

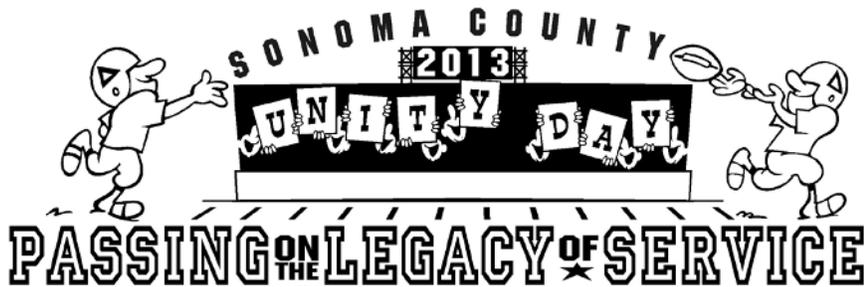


Sonoma County
Intergroup
Fellowship

NEWS

September 2013

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



Saturday, October 12, 2013 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Enmanji Buddhist Temple - Memorial Hall
1200 Gravenstein Hwy South, Sebastopol**

A Showcase of Sonoma County AA Service Groups

Your generous \$5 (suggested) contribution includes:

- Speaker Meeting with Kathy R., East Bay H&I Committee member
- Service Panels
- Continental Breakfast*
- Sobriety Countdown
- Live Entertainment
- Hot Lunch*, Desserts* & Coffee
- Photo booth-create a memory!

☞ Cold drinks, coffee mugs and raffle tickets available for sale

Hear from & talk to your service representatives:

- General Service
- Intergroup
- SOCYPAA
- District 18 Spanish
- Access Sonoma County
- Hospitals & Institutions Committee
- Public Information (PI/CPC)
- Teleservice
- Bridging the Gap
- And More!

Not sure what these groups do? Come and find out!

This event is for everyone in AA, especially those interested in doing service. Children welcome, however no child care is provided.

Remember your FM radio for Spanish translation & assisted listening.

**Donations of breakfast items, desserts, salads and side dishes will be gratefully accepted at the event.*

Want to be a part of it? Volunteering is Easy!

Call Gretchen H. at 707-799-7548 or gootch1957@comcast.net

BOOKSTORE

SCIF CENTRAL OFFICE

750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Manager: Linda M.
Phone: (707) 546-2066
Fax: (707) 566-9677
bookstore@sonomacountyaa.org
Hours: Monday- Friday 10-6
Saturday 11-3

*The bookstore is staffed by
volunteers.*

*Occasionally it is closed
due to lack of staff - Call first!*

The Bookstore is closed on these Holidays

Labor Day	September 2
Thanksgiving	November 28
Christmas	December 25
New Year's	January 1 & 2

This newsletter is also
available online at:
www.sonomacountyaa.org

Other A.A. Resources:

A.A. World Services:

www.aa.org

A.A. Grapevine:

www.aagrapevine.org



Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship Presents

The First Tradition: A.A. Unity Comes First

a seminar and discussion



**Wednesday, September 25, 2013
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**SCIF Central Office / Bookstore
750 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa**

Info: Kathy M. (707) 889-1221

MEETING CHANGES

Petaluma

Spirit of Akron, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. No longer meeting at 141 2nd Street. Call 510-760-1081 for current location. Roving meeting.

Sebastopol

Stein Group, (lesbian) (O) Sunday, 6 p.m. (new time). Palm Drive Hospital Conference Room.

Santa Rosa

Up The Steps, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Moved to church at 1650 W. Third Street.

NEW MEETINGS

Cloverdale

Cloverdale Working Winners, (O)(W) Thursday, 6 p.m.. Cloverdale, 208 No. Commercial

NO LONGER MEETING

Santa Rosa

Nocturnal Solutions, Wednesday, 10:30 p.m.
3632 Airway Dr.

