

SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

June 2004



Where: Doyle Park, Santa Rosa Sonoma Ave. & Doyle Park Dr. When: Saturday, June 19, 2004 From 11:00AM until 5:00PM











FOLLOWED BY SUN, FUN, FOOD & VOLLEYBALL





Hot Dogs, & Hamburgers \$2.00 Sodas & Mineral Water \$1.00 Bring Side Dishes and Desserts

For Information or to Volunteer Call Craig G. (Batman) (707) 206-0360

COME CELEBRATE AA'S 69TH BIRTHDAY!!!













Young and Sober... Together at Last

The young people of Sonoma County have started a meeting and a young people's committee. We call ourselves SOCYPAA (Sonoma County Young People in AA). We want to unify young people and provide a place where young newcomers can meet and relate with AAs. So far fabulous! People seem to be very excited that we are doing this, and we are thrilled as well. I serve on the PI/CPC committee. When I told them about our plans, everyone was excited about it. It was decided that I should write the article to tell the rest of you about it.

Here's what we are doing... **SOCYPAA** business meeting is on the first Friday of the month at 6PM. The meeting place is undecided (we'll keep you posted). **Young**

and Sober Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting Sundays at 6PM on the corner of Stony Point and Giffen, Stony Point Ministry Center.

Here's how it happened... We were just sitting around one day over coffee and a friend said to me, "I think we should start a young people's meeting." After discussing possible times and places, we decided on Sundays at 6:00PM at her house. Later we met there with some other people who were interested in starting a meeting. As we talked, it became clear that we wanted to start a committee, and that was going to be a bigger job. We needed to do some research, so we all went out with our assignments and agreed to report back the next Sunday. In the meantime, we heard (Continued on page 7)

THE BEST CALL

Janis G. tells about her thoughts and experiences as a new Teleservice volunteer...

I recently accepted an AA Teleservice commitment, and am sharing what it has been like so far. Surprisingly, it began with a desire to give back to the AA program, but has turned into a valuable tool every week for me to maintain my own emotional sobriety.

It's a great commitment for me, because I am able to do it in the comfort of my home. So if you don't have a drivers license yet, (been there, done that) or have family for whom you want to be around, it's perfect. If you are lucky enough to have a cell phone, you could do the commitment just about anywhere. One week, I borrowed my sponsor's cell phone and did my shift while I was watching my daughter's talent show at school.

There are two kinds of callers, in my experience. Sober and drunk. The beginning of my shift is usually the first. Callers simply want to know when and where meetings are. One time a truck driver was passing through with his rig, and needed to

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INTERGROUP OFFICERS

◆ CHAIR: Kay S.

VICE-CHAIR: Steve B.

♦ SECRETARY: Kim M.

♦ TREASURER: John S.

♦ REGISTRAR: Deborah

INTERGROUP COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

♦ SEMINARS: Sebrina

◆ ACTIVITIES: Craig G.

♦ OUTREACH: Linda C.

◆ COMMUNICATIONS: Rory B.

 HOTLINE/TELESERVICE: David L.

♦ ALKATHONS: Brian A.

AA HOTLINE TELESERVICE

♦ CHAIR: David L.

♦ SCHEDULER: Loretta D.

 12 STEP COORDINATOR: Andi P.

◆ SANTA ROSA HOTLINE 544-1300

◆ Long Distance Only 800-224-1300

◆ PETALUMA HOTLINE

762-5122 ◆ SONOMA HOTLINE

SPANISH HOTLINE

545-7417

938-2027

SCIF BUSINESS MEETING

SCIF MINUTES

April 26, 2004

The Serenity Prayer was recited. Tradition 4 was read by Brian and Concept 4 was read by Allison.

Kay read the **Preamble**.

Introduction of New Reps: Brian from Young and Sober, Pam from Check It Out, Steve from Afternoon Delight, Robert from Burbank Group, Kevin from Young & Young at Heart, Maureen from Sisters of Surrender.

April Birthdays: Jim 6 years, Cindy 10 years, Colin 18 years, Bob 10 years, Steve 13 years, Sharon 1 year and Susan 18 years.

The **Seventh Tradition** was practiced.

March Minutes were approved.

Registrar: Deborah had no report due to misplaced clipboard except to remind folks to sign-in.

Outreach: Linda reported that she visited 9 un-represented meetings at Intergroup and has been handing out Secretary Guides, which she indicated were available to Intergroup Reps.

