



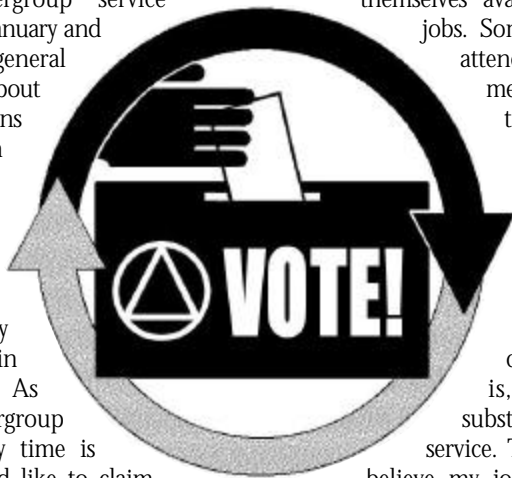
# SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP NEWS

January 2004

## SCIF Officer Elections

### *Passing the Baton: The Spirit of Rotation*

As the beginning of the new year rolls around, we have the challenge of filling a number of Intergroup service positions at the January and the February general meetings. There about a dozen positions available, and each requires the commitment of responsible people to achieve the level of action and accountability we currently enjoy in Sonoma County. As chairman of Intergroup this past year, my time is almost up. I would like to claim credit for the successes of our bookstore, our Teleservice, our activities and seminars, our Alcathons and Unity Days



but- it would not be true. The reality is that literally dozens of people made themselves available to do these jobs. Sometimes that job is attending organizational meetings, sometimes that job is sweeping the floor. My job here is like my program: very simple, but that does not mean it is easy. After all, service is rarely convenient. There is, however, no substitute for staying in service. The good news is, I believe my job can be done by anyone who is willing to practice the principles suggested in the big book. As a matter of fact, I have come to believe any

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Help Wanted at the Bookstore

Happy New Year you all! I want to thank all the volunteers, and all of you who purchased things at our bookstore, for your support. I am grateful for the chance to be in service here, and I have been doing it for some time now. This brings me to the point of this article: the bookstore needs some people to help out in two areas: volunteer coordination/training and bookstore inventory.

The first is simple enough-we need someone to help schedule our volunteers, and walk them through our operation here. The training is especially important, our volunteers are called on to answer many questions, and they need to know where to find the answers. It must take place for all new volunteers, and I simply cannot find the time to do this properly on top of my other duties. Please consider helping out in this area, it is not a regular every-Monday-afternoon kind of job, but is variable a few hours a month and some

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## JANUARY SEMINAR: SERVICE

The January Seminar will be held on Saturday, January 17 and the topic will be Service. From the day I entered AA I have been in service and it's been an integral part of my sobriety. Service is one of the "three legs" on the stool of sobriety and represents a willingness to go beyond my own needs and desires.

There have been times when I've felt "too busy", or the job is too demanding, or I'm just plain *lazy*. But like much else that I've learned in AA, the rewards of service are not always immediately ap-

parent. Rewards such as all the people I've met who I may have otherwise missed; the skills I've gained and refined through my service commitments; not to mention the *biggest* plus, it's helped keep me sober! When I'm in service I have less time to concentrate on my own negative thoughts. It has also helped me view life in ways I never even considered when it was "all about me". And it just *feels good* to be of service to my fellow alcoholics.

In choosing the topic of Service for the

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# SCIF BUSINESS MEETING

## INTERGROUP OFFICERS

- ◆ CHAIR: James C.
- ◆ VICE-CHAIR: Bruce McL.
- ◆ SECRETARY: Kay S.
- ◆ TREASURER: John S.
- ◆ REGISTRAR: Deborah

## INTERGROUP COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

- ◆ SEMINARS: Steve B.
- ◆ ACTIVITIES: Larry O.
- ◆ OUTREACH: Mark F.
- ◆ COMMUNICATIONS:  
Rory B.
- ◆ HOTLINE/TELESERVICE:  
Kim C.
- ◆ ALKATHONS: Terry T.

