



sonoma county Intergroup Fellowship

NEWS

April

2008

Get the latest meeting listings, upcoming events, and more, at www.sonomacountyaa.org

The First Ever Annual Sonoma County AA Bunny Hop Hop Hop!



Volunteers – call Laurie

April 25
Meeting at 7 P.M.
Hop at 8:30!
and hop until the
midnight hour!

Sebastopol Community
Center
390 Morris Street
\$10 Donation

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The 28th Annual Lake Pillsbury Campout



May 16, 17, 18
Sunset Beach

Saturday Night meeting under the stars
and potluck

\$13 per site - 8 persons per site

For more information call Preston

The 21st Annual Cache Creek White Water Rafting Trip



June 21st and 22nd
For more information call

Chris
Laurie
Jarrett

(or see page 3)

And it's the 2008th Annual Month of April
Have a good one!

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting February 2008

The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.

PREAMBLE: Victoria H.

TRADITION # 2: Shirley J.

CONCEPT # 2: Jason B.

Introduction of New Representatives:

Deborah B. We're in the Now, Rohnert Park, Th 7pm
 Jason B. Saints & Sinners, Rohnert Park, Sun 11am
 Claude G. UP Group, Santa Rosa, Sun 8pm
 Kelly M. Sunday Smiles, Santa Rosa, Sun 11am
 Bill A. Tea & Recovery, Sebastopol, Fri 6:30pm
 Woody W. Sonoma Valley Fellowship, all meetings
 Steve Z. 12 x 12 Step Study, Santa Rosa, Th 8pm
 Lisa F. 10am Book Study, Petaluma, Fri 10am
 Natalie K. Chops, Santa Rosa, Sat 11:30am
 Fred H. Higher Power, Santa Rosa, Th 12:15pm
 John F. New Sobriety, Santa Rosa, Fri, 8pm
 Shaline E. Nooners, Santa Rosa, Fri 12:15pm
 Barbara F. Traditions, Santa Rosa, Fri 8pm
 Cindy G. Windsor Group, Windsor, Wed 8pm

February Birthdays:

Debbie B 2/7 3 years
 Michelle W 2/11 2 years
 Connie C 2/15 5 years
 Debbie R 2/15 2 years
 Paul B. 2/16 20 years
 Matthew 2/22 2 years

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR: Diane W. Introduced the new Bookstore Manager, Linda M. She stated that the Women's Hat Luncheon is not endorsed by or affiliated with SCIF.

VICE CHAIR: Bob P. There were 15 new Reps at this meeting. He invited any Rep to call him if they have questions.

TREASURER: Pat H. For the month of January, group contributions were \$4,595 - less than last January but close to the monthly average for last year. Bookstore sales of \$6,527 were also close to the monthly average for 2007. Net income for the Central Office was \$486 and for the Bookstore was \$975, resulting in a total of \$1,461. There were no expenses for activities because there were no activities in January.

SECRETARY: Donna L. Asked for and received approval for the minutes in the newsletter from the January 28 SCIF

business meeting.

REGISTRAR: Nan B. Reps need to sign in, especially if they represent more than one meeting. At the January business meeting, 123 were meetings represented, which is 34% of the 363 total AA meetings each week in Sonoma County.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The following individuals were elected:

Activities Chair - Laurie E. (2nd term)

Alcathons Chair - Dale E. (2nd term)

Outreach Chair - Sean M.

Seminars Chair - Doug S.

Teleservice - Dave R. was re-elected by Teleservice.

Communications/Newsletter Chair - No one made themselves available. Dave H. will stay on one more month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACTIVITIES: Laurie E. The Valentine's Dance took in ~\$1,500, resulting in a net loss of \$100. She said it was a great success with large attendance and many newcomers.
ALCATHONS: Dale E. SCIF has been invited to host the 2008 Alcathons at the Carpenter's Union Hall again. Dale stated he will work on improving his meeting scheduling system.
ICSC: Rich S. At the last ICSC meeting the following items were covered:

* Treasurer's Report (see newsletter). There was more money spent on the newsletter due to extra pages.

* There will no longer be items sold on consignment, nor books accepted as donations at the Bookstore.

* The Bookstore was vandalized twice, resulting in ~\$300 for new front door glass and a loss of cash and the new sound system. More security measures will be taken.

