

Rent-a-\$pon\$or?

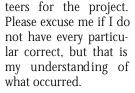
I want to thank all of you for the opportunity of service with Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship. I serve

as chairman for the group, and I must admit it is an interesting job. Among the things I hear in the course of this work is how various groups have handled unusual situations in the course of regular AA meetings.

One group reports that

a person — let's call her "Veronica" — walked into a meeting, and announced her intentions to use this group as part of an ongoing research project.

"Veronica" brought literature and signup paperwork, laid it out on the table and proceeded to recruit volun-



I think the secretary of that meeting handled it well, objecting to the actions of a visitor that ignores traditions such as anonymity and our

primary purpose. But there are other reports that speak of meetings where it has been announced to newcomers

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Founder's Day was a Success!

Our Founder's Day Picnic was a great success this year, with an estimated attendance between 150 - 200. The food spread was bountiful and delicious, the weather was comfortable and the sun did eventually make an appearance. Our speaker was Terry T. , who spoke of AA's heritage and his experience, strength and hope. In gratitude, I would like to give a big THANK YOU to the following volunteers:

From "Turning Point", John S, Scott H, Wayne S, Bob M, Brian C. and Michael R. for set up and bringing a lot of food. Steve B. for set up, clean up and transportation; Paul T., Nick R., and Nancy S. for their wizardry at the BBQ; Carol C. and Susan U. for slice and dice and excellent food prep; Preston M., Dorienne M., Richard J. and Ben T. for cashier duties; Dennis B. for games, David R., for talent show coordinator, Richard B. for meeting secretary, and Terry T. for guest speaker... An extra big THANK YOU to all the fine

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INTERGROUP OFFICERS

◆ CHAIR: James C. 829-3690

020 0000

♦ VICE-CHAIR: Bruce McL.

544-6958

◆ SECRETARY: Kay S

526-5502

♦ TREASURER: OPEN

♦ REGISTRAR: Richard B.

INTERGROUP COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

SEMINARS: Steve B.

♦ ACTIVITIES: Larry O.

♦ OUTREACH: Mark F.

♦ COMMUNICATIONS:

Rory B. 528-7797

♦ HOTLINE/TELESERVICE:

Kim C. 584-5831

ALKATHONS: Terry T.

AA HOTLINE TELESERVICE

CHAIR: Kim C.

584-5831

SCHEDULER: Loretta D.

♦ 12 STEP COORDINATOR:

Teri T. 664-0768

SANTA ROSA HOTLINE

544-1300

♦ LONG DISTANCE ONLY 800-224-1300

♦ PETALUMA HOTLINE 762-5122

♦ SONOMA HOTLINE 938-2027

◆ SPANISH HOTLINE 545-7417

SCIF BUSINESS MEETING

SCIF MINUTES

May 26, 2003

Serenity Prayer recited, Tradition 5 read by Rudy, Concept 5 by Joanne.

Introduction of new Reps: Debbie Mcb. From Quitting time. Carolyn J. from Friday Nooners; Rynwood, women's growing pains; Nancy N. from the Sonoma Valley Fellowship; Roy L. from the Keep it Simple group; Joanne G. from Friday night live; Rudy P. from Big Book Study, Vicki from Expect a Miracle; Gary from We're the now group; Joanne from Just for Today.

May Birthdays: Ben, 20 Months, Rory B., 6 years, and Kay S., 14 years.

The **Seventh Tradition** was practiced.

The **April minutes** were approved

Registrar: Richard. Please make sure you sign in. According to the information we have, there are about 196 groups in Sonoma County, with 56 represented and 136 not represented (This is about 25% of the groups are represented). The computer program can only handle one city per group, so when you sign in with your group in one city and your home address in another, it is not clear what we should do. We are working with the program to rectify this error.

Outreach: Mark F. There are currently 136 un-represented meetings.

LIAISON REPORTS

GSR: Donna Reports that all are invited to the annual barbecue on June 2, up at the church at Newanga, please bring a side dish to share, and they supply the hamburgers, dogs and fixings. Does anyone know who made the two wooden bowls that are in the display case at the bookstore?

There are motions you should be hearing about from your GSR representative concerning changing the word God to a more gender neutral noun or phrase. This change will only happen with 75% approval of all registered AA groups.

H&I: Scott. We take 38 meetings into Hospitals and Institutions per month. This last month we had no black outs.

PI/CPC: No rep resentative in attendance.

Bridging the Gap: No representative in attendance.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chair: James C. Has description of position for Treasurer, and reminds groups to make sure their group name is on any donations they send to Intergroup so they get credit for it.