## AA HOTLINE TELESERVICE

- ◆ CHAIR: Kim C.
- ◆ SCHEDULER: Loretta D.
- ◆ 12 STEP COORDINATOR:  
Andie P.
- ◆ SANTA ROSA HOTLINE  
544-1300
- ◆ LONG DISTANCE ONLY  
800-224-1300
- ◆ PETALUMA HOTLINE  
762-5122
- ◆ SONOMA HOTLINE  
938-2027
- ◆ SPANISH HOTLINE  
545-7417

## **SCIF Meeting November 24, 2003**

**Serenity Prayer** recited, Tradition 11 read by Pat, concept 11 by Pam.

**Introduction of new Reps:** Steve R. from *Sonoma Valley Fellowship*; Sharon H. from *Friday Nooners*; Gary T. from *Sunday Niters*; Linda from *What's the Point*; Barbara S. from *Tuesday Woman's*; Walter M. from *Thursday Big Book Study*; Ed C. from *Tuesday Afternoon A Vision For You*; Pat H. from *River Discussion*; Donna S. from *Harmony Group*; Dani, from *Higher Power Group* and Jo M. from *Windsor Women's*.

**September Birthdays:** Vicky, 7 years; Andrew C., 11 years; Pam, 2 years; Claudia, 14 years; Keith, 14 years; Andy, 17 years. WOW!

The **October minutes** were approved

**Registrar:** Deborah, please check out the for to fill out.

**Outreach:** Mark F. Absent

## LIAISON REPORTS:

**General Service:** Donna K. Fall assembly had 351 people in attendance. It is inventory time, and this was the chance for the area to complete it" inventory. Over the next months, Sonoma county will do its inventory. Literature chair position has been filled, but we are still looking for an archivist. PRAASA is the Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous service assembly will be held in Irvine, it's a real spiritual experience.

**H & I:** Mark F. Nothing new to report

**PI/CPC:** Absent.

**Bridging the Gap:** Carolyn A.. We did 6 presentations last month, and had 40 requests for service.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Chair:** James C. ICSC elections are next month, with other elections coming up.

**Vice-Chair:** Bruce, at the new representative meeting we had 6 new reps.

**Treasurer:** John S. We are in good financial position this month, with good contributions.

**Bookstore:** One opening for volunteer, and the new book will be in by December 1. The church on Pacific & McDonald is available for meetings.

**Seminars:** Steve B. Seminar on Service positions is in the works for January 17.

**Activities:** Larry O. Halloween October 31, made \$1,008.00. The New Years Dance is just about ready to go. The Valentine's Day Dance will be at Sebastopol Center, and on February 14.

**Teleservice:** Larry. Continues to need volunteers for Fridays, the Chair and Thursday coordinator. Please call Andy at 539-4684 to volunteer

**Communications:** Rory Please send in your stories.

**ICSC:** Walter and Pat volunteered to bring candidates.

**Alcathons:** Terry T. Everything is on track for Christmas and New Years.

**Unity Day:** Carolyn A. Yeah!

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Proposal to change the manner in which Intergroup officers are elected presented by Bob K. There was much discussion. One suggestion was that we go down the rows but not poll each member. Another suggestion that we do reports by written means, and devote meeting time to elections.

**Group Concerns:** None expressed.

**Summation:** Bruce McL

- 1) SCIF elections in January
- 2) Teleservice shifts available. Bookstore has one opening.
- 3) Presbyterian church available for meeting at Pacific and McDonald
- 4) New Years Dance flyers available
- 5) Alcathon flyers available and meeting spaces still available for Christmas and New Years.
- 6) We are considering a change in the way we elect Intergroup Officers.

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

Thanks to Bruce Mcl for taking the notes while I was gone.

In service,  
Kay S

# HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

## H&I: The Texas Experience

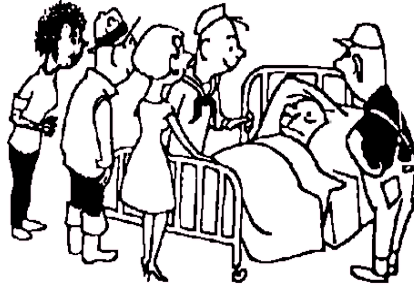
"AA in the Texas prison system had its beginning in 1948, when the first meeting was held at the 'Walls' (on the yard near where the present-day chapel stands), with five inmates attending.

"Records indicate that the first alcoholic inmate in the Texas prison system was taken to a state AA Convention in Tyler in 1951. Freeworld interest increased soon after, and in 1953, Howard Sublett, then with the Classification Committee, became the first departmental sponsor for AA. From the records Mr. Sublett kept, we know that only 5% of the inmates who had six months or more of AA while in prison later returned.

