



SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP NEWS

January 2003

January Seminar:

"What was it like 50 years ago?"



Narrated By Bill S.

3pm to 5pm

Saturday, January 18

Santa Rosa Senior Center
704 Bennett Valley Road

The first Seminar of 2003 will show what it was like to be in recovery during the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous. The presentation will be given by Bill S. from Sonoma (who celebrated 54 years of sobriety in July and has a wonderful knowledge of AA History).

Two landmark films on the subject of Alcoholism, "Problem Drinkers" and "To Your Health", will be featured, as well as other materials from Bill's extensive collection of archive material.

Bill had his first contact with his first sponsor in January, 1946 while in a hos-

pital in Warren, Ohio. He went to his first meeting on January 19, 1946, "I had recently gotten out of the Air Force and a divorce was pending."

"I agreed to attend meetings in Warren, but I never felt a part of the program because of my age and dissimilar background from those I met."

Having relapsed on several occasions, he did a "geographic" by re-enlisting in the Air Force. Though it took him a while to get the program, "I finally got sober on July 5, 1948 and have enjoyed continuous sobriety since that time." His work spreading the

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SCIF Officer and Committee Elections

As reported in last month's newsletter, elections for SCIF Officers will be held at this month's Intergroup meeting on Monday, January 27 at 8:00PM. The available positions are for group **Chair**, **Vice Chair**, **Secretary**, **Treasurer** and **Registrar**.

The elections for Intergroup Committee service positions will be held at the February Intergroup Meeting on Monday, February 24. The following Committee positions will be available:

Activities Coordinator

Coordinates monthly dances, Summer picnics, and other activities and functions within Intergroup. Creates and organizes activities and functions. Must

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SCIF BUSINESS MEETING

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

- ◆ CHAIR: Tim P.
- ◆ VICE-CHAIR: Bruce G.
- ◆ SECRETARY: Bruce McL.
- ◆ TREASURER: OPEN
- ◆ REGISTRAR: Amy

INTERGROUP COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

- ◆ SEMINARS: Kay S
- ◆ ACTIVITIES: OPEN
- ◆ OUTREACH: Tom R.
- ◆ HOTLINE/TELESERVICE:
Kim C.
- ◆ ALCATHONS: Dennis

AA HOTLINE TELESERVICE

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

SCIF MINUTES

November 25, 2002

The **Serenity prayer** was recited. Tradition 11 (long form) was read by Kathy and Concept 11 by Jay.

Tim read the **Preamble**

Intro of new reps: Rebecca of Hessell Big Book Study, Pat of Sat. Living Right, Tim of Promises Group, Deborah of Big Book Step Study, Dan of Sunday Brunch Bunch, Gaven of Gravenstein Gay Group, Barbara of Sober Sunday.

November Birthdays: Pat - 6 yrs., Laura - 11 months, Keith - 13 yrs., Tim - 17 yrs.

The **Seventh Tradition** was practiced.

The **October minutes** were approved.

Registrar: Amy. There were 63 reps at the October meeting, 9 of whom were new.

Outreach: Tom R. Absent. Gloria passed around the list of un-represented meetings.

Liaison Reports:

General Service: Coop reported that elections for service positions within GS have been 1/2 completed. Area elections will be held in San Jose. A Thank-You to all for supporting Unity Day.

H&I: Dave. Explained what H & I is and invited all interested to attend the monthly business meeting, listed in the calendar.

PI/CPC: Dagmar. There will be no business meeting in Dec.; the next one will be on Jan. 8th. Several positions are open, help needed.

Bridging the Gap: Carolyn reported that this past month BTG helped 25 local people, and 19 people from outside the district, for a total of 44. BTG always needs volunteers; there is a 6-month sobriety requirement.

Officer Reports:

Chair: Tim P. reported that we still need a new Activities Chair. Discussed elections coming up in January, job descriptions will be in NL. Tim gave a synopsis of the Chairman's duties, and John S. did the same as Treasurer. Asked for someone with knowledge to research obtaining a microphone for out meetings here, as we are unable to use the Church's.

Vice Chair: Bruce G. Absent. Thanks to Steve for orienting 4 new people.

Treasurer: John S. Written report on page 5 of the Newsletter.

Bookstore: Gloria. Book covers, Key Tags and Jewelry will be (were) 1/2 price in December.

Seminars: Kay reported that the next Seminar will be the 3rd Saturday in January, with the topic being the History of AA, featuring Bill S. who has been sober for 55 years. This will be held at the Senior Center. Flyers will be available soon.

Activities: Flyers are available for the New Years Dance.