**To report meeting changes,
send an email to:**

meetingchanges@sonomacountyaa.org
**or Contact the SCIF Office
at 546-2066**

**Read this newsletter and
pass it on to a friend**

The Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship publishes this newsletter to keep members of our Fellowship informed about A.A. events, meetings and other activities. Printing is paid for by our members' contributions. Please consider passing the newsletter along to another member after you have read it and help us reach out to as many people as possible and make the best use of members' contributions. The newsletter is also available online at www.sonomacountyaa.org.

SONOMA COUNTY UNITY DAY 2013

Sonoma County Unity Day will be held Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013, at the Enmanji Buddhist Temple Memorial Hall at 1200 Gravenstein Hwy South, Sebastopol. Our next planning meeting will be Wed., Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at the bookstore.

We have several chair positions open, and encourage all who would like to be of service to join us in the planning of Unity Day, 2013. If you have any questions, call Gretchen at 799-7548 or e-mail me at gootch1957@comcast.net.

ALKATHON PLANNING MEETING

Planning meetings for the Holiday Alkathons will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Bookstore.

For more information, contact Richard H., at 620-3394, or alkathons@sonomacountyaa.org

SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP GENERAL MEETING

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting — July 22, 2013. The meeting opened at 8 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

Reading: Laurie E. read the preamble. Alan W. read Tradition Seven. Martin K. read Concept VII.

Introduction of New Reps.: Brent B., Primary Purpose Group, Santa Rosa; Jason J., Sunday Nighters, Sebastopol; Jon W., Promises Group, Sebastopol; Max B., Young and Sober, Santa Rosa; Randy M., Kenwood Group, Kenwood

Birthdays: Brent B. 3 yrs., Glenn L. 6 yrs., Paul K. 7 yrs., Steve B. 16 yrs.

Officer Reports:

Chair: (Patty G.) Welcomed everyone. Patty discussed the introduction of the new motion. She advised that we will select a new activities chair. She said things are going well. We are working on getting a new assistant for the bookstore, budgeting and getting a new CPA.

Vice-Chair: (Tina C.) Tina welcomed all the new representatives. If you weren't here at 7:30 p.m. please see her and come early next time.

Secretary: (Mark V. C.) The General Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2013 were put forth and approved.

Treasurer: (Jimmie B.) Group contributions for June were \$1,870 which was \$1,071 less than June 2012. Individual contributions were \$150. After expenses, we had a net loss of \$1,418. Bookstore income was \$7,547 and after expenses we had a gain of \$377. Overall, we had a net loss of \$1,041.

Registrar: (Carolyn A.) Last month there were 229 groups offering 363 meetings per week in Sonoma County. At May's general meeting there were 77 representatives equaling 34% representation. She asked reps to be sure to sign in on the correct day of the week (clearly marked) and if the rep is an alternate or just picking up the items for another representative to sign up using their name, meeting time

Committee Reports:

Bookstore Report: (Linda M.) Linda reported that the second quarter inventory was completed on Sunday June 30. The difference at cost was \$87. She thanked all the people that came to help. The new Grapevine book "Step by Step" is on sale this month for \$10 which is \$2.50 off the regular price. There were no dark shifts last month and all bookstore shifts are filled. Barbara F. asked if the \$87 was a loss? Linda replied yes. The loss is from the free pamphlets the bookstore gives to meetings.

ICSC: (Jim W.) Jim reminded us that there is an opening at the bookstore for assistant manager. He pointed out page 2 of the August newsletter with the job vacancy announcement. See Jim or Virginia W. if you are interested. The deadline for applying is August 10.

Activities: (Lori S.) Lori reminded us that the picnic on August 10 will be a lot of fun and fellowship. There will be a speaker/discussion meeting at 11 a.m. After that, a potato sack race, face painting & other activities. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers, please bring a salad or dessert.