"By the end of 1960, there were 15 AA groups in existence. Today, there are 30 groups in the Texas Department of Corrections, each with weekly meetings still supported by free-world visitors. Approximately four times a year, selected inmates representing all the "AAs in White" are allowed to attend free-world AA conventions. The WYNOT publication is exchanged with other prison groups around the nation. Freeworld visitation continues to be vital to the success of every alcoholic in white who will not return to the TDC.

"Today, AA estimates that groups in prison and jails number in excess of 1,100 [2,566 in 2003], with a membership in excess of 43,000 [66,942 in 2003].

1. The average number of groups per institution is 1.25.
2. Attendance at AA meetings is voluntary in 90% of the prisons.
3. Fifty percent of all inmates were sentenced for crimes in which alcohol abuse was a significant factor.



4. Ninety-six percent of respondents believed an inmate's chance of making it on the outside was improved by participating in the AA program. It is also believed that only 10% of the inmates estimated to be in prison for alcohol-related crimes throughout America attend AA meetings."

[From Purpose and History of Hospital and Institution Service Work]

New meeting reps who introduced themselves at the December 3 meeting of the H&I Committee were Renee, Danica, Barbara, Adam and Pia. We extend a warm welcome to all of you.

Celebrating sobriety birthdays for the month of December were Larry, with 9 years; Sue, 9; Kenneth, 3; Randy, 2 and Donna, 8. What a way to ring out the old and ring in the new!

Tresa H. shared with us how she became involved with H&I, how it changed her life and why she stays in service today.

Looking for a good way to start the New Year? How about carrying the message of AA to those who are confined? Come check us out at the next H&I meeting on Wednesday, January 7, at 6:15 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Senior Center on Bennett Valley Road. You are also welcome to attend the orientation that begins at 5:45. Come on down and bring a friend!

In service,  
Mardi

## Bookstore

(Continued from page 1)

phone time.

Our bookstore inventory takes place on the last day of every month, and is one of the most important things we do in order to keep the bookstore in good business shape. Again, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to do this job--it consists of counting items and making note of the fact. Knowing where things are, how we count items, where to put that information, counting the books and things: all this takes time, and I need someone (or a couple of someone's) to learn how it is done. After all, as I keep saying, I'm no spring chicken anymore and it worries me to think that I am the only one who holds all this information. I think we do a good job at the bookstore, but it could be improved. If one of your New Year's resolutions includes getting into service, please give us a call. Your efforts in this area would help maintain a service that many groups depend on.

Thank you,  
James C. & Gloria P.

## ACTIVITIES

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

If I knew I was gonna live this long...I would have definitely taken better care of myself (yuk, yuk)!!! Hey this commitment has been a real joy... I learned a lot about myself this year, that if I let go, and let God guide me...things always work out good...that I am serviceable and that I belong to a fellowship of women and men who are truly remarkable human beings, they are loving, respectful, responsible, hard-working, intelligent, beautiful and generous. I am truly a lucky guy!

My last event will be The Valentine's Day Dance at the Sebastopol Community Center on Saturday, February 14, 2004. DJ Rob will spin the dance tunes and our guest speaker will be James C. (SCIF Chair). The Chair will chair. In February SCIF will hold a second session of elections to find a new Activities Coordinator...are you interested? If so, the



requirements are two years of sobriety, a working knowledge of the 12 steps and 12 traditions and some organizational and leadership skills. If you are interested show up at the February Inter-group meeting (see the Newsletter calendar) and make yourself available!

I want to "Thank" all the people who helped with all the events this year! We had the time of our lives and I think we were blessed with God's grace obviously. Thank you to all the people who came and participated in our events, you were the main event, the entertainment. The biggest "Thank You!!!" to Alcoholics Anonymous for bringing us all together. I love you!!! Thanks for trudging with me down the path of happy destiny. I will be happy to assist our new Activities Coordinator in any way possible.

Your trusted servant,  
Larry O.



GSR  
▲ Grapevine Rep  
▲ Intergroup Rep  
▲ H&I Rep

## THE JANUARY SEMINAR:

# AA SERVICE



**When:**

**Sat. January 17th  
3:00 to 5:00PM**

**Where:**

**SCIF Bookstore  
750 Mendocino Ave.**

*"I am responsible. . . When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."*

For More Information Call Steve B.

