Who Was John Barleycorn, Anyway, and What's He Got To Do With... By Nicky Y. Page 4 Some of the Best Meetings By Tim P. Page 9 My Experience, Strength, and Hope Through Teleservice By Peggy S. Page 10 The Brodz Are Here By Roseann M. Page 11

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Why We Need Policies and Procedures Text of Proposed Policies and Procedures Page 7 Page 8



sonoma county Intergroup **Fellowship**

September

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

Ahoy, Mateys! Thar Be Pirates A-Dancin'



Where? Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St., Sebastopol.

When? Saturday, September 29.

Meeting & Sobriety Countdown: 7:00 P.M.

Dance: 8:30 - 12:00 Midnight Suggested Donation: \$10

To volunteer, call Laurie E.

SOCYPAA is going to Great America Sunday, September 16th

Meet at the far end of the parking lot near the Top Gun roller coaster. There will be a "tailgate" meeting at 9am before we proceed into the park.

The price for admission at the gate is \$51.95 but tickets can be purchased online for \$36.95 at www.cedarfair.com/greatamerica/shop/ shopping general_admission.cfm.

For more information, call Jabin

Thanks.

Jessica S.



Coming in October— The Annual Halloween Dance.

October 26 at 7:00 P.M.



The Alcathons Are Coming!

The 2007 Alcathons are just around the corner. If you would like to be of service, or, if you know of anyone who would like to be of service, join us at Starbucks on Farmers Lane, Wed., Sept. 5th, at 6:30 p.m. for a Steering Committee meeting. If you have a fresh idea for the Alcathons, come join us.

Dale E.

Unity Day 2007

The 2007 Unity Day will be held on November 10, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Carpenter's Hall, 1706 Corby Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Announcements will be available soon. ~Ben C.

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12-Stepping

September Seminar September 15 3:00 - 5:00 P.M. SCIF Bookstore 750 Mendocino Avenue

For a related article, see page 11, "Some of the Problems of 12th Step Work."

July 2007 Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer.

PREAMBLE: Todd D.
TRADITION 4: Connie C.
CONCEPT IV: Mark P.

Introduction of new representatives:

Christie A., Keep it Simple, Santa Rosa, Sat 7 pm
Paul E., Big Book Review, Santa Rosa, Sun 7:30 pm
Kris M., Grin and Win, Santa Rosa, Thu 8 pm
Raijanna M., H.O.W. it Works, Santa Rosa, Sun 7 pm
Hannah R., Yulupa Lodge Group, Santa Rosa, Tue 8 pm
Michael W., There is a Solution, Santa Rosa, Sat 10 am
Jeff W., Came to Believe, Santa Rosa, Sun 2 pm

April Birthdays:

Seth S., 1 year
Jeff W., 2 years
James W., 3 years
Bruce C., 4 years
Christina C., 5 years

OFFICER REPORTS:

CHAIR: Diane W. It was a busy month with inventory, the seminar, the picnic, and ICSC business. Diane reviewed subscriptions to the newsletter and discovered expired subscriptions that will save \$285 per year in postage. She reminded officers, committee chairs and liaisons to keep their reports short in order to allow for group sharing at the end of the meeting.

VICE CHAIR: Tim P. His job includes conducting the orientation meeting for new reps before the General Meeting. This meeting starts at 7:30 pm. He talked briefly about the work Diane is doing to compile a document of SCIF motions and highlights from 1988 to current. He discussed past levels of prudent reserve, and reflected on the fact that 20+ years ago a lot of groups depended on San Francisco for their Intergroup. and it was the groups who required a six months reserve in order to agree to become part of the Sonoma County Intergroup.

TREASURER: Larry O. Group contributions in June were \$4324. Quarterly \$10,474; YTD \$25,195. Bookstore net was \$2312. This amount was higher than anticipated and is perhaps because the quarterly inventory may have been misstated. He recommends a review of inventory procedures. Our prudent reserve is back up to \$25,000. Total net for

the quarter is \$2310, for the year \$5154. Gross profit for quarter is at 43%. Last year's annual contributions were \$48,000. We are ahead of last year at this time.

SECRETARY: Nan B. There were no corrections of last month's minutes, so they were approved.

REGISTRAR: Susy E. There were 359 meetings in Sonoma County in June. 149 were represented at the General Meeting, which makes a 41% representation.

BOOKSTORE: Gloria P. All volunteer slots are currently filled. She needs someone with the know how and the equipment to make CDs out of tapes at the Bookstore.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACTIVITIES: Laurie E. The picnic was a huge success with 250 to 300 in attendance over the course of the day. We made a profit of \$335. The Pirate Dance will be held September 29th. This was featured on the front page of the newsletter and she also had a handout for the reps on the dance.

ALKATHONS: Dale E. The Santa Rosa Alano Club has no heat and he is looking for another venue for the Alkathons if this problem can not be corrected. The date for the Steering Committee meeting for the Alkathons will be mentioned in the next Newsletter.

ICSC: Pat H. They continue to work on completing the historical work project. They are reviewing inventory procedures to try to figure out why the Bookstore had such a high profit this past quarter. They think there is an error that caused this high number. The committee has put together the first "Packet for New ICSC Members."

NEWSLETTER: Dave H. The Financial Summary title on page 4 is in error stating "May 2006". It is the summary for the 2nd Quarter 2007.

OUTREACH: Barbara F-K. She needs someone to visit the Petaluma Alano Club and the Santa Rosa Alano club on behalf of Intergroup Outreach. This may have already happened but she has not heard if anyone has done this.

