



SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP NEWS November 2004

SCIF Holiday Alcathons Returning to Santa Rosa

ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has a sterling set of principles which, when practiced by its members, can lead to lives of happiness, joyousness and freedom. How did I learn this? By going to a lot of meetings, getting a sponsor, working on the Twelve Steps with my sponsor, having service commitments, and associating with others in the fellowship. But, let me ask you something-how do newcomers know to do these things? Do we individually welcome newcomers and tell them these things? Do we expect them to ask us on their own initiative? Or do we wait for them to figure these things out for themselves? When I first came to these rooms in 1981, a bunch of old timers invited me to go with them to a coffee house after the meeting and proceeded to guide me toward key passages in the Big Book. I knew I belonged. But, I don't see that sort of thing happening now. It seems like now old timers expect newcomers to reach out first. Sure, some things have changed since those earlier days. There are lots of court-mandated newcomers, and we've learned that some of them are not yet recovery oriented. And, everything's

WHEN:
6:00PM
Wednesday
November 24
to 8:00PM
Thursday
November 25



WHERE:
Fifth Street
Light at
525 5TH
Street
Santa Rosa

This year's SCIF Holiday Alcathons are returning to Santa Rosa! All three Alcathons will be held at the Fifth Street Light Christian Concert House & Dance Academy (see the map on page 6 for directions).

Come join us for Sobriety, Sharing and the joy of Fellowship! The first Thanksgiving Alcathon meeting will begin at 6:00PM on Wednesday,

November 24 and continue until the last meeting at 8:00PM Thanksgiving night, November 25. There will be meetings every two hours. The meetings will last 1 1/2 hours with a half hour break between meetings.

That's a lot of meetings, and we can still use more volunteers to help make the Holiday Alcathons happen. We will need volunteers for

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AA Hotline: The Real Scoop

Teleservice has been up and running in this Fellowship for years. So it is surprising to hear, in meetings and other gatherings, ideas about Teleservice that are simply inaccurate. For example, I have been asked if the AA Hotline has anything to do with Teleservice. The answer is, indeed it does. The AA Hotline is just what it sounds like, and our goal is that every person who calls for help talks to a live

person who knows the ropes. This is how it works- one alcoholic talking to another. Teleservice puts together the volunteers for this phone system that runs 24/7, 365 days a year. But this is not all that Teleservice does. Sometimes the person calling for help needs someone to visit. Nothing has met with more success than a 12-step call. Teleservice maintains a list of volunteers who are willing to go out on

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SCIF BUSINESS MEETING

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

- ◆ CHAIR: Kay S.
- ◆ VICE-CHAIR: Steve B.
- ◆ SECRETARY: Kim M.
- ◆ TREASURER: John S.
- ◆ REGISTRAR: Deborah L.

INTERGROUP COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

- ◆ SEMINARS: Sebrina G.
- ◆ ACTIVITIES: Craig G.
- ◆ OUTREACH: Linda C.
- ◆ COMMUNICATIONS:
Rory B.
- ◆ HOTLINE/TELESERVICE:
David L.
- ◆ ALCATHONS: 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
938-2027
- ◆ SPANISH HOTLINE
545-7417

SCIF Meeting September 27, 2004

Tradition 9 was read by John, **Concept 9** read by Dave.

The **preamble** was read by Steve.

Intro of New Reps: Ann Marie from *Petaluma Women's*, Alicia from *Young at Heart* of Rohnert Park, Jim from *Monday Night Step Study*, Dave from *Santa Rosa Saturday Night Simply AA*, and Greg from *Santa Rosa Friday Nooners* at the Oddfellows Hall

September Birthdays: Ann, 8yrs; Andy, 7 yrs; Mark, 3 yrs; John, 22 yrs; Deborah, 11 yrs.

Seventh Tradition was exercised.

Minutes of August 23, 2004 SCIF General Meeting were reviewed and approved with one minor correction: under New Reps the Ralph from *Page 62* should read Ralph from *Rule 62*

Registrar: Deborah reported that she will use the Fall/Winter 2004 meeting schedule as a guide for the database she is developing.