LIAISON REPORTS

General Service: Donna K. indicated that 396 folks attended the Pre-Conference Assembly. G.S. will host a picnic the first Monday in June where the delegate will speak about the topics that were discussed at the New York Assembly. Everyone is invited; bring a side dish.

H&I: No report.

PI/CPC: Dave R reported that they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM and that they have a need for young speakers for presentations at schools.

Bridging the Gap: Carolyn A. explained that BTG matches peopled exiting from treatment programs with AA volunteers to take them to their first meeting. Volunteers need 6 months of sobriety and working knowledge of steps. They had 33 local requests and 29 out-of-district requests for BTG services last month.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chair: Kay S. did a role-play of how *not* to give an Intergroup report to a group. Indicated that an H&I Liaison was needed; Bruce G. volunteered.

Vice Chair: Steve B. oriented 7 new reps

one was from the new young people's group.

Treasurer: John S. reviewed the financial report on page 5 of newsletter and indicated that SCIF is doing well.

Bookstore: Gloria reported that chips will be half price in July. She made a correction: Pam, not Pat, helped with Bookstore Inventory in March. Next inventory will occur April 30th; helpers are welcome at 3PM. New books in large print: As Bill Sees It, Living Sober and Came to Believe. She received a nice letter from Chris, former SCIF Newsletter editor, who lives in Utah. He thanked Intergroup for his experience and for helping to keep him sober. He was able to help his rural area start a newsletter due to his experience with Sonoma County Intergroup.

Seminars: Sebrina reported the next seminar will occur on 3rd Saturday of May from 3PM to 5PM; topic will be Getting Young People Sober and it will be held at the Santa Rosa Senior Center.

Activities: Craig reported that the Hawaiian Dance went well and a majority of attendees showed great spirit showing up in Hawaiian wear. The Founder's Day Picnic will occur on June 19th at Doyle Park: time and details to come soon.

Teleservice: Dave L. reported that their business meeting is open to all and occurs on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Need Daily Coordinators and volunteers on Saturdays from 1-5PM; Sundays from 8AM-1PM, 5PM-10PM and 1PM-9AM; Mondays from 1PM-5PM.

Communications/Newsletter: Rory B. indicated that everything is going well.

Alcathons: Brian indicated that a location for the Alcathons is in the works, but not finalized yet. More info to come soon.

Old Business: Barbara said that her committee met, but only one person on the committee responded to her calls to participate. Based on that meeting, she made the following motion on facilities affiliation/non-affiliation with AA: "We move that meetings held in treatment centers or other recovery facilities not be listed in our meeting directory in order to avoid affiliation, whether actual or implied." Kay indicated that Intergroup Reps should take this motion back to their groups to discuss.

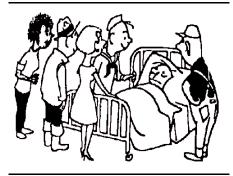
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HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

"Within the last three years, the US Department of Justice released a research report indicating as much as 80% of our prisoners should be classified either problem drinkers or alcoholics. There is little evidence or reason to believe that situation will change significantly during the next 50 years:

- Unless during the next 50 years we are willing to go into our jails and detox centers with greater numbers of the Fellowship involved in this special Twelfth Stepping. Everyone who goes to prison has first been in jail and probably a detox center.
- Unless during the next 50 years we are willing to establish a cooperative relationship with our overworked probation officers who need the kind of support for their alcoholic probationers only an effective AA sponsor can provide. Nearly every person in prison today failed their conditions of probation, and most of those failures were related to alcohol.
- Unless during the next 50 years we are ready to test our collective maturity as we change our attitudes about referrals from treatment centers and the lower courts. There

are too many of us who came to the Fellowship under duress of family, employer, regulatory agency, or others to permit the bigoted attitude some of us display toward court and treatment center referrals. The program won't work for them all, we know, but it won't work for any of



them if they aren't received with the same loving discipline we were received with."

[Part 5 of a 1985 address by W.J. Estelle, JR, then Class A Trustee, Texas]

Eight new meeting reps introduce themselves at the May H&I meeting: Sam, Jim T., Peggy, Julie, Matt, Rob R., Lee, Greg, as well as visitors John and Chris. A big welcome to you all!