Vice-Chair: Bruce Mcl. There were 6 new reps at the orientation seminar at 7:30, with 3 new meetings represented.

Treasurer pro tem: John S. The Fellowship is doing well, but donations will be down this month.

Bookstore: Gloria. The new book "Experience, Strength and Hope" has come out. The cost is \$9:50. Many of the regular volunteers are out, and we have every Tuesday morning, every other Tuesday afternoon, every other Friday morning, and one Saturday a month. We also need volunteers to take over the tape library and the inventory.

Seminars: Steve We may rent a place for a seminar on Steps 4 and 5 for July 19. Not sure yet of the location, but speakers are all in place.

Activities: Larry For the Picnic on June 6, we need talent, and food. *Hot August Nights* has the D.J. arranged, at the Sebastopol Community Center.

Teleservice: Dave has a giant resentment that the phone is not being answered, we need help, Call Loretta today.!!!

Communications: Rory B. wants local stories for the newsletter. The proposal to place the news letter on line is on hold right now for more feedback from the groups.

Alkathon: Terry T. Finally it has been determined that ST Mark's church will host the Alkathons, with the proviso that we have a sponsor from the church with us at all times. Volunteers were requested from the group to take on the search for a member of the church to do this chore.

Old Business: There are currently no volunteers to assume position of Treasurer. The job description includes paying bills, preparing financial statement, submitting reports, attendance at ICSC meetings, and receiving monies from activities. It is about 15 hours a month.

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HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

"Then comes the World War. By now I've met Lois, we're married. I start for the front—I'm pretty much elated again, but after the war I ran up against the same problem that veterans do when they come home now—back in America I'm a nobody again. There aren't any jobs. I become rather rebellious against the powers that be. I become very radical in my opinions. I study law nights, again the old power to show somebody. Finally I wound up in Wall Street. I made a lot of money — I thought it was my brains. It wasn't; it was just dumb luck, which came to me in the boom of 1929.

Meanwhile, drinking, drinking, drinking, more drinking. My wife Lois recognized that it was a problem. I said it was a good man's fault. Each time I got drunk, I thought the next time I would control it better. Why did I drink in the era of success? You know why I drank. I drank because I could dream dreams of still greater accomplishments. I could dream dreams of power. And again the crash came, and it was all swept away. Well, my pride was so great that I looked with scorn upon those who committed suicide because they had lost their money. I figured, well, next time I'll do better. I'll come back. But I didn't come back, and you alcoholics in the prisons, you know why I didn't come back."

SCIF Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Discussions concerning the posting of the Newsletter on the Web as a downloadable Adobe .PDF file.

Vicky 12x12 discussion group want the names of members left out, and the financial information of the groups left out. Nancy of the Up the Steps Group also wants name and numbers left out, and there group wanted more time to consider it.

Motion passed to allow more time while this change is considered.

New Business: It is the responsibility of Intergroup to host the unity day this year, we will be selecting a unity day coordinator.

Group concerns: Cumulative meeting changes could be printed in the newsletter before they come out in the revised meeting schedule.

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

In service, Kay S. [Part 10 of Bill W.'s chair at San Quentin in the early years of H&I, reprinted from a 1951 *Grapevine*].

The June 4 meeting of the H&I Committee was pleased to greet new reps Rob, Heidi S., Cindy Theresa G., Tana and Tom. Visiting us were Ed, Carol, Brett W., Jerry A., Dino,



Roger R., and Jeannie. Welcome to you all—we're glad you're here! Celebrating sobriety birthdays in the Month of June were Matthew, with 1 year; Kathy V., 10; Jerry, 2; Lisa C., 13; Jerrin, 12; Carol S.,1 and Ben with 21 months. Many happy returns to all of you!

Daniel G. shared with us how he got in volved in H&I at 6 months of sobriety. He

began going into (then) Community Hospi tal for the Top of the Hill meeting, which is formatted as Bill and Bob did it in the early years—talking to patients in the hospital who were willing to listen to the message of AA. He said he has been kept so busy with his H&I commitments that he doesn't have time to think about drinking. For him, the focal point is sharing the hope he found in AA, whether the point is well taken or not. He has found the meaning of "there but for the grace of God go I." He has learned about being reliable-showing up and showing up on time. Through his H&I service, he has learned to apply the principles of the program to his everyday life.