COMMUNICATIONS/NEWSLETTER: Dave H. presented the March newsletter.

OUTREACH: Barbara F.-K. No report.

SEMINARS: Donna L. The next seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 19 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Bookstore on Mendocino. The topic will be "Sobriety Across Generations: Reaching Out to All Ages"

TELESERVICE: Dave R. Teleservice provides a live alcoholic to answer the hotline number 24/7. They receive 800-900 calls per month. There are currently four open shifts: Sun 10pm - 6am, Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9am - 1pm, every other Sat 10pm - 8am.

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INTERGROUP OFFICERS

CHAIR Diane W.
 VICE-CHAIR Bob P.
 SECRETARY Donna L.
 REGISTRAR Nan B.
 TREASURER Pat H.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SEMINARS Donna L.
 ACTIVITIES Laurie E.
 OUTREACH Barbara F.-K.
 COMMUNICATIONS Dave H.
 ALCATHONS Dale E.
 TELESERVICE Dave R.

AA TELESERVICE

PHONE LINE COORDINATOR Dave R.
 12 STEP COORDINATOR Rich S.

AA HOTLINES

SANTA ROSA 707-544-1300
 LONG DISTANCE 800-224-1300
 PETALUMA 707-762-5122
 SONOMA 707-938-2027
 SPANISH 707-829-1272



Teleservice Open Shifts
 Volunteer today!

† = Alternating weeks

Friday 9 AM - 1 PM
 Tues[†] 5 PM - 8 PM
 Sat[†] 10 PM - 8 AM
 Sun 10 PM - 9 AM

Cache Creek: A Whole Raft of Fun

Believe it or not it's time again to get your reservations and send your deposit for the 2008 Cache Creek White Water Rafting Trip. This will be our 21st year! The cost is only \$140 for an entire weekend of white water rafting, food, fellowship and fun. The trip this year is on June 21 & June 22. Here's how it works:



We meet at the parking lot of the rafting company, load up your tent, etc. (see brochure for details on what to bring). We put the items we will camp with in the trucks provided; then we are bussed to the "put in" point. The White Water Adventures crew gives us an orientation on rafting, and we are down the river. Lunch is provided and you can stop anywhere you like along the river to eat. Then you raft to the "take out" point.

The "take out" point is also where our campground is. Once you setup your campsite, there are appetizers set out before dinner. The appetizers include Shrimp, artichoke hearts, chili, fruit, crackers, etc. Then an hour or so later, dinner is served. You have a choice of entrees: New York

steak, chicken, or veggie burgers with side dishes of 1-pound baked potatoes and pasta salad.

Next is the best part of the entire weekend: we have an outdoor meeting. In this meeting you hear the river running, see the sun setting, all under the stars. Between 175 and 250 alcoholics sit in a very large circle and share their experience, strength and hope with each other.

After the meeting you can dance under the stars. This is a disco type setting outside in the night air, loud music, disco lights, and enough "dark areas" to dance in if you have a hard time dancing in sobriety.

The following morning, breakfast is served and then it's off to the river for another day of fun in the sun. Lunch is also provided the second day. For those of you who are wondering how to have fun in sobriety, this is one way to do it. There is nothing like this trip to meet new friends and have a blast doing it. Many of our rafters are veterans of many years.

We have only 175 spots reserved this year. If we have enough folks send in their deposits early, we will be able to

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SCIF General Meeting *(Continued from page 2)*

LIAISON REPORTS:

BRIDGING THE GAP: John B. The purpose of BTG is to introduce newly released residents of treatment facilities to AA within their local communities. If you are interested in volunteering, you need 6 months of sobriety and a working knowledge of the steps. Having transportation is also helpful. At recent group inventory, they determined they need more help at the committee level. They are now making presentations at Turning Point, so will need additional help in going into treatment centers. The business meeting is on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Bookstore. In January, BTG made 44 contacts: 19 were local, 15 were out of the district, 8 were out of the area, and 2 came into the district from outside sources.

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: Laurie E. reported for Mark V. The 37th Annual H & I Conference will be held on April 25-27 in Burlingame. Registration forms are available at the Bookstore.

PI/CPC: Nick R. The PI/CPC business meeting is the 2nd Wed of each month at the SR City Hall. New speaker training is at 7pm, meeting at 7:30pm. PI/CPC takes literature into jails, hospitals, police stations, etc. and speakers into DDP, schools, etc. to explain what AA is and is not. They are looking for a media coordinator to assist with Public Service Announcements. They are also reaching out to seniors and the hospitality industry.

