulting	0	87	1088	1,517	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$20,041	\$ 7,286	\$ (583)	\$ -
Total Professional Fees	\$ -	\$ 87	\$ 2,603	\$ 3,267					
Postage									
Non-Bulk Postage	44	-	188	175					
Bulk Mail	0		990	831					
Total Postage	\$ 44	\$ -	\$ 1,178	\$ 1,006					
Rent - Office	3957	4,886	47265	56,412					
Rent - Other	150	75	900	900					
Access Expenses	760	620	1520	7,995					

Reminder: You may now make both individual and group contributions online from our website. Look for the link on our homepage, www.aasf.org. Thanks!

Treasurer's Report

For the month ending Dec. 31, 2011 group contributions were \$12,740, which is \$2,495 less than the budgeted amount of \$15,235. Additionally, bookstore sales were less than budget by \$2,308. However, both Individual Contributions and Gratitude Month contributions were better than budget and total income for the month was \$5,575 better than budget.

For the year 2011, group contributions were \$19,982 less than budget, Individ-

ual contributions were \$10,383 better than budget and Gratitude month was \$984 less than budget. Year-to-date, total income was \$17,890 less than budget.

Expenses for 2011 generally met budget to actual with the exception to the following: Employee expenses were \$3,104 less than budget, rent was \$9,147 less than budget, Access expenses were \$6,475 less than budget, and Repair & Maintenance was \$2,342

more than budget.

In December our unrestricted cash balance increased to \$32,123.71 from \$15,819.40, which represents more than month of operating expenses. As compared to Dec. 31, 2011, however, our unrestricted cash decreased by \$19,718.27 from \$272,466.02 to \$252,747.75.

OVERALL RATING: GOOD

(Continued from page 17)

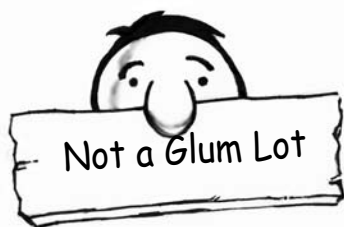


sober woman, she was permitted to hold and care for her new grandchild.

We owe a great debt to the Fellowship Committee for their hard work in planning and carrying out this fabulous event. Various

attendees murmured about holding similar celebrations more often, but we will need many more hands to carry out such an ambitious idea. If you, too, attended the event, liked what you saw, and would like to make it happen again, please join the Fellowship Committee; it can be reached by email at fellowship@aasf.org.

To sum it up, all I can say is that I missed out on the 60th Central Office anniversary event in the past. However, I will make an effort to attend each such event in the future. It was a fun and rewarding experience.



A drunk gets on a bus. The driver, impatient while the drunk fumbles in his pocket for change, drives off. As the bus starts rolling, the

drunk reacts to the sudden movement by stumbling all the way to the back of the bus.

The bus stops at the next stop. He reacts by stumbling to the front of the bus.

Still the drunk man is fumbling in his pocket for change. The bus jerks forward once again, and the drunk stumbles uncontrollably to the back of the bus once again. Next stop, the same thing happens.

In fact, every time the bus stops, the man staggers to the front. Every time the bus starts, he staggers uncontrollably to the back.

A few stops later, the drunk starts to exit the bus from the front.

"Hey!" shouts the bus driver. "You didn't pay your fare yet!"

The drunk, still reeling, shouts back, "Why should I? I walked all the way!"

March 2012

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