



SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

September 2003

PETALUMA UNITY DAY

When:

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where:

MCNEAR PARK

11TH ST. & F ST.

PETALUMA

HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS
WILL BE SERVED

BRING SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS

AIR JUMP FOR KIDS, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS & MORE!



SEPTEMBER SEMINAR

Our next seminar will be held at the bookstore on Saturday, September 20th from 3:00 - 5:00PM. Our topic of discussion will be Steps 6 and 7. These steps are sometimes referred to as the "forgotten steps" since they are placed between the action Steps of 4-5 and 8-9. However for me they are perhaps the most important. These are the Steps which help move us to a higher spiritual plane, greatly enhancing our quality of life. When we "get" these Steps we will be spending much less time on the preceding and following steps. This will be the last seminar for the year since the holiday season will soon be upon us. We hope to see you there!

Our last seminar, held on July 19th at the bookstore, was very well attended and received! Steps 4 and 5 were the topics discussed by our panel. I would like to thank our panel guests, Tom,

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WAITING FOR THE CALL

In October of 1963 a drunken 27 year old man picked up his phone in the middle of the night and called for help.

In August of 2000 I asked that man to be my sponsor. If no one had answered his call, I would have never known the life I enjoy today.

His story goes on about his adventures in making 12 Step visits to drunks who called in the middle of the night. To places

from one end of the County to the other. The men who took him to make these visits never asked him if he had

worked his steps, if he had enough sobriety, or if he had to get up early the next morning. It was just get dressed and go. Do this or die.

When I first heard his story, I knew that I

had to give this hotline stuff a try. Today we ask that hotline volunteers have six



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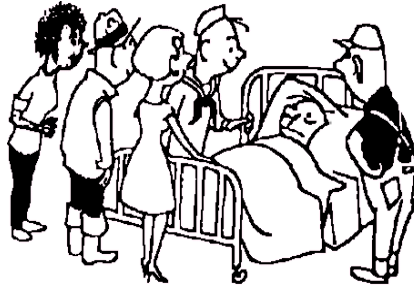
Need a meeting? Check our online schedule for up to date info: www.SonomaCountyAA.org

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

"You know, a friend came to me with very certain, very simple ideas. Ideas of getting more out of it, ideas of stopping this accursed business of living alone and [of] talking our problems out with another. Ideas of restitution to those we had harmed. Forgiving those who had harmed us. The idea of doing something for another human being without any catch or gimmick to it. And above all, the idea that no human being is God, and that all of us must depend upon a higher power. And one of my friends, himself an alcoholic, gave me those ideas. Then I was on the way to getting well. That was the beginning of A.A. and when I was released from my obsession, suddenly, the following November of 1934, I did just what you would have done in my case. I began to pass this simple message along to other alcoholics, who in turn passed it on to others. Until, today, our chain reaction has spread all over the world—into 30 countries, 120,000 members, approaching 5000 groups, and long since, praise God, into the prisons where you fellow still are or from where you have been

released. So to you all I say good luck and Godspeed and God bless you."

[Part 12 of 12 of Bill W.'s chair at San Quentin in the early years of H&I, reprinted from a 1951 *Grapevine*]



The August 6 meeting of the H&I Committee welcomed new meeting reps Andrew, Julie S., Peter D., Lucy J., Tim, Ed O., Scott, Jerry A., Laurie and Adrienne G. Visiting us were Diane S., Scott S., Marlene and Carol F.—we hope you find something here that brings you back.

August sobriety birthdays were being celebrated by Linda S., with 21 years;

Rick, 1; Mario, 4; David H., 22; Lucy J., 5; Patrick, 5, as well as Benjamin, Ed O., and Laurie, with 23, 6 and 13 months, respectively. That's 61½ total years of sobriety, folks! *Something* must be working!

John G. told us how, in his earlier days, he felt like an outsider, couldn't stop drinking and was just generally miserable—until he found a sponsor and got involved in AA service commitments. Then he discovered H&I and began to stick with the winners he found there. He said that he became happy with himself and who he is and feels good about carrying the message of AA to others.

Want to meet up with some winners? Join us at the next meeting of the H&I Committee on Wednesday, September 3, at 6:15 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Senior Center on Bennett Valley Road. If you'd like, you may also attend the orientation that begins at 5:45.

In service,
Mardi

SCIF Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

go to AA meetings.

- ▲ Gloria, said that some groups have decided not to sign court papers.
- ▲ David stated that "The courts sent me, and I didn't get it at first. But through the grace of God, I'm here".
- ▲ Marcus said the "I didn't want to be here either, and I wasn't sent by the courts. We are not a hotbed of mental health. One on one speaking is the best way to do it."