For those of you who would like to learn about sharing something of yourselves with those who are confined, you are cordially invited to join us next month on Wednes day, July 2, 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

ACTIVITIES

Happy Father's Day to all of you good and excellent fathers, where would we be without you? and your DNA? Seriously, to be a good Dad is divine, embrace fatherhood and good events are bound to happen.

CONGRATULATIONS to all who graduated this year and to all who help those graduates accomplish that goal. Achievement is bliss... to be able to say "I can do this!" and "I did it!" is delicious

Our next event is **Hot August Nights** on Saturday, August 9, 2003, it is the first

in a series of four meeting and dance events that will conclude on Valentines Day 2004. This event will be at The Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street, Sebastopol, California (off Highway 12 on the east side of Sebastopol) starts at 7PM. The Hot August Nights theme is a celebration of those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, of long daylight

hours, baseball, soccer and football, of growing and harvesting crops, summer love, hard work, prosperity and life experiences. We take time to honor this summer season with a meeting/party/dance.

Anyone wishing to show off a classic or custom car, motorcycle or vehicle are encouraged to do so in the parking lot before the meeting (6:007:00PM). Attire is classic/casual, there will be a suggested donation of \$7.00 and there will be light refreshments for sale. The speaker will be Susan M. The DJ will be The Batman

(Craig G.) and Friends, who promise to have us dancing from start to finish! As always, volunteers are welcome to help set up, decorate, food prep and clean up. If you want to help call me at 795-4081. This event should be FUN, we hope to see you there!

Your trusted servant, Larry



GENERAL SERVICE

Greetings Fellowship!

We in General Service have been busy carrying the message, most recently the message of your CNCA Delegate who shared his report at the Post-Conference Assembly in Cloverdale, and then again at the June District 12 business meeting, right here in Santa Rosa. Doug G. is enthusiastic about serving our Area and has done a tremendous job representing the AA groups of CNCA (California Northern Coastal Area...you are in it!), which spans from the Santa Barbara area to the Oregon border.

The regular business meeting of District 12 was held on Monday June 2, 2003. This month, our meeting was preceded by the annual picnic. The picnic was once again a huge success thanks to all the folks who set up, cooked, brought food and cleaned up. Thank you to everyone who pitched in! The food was bountiful and excellent.

This month, we had five new GSRs. A big welcome to Pat D., David B., Cindy D., Chet and Jared. Keep coming back...and remember that we are all here to assist you! We also celebrated several AA birthdays. Happy sobriety birthday to: Robert, 10 years; Steve, 12 years; Margrete 16 years; Victor, 3 years; Jared, 2 years; Tasslyn, 4 years and our very own Recording Secretary, Rose with 3 years.

Congratulations to Mary L., who was voted in as the new liaison to District 18 and to Padee McC. who was voted in as the new DCM for Sub-district 09 (West Sonoma County). Thank you, Mary and Padee for being willing to serve!

We were very fortunate to have the CNCA Delegate, Doug G. as our visitor this month. His report covered discussions and recommendations that occurred at the General Service Conference in New York. Doug was on the Literature Committee, and I will briefly touch on some of the 11 approved recommendations that were made at the Conference: An introduction will be added to future editions of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, regarding the historical content of the material and will include a passage about the fellowship's strong feeling to retain the writings of Bill W. as they are, based on the 2002 Conference Advisory Action; to move forward with a longawaited new edition of the Spanish Big Book, ideas regarding updated stories will be brought back to the 2004 conference; AA World

Service Board will be putting the Fourth Edition of the Big Book on the AAWS website; the proposal to update the illustrations and language of the cartoon pamphlet "What Happened to Joe?" was unanimously approved; the pamphlet "It Happened to Alice" will be redone after further draft ideas are reviewed in 2004.

All changes in AA cannot happen without input from the AA groups. This is why your GSR invites you to attend the "sharing

SUMMER ASSEMBLY

Saturday, August 2 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Cubberly Community Center 4000 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto

Registration: 9:00am
Orientation: 9-9:30am
Business Meeting: 10-12:00pm
Lunch: 12-1:15pm

Workshop Session I

1:15-2:15_{PM} Workshop Session II

2:30-3:45рм

Report Backs 4:00-4:30PM

What's On Your Mind 4:30-5:00PM

sessions" in early Spring...that way, we can inform our Delegate what we, the groups, want and need. Get involved! It is an amazing process, and if you have not had the chance to participate, I invite you to talk to your group's GSR and attend the sessions next year. As a participating AA member, I am assured that my voice is heard through the Group Conscience, through the Assembly process, through our trusted Delegate and ultimately through the Higher Power's will for the group and the entire fellowship. That is what the "bigger picture" is all about!