SEMINARS: Donna L. The July seminar was a great seminar but only 10 people attended. She wants to begin a conversation about the time the Seminar is classically

(Continued on page 3)

INTERGROUP OFFICERS AA TELESERVICE Diane W. Dave R. CHAIR PHONE LINE COORDINATOR Tim P. VICE-CHAIR 12 STEP COORDINATOR Rich S. Nan B. **SECRETARY** AA HOTLINES Susy E. SANTA ROSA REGISTRAR 707-544-1300 Treasurer Larry O. LONG DISTANCE 800-224-1300 COMMITTEE CHAIRS **PETALUMA** 707-762-5122 Donna L. SONOMA 707-938-2027 **S**EMINARS Laurie E. **SPANISH** 707-829-1272 **ACTIVITIES** Barbara F-K. **OUTREACH** Dave H. COMMUNICATIONS All Shifts Covered! **ALCATHONS** Dale E. Dave R. **TELESERVICE**

PI/CPC



I take for granted the response I get in meetings to my saying "I'm Amanda and I'm an alcoholic." Often times when doing work with P.I., my only response is a room full of blank stares. There is no "Hi Amanda" because I am not in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. I may be in a high school, a D.U.I. class, or even at the Sonoma County Courthouse. My audience doesn't know that their lack of response adds to my nervousness. How could they?

I write today of the joys and terrors of speaking with non-alcoholics about alcoholism. I have found this form of service particularly rewarding, and would not trade it for the world. Is this a shameless plug for P.I.? Probably. I've worked with the committee to

different degrees for a couple of years now, and would simply like to recommend that the reader of this article check it out. The committee is doing well on a whole, but fresh ideas are always appreciated. There are positions open in literature distribution and coordination.

What is it that we do? We communicate with the professional community. We talk with people who are potentially in contact with the still suffering alcoholic (doctors, judges, members of the clergy and so on) and may perhaps have a limited understanding of A.A.

For me personally, working with P.I. has turned into a part of my ninth step. There is no simple way for me to make amends to my high school or my former teachers for their wasted time and my general disregard. By speaking in high schools around Sonoma County, I feel that I'm able to at least give back a little. Going to high schools is also really fun. I've never had a kid run up to me and ask for help with his drinking problem, but that's just fine, that's not why I'm there. This work isn't about recruiting or selling A.A. It is about informing non-alcoholics about the disease of alcoholism and the solution we have found.

The committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 in the employee's lounge at Santa Rosa City Hall. Come and explore another way of being of service.

Amanda W.

SCIF General Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

scheduled and if this needs to be changed to get more attendance. The next Seminar is scheduled for September 15th and it is on 12th Stepping.

TELESERVICE: Dave R. The hotline is answered 24/7 by a live alcoholic. Monday night from 5 to 10 is an open slot. The Hotline Volunteers are listed on page 5 of this month's newsletter. There is a 12th step list of men and women who serve as backup to the Hotline Volunteers. That list will be published in a future newsletter. There are 25 to 30 men and 25 to 30 women on the list so they are not currently in need of more volunteers for the list.

LIAISON REPORTS:

BRIDGING THE GAP: John B. was absent.

GENERAL SERVICE: Lauralyn C. The Summer Assembly will be August 11 in Petaluma from 9 am to 5 pm. It is hosted by the Spanish/Linguistic District 18. Monday, Aug 6 is the District Meeting. Aug 9 is the monthly "Lick and Stick" party at 6 pm Faith Lutheran Church.

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: Mark V. Meeting times for the monthly H&I Business Meeting are the first Wednesday at 5:30 for new reps, 6:00 for the Business Meeting at the Santa Rosa Senior Center on Bennett Valley Road. They will be discussing Unity Day on August 18 at the Bookstore at 3 pm. Unity Day is Nov 10th.

PI/CPC: Nick R. They are in need of young speakers to go into schools and talk about what AA does. They also need people to help get literature about AA to Senior Centers and Hotels. The monthly meeting is at Santa Rosa City Hall, the 2nd Wednesday. See Newsletter calendar.

SOCYPAA: Sean M. There are five young people's meetings per week in Sonoma County: Sunday 6pm, Monday 7 pm, Thursday 6 pm, Friday 6:30 pm and Saturday 11:30 pm. He thanked Intergroup for supporting their last dance with the insurance issue. The annual campout is August 17—details on the front page of the newsletter.

SPANISH INTERGROUP: Rebecca M. was absent. Diane stated that Rebecca has been having trouble finding someone to come in her place. She reminded the meeting that we do not send a rep from Intergroup to the Spanish Intergroup meeting, and maybe we should.

ACCESS SONOMA COUNTY: Jamie T. was absent. Diane reviewed the purpose of Access Sonoma County to provide access to disabled people to meetings.

CACHE CREEK: Mark V. The 20th annual Cache Creek event was a great success with over 200 people in attendance. He thanked Intergroup for allowing the event to advertise through Intergroup and gave Intergroup a \$300 contribution on behalf of the Cache Creek group.

<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>: Election of new ICSC committee member. There were two candidates: Gene H. and Christi S. Each shared their qualifications with the reps. Gene was elected. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>: None.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVE SHARING: Jim R. of Sonoma Valley Fellowship, representing 27 meetings, announced that they have a new Hotline number: 707-938-8508. Tim P. said there was a question at the new rep meeting about what should they share with their groups. He answered that you should share what you think your group is interested in.

<u>SUMMATION</u>: Tim P. summed up the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Gratefully in Service, Nan B.

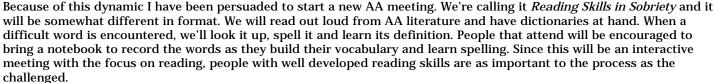
Who Was John Barleycorn, Anyway, and What's He Got To Do with Drinking Whiskey?

I'm dyslexic. When I was also told by a university psychiatrist that I was a common variety alcoholic and that AA was the only answer for me, he told me of a program for high-achieving adult dyslexics. I had become aware of the name of my reading affliction while in graduate school for library science, and had my long-suspected alcoholism confirmed simultaneously. It was a relief to have a name for my affliction(s) and know that there was help available.

As I learned how to stay sober I read the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve. I was also learning how to read, study and retain written information through my school's remedial training. This training was a pilot program that has helped in identifying and treating adult dyslexia. My commitment to sobriety and reading have continued hand in hand since I got sober in 1988.