Summation: (by Bruce McL.)

- 1) Hot August nights, August 9, in Sebastopol.
- 2) Happy Trails date of August 31.
- 3) Group contributions are down.
- 4) We need a chairperson for Unity day, which will be November 15, 2003.

Closed in the usual manner with the Lord's Prayer.

In service,
Kay S.

ACTIVITIES

Yes!!! You can have great fun in sobriety (recovery) !!! Hot August Nights was a great success, and fun was had by all. I estimate that approximately 250 people attended and the "bottom line" was a profit of \$123.00. Volunteerism and enthusiasm was high as Terry T., Michelle C., Lori E. and Kay S. supervised and joined the "set up crew" as the Sebastopol Community Center was transformed into a Rock and Roll Disco motif. The talent, experience and energy of the set up committee was awesome to behold. A big "THANK YOU !!!" to the entire Set Up Crew, you people did a terrific job. Thank you's also for Joanne G. (secretary) and Susan M. (speaker) for a great meeting. DJ Batman (Craig G.) and Sean W. with assistance from



Dennis B. entertained the crowd with sights and sounds, the dance floor was always full of revelers. Thank you to Ben T., John E. and the men from "The Aerie", and the ever-faithful Preston and Dorianne M. and Dick for handling the money collections. Thank you to Pam B. and the Orenda Crew (Susan M.) and all the unnamed volunteers who pitched in and helped clean the SCC up after the event. Thank you's to Ernie, John Y. and Richard J.

and Gratitude's to John S. and Gloria for support and encouragement. Our next event will be "**Masquerade Halloween Ball**", on **Friday, October 31, 2003 at the Sebastopol Community Center**. Live music we be provided by "The Pulsators".

Larry O.

GENERAL SERVICE

Greetings Fellowship!

Believe it or not, the Summer Assembly came and went and we have already started to discuss the Fall Assembly to be held this coming November in Calistoga. This next assembly will be an "inventory" assembly, when we as an Area take stock of our assets, look at any liabilities and assess how we can improve. Sound familiar? Yes, it is like a big group 4th step!

Much ground was covered at this past assembly, and my hope is to keep everyone current as events unfold. The three Area motions that have been on the floor for discussion have moved forward as follows:

MOTION 1: That District 07, Alameda North, add a new Sub district, Linguistic Sub district 07-006, composed of the Spanish speaking groups of Sub district 16-002 that wish to join 07-006.

**ACTION: ASSEMBLY VOTED –
MOTION PASSED**

MOTION 2: that the district ask the Area to get the following motion on the Conference Agenda Topics: form an ad hoc committee to research the problem and possible solutions to get the Agenda Topics background material translated into Spanish as to allow all Spanish speaking members the same time as the English speaking members to participate in the conference process.

**ACTION: ASSEMBLY VOTED –
MOTION FAILED**

MOTION 3: that CNCA request the General Service Conference and Trustee's Literature Committees to consider a proposal to allow for a broader understanding of God by modifying the wording of Steps Three, Seven and Eleven, and Tradition Two to read as follows: (Step 3) Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God of our understanding. (Step 7) Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings. (Step 11) Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.

(Tradition 2) For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

ACTION: MOTION DEFERRED TO

AA HOTLINE OPENINGS

**Thursdays
2-6PM**

**Alternate
Saturdays
5-10PM**

There is a signup sheet at the Bookstore. You can also call the Hotline Coordinator, Loretta D., at 525-0343 for more information if you are available to fill one of these very worthwhile commitments. We can also use help on the Teleservice Committee. Please come to the Teleservice Committee meeting the 2nd Monday of the month at the SCIF Bookstore, 750 Mendocino Ave. #10.

THE FALL ASSEMBLY

Your group should continue discussion of this motion. It may be voted on in November.

General Service continues to move forward steadily, doing the business of AA. Here are the highlights of the last district meeting: At this month's District 12 business meeting held on August 4th, we celebrated seven sobriety birthdays: a hearty congratulations to Mark, 21 years; Carey, 3 years; Mike, 9 years; John, 17 years; Linda, 6 years; Pam, 20 years and Jay, 15 years (our very own DCMC). The miracles keep coming! We also welcomed eight new

GSRs: Michael, John, Jerry, Don, David, Casey, Martha and Mark. General Service is growing by leaps and bounds!