Outreach: Linda was absent. Steve reported that she is seeking a co-chair to assist with Outreach efforts.

LIAISON REPORTS

General Service: Donna K. Area Elections will occur in Watsonville October 30th and Local District 12 Elections November 1st. The General Service Conference Literature Committee is soliciting stories from young people aged 13-15 years old to be considered for an update of the AA Pamphlet, *Young People and AA*; the deadline for submission is January 5, 2005. The General Service Conference is soliciting stories from Spanish speaking members for the 3rd edition of *Alcoholicos Anonimos*. Submission deadline is September 5, 2005. Contact the GS office or go online to submit. She reminded Intergroup reps that if their group has a GSR to please allow the GSR to give the GSR report.

PI/CPC: Dave. Group meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at SR City Hall Lounge w/ speaker training at 7:00PM and Business meeting at 7:30PM. He explained that the function of this committee and that they have been distributing literature to hospitals, police stations, senior centers, etc. There are currently 24 different (featuring people of a

wide range of ages/sex/races/social backgrounds) public service announcements for radio and TV. They are currently doing educational presentations at 12 + DUI classes per month.

Bridging The Gap: Carolyn provided a written report: The primary purpose of BtG is to introduce the newly released residents of treatment facilities to AA in their local community. BtG utilizes a list of AA volunteers to match up with the newly released AA newcomer and take them to their 1st meeting. All that is required to volunteer is 6 months sobriety and a working knowledge of the steps (a car is also helpful). BtG gave 4 presentations and had 17 local requests, 20 out-of-district requests and had one brown out.

H&I: Mark. H&I meets on the first Wednesday of each month with an orientation at 5:45PM followed by the business meeting at 6:15PM. The H&I NCAA will occur in Yuba City from October 1st thru the 3rd and the H&I 33rd Annual will be held in Galt April 22-24th, 2005. Contributions to the Pink Can from our local Area 22 for August 2004 amounted to \$2,950.00 and the year-to-date contribution from our local Area 22 is \$26,821.00.

Unity Day: Shirley presented flyers and announced that Unity Day will occur on October 23rd from 9AM to 3PM (**not 4PM as stated on flyer**), at St. Mark Church on Mayette Avenue in Santa Rosa. Volunteers are needed to set up from 7AM to 9AM and clean up from 3PM to 5PM. If you are a business owner and wish make a donation please contact the Unity Day Committee. The next committee meeting will be on October 7th at 7PM at the AA Bookstore.

OFFICER REPORTS

Intergroup Chair: No report.

Vice Chair: Steve B. reported there were 5 reps at orientation.

Treasurer: John S. asked the group to review the monthly financial report on page 5. He said most expenses are for providing free newsletters, free meeting schedules and the Teleservice hotline. Activities and Seminars have been self-supporting. Contributions from groups serve to keep things running and are greatly

(Continued on page 3)



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HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

"Gratitude should go forward rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you."

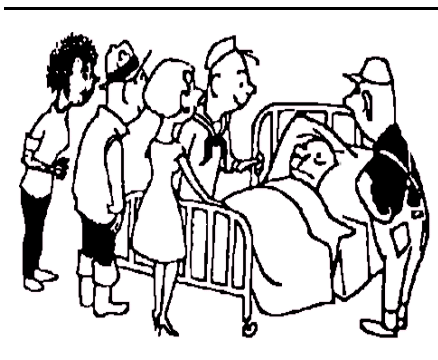
[Letter from Bill W., 1959, reprinted in *As Bill Sees It*.]

On October 6, the H&I Committee welcomed new meeting reps Mark, Matt, Maurice, Jamie, John, Matt, Jim, Jeff, and James. Also checking us out were visitors Mike, Ira and Joe. A warm welcome to you all!