SOCYPAA: Sean M. The bookstore has updated SOCYPAA meeting schedules that you can pick up and bring back to your meeting. If anyone is interested in getting involved with SOCYPAA, the business meetings are the first and third Sunday of the month. SOCYPAA is preparing a bid to bring ACYPAA to Sonoma County in 2009. This year's ACYPAA conference takes place April 3-6 in Sacramento.

ACCESS SONOMA COUNTY: No report.

GENERAL SERVICE: Lauralyn C. On February 4th GS held their monthly meeting and the following motion was

passed unanimously: That the Panel 57, District 12 liaison to District 18 be reimbursed for mileage for travel required by the job description. Such reimbursement to be calculated at the rate specified for District Officer mileage reimbursements in the District's financial guidelines.

On Feb 16th, GS held their annual agenda topics workshop to a wonderful turnout of GSR's, DCM's, past trusted servants and interested visitors.

SPANISH CENTRAL OFFICE: There is currently no liaison to Spanish Intergroup. If anyone is interested, preferably a bilingual male, please contact the Intergroup Chair.

HOUSEKEEPING MOTIONS

A motion to eliminate the 7th tradition collection from the SCIF business meeting was objected to, and will be moved to New Business at the March SCIF business meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The vote to increase the SCIF prudent reserve from \$25,000 to \$30,000 was passed with a vote of 63 in favor/0 opposed/11 abstaining.

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

The Signs of Sobriety Group presented a new motion: "That Sonoma County Intergroup establish a fund to provide American Sign Language interpreters for Intergroup functions. This fund will be controlled by Intergroup for its own events only - to include workshops, speaker meetings, alkathons and Intergroup meetings. An interpreter will only be hired for an event if specifically requested by at least one deaf member, who would thereby commit to attending. We are asking that Intergroup set aside \$1,500 for this purpose initially, and that the program be evaluated annually." The motion will go before the groups and reps will bring their group conscience back to the March SCIF business meeting for discussion.

SUMMATION: The Vice Chair reminded reps of various important items to take back to their groups.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Gratefully in Service,
Donna L.

Why I Joined ASC

I have seen over the past several years how good we all feel when we reach out to the Hispanic community by publishing Spanish-language meeting lists and by providing translation at AA events. H&I members get great satisfaction by taking meetings to confined alcoholics. I joined my home group in taking meetings in to the homes of members who were ill or housebound. I saw how small efforts on our part could implement the Responsibility Statement: "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

I then thought of others reaching out for help and finding the hand of AA wasn't there:

- a friend in a wheelchair who found some meetings inaccessible
- single parents in early sobriety being told by my home group that they couldn't bring their child to the meeting – and not being able to refer them to meetings that would accommodate them
- deaf members who couldn't find meetings conducted in American Sign Language and unable to participate in AA events

None of these problems were insurmountable, and I found that participating with Access Sonoma County in finding solutions enhanced my sobriety by reminding me to get out of myself and to think of how I would feel if I faced any of these issues. How hard would it be to hear the recommendation to do "ninety in ninety" if there aren't ninety meetings I can get to or understand?

We haven't solved all the problems, but progress is being made. It is satisfying to be part of the solution – and to look forward to the day when anyone who reaches out for help can find it in local AA meetings.

ASC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the bookstore in Santa Rosa, 750 Mendocino Ave. All are welcome.

Diane W.

SOCYPAA

Hello Sonoma County, welcome to Spring, when that bunny lays chocolate eggs and ushers in the tax season!

As much fun as my alcoholic brain likes to tell me that it was fun back when I was out there drinking, it certainly doesn't compare to the rewards and fun of staying sober in AA! If you had told me I would have this much fun when I first came into these rooms, I would not have believed you. I thought when I first came to AA that I was going to be living the life of a monk, with no pleasures at all. I'm here to tell you that, that is just not the case!

If you are new, I recommend that you dive in and you see how much fun in sobriety you can have without the alcohol, and other things to make you happy.

One thing that has made my sober life more fulfilled, and given me so many close friends and fun things to do, was getting involved with SOCYPAA. SOCYPAA stands for Sonoma County Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. (It's a very loose acronym. Don't think too hard about it.)