Teleservice: Kim. Absent. Tim reminded us that this is the most important service provided by Intergroup. Volunteer today!

Communications/Newsletter: Bruce & Rory absent. The newsletter in your hands is proof that they are on the job.

Alcathons: Dennis M. reported that Thanksgiving is all set, Christmas schedule is full, and New Years only has 3 slots left to fill.

ICSC: Tom R. and Kevin will bring candidates in Dec.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Group Concerns and Sharing: Kay

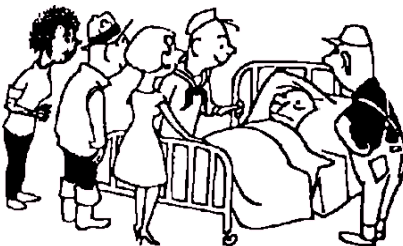
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HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

"I really know what it means to become a prisoner of myself. "Let me illustrate: I was brought up in a very small country town in Vermont. When I was 10 years old, my father and mother were divorced. In those days, especially in small towns, in that Yankee atmosphere, divorce was considered a tremendous disgrace. One of my earliest recollections is the memory of the gossip of the neighbors, of the angry sides they took, about the sadness which had struck into the lives of our family. At once this gossip made me feel that I was somewhat different than other kids. In fact, sometimes they twitted me that my father and mother had fallen apart and that I had neither. Even as a child of 10, that divorce made me feel different. From that time on, I began to grow, physically, very fast, but I didn't get too strong. Smaller kids, younger kids, could knock me around in fights. I was always aloof. Well, that again gave me a terrible sense of inferiority, of not being able to hold my own in the world. In that period I was, of course, very much cast down and depressed and how

different I did feel.

"But then something else began to happen. In the middle of all this self pity, a fierce resolve was generated that I would show the people about me that, not only was I just as good as they were, but that I would



be even better and developed what our psychologist friends call a terrific "power drive." A terrific desire to excel, a terrific desire to show people and myself that not only was I their equal, but I was by far their better." [Part 4 of Bill W.'s experience with early H&I, reprinted from a 1951 *Grapevine*]

A flock of new meeting reps joined us at the December 4 meeting of the H&I Com-

mittee—they include Matthew M., Allison C., Patrice J., Bill H., Steve L., Martha, Randy M., Ann Marie, Tim G., Stacey M., Ronny J., Kalia, and Desmone C. We're glad you're here! A big welcome, too, to visitors Jeff T., Mary and Dave.

Celebrating sobriety birthdays for the month of December were Sue and Larry, each with 8 years; Matthew, 6 months; Ronny, 1 year; and Jared with 18 months. Keep coming back—you must be doing something right!

Karen S. was our 5-minute chair for this month. She shared her experience, strength and hope with us around her commitment to H&I.

Do not show up on January 1!!! (No one will be here, the building will be closed.) **Instead—join us on the following Wednesday, January 8, at 6:15 p.m.** As always, you are welcome to attend the orientation that begins at 5:45.

Wishing you a safe, sane and sober New Year.

Mardi

SCIF Minutes

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brought up the topic of hooking up newcomers & sponsors - we shared different ways groups work on this. Robin brought up substituting "objectionable" words in readings, such as God. Several groups offered solutions or attempted solutions, but most of us seem to just put up with it.

Summation:

Tim highlighted these points:

- 1) Activities Chair needed.
- 2) Job descriptions in NL.
- 3) Elections upcoming. Officers in Jan., Committee Chairs in Feb.
- 4) Alcathon info in NL.
- 5) Discussion of sponsorship & God.
- 6) No PI/CPC meeting in Dec.

Closing: Lord's Prayer

-submitted by Bruce McL.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Waiting until Spring

At a meeting the other day I heard someone watch in amazement as a bunch of people picked up their anniversary chips. He said "I waited until spring, so that I could drink and be merry during the holidays. I wasn't very merry, but that was my reasoning." and then he paused and said, "not much to be merry about in those times."

That's how we all remember it. I don't remember my last drink, or my last day, I was simply on the hook of desperation. The craving did not stop, I had been desperate for a long while. I knew about AA, my sister had been here for 8 years before I got here. She probably prayed for me, I hated her for her arrogance. "I don't need anyone's prayers," I thought.

But I did wait until spring. I waited until May. Then I called her, and she said, "I can't help you, I'm your sister, but go to meetings, don't drink in between, get a book, get a sponsor and work the steps." And then she hung up on me. Do you wonder if there is a moral to this story? Of course there is. Don't wait until spring to enjoy this community. Come out for the New Year's dance, the Alcathons, go to more meetings than usual. Come to the Seminar that I have planned for the 18th of January.