I've been told (but have no statistics to prove it) that 30% of the people in AA have difficulty reading. This may be because they left school at an early age or have learning disabilities or vision problems that make it painful to read. Recently I've met a number of people that have difficulty reading, yet they muscle through at Big Book and 12&12 study groups, (see ASC article).

I was helped in my early sobriety by learning to overcome my reading difficulty and consequently I've been sensitive to others' challenges in this area.



As we grow, we may break up into groups with different levels or challenges for readers to better hone their skills and efforts. This is another opportunity for AA's to give it away to keep it by empowering the new reader (who may be an AA old-timer) an opportunity to unlock the treasures found in reading our literature.

Dictionaries and program literature in hand, together we will take action on the motto: "Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there; And for that, I am responsible."

Nicky Y.

"Reading Skills in Recovery" is a new meeting, Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, at the Santa Rosa Alano Club, 465 Kenwood Ct.

Access Sonoma County

The other night when my Step Study meeting was reading Step Seven—all about humility—I was struck by how much of it was in the room. Each group member reads a paragraph from the steps text, and we go around the room until we have finished the chapter or we run out of time; then we open the meeting for discussion.

Several of the members in the room struggle with the reading. Sometimes it is short, uncommon words that throw them, often the big long "erudite" words not in common use in fifty years. (I am grateful for the translation in the Big Book that pro-cras-tin-a-tion is "sloth in five syllables," but even "sloth" is uncommon enough to cause a problem for some readers). But I was touched by the courage—and yes, humility—of these members in regularly taking their turn and reading aloud to the best of their ability. They are willing to participate with us in our group activity.

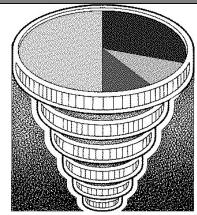
It is also helpful that a nearby group member may quietly prompt such a reader—hardly audible to the rest of us. Sometimes we simply wait while our colleague works it out. I think both quiet prompting and patient waiting are exercises of humility. And they are commitments to accessibility.

We work to remove physical barriers to our meeting space so that our meeting is available to any alcoholic who seeks to join us. And we tackle social, psychological, or literacy barriers with large-print literature, basic texts available in audio formats, and patient helpfulness. Vision-impaired, dyslexic, or timid readers believe that they are equal partners—full members of our group—when we encourage them to participate, as each of us does, to the best of their ability.

Maybe accessibility awareness is the Seventh Step at the group level—working to remove our group's shortcomings—by putting ourselves in the shoes of all of those who come to us. Access Sonoma County helps me to learn more about effective ways to increase my awareness of those others. We'd be happy to welcome you to join us: second Thursday, 6:30 pm at the Bookstore.

D.W.

SCIF FINANCIAL SUMMARY JULY 2007



Example of Suggested Group Contributions to AA Service Entities

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

		July 07	Net	July 06			Year to Dat	-	July 06
Group Supported:	Income	Expense	Net	Net		Income	Expense	Net	Net
Central Office									
Groups					-				
Individuals									
Teleservice									
Web Site									
Newsletter									
Interest									
Subtotal									
Self Supported:					-				I.
Bookstore		*							
Activities									
Alkathons									
Seminars									
Subtotal									
TOTAL									
Assets & Liabilities	s								
Cash in Bank & Petty	-		Memo:	Cash in Bar	nk .	& Petty Ca	sh		
Prepaid Expenses			monio.	Prudent Re		-	011		
Liabilities	-			Liabilities	00.	•••			
Subtotal				Operating F	Res	serve			
Literature Inventories	<u>.</u>	*		o poracing r	.00		ļ		
Property	•								

* Estimated

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2	
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Total Assets & Liabilities