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The (*famous*) Activities Chair

As I start another term as your Activities Chairperson, I am honored and excited at the prospect of having so much fun planning and coming up with new themes to entice you to come dance or enjoy fun in the sun. What a glorious Spring we are having! As I drive the countryside in my Jeep, I am often overwhelmed with beauty of Sonoma County. The daffodils make me smile and the mustard fields take my breath away. I remember telling my kayak partners that I know spring is coming when everything turns yellow; they informed me that "Guys know it is Spring when the road crews start filling the potholes." I guess it's a guy thing!

Our next Event, following the very successful Pajama Party (if you missed that you missed the sights) will be A "Bunny Hop" Dance on April 25th. Speaker meeting at 7pm and Dance at 8:30. The location is Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St. Sebastopol. Bunny ears and cotton-tails are encouraged! We will hop the night away. It is DJ Rosie's birthday that night and mine is the week before so we are giving our own party! (he he!)

Our big plans this year include a July 5th old-fashioned family picnic. If you would like to give input or serve on our committee by decorating, greeting, working the door, making coffee concessions or clean up, call me.

I want to thank the entire 2007 activities committee for dedicated service to our fellowship. Many of the same committee people are returning this year.

I also want to put a plug in for the many activities available to us in Sonoma County AA. We have upcoming SOCYPAA events, the 28th Annual Lake Pillsbury Campout (May 16, 17, & 18) and the 21st Annual Meeting on the River and rafting trip (June 21st & 22nd). Although these are not S.C.I.F. activities they provide us with many avenues for fun and fellowship! I love fellowship in the out of doors and this certainly proves we are not a glum lot.

I look forward to your participation and input and as always am grateful for the opportunity to be in service to the fellowship I love.

Laurie E., Activities Chairperson

General Service

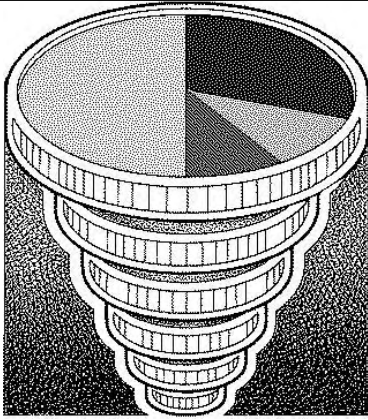
General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s), and the Groups they represent, play an integral part at the Pre-Conference Assembly. Ask your Group's G.S.R., or anyone in General Service, about the importance of the Pre-Conference Assembly and how it effects your group. Each G.S.R., from every part of our Area, has the opportunity to voice his or her Group's conscience. Group consciences are the result of well informed groups through sharing sessions based on the Agenda Topics. G.S.R.'s take turns at the microphone, expressing their Group's opinion on any and all Agenda Topics.

To watch and listen how a G.S.R.'s Group came about their conscience can be emotional, uplifting, informative, heartwarming, and deeply spiritual!

This year's Assembly is being held in Antioch, April 12th and 13th.

In Gratitude, Dale E.

SCIF FINANCIAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2008



Example of Suggested Group Contributions to AA Service Entities

- 50-70% to Intergroup
- 10-30% to Local General Service
- 10-20% to CNCA
- 10-20% to GSO New York

	<u>Feb. 2008</u>		<u>Feb. 2007</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	Income	Expense	Net	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Net
Group Supported:								
Central Office								
Groups								
Individuals								
Teleservice								
Web Site								
Newsletter								
Interest								
<i>Subtotal</i>								
Self Supported:								
Bookstore *								
Activities								
Alkathons								
Seminars								
<i>Subtotal</i>								
TOTAL								
Assets & Liabilities								
Cash in Bank & Petty Cash								
Prepaid Expenses								
Liabilities								
Subtotal								
Literature Inventories								
Property								
Total Assets & Liabilities								
* Cost of Sales portion of expense is estimated.								
						Memo:	Cash in Bank & Petty Cash	
							Prudent Reserve	
							Liabilities	
							Operating Reserve	