Alkathons: (Richard H.) Richard apologized for his absence in June. Richard said that planning meetings will be on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the bookstore. Please attend. Sign-ups will start on August 26. We need to educate the fellowship that an Alkathon is a safe place to share food, stories, to get away from anything that may trigger a drink. He wants to do a history of Alkathons.

Communications/Newsletter: (Barry D.) Barry reported that everything you need to know is in the eight pages of the August newsletter which are now available. He encouraged us to recycle them to another alcoholic.

Outreach: (Ben G.) Ben described Outreach. He visited three meetings. Ben has one new volunteer. He is always looking for more volunteers.

Seminars: (Patty G.) Patty reminded us of the upcoming July 24 seminar on Steps Two & Three: Connecting with a Higher Power. The September topic will be 'The First Tradition: A.A. Unity Comes First' and will be on September 25.

Teleservice: (Joe B.) Reported that there are two open shifts - Thursday at 10 p.m. to Friday at 8 a.m. and Saturday 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Contact Joe if you're interested in helping.

Liaison Reports:

SOCYPAA: (Varuna) Varuna reminded us the First Annual Wet Brain Olympics Campout is on August 2-4 at Lake Berryessa. It will be at Pleasure Cove Marina and there will be a chicken dinner on Saturday.

Spanish Central Office: (Rosa S.) Not present.

Unity Day: (Laurie E.) Laurie advised that the event is Saturday October 12, 2013 at the Enmanji Buddhist Temple Memorial Hall at 1200 Gravenstein Highway South in Sebastopol. There will be a planning meeting on Wednesday, August 14 at 6 p.m. at the bookstore. Dog on the Roof meeting is coordinating the potluck. We still need a clean-up coordinator, and set-up people for late Friday, October 11 & tear down people for after the event.

H & I: (Patrick W.) Reported there were zero brown-outs, where the facility is shut down, and zero black-outs (A.A. fails to show.)

General Service: (Joann L.) Joann reported that at the next District business meeting there will be a third legacy election for two open positions: Archive Chair and Newsletter Editor. The upcoming Summer Assembly in Crescent City on August 10 should be exciting. Fliers on the table.

Bridging the Gap: (Bill D.) Described how they ease the transition to society from a facility. They take people to meetings in pairs. There are openings for people to do the presentations to facilities & the taking of the alcoholic to a meeting. Fliers on the table.

PI/CPC: (Diana W.) Diana described how their committee provides accurate information to the public e.g. DDP, the courts, CPS, and doctors. They will be giving a presentation at the CNCA meeting in Petaluma at 11 a.m. to noon on July 27th on how to develop, grow and sustain a PI committee. If you have two years of sobriety and would like to know more, please attend the monthly speaker training & business meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at the room by the underground parking garage of City Hall in Santa Rosa. Time is 7p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Access Sonoma County: (John F.) John advised that the seminar on Mental Health will be the first weekend in November. Everyone is invited to attend their meeting on the second Thursday at 6:30p.m. at the bookstore.

ICSC Nominating Committee: (Mike C.) Mike advised that they are looking for candidates with five years of sobriety and a business background for the upcoming October opening

Election: Patty described the position of Activities Chair. The third legacy process revealed that no one is currently available.

New Business:

Patty described the protocol whereby the motion is presented and the presenter may answer questions to clarify the motion.

Marcus M. read the motion: The NorCal Primary Purpose Group be reinstated into the A.A. Meeting Directory of the Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship.

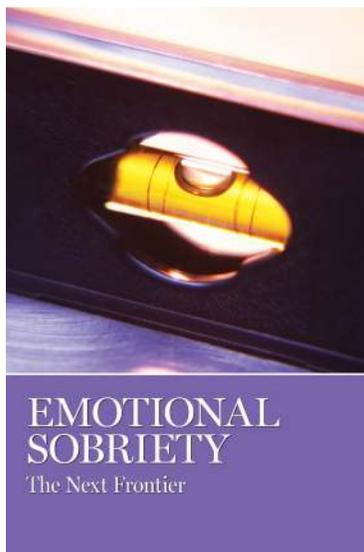
Group Representatives Sharing: Tina C. announced that there is a 9:30p.m. candlelight meeting at Ladybug Park in Rohnert Park on Saturdays.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:46p.m. with the Responsibility Statement.