Meeting	July	YTD	Meeting	July	YTD	Meeting	July	YTD
11th Step Meeting	158.00	291.30	Kenwood Step Study		222.00	Spirit of Akron	12.00	40.00
12 X 12 @ 12 Group		260.00	Lunch Bunch Group	100.00	400.00	Stein Group	388.58	388.58
12 X 12 Plus	244.07	537.07	Mature & Sober Group		417.00	Stepping Lively		90.00
A Vision For You		175.00	Moment of Silence		82.00	Stick Around, Santa Rosa		325.00
AA Sonoma, Friday Night Fellowship		300.00	Monday Mood Swings	121.50	121.50	Sunday Morning Smiles Group	70.00	234.00
AA Sonoma, Thursday 11th Step		78.16	Mon Night Alcoholics Only Step Study	26.70	26.70	Sunday PM Closed Discussion	61.64	241.64
AA Sonoma, Tuesday Big Book	79.18	97.81	Monte Rio Book Study		75.00	Sunday Sanity		500.00
Access Sonoma County	5.00	30.00	New Hope Book Study Group		60.00	T.G.I.F. Nooners		38.02
Acres Fellowship Group		872.15	New Sobriety Group		100.00	Thank God It's Monday	75.00	110.00
Alive & Well In Fulton		284.00	Not Just Another Newcomer's		250.00	The Cross Roads Group		100.00
Any Lengths Group		361.00	Meeting			The Saints and Sinners Group	120.00	120.00
Attitude Adjustment Group	328.00	1028.00	O God It's Monday		112.00	The Sunday Night Group		129.70
B.Y.O.B.B.		113.50	Oaks Fellowship	64.14	621.14	There Is A Solution		250.00
Be What You Want To See	78.96	128.96	Occidental Tonight Group		100.00	Think About It Group	268.75	836.05
Bodega Bay Fellowship		295.00	Open Door	92.00	292.00	Third Step Group	105.60	502.74
Book & Discussion, Sonoma	108.75	378.26	Out of the Ashes Group		17.87	Thurs. Big Book Step Study	140.00	215.00
Breakfast Club		362.19	Petaluma Fellowship	2376.42	2376.42	Thurs. Night 12 X 12 Discussion	326.94	887.85
Came to Believe Group	81.00	156.00	Petaluma Thursday Night Real Life		355.50	Thurs. Night Womens AA		266.14
Cloverdale Fellowship Hall		97.98	Petaluma Valley Group	248.00	438.50	Thurs. Real Life, Petaluma		417.00
Cotati Men's Stag		100.00	Prayer & Meditation, Sebastopol		50.00	Tuesday Afternoon Delight		342.00
Defects & Shortcomings		69.55	Promises Group		142.92	Tues Night Big Book Study (Pet)	200.00	400.00
Early Bird Fellowship of Petaluma	1734.00	2460.94	Quitting Time Group	220.00	670.00	Tuesday Nite Beginners AA		59.67
Expect A Miracle		600.00	Redwood Winners	60.00	240.00	Up Group		100.00
FAHA Home Group		190.00	River Discussion Group		90.00	Up The Steps		103.38
Fourth Monday	80.25	569.96	River Grace		82.37	Warm Springs @ Mt. Vista Farm		700.30
Fresh Air Group		207.14	Round Barn Big Book Study		178.00	Wednesday Night Men's Stag		296.00
Friday Nooners of AA		116.00	Rule 62 River Readers		100.00	Wednesday Wonders		105.00
Gay Newcomers Group		178.20	Santa Rosa Fellowship		20.00	We're In The Now		186.73
Graton Fellowship		457.57	Saturday Afternoon Winners		65.00	Windsor Group		180.00
Gravenstien Gay Group		25.02	Saturday Morning Beginners		280.00	Women's Book Group	234.00	302.00
Gualala Group		750.00	Saturday Night Living Right		136.00	Women's Perspective AA Group	118.98	465.80
Healdsburg Anonymity	50.00		Saturday Serenity		454.80	Women's Step Study & Discussion		114.03
Healdsburg Sunday Morning AA	00.00	30.00	Sebastopol Men's Stag		125.00	Women's Tuesday At Noon		303.46
Hessel Big Book Study Group	48.60	98.60	Serenity Fellowship Hall	50.05	566.46	Working Winners	85.00	210.00
H & I	10.00	20.00	Sharing & Caring	30.03	443.63	Young & Sober		27.00
Higher Power Group	300.00	300.00	Signs of Sobriety		75.00	Young & Young At Heart		297.31
•	555.00		Single Purpose Group		150.00	(group name not on check)		117.18
Highlander Group		350.00	Sober Sisters		203.06	(group name not on check)		48.00
Just For Today		174.35	Sober Sunday Group		250.00	(group name not on check)	71.76	71.76
Keep It Simple		292.21	Sonoma Valley Fellowship		291.70	(group name not on money order)		50.00
Kenwood Group		302.99	South Park Survivors		153.72	Total	9220.87	34515.54

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS



New Reps: Victoria, representing Women's Healdsburg(?); name?, Thursday Rohnert Park; Shannon, Just for Today; Brian S., meeting?, Shaylene, Women's Growing Pains; Megan, 12x12; Ken, Tuesday Lunch Bunch (Petaluma); Bob, New Hope Rohnert Park; Denise, Newcomers and Oldtimers; Rochelle, meeting?, Stan O., New Sobriety; Terry, Sober Sunday; Ben, Healdsburg Group (?);

Kevin H., Sunday Morning A.A. and Steps in Windsor; Chris M., Rule 62 River Readers; Anthony S., *meeting?*; David, Big Book Study – Thursday, City Hall.

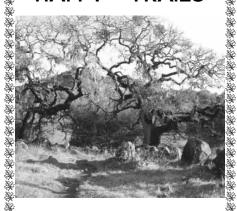
Visitors: Ian R. and Sean.

Birthdays: Maurice, with 5 years; Pat P, 9; *name?*, 17; Bill S., 3; and Laurie C., 10. Megan and Sheila, each with 7 months. Belated (July) wished to Carmen B., who just celebrated 20 years.

Kenneth P., who went from needing to be seen and different from everyone else to the realization that he was just like the rest of us. He has learned through his H&I work that "you just don't drink or use, no matter what," because others are depending on [you] to bring the message to them. His experience has taught him that he can learn from those confined and that, even when he's feeling low and doesn't want to go to a meeting, showing up can make a big difference—not only for the "inmates," but for himself as well. He shared that, when he pointed out to a newcomer that the program of AA was contained in the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the response was, "Hey, I can do that!"

You can do that, too—share your experience, strength and hope with an (Continued on page 11)

HAPPY TRAILS



Happy Trails is going to Annadel Park in September.

We will meet at the bookstore at 10 a.m.

Bring water and a lunch.

For more information, call Linda

				6 20		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Faith Lutheran Chur St. Luke Lutheran C S.R Senior Center .		a Ave. no Ave . /alley Rd.				1
SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45 Service Manual Study 6:45 New Rep Orientation 7:30 Business Meeting	4	Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:30 New Rep Orientation 6:00 Business Meeting	6	7	8
9	SCIF Bookstore 6:00 Teleservice Meeting 7:00 ICSC Meeting 8:00 Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	11	PI/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00 Speaker Training 7:30 Business Meeting Newsletter 6:30 SCIF Bookstore	Access Sonoma County SCIF Bookstore 6:30 Meeting	14	15 SEMINAR 12th Stepping 3:00—5:00 P.M. SCIF Bookstore
16 SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	17	18 Bridging The Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30 New Rep Orientation 7:00 Business Meeting	19	20	21	22 General Service Area 06 Committee Meeting 320 N. McDowell Blvd Petaluma
23/30 Happy Trails 10:00 SCIF Book- store	24/31 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30 New Rep Orientation 8:00 Business Meeting	25 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	26	27	28	29

SPECIAL SECTION

WHY WE NEED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Since the beginning of this year, your Steering Committee and Intergroup Central Service Committee (ICSC) members have been discussing transparency, accountability, and our legal liability as a non-profit corporation. Transparency and accountability are inherent in our Traditions and Concepts – Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary and democratic organization, responsible and accountable to the groups of AA.