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Meeting	Feb	YTD	Meeting	Feb	YTD	Meeting	Feb	YTD
11th Step Meeting			Lost & Found Group			Signs of Sobriety		
12 X 12 Plus Step			Lunch Bunch Group			Sonoma Valley Fellowship		
AA Sonoma, Friday Night Fellowship			Monday Mood Swings			South Park Survivors		
Access Sonoma County			Mon Night Alcoholics Only Step Study			The Sunday Niters Group		
Acres Fellowship Group			Monte Rio Book Study			Thurs. Night 12 X 12 Discussion		
Any Lengths Group			Not Just Another Newcomer's Meeting			Thurs. Night Women's AA		
Book & Discussion, Sonoma			O God It's Monday			Up The Steps		
Breakfast Club			Open Door			Warm Springs Fellowship		
FAHA Home Group			Promises Group			Wednesday Wonders		
Fourth Monday			Quitting Time Group			We're In The Now		
Graton Fellowship			Rule 62 River Readers			Women's Book Group		
Healdsburg Anonymity			Saturday Night Young People's			Women's Step Study & Discussion		
Healdsburg Women's Book Study			Saturday Serenity			Working Winners		
Hessel Big Book Study Group			Sebastopol AA Noon Movement			Young People's Tea & Recovery		
Keep It Simple			Sebastopol Men's Stag			Young & Young At Heart		
Kenwood Step Study								
						Total		

April Sobriety Birthdays 402 Years!

Gary	Santa Rosa	4/15	22	Ron R.	Santa Rosa	4/5	12	Ralph C.	Santa Rosa	4/25	6
Pat H.	Santa Rosa	4/5	20	Roger A.	Cloverdale	4/16	11	Jeff	Santa Rosa	4/26	6
Frank S.	Sonoma	4/19	19	Deborah K.	Cotati	4/18	11	Kirk S.	Santa Rosa	4/27	6
Jana	Santa Rosa	4/20	19	Jimmy B.	Petaluma	4/11	9	Shannon W.	Santa Rosa	4/30	6
John S.	Petaluma	4/6	18	Sue L.	Petaluma	4/18	9	Tom C.	Santa Rosa	4/1	5
Karen R.	Santa Rosa	4/16	18	Tom R.	Santa Rosa	4/21	9	Rachel L.	Santa Rosa	4/4	5
Mike	Santa Rosa	4/22	18	Victor S.	Rohnert Park	4/26	8	Marlene P.	Cotati	4/27	5
Joe M.	Santa Rosa	4/4	17	John C.	Santa Rosa	4/1	7	John N.	Santa Rosa	4/28	5
Manuel	Santa Rosa	4/22	17	Susan S.	Rohnert Park	4/2	7	Tina M.	Santa Rosa	4/7	4
Robin M.	Santa Rosa	4/1	16	Kristina	Petaluma	4/4	7	Tom M.	Santa Rosa	4/7	4
Mary T.	Santa Rosa	4/13	16	Michael Q.	Santa Rosa	4/4	7	Deanna	Santa Rosa	4/8	4
Bernie L.	Santa Rosa	4/18	16	Kate	Santa Rosa	4/11	6	Trina	Santa Rosa	4/27	4
Pam	Cotati	4/30	13	Cory B.	Santa Rosa	4/14	6	Keith	Santa Rosa	4/28	4

H&I Report

Sober Riders



April 13

~
Call Judy R.
for more details

H&I brings meetings and literature to the alcoholic who is confined to hospitals and institutions and is unable to get out to meetings.



The 37th Annual H&I Conference will be held April 25, 26, and 27 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Burlingame. The theme of this year's conference is "Carrying the Message."

Do you have a story to share? You can get started by attending the next meeting of the Hospitals and Institutions Committee. H&I meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Santa Rosa Senior Center, Bennett Valley Road and Rutledge Ave, a block east of Santa Rosa Ave. New rep orientation is at 5:30 PM, and the regular meeting starts at 6. Everyone is welcome.