Sponsorship ▲ PI/CPC ▲ Seminars ▲ Bridging the Gap

## January Seminar

(Continued from page 1)

January Seminar I thought of the many ways we can be of service that aren't so visible. Taking a newcomer to a meeting, talking to someone on the phone, visiting someone in a hospital or institution.

Our Seminar panel will include people who have unselfishly given their time and talent in many areas of recovery and service to our fellowship. If you have a desire to share a little "light" and give a little "love", please attend the January Seminar and explore with us the many ways you can be of service.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Seminar Coordinator for the past year. I would like to express my appreciation to all the people who have helped make the Seminars happen. I'm also grateful for the opportunity I've had to go outside my own 'comfort zone' and be of service in a way I would never have chosen for myself!

Steve B.



# SCIF CALENDAR • MONTH 2004



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	<b>SCIF Intergroup Officer Elections</b> <b>Monday, January 26 - 8:00PM</b>			New Years Alcathon 1  Midnight- 6PM	2	3
4	<b>General Service</b> Faith Lutheran Church 6:45: Service Manual Study 7:00: New Rep Orientation 7:30: Business Meeting	6	<b>Hospital &amp; Institutions</b> S.R. Senior Center 5:45: New Rep Orientation 6:15: Business Meeting	8	9	10
11	<b>SCIF Bookstore</b> 6:30: AA Teleservice Business Meeting 7:15: ICSC Meeting 8:00: Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	13	<b>PI/CPC</b> S.R. City Hall 7:00: Speaker Training 7:30: Business Meeting	15	16	<b>January Seminar:</b> <b>AA Service</b> SCIF Bookstore 3:00-5:00PM
18	19	<b>Bridging the Gap</b> SCIF Bookstore 6:30: New Rep Orientation 7:00: Business Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	<b>Intergroup</b> St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30: Newsletter Collating 7:30: New Rep Orientation 8:00: Business Meeting <b>Officer Elections!</b>	27	<b>General Service</b> District 12 Officers Meeting - 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	29	30	31

## Officer Elections

(Continued from page 1)

number of things since I first made a decision to do something about my alcohol problem. One of those things is this whole thing works because we are willing to give of ourselves to pass the word to other alcoholics. I also believe there are many who feel the place to do that is at a meeting or by doing a 12-step call, and other ventures such as Intergroup divert us from our primary purpose. In answer to this, I have seen dedication and purpose in those who volunteer for Teleservice work, or at the bookstore, or putting on Alcathons and dances, or putting out this newsletter that you are holding. It is a privilege to be in service, not in the sense that someone rewards us by giving us a job to do, but as a sign of our own recovery. So come by the bookstore, or attend our next general meeting on Monday, Dec. 22nd, or visit our website at [www.SonomaCountyAA.org](http://www.SonomaCountyAA.org) -- you owe it to yourself to see what's available. Thank you for encouraging my behavior!

James C.

Here are the SCIF Officer positions that will be up for election at the January Intergroup Meeting:

### CHAIRPERSON

Presides over monthly Intergroup and Steering Committee meetings. Maintains direct communication regularly with other Intergroup officers and committee chairpersons. Must have general knowledge of A.A. Service Manual & Robert's Rules of Order (for conducting Intergroup Business Meeting).

Length of continuous sobriety - 4 years.

Average monthly commitment: 8-12 hrs.

### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Assists Chairperson in his or her duties; attends all meetings. Attends all committee meetings. Conducts orientation meetings for new S.C.I.F. members which are held prior to regular S.C.I.F. meeting.

Length of continuous sobriety - 4 years.

Average monthly commitment: 8-12 hrs.

### TREASURER

Pays S.C.I.F.-related bills. Collects and records contributions from groups and prepares monthly financial statements for

Your PI/CPC committee would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who participated as speakers at AA presentations throughout the year. Following is a note of thanks sent from the primary requestor of the speakers we train and provide:

Dear PI/CPC Committee Members,

The Fifth Tradition speaks so very well of the services which PI/CPC does for the Driving Under the Influence Program.

You are probably asking yourself what do I mean when I say this, well the 5th tradition says, "Shoemaker, stick to thy last!"...better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle. Your speakers have surely done a supreme job in carrying the message. There have been many people who have joined our Society because of their commitment. We find it



hard to express our thanks and appreciation.. I would hope you would pass this on to each and every member who spoke at DDP during 2003. We at DDP hope each and every member of PI/CPC has a great holiday season.