There were over 132 years of sobriety being celebrated for the month of May. These inspiring anniversaries were being celebrated by Ellie, with 5 years; Ryan, 5; John, 5; Kevin, 6; Coop, 10; Andy, 4; Lucy, 1; Chris, 2; Daniel, 5; Rochelle, 5; Margie, 24; Keith, 21; Peter, 18; Dave, 19; and Ben, 2 years, 8 months. Many happy returns to each and every one of

Barbara R. gave the 5-minute share, in which she told of how she became in H&I and what it's meant to her sobriety. Looking for a new tool to add to your sobriety toolbox? Ever considered H&I? Why not come on down and check us out at the next H&I Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 2, at 6:15, at the Senior Center on Bennett Valley Road? An orientation will be held at 5:45 and all are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

> In service, Mardi

SCIF Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Group Sharing/Concerns:

Craig indicated that the first business meeting of the new Young Peoples Group will occur on April 30th, at 6PM on Giffen Avenue in Santa Rosa. Bob K. announced May 2nd memorial for Mark Warner. Bob from Cache Creek Group announced that the deadline for deposits has been extended until the trip fills up.

Meeting Summation by Steve:

- ▲ The May Seminar will take place at the Santa Rosa Senior Center.
- ▲ Gloria needs help with bookstore inventory.
- ▲ General Service will host Post Conference Assembly on May 15th.
- ▲ Founder's Day Picnic will occur on June 19th at Dovle Park.
- ▲ Teleservice needs help.
- ▲ The formation of a new Young People's Group was announced.

Submitted in Service, Kim

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES FROM THE BATCAVE

When it was suggested that I attend AA meetings and become sober, I pictured a room full of hobos, complaining about

how hard their lives were. I thought it was going to be the end of all fun in life. The party was over! It didn't occur to me that life hadn't been a party in quite some time. I was wrong!! You can have fun in sobriety. I have more fun now than when I was drinking. That's why I believe it is important for us to have

other activities besides meetings.

I have a great time at meetings, but I have more fun attending events with my fellow friends in recovery. Sobriety isn't only about not drinking. It is about living life sober and to the fullest! I'm excited about some of the upcoming events. The Founder's Day barbeque is on June 19th, and there will be more dances, including a 70's/80's themed dance. I'm also planning a beach Bon

Fire Night, and we have our theme park get togethers that will be coming up in the summer. So, lots of fun stuff ahead!!

If you have been missing out on sober activities, please try one. They are so enjoyable, and there is so much love and goodwill at them. You'll quickly see that the fun in life has not ended; it

is just beginning. You can have a great time in sobriety! As it says in "A Vision For You," "The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead." Until next month, take care of yourself.

Craig G. (Batman)



GENERAL SERVICE

Greeting Fellowship!

By the time you read this we will be back from the Post-conference assembly in Monterey, (May 15th) where our Delegate, Doug G. will give his report from the General Service Conference in New York. This is where we get to hear

the results of all the hard work that your GSRs and group members put into the assembly process by sharing their group consciences. If you didn't make it to Monterey and are interested in hearing Doug share about the conference, then please come to our annual District 12 BBQ/ potluck picnic/business meeting June 7th, 6:30PM, located at the Faith Lutheran Church, 4930 Newanga Avenue in Santa Rosa where Doug is our guest speaker and will give us highlights of his conference report.

At the District meeting this month we had several new GSRs. A big welcome to Bob, Deborah, Debbie, Dave, Susan, Wendy and Gretchen! Keep coming back, glad to have you on board! We also welcomed the following visitors, Andy (our secret spy from Japan!), Greg T. CNCA Literature/Grapevine chair; past delegates Suzanne and Diane, and past Trustee Tom McG. celebrated the following birthdays: Scott 3 years, Mariko 15 years, Deborah 17 years, Pam 9 years, and Tom McG. 21 years. Miracles, one and all! sobriety birthday everyone!

We were fortunate to have Greg

T. share his service experience as the Literature/GV chair. Greg continues to be enthusiastic after many, many years of service and he is a true inspiration!

This month our focus was on the business at hand: the motion presented by Sub-district 07 regarding the forming of an ad hoc committee to review District 12's financial guidelines. While many opinions were expressed pro and con, the group conscience was expressed by vote and the motion failed. Some shared that while reviewing the guidelines and updating them is a good idea, no one ought to be excluded in that process. Some felt that a committee comprised of General Service members who are not current officers would be fair and a review was long overdue. It was quite remarkable to hear many different views and to observe the entire

DISTRICT 12 ANNUAL BRO/POTLUCK When: Monday, June 7, 6:30PM Where: Faith Lutheran Church 4930 Newanga Ave., Santa Rosa Guest Speaker: CNCA Delegate, Doug G. Followed by the regular business meeting at 7:30PM

process. As I often say, we can 'agree to disagree', and it sure is helpful if we can do that in a respectful manner. Bill W. once referred to AA as "Spiritual Kindergarten". We are all "trudging the road of happy destiny" together and learning how to grow up. AA is a society of alcoholics learning how to get along. Personally, I can't claim anything close to maturity, but as soon as it happens, I'll be sure to let you all know! The early bird edition of Box 4-5-9 is available with a summary of the Conference Advisory Actions. Did you

know...that the punctuation in "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" will be restored in future publishing's of the 4th Edition Big Book to the way in was in the 3rd Edition? That the theme for next year's conference is "Basics of our Home Group-Recovery, Unity and Service"?