This is an invitation to get right in the middle of this group. Its warm in here, and protected against many shocks.

Intergroup needs an Activities coordinator. Call me at 526-5502, and we'll talk.

Thanks, Kay

January Seminar: AA History

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message to fellow Air Force personnel drew the interest of AA Pioneer Marty Mann. "Marty Mann became interested in what I was doing and got me a scholarship to the Yale School of Alcohol Studies." It was at Yale that he first saw the film "Problem Drinkers", produced in 1945 by the March of Time. Bill Wilson, Dr. E.M. Jellinek, Marty Mann and many others are in the film. The second film, "To Your Health", was produced by the World Health Council. This is an animated film narrated by Dr. Jellinek, who was the consultant at the World Health Council regarding the problem of alcoholism. After the films are shown, Bill will present other material from the early days of AA. This will include the classes held to orient new members regarding the program and the assignment of sponsors to new members. "It's a fascinating picture of how AA worked, or in some cases,

did not work, in those days." He will also discuss his association with Marty Mann, the Yale School and the wonderful impact they had on his life and experiences in the program.

In February Bill will be a featured speaker at the 50th Anniversary of the AA in Bristol, England. After that he will go on to Ireland for other presentations.

"I am looking forward to having a great experience telling of my adventures in the journey from uselessness to a life full of miracles!"

He is also looking forward to visiting with many of the old timers and others in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Seminar or want more information, call Kay.

SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

What better way to share your experience, strength and hope? Have a great idea for a theme, or something that you would like to share with the AA community? We would like to print it! You can send your submission by e-mail:

Bayrisch@msn.com

Or by regular mail to:

SCIF CENTRAL OFFICE
750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Attn: Newsletter Editor



SCIF CALENDAR • JAN 2003



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			New Years Alcathon 1  Midnight- 6PM	2	3	4
5	6 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45: Service Manual Study 7:00: New Rep Orientation 7:30: Business Meeting	7	8 Hospital & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:45: New Rep Orientation 6:15: Business Meeting P/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00: Speaker Training 7:30: Business Meeting	9	10	11
12	13 SCIF Bookstore 6:30: AA Teleservice Business Meeting 7:15: ICSC Meeting 8:00: Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	14 Bridging the Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30: New Rep Orientation 7:00: Business Meeting	15	16	17	18 AA History Seminar 3PM to 5PM SR Senior Center District 18 (Spanish) 5519 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 General Service Area 6 Petaluma Community Center 320 N. McDowell Blvd 12:00
26 Happy Trails Will Return in February!	27 SCIF Officer Elections Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30: Newsletter Collating 7:30: New Rep Orientation 8:00: Business Meeting	28 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting - 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	29	30	31	

SCIF Elections

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be able to delegate responsibility.

Average monthly commitment: 20 hrs.

Communications Coordinator

Coordinates efforts needed to produce directories; gets meeting updates to Directory Coordinator for inclusion in monthly Newsletter. Arranges for printing and distribution of schedules. Works closely with Newsletter Editor in producing, publishing, and distributing Newsletters to groups and for mailing to paid subscribers. Attends Steering Committee meetings, S.C.I.F. meetings, special events, and workshops when possible. Is aware of information that needs to be presented to membership in written form. Arranges for agendas, Treasurer's report, and special information to be copied for S.C.I.F. meeting.

Average monthly commitment: 20+ hrs.

General Service Liaison

Acts as liaison between General Service and Intergroup, keeping both areas apprised of the activities of the other. Attends meetings of General Service and Intergroup.

Average monthly commitment: 2-4 hrs.

Hospitals & Institutions Liaison

Acts as liaison between H&I and Intergroup, keeping both areas apprised of the activities of the other. Attends meetings of H&I and Intergroup.

Average monthly commitment: 2-4 hrs.

Newsletter Editor

Coordinates efforts to produce Newsletter; collects information from membership and committee liaison reporters; sees that Newsletter is edited and prepared for printing; attends Steering Committee meetings, S.C.I.F. meetings and workshops when possible; is aware of items that need to be presented to membership in written form. Is in contact with officers for newsworthy information.

Average monthly commitment: 18-20 hrs.

Outreach

Checks attendance for registered groups. Checks with groups to encour-

BRIDGING THE GAP

Happy New Year to all from the Bridging the Gap Committee here in District 12. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who have made this unique 12th step work possible. Without you, we wouldn't be one of the strongest BTG committees inside of C.N. C.A. 06.

We have such a truly dedicated lineup of people here in Sonoma County.