Our By-Laws state that the purpose of the ICSC is to "set the policy and regulate the affairs of the Intergroup Office/Bookstore" and its responsibility "shall be the operation of the Intergroup Office/Bookstore," including responsibility for the employment and discharge of paid workers. Those are broad directives, open to wide interpretation. We sought more specific direction about what we ought to do and what we have done in the past.

What we found, as we examined our history and our records, were some gaps in both. The ICSC reviewed the California Corporation Code to see what we are legally bound to do in order to keep our non-profit status, which affects how we spend group contributions. We also examined various resources that suggest "best practices" for non-profit organization boards of directors and oversight committees -- based in the experience of other organizations with respect to liability under employment law, tax law, and "shareholder" or member discontent. The "shareholders" of SCIF are the groups of Sonoma County.

Many of the proposed policies deal with duties of the ICSC. Some deal with the responsibilities of the Fellowship as a whole. They have not been consistently followed in the past decade. We are proposing that the Fellowship endorse and adopt these policies to ensure that they will be followed in the future to ensure the health, harmony and prosperity of the Fellowship.

We encourage you to suggest that your groups consider the adoption of these policies. Feedback and questions about this proposal will be welcome at the September Intergroup General Meeting, and we ask for a vote to adopt them at the October meeting.

Diane W.

AN INVITE TO INTERGROUP

Have you ever wondered what goes on at Intergroup? This is what you might see at an Intergroup meeting.

We hear about the awesome work is being done by our committees. All of our committees are funded by our/your seventh tradition contributions.

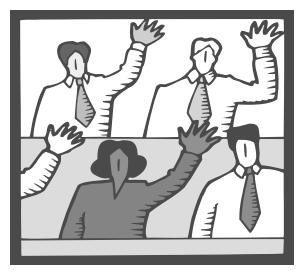
These committees include Seminars, Communications, Alcathons, Teleservice, and Activities. Let's not forget the Bookstore, one of our most important entities.

We hear about what is going on with other A.A. agencies, such as Bridging the Gap, General Service, H&I, Access Sonoma County, PI/CPC, and the Spanish Intergroup Fellowship.

Occasionally, we vote on issues that require input from the entire fellowship. In these cases, we want to hear from all of the groups, and the more groups that send representatives, the more points of view we get to hear.

At the end of each meeting, we set aside time for group sharing. This might include success stories from an A.A. group, or frustrations, or other news to be shared with all of the groups.

You don't have to be an Intergroup Rep to attend the Intergroup meeting. Any member of A.A. is welcome to attend. But only those who represent a group



are allowed to vote.

We urge every A.A. group to send a representative to the Intergroup business meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at the St. Luke Lutheran Church, 905 Mendocino Avenue.

Thank you,

Barbara F.-K.

Outreach Chair

PROPOSED SCIF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1. The ICSC (Intergroup Central Service Committee) Chair shall report monthly to the Steering Committee and the General Meeting, disclosing discussions and recommendations of the committee, excluding confidential matters.
- 2. No process, procedure, or filing of documents shall be completed exclusively by one officer or ICSC member without discussion/disclosure to the ICSC committee.
- The ICSC shall provide an annual report to members that is compliant with Section 6321 of the California Corporation Code.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

- 4. Each check written on behalf of SCIF shall require two signatures. The eligible signers are the elected officers of SCIF.
- 5. An annual review of internal controls at the Central Office/Bookstore shall be conducted by the Treasurer and one of the at-large members of the ICSC.
- 6. An annual review of the books shall be conducted by the same two committee members.
- 7. The ICSC shall review the SCIF Prudent Reserve annually.

RETAIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- 8. The ICSC shall examine a detailed inventory report after each Bookstore inventory, and shall review inventory levels, sell-through, and merchandise assortment.
- 9. The ICSC shall review and approve vendors from which the SCIF Bookstore purchases merchandise.
- 10. The ICSC shall have final approval of the merchandise assortment offered at the Bookstore. The Central Office/Bookstore Manager shall present a business case for changes or additions to the assortment.

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- 11. The job descriptions of the Central Office/Bookstore Manager and the Bookkeeper shall be reviewed annually to determine if they are accurate under current conditions.
- 12. The ICSC shall complete a written performance evaluation of the Central Office Manager in December of each year. As part of the annual performance evaluation, the ICSC shall work with the Central Office Manager to establish goals and objectives for the following year.

RECORDS

- 13. The minutes of each Steering Committee meeting, General meeting, and ICSC meeting shall include, for any vote taken, a record of the vote tally in favor, opposed, and abstaining.
- 14. The following records shall be kept at the Central Office and made available to any member of SCIF upon request:
 - The names and contact information for each member of the ICSC
 - The names and contact information for each officer of SCIF
 - Minutes of ICSC meetings, Steering Committee meetings, and SCIF General meetings. The minutes retained in this archive will include full names of participants.
 - The By-Laws of SCIF
 - The Articles of Incorporation of SCIF
 - Complete financial statements of SCIF
 - Tax returns
- 15. The following records shall be kept at the Central Office in a locked file to preserve confidentiality and security:
 - Current office lease
 - Key log
 - Performance reviews
- 16. The following records shall be kept and made available to each ICSC member upon election to the committee:
 - Banking relationships and the type of account at each banking or financial institution. Specific financial account identifications shall be restricted to the Treasurer.
 - The terms of employment of the Central Office/Bookstore Manager, including salary, basis for the accrual of sick leave and vacation.
 - The terms of contract, including compensation, for the contractor Bookkeeper
 - List of approved vendors

Activities

Aye, Greetin's Fellowship, Arg! Sept 19th is International Talk Like a Pirate Day. T' Celebrate we be holdin' on fest'e party on Sept. 29th at 7:00 pm fer meetin' and 8:30 fer the party, Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St. Sebastopol. Ahoy, put on your fa'orite pirate attire and sword and join us for an eve o' fun and frollickin'.