Happy Trails



April 27
Armstrong Woods

~
Call Linda
for more details



APRIL • 2008



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:30 New Rep Orientation 6:00 Business Meeting	3	4	5
6 SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	7 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45 Service Manual Study 6:45 New Rep Orientation 7:30 Business Meeting	8	9 P/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00 Speaker Training 7:30 Business Meeting	10 Access Sonoma County SCIF Bookstore 6:30 Meeting	11	12
13 Sober Riders	14 SCIF Bookstore 6:00 Teleservice Meeting 7:00 ICSC Meeting 8:00 Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	15 Bridging The Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30 New Rep Orientation 7:00 Business Meeting	16 Newsletter 6:30 SCIF Bookstore	17	18	19
20 SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	21	22	23	24	25	26 General Service Area 06 Committee 320 N. McDowell Blvd Petaluma
27 Happy Trails 10:00 SCIF Bookstore	28 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30 New Rep Orientation 8:00 Business Meeting	29 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	30	SCIF Bookstore750 Mendocino Ave. Suite 10 Faith Lutheran Church.....4970 Newanga Ave. St. Luke Lutheran Church.....905 Mendocino Ave . S.R. Senior Center704 Bennett Valley Rd. S.R. City Hall Employee Lounge...First St. and Santa Rosa Ave		

Proposed Bookstore POS System

After months of research and discussion, your Intergroup Central Service Committee is recommending the following motion:

THAT SCIF install a P.O.S. system (computer, monitor, peripherals and software) for more efficient tracking of sales and inventory, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.

This P.O.S. (point-of-sale) system consists of a computer and printer at the sales desk, where the volunteer can record sales by selecting merchandise items from a drop-down menu on the screen and clicking on the items. The system will calculate sales tax and total costs and print a receipt. The sales desk computer will be networked to the existing computer system, and will enable us to track inventory and reorder points.

Our current manual system requires volunteers to write a sales ticket to describe the item sold, determine the correct price or multiples of the price, and add the totals. With a constantly-changing staff of volunteers, we have found that item descriptions are sometimes not helpful in determining what was sold; items are occasionally sold for the incorrect price; and sale totals can be added incorrectly. Our Office Manager must spend several hours each month transcribing these sales tickets into our inventory management system, and our Treasurer must review the sales tickets for items that are exempt from the sales taxes we pay. The new system will improve accuracy and efficiency and remove these burdens from the Manager and Treasurer.

This is not a system that will scan bar codes, which is more expensive than we can afford and would require intensive effort to label each item of merchandise. We have reviewed this system at other Central Offices where it is used and are impressed by it. Given the demands on our Bookstore Manager's time and the difficulty we have historically had in finding candidates for the demanding Treasurer's job, we feel that using current technology to lighten these burdens and improve our Bookstore management systems is well worth this modest investment of our current excess funds.

Diane W.



SOCYPAA
Dodge Ball

April 19

Howarth Park
Meeting 11 AM
BBQ

Cache Creek (Continued from page 3)

get more spots from the rafting company. One year we had over 250 recovering alcoholics, with their family and friends, because folks got their money in early enough. Due to our repeat business year after year with this rafting company, they allow us to have first choice for reservations on the trips that weekend. Remember these trips are available to the general public and often sell out very quickly.

We are striving to have 300 rafters this year. The reason we only reserve 175 spots is because we have to send the rafting company money for the spots we reserve. If we reserve 250 trips, we are financially responsible for those 250 spots. If they don't get sold, we still have to pay for them!

The meeting brochures will be out to your local meetings soon. It is imperative that we get the deposits in as soon as possible. The deposit amount is \$70, due by May 1, 2008. The final payment is due no later than June 1, 2008.

If you want to go, the only way to assure your trip is to get your deposit in ASAP or at least by May 1, 2008. If we do not get the early funds, we will be limited to only 175 trips. Don't procrastinate; Don't get left out. Every year people get left out because they didn't get their money in and there were no spots available by the time they did.

If you have any questions call:

Chris
Laurie
Jarrett

SOCYPAA (Continued from page 4)

What is *that*, you ask? SOCYPAA is a service group aimed at giving the young and young at heart a place in sobriety. Many young people come into AA feeling like they are too young, didn't drink enough, or just don't relate to the older crowds that make up the majority in AA. So, a long time ago, the YPAAs were created. They are all over the world. By starting young people's meetings, holding events, conventions and business meetings, they make it so those people have a place in the rooms of AA, and show them that they can have fun in sobriety, all the while still working a good program, and introducing them to service and fellowship.

This month, on Saturday April 19th, we are doing our 3rd annual Dodge Ball game. Everyone is welcome to come. The event will be at the same location it was last year, Howarth Memorial Park. There will be a meeting at 11AM, followed by a BBQ, and then the Dodge Ball Games begin.

We are also planning a dance in May but are still working out the details. Keep your eyes open.