The Presentation teams that go into our 5 facilities to make our 12th step service available to the newcomer who wants it. The Phone Coordinators, who

match the request and then contact the volunteer with the contact info, The Volunteer Coordinators who continue to update our list of A.A. members willing to do this 12 step work. And most important of all, you the volunteer who finally hears from us that we have a contact for you, and reaches out the hand of A.A. to the newcomer. And I can't forget to thank the other wonderful people on the committee that do things like record the minutes of our monthly meetings, or keep the fellowship informed of our activities through the newsletter, or H&I or Intergroup or General Service. Since the month of June 2002 through November 2002, we have been able to serve 224 newcomers requesting contact with a sober member of A.A. in their home community. Of those 224 requests,

age them to send reps to Intergroup. Volunteers to attend meetings are a necessary part of this committee, whose main emphasis is to encourage groups in Sonoma County to be active in the A.A. community and Intergroup.

Average monthly commitment: 6-12 hrs.

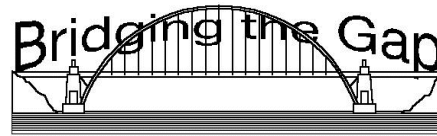
Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) Liaison

Acts as liaison between PI/CPC and Intergroup, keeping both areas apprised of the activities of the other. Attends meetings of PI/CPC and Intergroup. Average monthly commitment: 2-4 hrs.

113 were here locally in Sonoma County. How many of those are still going to meetings? Would be great to believe 100%, but since we don't keep records in A.A. or provide initial motivation, or do followup on errant members will just have to pray that they all have. But you can rest assured that the volunteers doing this service were able to stay sober for one day longer. Nothing assures our sobriety more than one on one work with the newcomer, reaching out and offering help when they can't ask for it, and

giving away unselfishly what has been so freely given to us in the past. If you would like to get involved with service work with Bridging the Gap, please join us each month for our meeting. It is held at the Central Office Bookstore, 750 Mendocino Ave. New orientation at 6:30 followed by our business meeting at 7:00 p.m., you can contact us for more information by email or phone. You will find that info on the back of this newsletter. I am looking forwards to the next 2 years serving on the District panel with Bridging the Gap, and with continuing our commitment to always be there when someone reaches out for help. Thank you all again for your effort of commitment, discipline and responsibility.

In unity and service,
D.I.



Teleservice Chairperson

Oversees day-to-day operations of Teleservice. Conducts monthly Teleservice business meetings.

Average monthly commitment: 8-10 hrs.

Workshop Coordinator

Determines what workshops the Fellowship is interested in. Arranges for speakers and/or panels; contacts participants; sets up time and room for meetings; gets information into Newsletter; encourages participation; attends monthly S.C.I.F. and Steering Committee meetings.

Average monthly commitment: 6-10 hrs.

NO LONGER MEETING

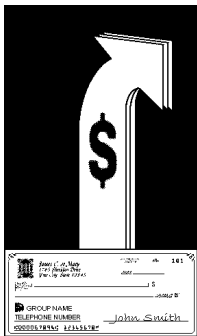
Santa Rosa Rapha Group
(O) (W) Wednesday 6:55PM
920 Bennett Valley Rd.

Santa Rosa ABC 123 Group
(O)(W) Mon./Wed./Fri. 12 Noon
Santa Rosa Junior College
Maggini Hall Rm 2701
(Students Only—last meeting 12/13/02)

Meeting Changes?

Contact Russell @

Group Treasurers



Please be sure
to include your
group's **name**
and **phone**
number on the
check when you
send in your
contributions!

Gloria's Corner

I want to thank all of the people who have volunteered at the Bookstore this year. You have helped make it a great year and *are very appreciated!*

We have calendars and pocket planners available from the Grapevine.

The **Monday PM** Shift is Open.

We would like to invite people to sign up as alternates or to fill in once in a while when someone is sick or on vacation. Please consider this very worthwhile commitment, we *really need* volunteers.

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 Treas.

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

Phone: (707) 546-2066

Fax: (707) 566-9677

E-mail: AASCIF@aol.com

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

Communications / Newsletter

Chair: Bruce W.
Newsletter Editor/Website: Rory B. 528-7797
Bayrisch@msn.com
Russell

Directory Changes:

Sonoma County General Service

DCMC: Pam B.
PI/CPC: Dan C.
District 12 GV: Esther S.
Bridging the Gap: DJ
DjBridgntheGap12@aol.com
Correspondent: Jay B.
SOBERDUUD1@aol.com
Archives: Paul

Hospitals & Institutions

Chair: David B.

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