Spooktacular sobriety birthdays for the month of October were being celebrated by Rick, with 2 years; Jamie, 1; Joe, 2; Albert, 7; Jim, 1; Don, 17; Mike, 7; and Barbara, with 9 months. Keep coming back—we think it works!

Tim M. shared with us how, at age 18, he found himself homeless and jobless

and decided to ask for help. He said that AA welcomed him with open arms and has always been there for him. He saw the pink can at meetings



and started asking questions about H&I. He has now been taking meetings into facilities for quite some time and feels grateful to be a sober member of both AA and the Committee, that he is able

to give some of the welcoming feeling back. He has received gifts from the most unlikely source. Even when he feels he has nothing left to give to a meeting, no matter how he felt going in, he's three feet off the ground when he leaves.

Bookmark this site: www.norcalhandi.org. With many thanks to Daniel G., upcoming H&I events will be posted here—check it out!

You may also wish to check out the H&I Committee—all are welcome to attend the orientation at 5:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at the Santa Rosa Senior Center on Bennett Valley Road, followed by the regular meeting at 6:15. **Next meeting is on November 3—we hope to see you there!**

In service,
Mardi

SCIF Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

appreciated.

Bookstore: Gloria asked everyone to review the new books/literature price list. World Services has increased the price for books/literature, so our prices are increasing on October 15th. Calendars and pocket planners for 2005 are available at bookstore. Volunteers are needed on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday. Also the last day of the month to help with inventory. Gloria will be attending the annual AA Bookstore Manager's Convention in October; John S. will manage the bookstore while she is gone.

Activities: Craig announced the next event is the Halloween Meeting and Dance which will occur on October 29th at the Sebastopol Community Center. The speaker will be Jeff B. from Rohnert Park. The band *Dr. MD* will again perform with a DJ between sets. There will be a contest for best costume. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up. On behalf of SOCYPAA, Craig said that 3 folks went to Great America. He is hoping for a better turnout for the Marine World trip on October 10th (see page 3 for details).

Seminars: Steve (for Sebrina) said the September 18th Steps 4&5 Seminar was moderately attended but well done.

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ACTIVITIES

Right on, November means the Holidays are upon us. I've always been a big kid about them, (in case you guys had somehow missed the fact that I'm still a big kid at heart) and I always look forward to them coming.

It's always hard writing about things that haven't happened yet, like the Halloween dance. Here it is the middle of October yet I have to write about things coming up in November. For all I know the Halloween dance was a complete flop, and everybody brought fruit and vegetables and threw it at me, and booted the band off of the stage. But I highly doubt that from all the people who say that they are really excited about this event. So, to all of you that helped, and volunteered, I thank you, and I thank you if you *did not* bring veggies and fruit to throw at the performers and DJ.

Well back to this month, November means Alcathons, and our man Brian is doing a great job handling those this year, he got them back in downtown Santa Rosa, at a really nice place. Kudos to Brian!!! Yaaaay!!

In case you missed it, last month I finished my article in pirate talk in celebration of that long honored family holiday, "International Talk Like A Pirate Day" and because I was so

disappointed in the turnout from the Great America trip the month before and it made me think that nobody reads this article after all. But I guess pirate talk worked, because the SOCYPAA Marine World trip was a total success. We had 12 people show up, (which is good for these kinds of things) the meeting in the parking lot was great, we had a great speaker and discussion, followed by a fun day at the park. Everybody seemed to really have a good time. I think this might become an annual event.

Well I don't have much in November planned, but I'm getting ready for the New Years dance on New Years Eve of all evenings. If you liked the last two dances, the 70's/80's dance, and the Halloween dance, then you are going to want to show up to the New Years Eve bash. But you'll hear more about it next month.

So, I hope everybody enjoys their Turkey, or Tofurkey, (if you are one of those non meat eaters) and has a happy, safe and sober holiday. Hope to see you at the midnight Alcathon meeting, I'll be there with my friends from the Sunday Young and Sober meeting from Santa Rosa hosting that time slot.