Mike L.  
Program Specialist

You too can be of service in carrying the message of hope to the alcoholic still suffering outside of our rooms. PI/CPC speaker training takes place the second

Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the employee lounge at Santa Rosa City Hall, adjacent to the underground parking facility at First and D streets downtown. AA members actively practicing a program of recovery that have at least two continuous years of sobriety are in high demand for presentations throughout the year.

Tom P.

inclusion in the Newsletter. Accounting computer background and access to computer are helpful.

Length of continuous sobriety - 4 years.

Average monthly commitment - 15+ hrs.

### SECRETARY

Attends regular S.C.I.F. meetings and takes minutes. Delivers correct copy of minutes to Newsletter Editor. Attends Steering Committee meetings.

Length of continuous sobriety - 3 years.

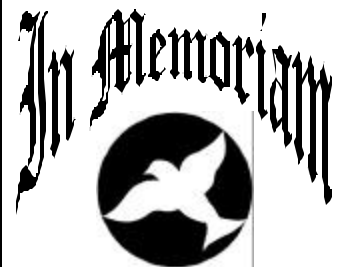
Average monthly commitment: 4-6 hrs.

### REGISTRAR

Maintains a list of groups and meetings available within the County. Keeps track on a monthly basis of which groups have representatives and how often reps attend meetings. Works with Outreach Committee to contact those groups that are not active in S.C.I.F. meetings.

Average monthly commitment: 10-12 hrs.

**NOTE:** The term length for all Officer positions is one year. Officers can be elected for two consecutive terms.



In loving memory of Jeff P. who dedicated his recovery to service in SCIF, General Service, H&I and the Teleservice Hotline.

Rest in  
peace brother



Richard J. passed away in early December to be with his Higher Power.

God bless  
you Richard

## NEW MEETINGS

Petaluma Young People's Meeting  
(O) (W) Monday 8:30PM

## NO LONGER MEETING

Santa Rosa 11th Step Meeting  
(O) (W) Monday 8:00PM

## MEETING CHANGES

Cloverdale Grapevine Study  
(O) (W) Saturday, 8:00PM

*Now a Speaker Meeting that meets the 4th  
Saturday of the month*

Windsor Redwood Winners  
(O) (W) Monday, 7:30PM

*Has moved to:  
195 Windsor River Road*

## Meeting Changes? Contact Russell

## Gloria's Corner

The new books from Grapevine are here,  
just in time for Christmas gifts:

### ▲ Spiritual Awakening

### ▲ Thank You For Sharing

We have a **lot** of other items that make  
great gifts for friends and family!

We held our annual Christmas Party for  
volunteers on Saturday, December 13, at  
the bookstore. This is our way of thank-  
ing our volunteers for their year-round  
service.. We enjoyed lots of good food  
and great fellowship !

Two of our regular volunteers, Don G.  
and Don S. are out with illnesses. You  
are in our thoughts and prayers.



Thanks Everyone!

*Gloria*

## ADDRESSES

**Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship**  
750 Mendocino Ave. #10  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

**Sonoma County General Service**  
PO Box 536  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

**Area 22 H & I Treasurer**  
PO Box 192490  
San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

**General Service Office**  
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

**CA Northern Coastal Area Treasury**  
PO Box 884222  
San Francisco, CA 94188

**Sonoma County PI/CPC\***  
PO Box 11350  
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

\*Funded solely through Sonoma County General Service

## BOOKSTORE & TELESERVICE

**SCIF CENTRAL OFFICE**  
750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Manager: Gloria P.  
Phone: (707) 546-2066  
Fax: (707) 566-9677  
E-mail: AA@ap.net  
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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Newsletter / Web Site

Editor/Web Servant: Rory B.  
*Bayrisch@msn.com*

Directory Changes: Russell

### Sonoma County General Service

DCMC: Jay B.  
*Soberduud1@aol.com*

Alt. DCMC: Donna K.

PI/CPC: Tom P.

Grapevine Rep: Michael M.

Bridging the Gap: DJ  
*DjBridgntheGap12@aol.com*

Correspondent: Mary W.

Literature: Diane F.

Archives: Holly H.

### Hospitals & Institutions

Chair: Kelly

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