To switch personalities, heh, heh, my little pretties, it's back to back fun. Next month, Fly your Hoovers to the Sebastopol Community Center for a howlin'good time of witches and warlocks, maybe a vampire, bat or werewolf or two, or I'll turn you into a toad! The night is October 26th same time same bat channel!

We have been trying to provide you with fun and activities to show you all we are not a glum lot! With that in mind I want to thank you all for a great turn out at our Family Picnic. We came out \$391 over and above cost. At this rate activities will be out of shortage from previous year very soon. The idea is to be self supporting. With your attendance at our Pirate Dance, we should be able to bring down suggested donation for the Halloween Dance. The Pirate Dance is a Saturday night and the center charges \$200 more for that night so we need your help! Let's all show the newcomer how to dance! Don't you remember you first dance in sobriety? If this is your first your in for a treat!

I want to acknowledge a GREAT activities committee! Rich S. and Marcy thank you both for doing all the food shopping and concessions! You rock! Chris R. and Dave W. We could not have done this without you! The heat behind that grill was incredible! We only had four burgers left over! Sean and Rob and the SOCYPAA crew you made a group of kids very happy. You haven't live till you've been chased with water balloons, drenched with a bucket and squirted with lethal squirt guns! I made a great moving target! Thanks Sean! Kelly thanks for your help and a great talk! Lu, Nicole, Connie and daughter as usual the girls came through. There was a newcomer who did a great job on balloons and I forgot to get his name! Thanks to our newcomer Elvis for garbage control! Kit your fishing game was a big hit with a group of children! Hugs to Wayne and Krista for all the fun and support! John F thank you for setting up the sports, and Beth thanks for the croquet!

As usual Tom and Christie you are my rocks and I love you both. The guys from Attitude did a great job on table cloths and crepe paper. If I forgot you please know that you are not forgotten and you were in service to whole fellowship who had a great time. Lastly I want to thanks the fellowship for all the love, for showing up, for a great potluck with abundant food. This event was a huge success due to your support.

Don't miss any of the fun, if you would like to help call me at 707-827-3280 and we will put you to work! I am very grateful to be a part of and in the middle of this fellowship! Service helps me stay sober!

In loving service, Laurie E.

Some Of The Best Meetings

For a while my friend had been riding along with me to meetings once or twice a week. I was happy to do it. He'd had a rough couple of years with cancer and was taking medication for his considerable pain. And he's a great teller of tales who's had an amazing life in A.A. and outside of it.

Sometimes we'd go out to dinner before the meeting with one of the men I sponsor. We talk about anything and everything. The three of us are from different backgrounds, but we have in common a love of A.A., which is a good enough bond.

Once at the meeting, the deal was he could give me the sign at any time, and we'd head for the barn. One night, that's what happened. He said he was in pain and needed to get home, so we went. He was in a wheelchair by this time, so I took him down to his apartment and said good night. But I didn't like letting the pain win that one; I didn't like it taking him away from his friends.

Two years ago, when he was first diagnosed, we'd taken meetings in to him when he got sick. Things didn't look good then; they gave him a few months... But he had the radiation, and chemotherapy, and whatever else they could throw at it, and the cancer went into remission for a couple of years. And now, after two good years, it's back.

It's hard for him to be around people when he's in pain, but when the hospice people got that under control, he again agreed to meetings in his small apartment. We can't get many AA's in there, maybe six or eight, but they've been some of the best meetings I've attended.

For these meetings, his welfare must come first. I always check before we go to make sure he's up for it, and we only stay for the time we need. Playing host to so many people in his small apartment while he's bed ridden is taxing. But the meetings are a godsend. AA's been the central thing in his life for more than thirty years; it would be hard indeed to deny him access now when he really needs it.

For us they've been wonderful, too. We are powerless over many things, but this we can do. And it seems to be the heart of A.A.—the love and service Dr. Bob talked about the last time he spoke.

"Our 12 Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service. We understand what love is and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind."

Thanks for letting me.

Tim P.

Note: Since I wrote the above, my friend Whitey B. has passed beyond the reach of pain. Some of his last words were voiced in appreciation of the love and support he found in AA during thirty plus years of sobriety.

"THE BEST THING FOR YOU," said the doctor to the dissipated young woman, "is to give up drinking, smoking, and men."

The girl thought for a moment, then asked, "What's the next best thing?"

SOCYPAA

Hello Sonoma County,

Its me, Craig, aka Batman, writing again in the newsletter, but instead of writing for activities for Intergroup, I'll be writing each month for SOCYPAA!

If you are new to this area, or to AA, then you might be thinking what in the heck do socks have to do with recovery. Well its not socks, but SOCYPAA which stands for Sonoma County Young People in AA. Its not really an acronym because of the O in the name. We had to throw that in there because there was already another group that had taken the name SCYPAA.

So now that you know it has nothing to do with footwear, what is SOCYPAA here for? No it's not a hook up for young singles in recovery, no its not a cult, no its not another recovery fellowship, and ignore the rumors that we are trying to start a coup to take over AA. Its primary purpose is to start meetings, and hold events for the young and the young at heart in Alcoholics Anonymous. We are also very involved in helping the other entities within our fellowship. We often volunteer to help out with Intergroup's, H&I's, and General Service's events.

We've already started seven meetings that are listed in the schedule that are oriented to young people, and of course the young at heart.

Some big news is that we are doing elections for our positions coming up very soon. If you want to get involved, show up at the business meeting that starts at 7:15 PM the first and third Sunday of the month at 1551 Montgomery St. in Santa Rosa at the Methodist Church . Our Bi-laws state that a person has to have attended two business meetings before they can be elected, so come on down and check it out.

By the time you are reading this, we will have had our 3rd annual campout. I'm sure that will have been a blast. We do all kinds of fun events. We have our annual Marine World trip, coming up on September 16th.

Look for flyers on that one, but this year we are moving the fun to Great America as we feel it has more to offer. We will have car pool information on the flyer if you can't drive.

If you are looking for some fun in sobriety, if you are young, or you feel that you are just too young at heart for the SCOPAA (Sonoma County Old People in AA) groups, come and check it out. I guarantee you'll like it.