Also, if you want the up to date news, we are working on a SOCYPAA website, and already do have a myspace page if you are a myspacer. We've worked hard to keep it within the traditions by keeping it private, and keeping it so you can't see the friends. But you can find our page by doing a search for members with the username "SOCYP**" (minus the quotes).

Till next month, stay sober and have fun!

Take care,
Craig G. (Batman)
SOCYPAA's Outreach Chair

Proposal: Interpreter funding for SCIF Events

The following motion was brought to the SCIF steering committee by the Signs of Sobriety Group in March 2008. The issue involves controversial issues and differing opinions. It is something for the groups to decide.

We are presenting the motion and arguments on both sides of the issue for your consideration. The arguments presented here should in no way be considered a full exploration of the issues at hand; rather, they are a starting point for discussion.

Thank you.

The Motion:

THAT Sonoma County Intergroup establish a fund to provide American Sign Language interpreters for Intergroup functions. This fund will be controlled by Intergroup for its own events only – to include workshops, speaker meetings, alkathons and Intergroup meetings. An interpreter will only be hired for an event if specifically requested by at least one deaf member, who would thereby commit to attending. We are asking that Intergroup set aside \$1,500 for this purpose initially, and that the program be evaluated annually.

Argument in favor of the motion:

Every month, our Intergroup rep at Signs of Sobriety announces workshops, speaker meetings and other events provided to the Fellowship. The importance of the Alcathons, especially for newcomers, is stressed. The deaf members express interest in some of these, which fades quickly as they realize there will be no interpreter. While it is not yet feasible to offer deaf members the same resources the rest of us have – several meetings each day, sponsorship and instant fellowship, there is one step we can take now, and it is the purpose of our motion.

Background:

Intergroup has supported interpreting services in the past. At one time, it provided interpreters to the Friday night speaker meeting at Church of the Roses. When Signs of Sobriety requested similar assistance in 2005, it was denied. The two reasons given most frequently were that a) Intergroup could not afford to do so and b) that providing funds to be used at a specific meeting would be a violation of Tradition 7.

The current proposal should not trigger either of these concerns. Intergroup does have additional funds which could be set aside for this purpose, and is only being asked to provide access to its own events.

On the positive side, creation of this fund would allow deaf members to participate more fully in the activities of the Fellowship; currently, they are in effect excluded from events open to all other members.

How much will interpretation cost?

Members of the Signs of Sobriety meeting are available to assist in this effort, and have considerable experience and good contacts to contribute but Intergroup, as administrator of the fund, would be responsible for hiring the interpreters. While Signs of Sobriety pays a deeply discounted rate at its meetings, we cannot assume that those interpreters or that rate would be available for other events. The going non-profit rate is \$80 per hour on weekends, and a team of two interpreters would be required. Weekday events during normal working hours would cost somewhat less. At these rates, the requested fund of \$1500 would allow deaf members to attend four or more Intergroup events annually – depending on how long the events were and when they were held. (These costs are not unique to ASL interpreters – they are almost identical to those paid by General Service for Spanish-English interpreters at the Area level.)

It seems bizarre to say, as some have, that paying for an interpreter for one deaf member, or two deaf members is not “cost effective.” What is the life of an alcoholic worth? Tradition One guides us in balancing the needs of individuals against those of the group. It seems pretty clear that the needs of a few individuals cannot take precedence over the needs of the group as a whole. But does setting aside \$1,500 for interpreting funds threaten the survival or functioning of Sonoma County Intergroup in any way? Absolutely not.

Sonoma County Intergroup has a substantial amount of money over what is needed for its prudent reserve and an operating reserve. All of its services are adequately funded. The \$1,500 being requested is not coming at the expense of any other service. If not spent locally, excess funds must be sent to N.Y. Whether spent locally or nationally, it is hard to imagine a use more directly in line with our primary purpose than making it possible for alcoholics to attend AA functions.

But what if this prosperity doesn't last? Not to worry! The motion specifically calls for a review of the fund annually. That way, if \$1,500 is not a practical amount to set aside next year, Intergroup can decide on

a different amount - depending on circumstances at that time.