We were blessed to have Sharon B., the CNCA Registrar as our guest. Talk about service! Sharon is responsible for updating group information for the entire California Northern Coastal Area. Check out the Area map when you have a chance. It is all the coastal groups from Monterey to the California-Oregon border. If you count the 300+ groups in Sonoma County alone, and then think about all of the cities and towns disseminated throughout the California coastline...well, that's a lot of groups! (For those interested, the map can be viewed at: www.cnca06.org/ along with other pertinent CNCA information). Sharon reported that 305 dedicated souls were in attendance at the Summer Assembly in Palo Alto. I really appreciate AA folks like Sharon who are willing to unselfishly give their time and energy to service. Thanks to Sharon for her informative talk about the CNCA registry, and how we can all keep our District Registrar informed about group changes.

After the GSRs were directed back to their groups for feedback about the creation of packets addressed to "the doctor", and the idea was met with overwhelming group approval, the District voted and approved the PI/CPC motion that requested funds to purchase packet materials. These packets will soon be available to individual AA members to take to their personal physicians as an information tool.

A reminder that Unity Day, a collaboration of Hospitals and Institutions, Intergroup and General Service, will be held on **November 15th at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 4325 Mayette Avenue** in Santa Rosa. More information will be available in the near future.

As always, everyone is welcome to join us for the next monthly business meeting, Monday, September 1st at 7:30PM. AA service manual study is 6:45PM, new GSR orientation 7PM. See you then!

In love and service,
Mary W.

SEPTEMBER SEMINAR

Steps 6 and 7:

"The Forgotten Steps"

When:
Saturday
September 20th
3:00 to 5:00PM



STEP 7:
*"Humbly
 Asked Him.."*

STEP 6:
*"Were entirely
 ready.."*

Where:
SCIF Bookstore
750 Mendocino Ave

For more information call Steve B. 542-5747

HAPPY TRAILS

This months meeting/hike will be on Sunday Sept 28th. We will be hiking across the Golden Gate Bridge. The views are incredible.



Bring your camera. We will leave from the Marin county side. We will have our meeting and lunch on Baker Beach. We meet at SRJC parking lot at 10:00. Bring a smile, lunch and water. Questions?

Jeanine 545-1018



SCIF CALENDAR • SEP 2003



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Hospital & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:45: New Rep Orientation 6:15: Business Meeting	4	5	6
7	8 SCIF Bookstore 6:30: AA Teleservice Business Meeting 7:15: ICSC Meeting 8:00: Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	9	10 P/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00: Speaker Training 7:30: Business Meeting	11	12	13 Petaluma Unity Day 11:00-3:00 McNear Park 11th St. & F St.
14	15	16 Bridging the Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30: New Rep Orientation 7:00: Business Meeting	17	18	19	20 Seminar: Steps 6&7 3-5PM @ SCIF Bookstore District 18 (Spanish) 5519 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor 4:30PM
21	22 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30: Newsletter Collating 7:30: New Rep Orientation 8:00: Business Meeting	23 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting - 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	24	25	26	27
28 Happy Trails 10:00: SRJC Parking Lot at Bailey Field See Above for more info!	29	30				

Waiting for the Call

(Continued from page 1)

months of continuous sobriety and a working knowledge of the steps. So I had to wait. When my six month anniversary rolled around, I was no longer as eager to try the hotline. After all, how much of a working knowledge did I have? At about fourteen months I completed the steps. Yet, I still did not apply for a hotline shift. I worked the traditions with my sponsor. Year two came to an end. Surely, I must be ready to extend the hand of AA now. Or was I? No matter, it was time to put up or shut up. I talked to the hotline committee chair on a Monday and was given a Tuesday shift. So I called in and signed on.

God was so good to me that I was able to be perfect on my first shift. I handled the zero calls I received with the expertise of a veteran. I thought the call volume was a bit low, so I keep checking the 544-1300 number and it would always ring my phone. When would I get that call? When would some poor drunk looking for a way up and out dial in on my shift?

The next week I sign on again. The phone rings. I swoop down on it. Snatch up the handset and hear the dial tone. They hung up after two rings. Maybe I'll stay closer to the phone. Near the end of my shift another ring sounds out. "Hello, this is Dave. How can I help you?" I state. "Yes, you've reached the AA hotline." Finally, a live person was on the other end. "Yes, there is a meeting in Windsor tonight, it's at ..." Not quite the call I was hoping for, but a chance to be of service nonetheless. Perhaps the call will come next week.

It's one year later now. I am still waiting for that call. Besides reciting meeting information to callers, I often get "How can I help my drunken loved one?" I give them Alanon's number. "Let me tell you what's wrong with AA!" I let them rant a bit, thank them for their input, and pray they don't kill anyone. "What's the number for Mountain Vista?" Try 411. (I must remember to make a list of rehab numbers) "Why is [some-problem] happening to me?" What did your sponsor tell you, what step are you on? "How can I sign up for the hotline?" Ok, nobody has called in on the hotline with that question.