Craig G. **(BATMAN)**

THANKSGIVING

Mini-Alcathon

Cloverdale Fellowship Hall

206 N. Commercial

Wednesday,
November 24
6PM - 10PM

Thursday,
November 25
10AM - 10PM

SCIF Holiday Alcathons

(Continued from page 1)

the following positions:

- ▲ Greeters
- ▲ Coffee Makers
- ▲ Food Servers
- ▲ Clean up

It's not too early to start planning! If your home group would like a meeting slot, or you would like to volunteer to help out, please leave a message for Alcathon Coordinator Brian A. at 570-1483.

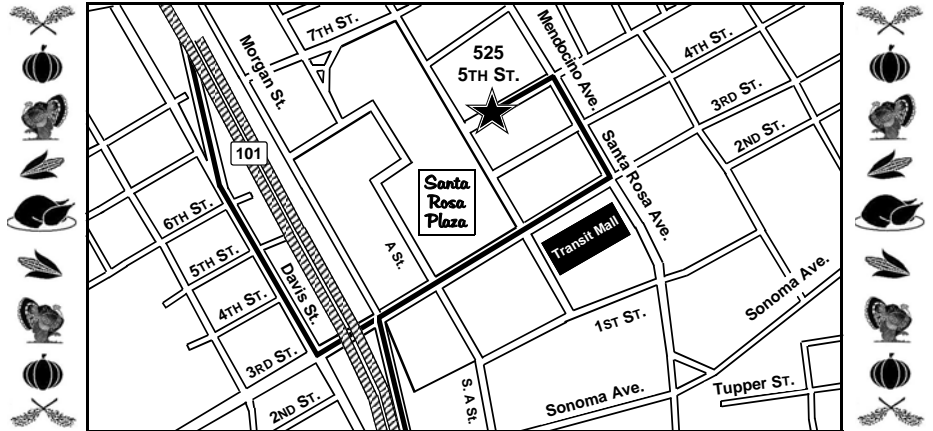
How To Get There:

From Highway 101 North:

- Downtown exit, merge on to Davis St.
- Go to 3rd St. and turn Left.
- Go to Santa Rosa Ave. and turn Left
- Go to 5th St. and turn Left





From Highway 101 South:

- Downtown exit to 3rd St. and turn Right
- Go to Santa Rosa Ave. and turn Left
- Go to 5th St. and turn Left



SCIF CALENDAR NOV 2004



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45: Service Manual Study 7:00: New Rep Orientation 7:30: Business Meeting	2	3 Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:45: New Rep Orientation 6:15: Business Meeting	4	5	6
7	8 SCIF Bookstore 6:30: AA Teleservice Business Meeting 7:15: ICSC Meeting 8:00: Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	9	10 PI/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00: Speaker Training 7:30: Business Meeting	11	12	13
14	15	16 Bridging the Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30: New Rep Orientation 7:00: Business Meeting	17	18	19	20 District 18 (Spanish) 5519 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor 4:30PM
21 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30: Newsletter Collating 7:30: New Rep Orientation 8:00: Business Meeting	22 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting - 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	23	24  Thanksgiving Alcathon First Meeting: 6:00PM	25  Thanksgiving Alcathon Last Meeting: 8:00PM	26	27
28 Happy Trails Will Return in March!	29	30	 Remember.. November is Gratitude Month! 			



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One Primary Purpose

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speeded up and some people don't have as much time to reach out. Plus, some people may have gotten into comfort zones and cliques. Recently I was doing a service commitment at the Fellowship Bookstore, and a woman called, saying she thought she drank too much and she needed some help. I told her where and when the meetings were in her town and to be sure to reach out to others at the meetings. She said she could go to meetings, but she was too shy to make that first contact. You know, there are a lot of introverts among us. A lot of people kept drinking when they discovered they were less inhibited when they drank. So, just because newcomers are shy or reserved, should they be overlooked or disregarded? I don't think so. There should not be a contest between the newcomer and old timer about who reaches out first. While we know that people have to know they want this program in order for it to work for them, and it doesn't work if we try to do someone else's program for them, we can reach out to newcomers with information about what they can do so the