Take care, Craig G. (Batman)

My Experience, Strength, and Hope through Teleservice

Hi. My name is Peggy S.

I have been doing Teleservice (AA hotline) for 2½ years. I started out not realizing what an impact it would have in my own life.

The first time I was ready to reach out for my own life in recovery it was with a call to the hotline. I was desperate to turn my life around, so I made that dreaded call. I called the hotline, and the man on the other end of the line was so kind, and he made me feel like there was hope. He gave me directions to my first meeting, and I have been sober ever since that day (4 years). That call changed my life.

I felt that since my own life had been so impacted by my the hotline, I owed it to myself and others to volunteer for Teleservice once I had enough sobriety under my belt to take on the responsibility and assist others in their own journeys.

I receive many calls from people who are trying to get to their first meeting, calls from people from out of town who want to get a meeting, and the most challenging—but by far the most gratifying—are those who are desperate, lonely, and saddened by what their lives have become. I try to reassure everyone I talk with that their lives can, and will, be better if they can release themselves from the bondage of substance abuse. It is all of these people that I come in contact with on the hotline that keep me sober and help me to remember what life was like before I got sober.

I will continue to do teleservice as long as I am sober (one day at a time) for

(Continued on page 11)

September Sobriety Birthdays—502 Years!

Patricia C.	33	Santa Rosa	9/4/74
Carolyn A.	32	Lower Lake	9/13/75
Scot	30	Santa Rosa	9/1/77
Tobey R.	30	Santa Rosa	9/23/77
Mitch L.	25	Santa Rosa	9/13/82
Marjorie L.	25	Santa Rosa	9/23/82
Pat S.	22	Santa Rosa	9/12/85
Michele	20	Santa Rosa	9/28/87
George M.	14	Santa Rosa	9/1/93
David E.	14	Santa Rosa	9/23/93
Mark	14	Santa Rosa	9/23/93
Rob M.	14	Santa Rosa	9/23/93
Ben	9	Santa Rosa	9/28/98
Jolie B.	8	Santa Rosa	9/1/99
Maggie W.	8	Santa Rosa	9/14/99
Mary	8	Petaluma	9/27/99
Ken G.	8	Santa Rosa	9/29/99
Jim S.	7	Santa Rosa	9/20/00
Brad V.	6	Santa Rosa	9/1/01
Craig H.	6	Santa Rosa	9/5/01
Linda C.	6	Sonoma	9/5/01
Linda O.	6	Cloverdale	9/8/01
Deborah L.	6	Ukiah	9/9/01
Ed G.	6	Santa Rosa	9/9/01
Kathy W.	6	Santa Rosa	9/9/01
Jim 	6	Santa Rosa	9/22/01
Joshua	6	Santa Rosa	9/22/01
Robin	6	Santa Rosa	9/23/01
Balthazar	6	Santa Rosa	9/27/01
Lisa D.	6	Santa Rosa	9/27/01
Ernie P.	5	Santa Rosa	9/1/02
Carolyn A.	5	Santa Rosa	9/3/02
Tristan D.	5	Santa Rosa	9/20/02
Beverly A.	5	Santa Rosa	9/23/02
Jeff T. Shannon S.	5 4	Santa Rosa Santa Rosa	9/23/02 9/14/03
	4	Santa Rosa	9/16/03
Carol D. Kelly S.	4	Cotati	9/20/03
Debbie D.	4	Santa Rosa	9/22/03
Vickie W.	3	Santa Rosa	9/2/04
Bill J.	3	Santa Rosa	9/4/04
Ramon R.	3	Santa Rosa	9/5/04
Allen	3	Santa Rosa	9/6/04
Tim	3	Santa Rosa	9/8/04
Darren	3	Rohnert Park	9/10/04
Rebecca L.	3	Santa Rosa	9/11/04
Jeffrey R. C.	3	Santa Rosa	9/12/04
Rob S.	3	Healdsburg	9/18/04
M. S.	3	Santa Rosa	9/21/04
Bronwyn	3	Santa Rosa	9/29/04
Dale E.	3	Santa Rosa	9/29/04
Frank B.	3	Santa Rosa	9/29/04
Stacy B.	3	Santa Rosa	9/29/04
Carol C.	2	Santa Rosa	9/2/05
Chantal V.	2	Santa Rosa	9/6/05
Darlene D.	2	Santa Rosa	9/9/05
Chris M.	2	Santa Rosa	9/10/05
Rebecca T.	2	Santa Rosa	9/10/05
Jack W.	2	Santa Rosa	9/11/05
Ken G.	2	Santa Rosa	9/14/05
Debi C.	2	Santa Rosa	9/17/05
Pete C.	2	Santa Rosa	9/19/05
Kristine T.	2	Santa Rosa	9/21/05
Roger	2	Santa Rosa	9/24/05
Dennis L.	2	Windsor	9/28/05
Shawn K.	2	Santa Rosa	9/29/05
S		September	2007

The Brodz Are Here

It is bad enough when a "broad" in AA sets her mind on something, but when two "broads" have the same vision, WATCH OUT! It was at a Wednesday night meeting at the Senior Center when Carol C. and I realized we had the same vision—a closed AA meeting for ladies only. After we exchanged an Oh, my God, I said, "I'll be the treasurer if you are the secretary." With that said, we went into action immediately. We started passing the word to all of our AA lady friends (or the other Brodz, as they so fondly refer to themselves). Within three weeks, we had a steering committee with all servant positions filled.

Carol came up the name, BRODZ NITE OUT. We all liked the idea of a topic/discussion meeting to be held on Thursday evenings at 7 P.M. at the Santa Rosa Alano Club. Popsicle sticks would do nicely, with topics written on them-everything from the steps to the traditions, and topics about life, higher-power, relationships. Who would pick the topic each week? How about the first newcomer to announce herself? Great idea! What about sobriety birthdays? The first Thursday of the month sounded good. That way everyone celebrating a birthday from the previous month and those celebrating in the first few days of the new month would not have to wait a whole month to get a chip. That brought up the subject of birthday chips. Since we were Brodz, and very unique Brodz at that, we needed a unique chip. Why not design our own chip? Pink, with metallic silver writing. The front would read, "BRODZ NITE OUT," and the back would have a triangle in the same silver metallic writing.