The next big event for us will be the Summer Assembly on August 2nd in Palo Alto. There are three motions still on the floor, and your group is invited to be involved.

Those motions are as follows:

- 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 jo in 07-006;
- 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;
- 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.

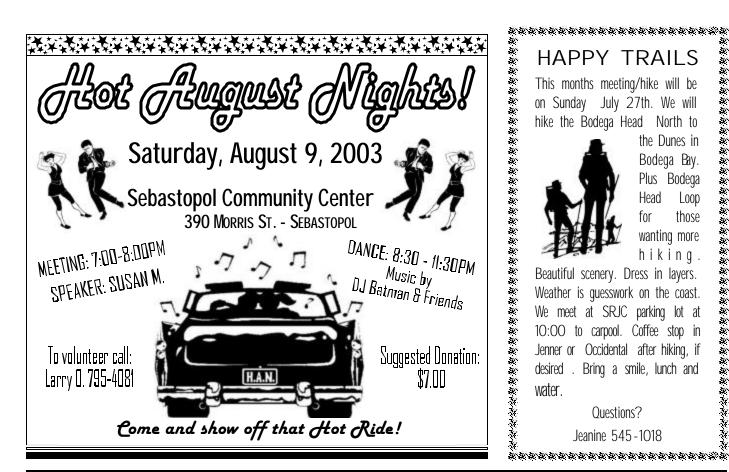
Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.

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.

If you want to participate, please ask your GSR to set up a sharing session so that your group can discuss the motions. Remember that your General Service Representative <u>may be asked to vote</u> on these motions at the Assembly.

Once again, thank you for letting me be in service. Our next monthly business meeting will be held on Monday July 7th 2003 at Faith Lutheran church on Newanga Blvd. in Santa Rosa: New GSR Orientation is 7^{PM}, Business meeting is 7:30. See you then!

In Love and Service, Mary W.



HAPPY TRAILS

This months meeting/hike will be on Sunday July 27th. We will hike the Bodega Head North to



the Dunes in Bodega Bay. Plus Bodega Head Loop for those wanting more hiking. Beautiful scenery. Dress in layers. Weather is guesswork on the coast. We meet at SRJC parking lot at 10:00 to carpool. Coffee stop in Jenner or Occidental after hiking, if desired . Bring a smile, lunch and water.

> Questions? Jeanine 545-1018

RECOVERY						RECOVERY
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
为教	林沙	1	2 Hospital & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:45: New Rep Orientation 6:15: Business Meeting	3	Independence Day	5
6	7 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45: Service Manual Study 7:00: New Rep Orientation 7:30: Business Meeting	8	PI/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00: Speaker Training 7:30: Business Meeting	10	11	12
13	SCIF Bookstore 14 6:30: AA Teleservice Business Meeting 7:15: ICSC Meeting 8:00: Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	15 Bridging the Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30: New Rep Orientation 7:00: Business Meeting	16	17	18	Seminar: 19 Steps 4&5 3-5pm @ SCIF Bookstore District 18 (Spanish) 5519 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor 4:30pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 General Service Area 6 Petaluma Community Center 320 N. McDowell Blvd 12:00
27 Happy Trails 10:00: SRJC Parking Lot at Bailey Field See Above for more info!	Intergroup 28 St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30: Newsletter Collating 7:30: New Rep Orientation 8:00: Business Meeting	General Service District 12 Officers Meeting - 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	30		***	***

SEMINARS

The May 17th Seminar held at the SCIF Bookstore was modestly successful. I would like to thank the panel; Carolyn, Vicky, Bill N. and Garland. All of you delivered a personal and powerful message to those who attended.

Our next Seminar will be held on Saturday, July 19, also at the Bookstore. The topic we will be discussing is Steps 4 and 5. Come Join us and we will see what kind of fireworks were left over from the 4th of July!

As always, a big Thank You to Gloria for making the flyers and allowing us to use the Bookstore. Thanks also to Joaquine C. for designing the current flyer.

In Service,

Steve

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that sobriety can come with a price-tag, if one cares to follow the insights of a special group or personality. These so-called "insights" guarantee success and advocate such un-traditional requirements as paid sponsorship, limited or non-existent group conscience polls, and so on. I have heard that people attending these meetings, old-timers and newer members, have spoken out against such notions. Taking advantage of newcomers, some of whom are literally grasping at straws (as many of us were when we were new), is never correct.