> That a draft Spanish-language 3rd Edition Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos will be developed? That the AA pamphlet "Too Young" will be rewritten with changes to the layout and style? These are just a few of the topics that your group may have discussed in sharing sessions. YOU are the voice of AA and by participating in the process, progress is made and changes do occur! All of this information will be compiled in a finalized report and available to members of the fellowship within the next few months.

Another bit of news, the International Convention is coming!!! That's right, the 2005 Convention may seem to be a long way off, but time has a way of flying, so it's not too early to start thinking International. For general and pre-registration information, watch Box 4-5-9 or go to the A.A. Web site: www. aa.org, under "Services for Members." Remember that you will need a passport to fly to Toronto. Also, if you have felonies or misdemeanors in your background, you will want to consider that Canadian laws will differ from ours and you may be restricted from entering

the country. Consider contacting AA world services for more information.

Please join us next month Monday, June 7, 2004 for our annual Potluck/ BBO/Picnic at 6:30PM, followed by the 7:30PM District business meeting with special guest speaker, CNCA Delegate Doug G. The AA service manual study and new GSR orientation will be postponed until July's meeting. See you then!

> In love and service, Mary W.

LAST CALL!



If you haven't signed up for Cache Creek you still may possibly get in on the trip. Every year we have people drop out at the last minute, so give us a call to see if we can squeeze you in!

Final Final notice to all who are signed up for the Cache Creek Trip. You must get your final payments in right away!

Call us: Laurie E. 579-5894 Carolyn A. 526-3279

JULY SEMINAR:

"Singleness of Purpose"



When: Saturday, July 17 3:00-5:00PM

> Where: Ladybug Park Rohnert Park



This months meeting/hike will be on Sunday June 27th. We will be hiking across the Golden Gate Bridge. The views are incredible. Bring your camera. We will leave from the Marin county side. We will have our meeting and lunch on Baker Beach. Bring a smile, lunch and water. Questions? Jeanine 545-1018 or SStarqo@aol.com





SGIF CALLENDAR O JUNE 2004



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	We Are Not A Glum Lot!	1	2 Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:45: New Rep Orientation 6:15: Business Meeting	3	4	5
6	7 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45: Service Manual Study 7:00: New Rep Orientation 7:30: Business Meeting	8	9 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	19 Founder's Day Picnic Doyle Park 11:00-5:00PM District 18 (Spanish) 5519 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor 4:30PM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Happy Trails 10:00: SRJC Parking Lot at Bailey Field See ad 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	Coming in July: AA Teleservice Picnic When: Saturday, July 11, 11:30AM-5:00PM Where: Doyle Park in Santa Rosa		

The Best Call

(Continued from page 1)

find a meeting in town that night.

The end part of my shift is often the latter kind of caller. I am not required to have indepth discussions with every person about how to solve their problems. I only direct them to suitable resources. If they want to talk more, I take down their name and number, and have a caller from my twelfthstep list call them back. These folks are available to talk more - men with men, and women with women.

I've been surprised at what can happen. Once a mother called who was concerned about her daughter's drinking. It sounded so much like what my own mom suffered through. I took her number, called her back and we talked for two hours. We agreed we both felt a lot better afterwards. Another woman called whose problems were so similar to my own story, that I couldn't believe it. I told her how things had gotten worse for me, and that things didn't have to get that bad.

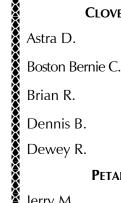
Often, callers have already tried AA and explain to me why it hasn't worked for them. There are many reasons why-"I made other people feel bad because I'm not as bad as them", "I can never find a map to look up where meetings are," "I went once and it didn't help,"

"You don't understand; I can't be an alcoholic because I own my home." On and on it goes. The AA program simply won't work unless a person actually stops drinking at some point, or at least wants to stop. I remember all the excuses I had and I totally identify with the denial we all have initially.