Chip night becomes a speaker meeting when each "broad" celebrating a birthday gets a chance to share her experience, strength, and hope with the group.

The first meeting took place on March 15th. Thirty Brodz (ladies) were crammed into a room only meant to seat about fifteen people, at best. The next week, we moved into the "big" room at the Alano Club, and have had our meeting in that room since. Word of a good meeting travels fast. A soon-to-be graduate of the Orenda Center emailed us and said she would like to be our set-up person. And to my amazement, I learned there are sober Brodz in Petaluma who will travel fifteen miles north to go to a

God must really love Brodz.

Like a beautiful rose, our meeting is blossoming. We are just a bunch of Brodz who share from the heart and care about our sisters in sobriety. Yes, our meeting is a little out of the ordinary, especially our name, BRODZ NITE OUT. But then, we aren't ordinary ladies.

Roseann M.

H&I Report (Continued from page 6)

alcoholic who is confined. To learn more about H&I, you are invited to the next meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, September 5 at the Santa Rosa Senior Center located at the corner of Bennett Valley Road and Rutledge Avenue (one block east of Santa Rosa Avenue). The regular meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. and all are welcome at the orientation that begins at 5:30. Hope to see you there! In Service. Mardi

Some of the Problems of 12th Step Work

After something more than two years of 12th Step work, it appears that the chances of success depend very largely on the prospect. However, results are so non-predictable that I frequently find myself trying to spread a little light when the patient is not willing to take the 1st Step.

As we all know, most hangovers can be helped by a patient listener who will be consistently sympathetic and not too demanding. Many times the victim will agree to and promise almost anything in order to get what he wants at the minute, be it "a last drink" or some new arguments to use with those he has let down for the 'steenth time. We do run into, rarely, youngsters who are ready and able to accept the experience of older people, but for the most part it seems that each 12th Step effort has to be tempered to suit the individual.

An ideal combination to find in a prospect would include a recent and mildly disastrous bender, a combination of local problems to be met that involve home and other obligations to be faced by a socially minded and intelligent individual.

Conversely, the knottiest problems are personal pride which shows up as an almost impenetrable reserve or else a species of belligerency, an unwillingness to face the issues and to tell the truth, plus the many fears, real or unreal, that follow excessive drinking.

Example is a powerful help and if the prospect can be brought in contact with a number of individuals whose fundamental characteristics are like his own and who have emerged from bondage, the prospect will see very quickly that others like him have succeeded and he is frequently aware of an unspoken challenge to do likewise.

Some newcomers respond to a logical review of their lives and actions together with definite suggestions for changing the pattern, while others, whose current despair offsets their ability to reason with active faith in life or themselves, respond to emotional prodding. The latter type frequently reacts favorably to a direct spiritual approach.

One of the most effective comparisons I have heard is to picture the individual's life complicated by one new problem each time he goes on a binge as against the vastly improved condition resulting from no new problems and the improvement made by time and abstinence in clearing up old ones.

It is my belief that the key to success in 12th Step work is a humble realization that our efforts alone are of small avail and that the most we can contribute is a real sympathy for our distressed brother or sister, supplemented by our sure knowledge that God has all the tools needed to help every individual who earnestly seeks His aid.

This article originally appeared in the September 1944 Grapevine.

Teleservice Experience (Continued from page 10) the rest of my life. It has taught me patience and how to remain humble. My sobriety is stronger because it. Forever hopeful,

Peggy S.

NEW MEETINGS

Cloverdale

Thu 7:00 PM (O)(W) Men's Step Study 208 N. Commercial St.

Santa Rosa

Wed 6:00 PM (O)(W) Reading Skills in Sobriety Alano Club. 465 Kenwood Ct.

Wed 10:00 PM (O)(W) Midweek Insomniac Alano Club. 465 Kenwood Ct.

MEETING CHANGES

Rohnert Park

Sat 11:00AM Just For Today

moved to Ladybug Park Clubhouse, Liman Way.

Petaluma

Sun 4:00 PM

Women's Meeting now a closed meeting with a new name: Women in The Solution

NO LONGER MEETING

Healdsburg

Tues 8:00 PM 4-in-1 Meeting

Petaluma

Mon 8:30 PM Up the Steps Sun 7:00 PM Sunday Night Live

MEETING CODES

(C) Closed meeting, alcoholics only.

(O) Open meeting, anyone can attend.

Wheel chair access to meeting area. (W)

> To report meeting changes: Contact Russell

Gloria's Corner

We need help Thursday afternoons, every other week, $2-6\ P.M.$

I'm going to the Semi-Annual Office Managers Meeting for Northern California in Dublin. 8/17/07.

Next inventory is 9/29/07. We will need help.



Thanks, Gloria

ADDRESSES

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San Francisco, CA 94188

Sonoma County PI/CPC*

PO Box 11350

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

SOCYPAA

P.O. Box 5784

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

*Funded solely through Sonoma County General Service

BOOKSTORE

SCIF CENTRAL OFFICE

750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10

Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Manager: Gloria P.

Phone: (707) 546-2066 Fax: (707) 566-9677

E-mail: aa@ap.net

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 11-3

The bookstore is staffed by volunteers and is sometimes closed for lack of manpower.

Call first!

The Bookstore is closed on these Holidays:

Memorial Day May 29th July 4th **Independence Day**

Labor Day September 4th Thanksgiving November 23rd Christmas December 25th

New Year's Day January 1st

CONTACT IN FORMATION

Newsletter/Web: Dave H. aa.news@dslextreme.com

Meeting Changes: Russell

Sonoma County General Service

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Jolie B. Liaison to SCIF

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