I have also heard that many sober AA's have simply walked out of these meetings, declaring later (perhaps) that it wasn't AA, no sense in staying. I prefer the former stance, because I believe that carrying the message to other alcoholics enables me to speak up. I come to a meeting because I am supposed to be there, I need to be there, and recovery is the point. No one can convince me that my recovery is being served at a meeting where obvious misrepresentations of AA are being accepted in silence by those who have been around for awhile. I need to speak up for my own recovery.

In Service, James C.

THE MIRACLES OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

On the 25th of May I was returning from "Gathering of Eagles" in Dallas, Texas. I was at the Airport Terminal Building. It was unbelievable that there were that many people waiting to check in and get a boarding

pass. I stood in line for almost one hour. There were no seats available but finally a man got up to leave and I asked him if he was coming back and he assured me that he was leaving. I sat down and the man next to me asked me where I was going and I told him Sonoma, California. In a little while he

asked if I was visiting Dallas and I told him no, that I was speaking at a Conference. He was silent for a little while and finally asked me what type of a Conference it was and I told him it was about alcoholism. Subsequently, he asked me if I was in AA.. I said I was and he then told me he went to AA meetings for about one year but had not been to one for six years. I did not try to sell him on going back to meetings but he asked me how long I had been a member. I

told him it will be fifty-five years on 5 July. He became very interested and wanted to know where I went to meetings. I told him I went in Sonoma and surrounding cities, but got sober in Valley Stream, Long Island

while in the Air Force. I told him however that my most important station was Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He said "When were you there". I said from 1953 until I retired in 1961. He said. "I was there at that time". I asked him what Squadron he was in and he replied, "3700th Medical Squadron". I almost

fainted because that was my Squadron also. That was 57 years ago and we did not recog nize each other but I gave him me business card and he promised to contact me. Although it is a short time since seeing him, he promised to write me and his last words were, "I think I will go to a meeting when I come back". The Miracles of this program are

still in place.

Yours in recovery, Bill

Founder's Day

(Continued from page 1)

folks who took time out your busy schedule to participate and celebrate our 68th AA birthday with delicious food, overwhelming willingness, musicianship and joy!

Yours truly, Larry

20th Anniversary Celebration

The Any Lengths Group Forestville

WHERE: Forestville United Methodist Church

(Center St. and Covey Rd.)

July 19th 2003

Dinner: 5:30 - 7:00PM

Meeting: 8:00 - 9:30PM

To celebrate 20 years and remember

how the meeting started

The BBQ is sponsored by the group. Please bring a Potluck dish, desert, or beverages to share. We'll have desert and fellowship after the meeting until 11:00PM.

In Memoriam:

Indian Frank

Indian Frank passed away May 24, 2003 in Las Vagas, New Mexico. Residing at The Villa, Frank lived in Sonoma County for over 20 years. A stocky man, Frank had long dark hair, a limp and a face carved from hard times. With his quiet voice Frank was sometimes hard to hear at meetings, but his message was always clear.

Many, many of us have heard his story – rough, painful, ugly – taking him 26 years to finally stay in AA and achieve sobriety. Frank's 25th Sobriety Birthday was on May 23, the day before his passing. There's no telling how many Alcoholics he has touched, but one thing for sure, he lived our AA principles every day by reaching out to other Alcoholics.

We miss you Frank. We will not forget you and we carry your love in our hearts. For all who care to join we will be celebrating Frank's life on July 13 at 2:00PM with a gathering at Julliard Park in Santa Rosa.

> For more information contact Judy O. at 837-0840

MEETING CHANGES

Rohnert Park New Women in AA
(C) (W) Monday 7:00PM

Address Correction: 7352 Boris Court

Santa Rosa Alcoholics Only
(C) (W) Monday 7:30PM

New Location: 1225 Fulton Road

Santa Rosa Working Winners
(C) (W) Thursday 8:00PM

New Location: 3333 Chanate Road

Santa Rosa <u>Lightpoint Ladies Group</u>
(O) (W) Sunday 6:00PM

Now a 12+12 Step Study

Santa Rosa <u>Big Book Review</u>
(C) (W) Sunday 7:30PM

New Location: 1225 Fulton Road

Meeting Changes? Contact Russell

Gloría's Corner

I want to thank all the people who have been helping out while looking for work or recovering their health. The have been a blessing!

Open Shifts:

- Every other Thursday AM
- ▲ Every other Friday AM

All Chips will be 1/2 Price for the month of July, so stock up now!

I would also like to thank John S. for running the Bookstore while I was on vacation.

Thanks Everyone!



ADDRESSES

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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: 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

887-2091

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

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