— In Service, Mark V. C.

'Emotional Sobriety' on Sale at the Bookstore

September's special sale book at the SCIF Bookstore is "Emotional Sobriety, The Next Frontier." Here's the description from AA Grapevine: "Growing up in sobriety means different things to each recovering alcoholic, but one idea seems true: The rewards for reaching for emotional sobriety are serenity, emotional balance and an increased joy for living. These selected stories from Grapevine show that when people in recovery have the willingness to work the program to find solutions rather than stay stuck in problems, they can let go of fear, put aside selfish demands, practice outgoing love and become more connected to their Higher Power, family and fellows."



This is a great book to read with your sponsor or share with a friend and it's on sale now at the SCIF Bookstore at 20% off—while supplies last—for only \$11 per copy.

— In service, Linda M.

NOTES FROM THE GRAPEVINE**Resources for Grapevine Reps.**

Are you a Grapevine rep. for your meeting? Did you know that there is a training packet for you at: <http://www.aagrapevine.org/> under rep resources? Did you know that there is a Grapevine meeting of all the Grapevine people the last Saturday of the month in Petaluma? Well you have been missing out then on the fun and interest A.A. as a whole has in you—and you have in A.A. as a whole. Please let me know any time I can help explain your role as a Grapevine rep.

There is a lot more to being a Grapevine Rep than standing up boringly stating, "This is A.A.'s meeting in print ...please take one if you want and trade them out too." The Grapevine is the journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is where we speak our experience, ask our questions, make waves in our understanding and tell some great jokes. It is a space where A.A. members can see how people do sobriety all over the world and discuss it. It's a place where I can sit for five minutes and remember what helps me stay sane.

Remember if you like to share in writing or tell a story, you can do that at aagrapevine.org. They list the topics they need writers for and when. I heard they used to get 300 submissions and now only 100 are showing up. Is it time you posted something? They are looking for youth stories right now for January 2014 issue. And there is a gigantic calendar of events on there about all the workshops and conventions all over the US.

— In service, Suzanne A., Grapevine Chair, Panel 63

Alcoholism & Mental Health Workshop

On Saturday, November 2, from 1-4 p.m. Access Sonoma County will be holding a workshop at Community of Christ Church, 1495 W. Steele Lane, Santa Rosa. The subject is Alcoholism and Mental Health. There will be translation/interpretation provided in both Spanish and ASL. So come join us in exploring A.A. dogma, stigma, what our literature says about mental health issues and what we can do to make an A.A. meeting a safe place for all who wish to attend.

The topics for the workshop will be: What is "dual diagnosis"? What barriers do members with a mental health diagnosis face? What problems do groups encounter? What should sponsors know? What A.A. principles guide us? Our panelists will discuss the solutions to these issues and more through their experience, strength and hope.

So mark your calendar for the afternoon of Saturday, November 2. If you have a mental health issue, if you sponsor someone who does, if you are concerned about the potential disruption in a meeting, or if you just want to finally know what the term "dual diagnosis" means, come and join us.

Looking forward to seeing you on November 2. If you would like to join us in the final planning of this workshop, we meet the second Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the bookstore.

— In Sobriety, Al S.

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

"Watch any A.A. of six months working with a Twelfth Step prospect. If the newcomer says, 'To the devil with you,' the twelfth stepper only smiles and finds another alcoholic to help. He does not feel frustrated or rejected. If his next drunk responds, & in turn starts to give love and attention to other sufferers, yet gives none back to him, the sponsor is happy about it anyway. He still does not feel rejected; instead he rejoices that his former prospect is sober and happy.

"And he well knows that his own life has been made richer, as an extra dividend of giving to another without any demand for a return."