So I wait and I wait some more. I suppose this hotline stuff works pretty good. I am still sober. So next week, I will call in and sign on. Perhaps the call will come then.

Dave L.

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

We will be very busy in the upcoming months putting together the "What's Up Doc?" packets and sending out letters to our local public & private schools, offering speakers for their health classes. The "Doc" packets should be available in October. If you are interested in speaking at the schools or DUI classes, please attend our monthly meeting on Wednesday September 10th at 7:30 in the City Hall underground. Because we have people going out into public and speaking to non alcoholics about A.A., I thought I would spend a little time this month writing about anonymity. I am going to steal most of this from our **Public Information Workbook**. If you read a lot of A.A. literature you may recognize some of this. If you're like me, you might find the following new and enlightening.

"An understanding of anonymity in A.A. is the first prerequisite for being effective in public information. At first glance the terms anonymity and public information seem to contradict each other. Actually, they don't, as these selections from the co-founder's writings demonstrate:



"Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical. On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the new comer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those that would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes."

(FROM BILL'S LAST MESSAGE)

"Great modesty and humility are needed by every A.A. member for his (her) own personal recovery. If these virtues are such vital needs to the individual, so must they be to A.A. as a whole. This principle of anonymity before the general public can, if we take it seriously enough, guarantee the Alcoholics Anonymous movement these sterling attributes forever. Our public relations policy should mainly rest upon the principle of attraction and seldom, if ever, upon promotion."

(*"A.A. TRADITION-HOW IT DEVELOPED," P.41*)

I hope you'll stop by on the second Wednesday of the month and help us practice modesty and strive for a genuine humility. If you are like me, you need lots of practice!

Coop G.

September Seminar

(Continued from page 1)

Leslie, Barbara and Don (from the Healdsburg area). The discussion portion of the meeting was enlightening as always. Many expressed the idea that they worked these steps to the best of their ability at that time. The more completely they did these steps, the sooner they received peace of mind.

In closing I need to thank those people who have lent their support and resources to make the seminar possible. First thanks to Gloria for her suggestions and the use of the Bookstore. To Kay for encouraging me to go beyond myself and helping with correspondence. To Joaquin C. (my sponsor) for creating the flyers which were distributed throughout our community, and to Roy and James who helped with the setup and clean up. And again, thanks to our volunteer panel speakers and all who attended for making this a truly rewarding experience!

Thank you all,

Steve B

Walk the... bad doggerel!

I dreamt I took
a drink last night
and woke up bathed
in sweaty fright:
with company
in a 'Frisco pub
I'd chugged a third
of a long neck bud;
then told the bar-
keep that my fear
was not that I'd blown
eleven-plus years,
or that the brew
I'd chosen to sample
was bad...but that
I was a bad example

Jeremy R.

NO LONGER MEETING

Rohnert Park Keys Group (Women)
(C) (W) Tuesday 8:00PM

MEETING CHANGES

Rohnert Park 12+12 at 12
(O) (W) Wednesday, 12:00 Noon

Has moved to:

Church of the Oaks, Page & W. Sierra

Rohnert Park 4th Edition at Noon
(O) (W) Thursday, 12:00 Noon

Has moved to:

Church of the Oaks, Page & W. Sierra

Windsor Steps in Windsor
(O) (W) Tuesday, 7:00PM

Now starts at 8:00PM

Meeting Changes? Contact Russell

ERRATUM

The date for the **Happy Trails** was mistakenly listed as the 4th Sunday of the month in the August Newsletter. Happy Trails Meeting/Hike is held on the **last** Sunday of the month. My apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Rory B.

Gloria's Corner

Our Chip Sale was a huge success! We will do it again next July.

We have four new volunteers and their help is greatly appreciated! The Bookstore now has a *full crew* as of August 11. Of course that can change quickly!

I will be in San Diego September 25-28 at the 18th Annual Central Office/ Intergroup Seminar. John will manage the Bookstore in my absence.

Thanks Everyone!

Gloria



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*Funded solely through Sonoma County General Service

BOOKSTORE & TELESERVICE

SCIF CENTRAL OFFICE

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Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6

Sat 11-3

The Bookstore is closed on these Holidays:

Independence Day...July 4th

Labor Day.....September 2nd

Thanksgiving.....November 22nd

Christmas.....December 25th

New Year's Day.....January 1st

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