program will work for them. That surely seems fair to me. What does Tradition Five say? "Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Oh. I recently attended a meeting where a newcomer expressed her hurt and disappointment about feeling ignored by the group. The group consequently had a Steering Committee Meeting and discussed how it treats its newcomers. As a result, the group is committed to having a greeter at every meeting, giving every newcomer a packet that includes the group's phone list, and giving a Big Book to any newcomer who doesn't have one. This new, basic message? "Welcome, here are some tools that will assist you in learning how to make this program work for you. Now, it's up to you."

I'm in the reaching-out school. Inclusion. You come through the doorway of my club, my organization, my fellowship, and I want to welcome you. I want you to feel welcome. One way I can do that is by giving you information about how you can profit from being here. Your being here helps me. I hope and pray it works the other way around!

Kate J.

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS



NOVEMBER

CLOVERDALE

Claudia N.	11/11/1989
Victor D.	11/07/1996

HEALDSBURG

James L.	11/14/2002
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PETALUMA

Greg O.	4 Months
Pete	11/01/1983
Stu	11/15/1986

SANTA ROSA

Mary S.	11/04/1999
Steve G.	11/15/1998

AA Hotline

(Continued from page 1)

12-step calls, and anyone answering calls on the AA Hotline can refer to this list and call for volunteers. Yes - we make house calls in order to reach out to the alcoholic who still suffers, and No- we never go alone on one of these calls. Something else I hear regularly are questions about working the phones- Do I have to be at an AA office somewhere? The answer is: No, calls may be routed to your home. So this means that, since you are home every Tuesday night watching TV or whatever, you can make yourself useful as well as ornamental by volunteering for the AA Hotline. Nothing could be easier. Though answering your phone at odd hours is hardly convenient, service rarely is. I suggest that the cost of not being in service is far higher, and I urge you to consider Teleservice. Our business meeting is held the second Monday of each month at the SCIF bookstore in Santa Rosa, and the phone numbers of those who would love to talk to new volunteers are in the monthly newsletter.

James C.

SCIF Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 3)

Teleservice: Dave L. referred to the calendar on page 6 and pointed out when Teleservice meets and invited everyone to attend. He then referred to the Hotline openings which are printed on page 7 of the newsletter. He indicated that the daily Ad (which advertises AA and our phone number) we place in the Press Democrat costs \$225.00 per month. He asked the reps to inquire via a sharing session if their groups would like to continue the ad or discontinue the ad as a means of saving money. Reps will have an opportunity to share their group's consciences' at the next General Intergroup meeting on October 25th.

Communications: Gloria filled in for Rory and indicated that the website will reflect the latest meeting changes within a week or so.

Alcathons: Brian said that his new phone number is 542-4452 and reported that Jay (523-2069) has the sign-up sheets for the Thanksgiving Alcathons; Maureen (588-2768) has sign-up sheets for Christmas Alcathons. The Alcathons will run from 6PM the day before and end on the day of Thanksgiving at 9:30PM (to allow ample time for clean-up).

New Business: Steve asked folks to volunteer for the upcoming ICSC vacancy and explained what ICSC is and does. The position of Treasurer will be open in February. John S. asked for volunteers and explained the requirements and duties of this position. He will bring a written job description to the next meeting.

Group Sharing: A Rep drew attention to an article in the October Newsletter entitled "Get Sober, Get Cheap!". Another Rep stated that the groups who do not have Reps at the General meeting are the ones who need to be nudged into contributing to Intergroup, and one other rep suggested that meeting treasurers give monthly treasurer reports so as to facilitate steady contributions to Intergroup.

Summation: Steve B.

1. Gloria needs help with inventory.
2. Donate to Intergroup.
3. Marine World Trip October 10th.
4. Keep or drop AA Ad at \$225.00 per month?
5. Support the Alcathons -Brian's phone number is 542-4452.

Gratefully in Service,
Kim M.