I'm sure some people won't remember much of what was said. I can only suggest going to bed and going to a meeting the next day. If they feel unable to do that, I advise going to the Orenda Center to detox. Sometimes that is the only way to stay sober the 72 hours needed to enter a clean-and-sober living home. I also recommend treatment centers to those who find AA is not enough for them. I have done all of these things myself.

If this sounds like something you could do, why not give AA Teleservice a try? We need people like you. I still have lots of questions about whether I am doing it right, just as I did when I first started going to meetings. And I don't know if I actually help anybody at all. But someone with nine years of experience in Teleservice told me, "The best call is the one that keeps you sober."

> Thank you for letting me be of service, Janis G.



6/30/1987 6/01/1969

6/04/1999

CLOVERDALE

6/07/1995 Dennis B.

6/01/1992

PETALUMA

Jerry M. 6/12/2001

ROHNERT PARK

Carol S. 6/28/2002 lim C. 6/28/1985

SANTA ROSA

Cici E. 6/18/1996 Don S. 6/22/1998

Karen C. 6/04/2001

6/10/1995 Susan M.

Young and Sober

(Continued from page 1)

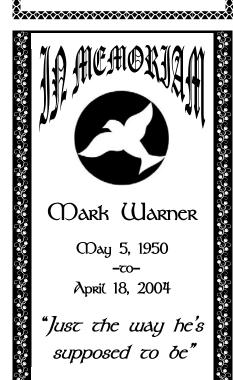
about a young people's meeting on Saturday night in Marin County. We knew that they had a young people's committee, and we were hoping to find out when they were having their business meeting so that we could see how they did it. The meeting was awesome! There were 30 or 40 young people, a great chair, and good cookies. It was inspiring. I had the feeling that if I was young and new in sobriety, that would be where I'd want to be. We also attended the business meeting for the Marin County Young People in AA (MCYPAA). We learned a lot, and some of them came to our first business meeting to help get our committee get started. We had a great turnout that night (about 20 to 30). We held Third Legacy elections for service positions, and we decided the format would be Speaker/Discussion and to hold the meeting on Sundays. The next thing to do was to get the meeting going; and we had a ton of support for that too. Our first regular meeting was on Easter, but we still had a good turn out and some new faces as well. It was awesome! The Marin County fellowship really helped us out, and I would like to

extend my gratitude to them.

We want to have fun in sobriety, and being a part of SOCYPAA has been an absolute joy for me. We hope to do lots of fun things in the future, like have events and do stuff together. I have been looking for the young people in AA, and now we have a place where we can all come together. We hope that people will start more of these kinds of meetings, and we welcome everyone to check out the one we have going now. Remember that the definition of "young" in AA is "anyone with room to grow," so you're all invited.

We want to be clear that we are in no way separate from Alcoholics Anonymous. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. I love this fellowship, the young people, the oldtimers, the newcomers and the inbetweeners. You are all a part of my sobriety, and I feel blessed to be able to express my gratitude to so many of you at once. Thank you so much for your warmth, support, and excitement for what we are doing. I am inspired to help other alcoholics because you have helped me.

> Love and Gratitude, Anonymous



NO LONGER MEETING

Santa Rosa (O) (W)

Brunch Bunch Sunday, 11:00AM 4349 Montgomery Dr.

SEASONAL MEETING

Bodega Bay Oceanside Campfire Group Friday, 8:30PM (O) (W)

Schoolhouse Beach

June 4 through October 15

Meeting Changes? Contact Russell



OPEN SHIFTS:

Saturday: 1PM-5PM (ALTERNATE)

10pm-8am

Sunday: 5PM-10PM

Call the Hotline Coordinator, Loretta D., at 525-0343 for more information.

Gloría's Corner

Large print Living Sober, Came to Believe & As Bill Sees It are now in stock. We have ordered more Daily Reflections in large print, they have been very well re-

I want to thank Carolyn, Pam, Colette and Kevin for their help with the inventory. Many hands make light work!

We now have a full crew at the Bookstore.

I will be on vacation in June. John S. will oversee the Bookstore in my absence.

All chips will be 1/2 price in July.



Many Blessings,

Gloría

ADDRESSES

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PO Box 884222

San Francisco, CA 94118

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.

Hours:

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

Sat 11-3

Mon-Fri 10-6

The Bookstore is closed on these holidays:

Independence Day...July 4th

Labor Day.....September 2nd

Thanksgiving......November 22nd

Christmas.....December 25th

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

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Chair: Kelly

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