This is a good motion. It furthers our primary purpose in a significant, concrete way. Intergroup can afford it, and it is completely in line with our Traditions. Some are using the proposal as an opportunity to attack the Green Cans, a non-Intergroup effort which is supported by several autonomous groups and which is working wonderfully to ensure that deaf alcoholics can count on one interpreted recovery meeting a week. While we had hoped to avoid re-igniting that argument, we are certainly willing to address that point in a future Newsletter, at Intergroup, at individual meetings (by invitation) or personally.

Thank you for considering this motion.

Signs of Sobriety

Argument against the motion:

The motion requesting funds for a Sign Language interpreter at Intergroup functions is, in its present form, unnecessary and should not be approved.

However, if it were revised to apply to any regular meeting and all other AA functions, it would make eminent sense. Furthermore, it would allow our fellowship to revisit and maybe resolve - in relation to the traditions - the highly contentious issue of how interpreting is funded currently.

In order to substantiate my position it is necessary to elaborate on the above statements and briefly review the history of present funding.

As it now stands, the motion is just a symbolic gesture. In practical terms, it is highly unlikely that there will be many, maybe any, requests by the hearing impaired to attend Intergroup functions. "Signs of Sobriety", the group sponsoring this motion provides an interpreter every week at its regular meeting. I am told, there are usually two to three hearing impaired members. There were none at the two times I went, most recently last week, when I hoped to find out more about the motion made on their behalf.

The cost of the interpreter is \$75.00 per hour, an expenditure "Signs of Sobriety" with an average attendance of 12-15 people cannot afford. A few years ago the meeting requested funding both from General Service and from Intergroup. General Service declined because it is a local issue, Intergroup declined because of financial difficulties.

At that point "Signs of Sobriety" started soliciting funds from other groups via the "Green Cans", a special collection some meetings agreed to do for this purpose. The money is turned over to and disbursed by "Signs of Sobriety"; they publish their financial report quarterly in this newsletter.

I learned about all of this when the motion to pass the "Green Can" came to my home group. I was a vocal opponent of it then, and remain so today. I believe that it is highly inappropriate for a meeting to take up special collections at other meetings for services they wish to provide, no matter how noble and/or deserving the cause may be.

No one wants to deny the hand of AA to anyone, anywhere, especially to people with disabilities.

But the reaching out should always be done by the established, existing Service Organizations of AA, namely General Service or Intergroup, if it involves collecting and disbursing large sums of money coming from meetings other than the one that provides the service for which the collection is taken.

Intergroup has changed; finances have improved considerably and there is new leadership. It could and should provide money for interpreters both at regular meetings and at special functions with advance request by the hearing impaired. Asking these members to take responsibility for their sobriety to this extent is not unreasonable and it would help avoid unnecessary expenditures. The program would also be reviewed yearly.

San Francisco Intergroup uses this model and it should work for us as well.

This proposal is far from perfect; there will be those who will not see the need to spend any money on interpreters at all; there will be those who will fear Intergroup running into financial troubles again, discontinuing the funding. There will be other concerns and criticisms one cannot even foresee at this point. There is no such thing as making everybody happy - compromise is the name of the game.

However, this proposal would accomplish two very important things: It would provide interpreters for the hearing impaired and it would bring an end to the special collections by "Signs of Sobriety". Following the traditions and the principles of AA and carrying the message to the hearing impaired are causes worthy of our efforts.

Esther S.
Sonoma

NEW MEETINGS

Healdsburg
Sun 9:00 AM (O) There is a Solution
(W) Senior Center
133 Matheson St.

Santa Rosa
Sat 3:00 PM (O) Saturday Step Meeting
(W) Santa Rosa Alano Club
465 Kenwood Ct.

MEETING CHANGES

Cloverdale
Wed 6:00 PM Big Book
Now at 6:30 PM

Santa Rosa
Fri 8:00 PM Traditions Group
Moved to Faith Lutheran Church
4930 Newanga Ave

NO LONGER MEETING

Santa Rosa
M-F 9:00 AM All meetings at the Light,
M-F 12:15 PM 525 Fifth St.
Mon 7:00 PM
Wed 6:00 PM Reading Skills in Sobriety
Santa Rosa Alano Club
465 Kenwood Ct.

Sonoma
Sat 4:30 PM Young People's Meeting
276 E. Napa St.

MEETING CODES

- (C) Closed meeting, alcoholics only.
- (O) Open meeting, anyone can attend.
- (W) Wheel chair access to meeting area.

*To report meeting changes:
Contact Russell*

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