—Grapevine, January 1959

The Aug. 7, 2013, meeting of the Hospitals & Institutions Committee welcomed new meeting reps.: Jim B., representing the Kenwood Group; Tim Mc., Sunday Big Book Review; Chris, Healdsburg Group; Kasey, Traditions Group; Dale R., Single Purpose (Sebastopol); Max B., Breakfast Group (Petaluma); Ashley P., New Sobriety; Marty B. Fresh Air Group; Lynn B., Great Reality Big Book Study; Darren M., Primary Purpose (Azure Acres); Marc P., Ask It Basket; Mathias J., Chopstix (Rohnert Park); Julie P., Step Sisters; Hector I., Gay Men's Group; and Heather J., Women in the Solution (Petaluma). Thank you all for being of service! A warm hello was extended to our visitors Alise, Alicia and Mary—we hope you find something here that brings you back.

How about enriching your life by sharing your sobriety with an alcoholic who is confined? For suggestions on how to do just that, please come to the next meeting of the H&I Committee, Wednesday, September 4, 2013, at 6:15 p.m. Orientation for new reps. begins at 5:45 p.m. at Community of Christ Church, 1495 W. Steele Lane.

— In service, Mardi



Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship

Motion for General Meeting and Group Discussion

Motion: The Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group be reinstated into the A.A. Meeting Directory of the Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship.

This is a summary of the history of this issue from SCIF Steering Committee and General Meeting minutes:

January 2011 SCIF Steering Committee — Concern regarding Primary Purpose group's affiliation with national Primary Purpose company* brought to Steering Committee. Members from Primary Purpose present to ask and answer questions. Primary Purpose members said members don't have to purchase book; offered free as a download and as supplement to Big Book. Steering Committee noted that full names are used on web listing, local group is linked to Primary Purpose website – seems like an affiliation.

February 2011 SCIF Steering Committee — Not interested in making sure Primary Purpose is following the traditions. That's not our job. Our issue is whether we list them in the schedule. Seems to have a close relationship with national organization.* We can't dictate what meetings do. Question is: Are they affiliated? Are they affecting A.A. as a whole? Motion to remove Primary Purpose out of meetings directory passed.

March 2011 SCIF Steering Committee Motion from Primary Purpose group: That SCIF not remove the Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group from the Sonoma County A.A. meeting directory. Steering Committee went through history that culminated in decision to remove Primary Purpose from SCIF meeting directory. The focus of decision was on Tradition Six and group affiliated with outside organization that conflict with A.A. as a whole. Motion from Primary Purpose will be put on general meeting agenda with pro/con written for newsletter and discussion by general meeting in March.

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting - May 2011

• Motion from Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group: We request that SCIF reinstate the Primary Purpose Group into SCIF meeting listing.

Representatives shared their group's conscience regarding affiliation. Several other issues were brought up. Sean stressed focusing on the issue of affiliation. Chair asked reps to ask questions or share thoughts; want to reach an informed group conscience peacefully and in friendly manner. Reps shared and it was decided to give groups more time to discuss motion. Further discussion tabled to next meeting.

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting – June 2011

• Motion from Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group: We request that SCIF reinstate the Primary Purpose Group into SCIF meeting listing.

Representatives shared their group's conscience regarding affiliation. After reps shared it was decided more time was needed to discuss. Further discussion tabled to next meeting.

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship General Meeting – July 2011

• Motion from Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group: We request that SCIF reinstate the Primary Purpose Group into SCIF meeting listing.

Sean said it seemed at June meeting some reps ready to vote. Who can vote outlined clearly. Sean then asked who ready to vote to stand – 69 ready to vote, 7 not ready. Group then decided whether motion would be decided by a simple majority or 2/3 majority. 28 voted for simple majority, 47 for 2/3 majority. 2/3 majority approved. Sean then called the motion to vote. 24 for the motion, 53 opposed, and 6 abstained. Motion did not pass. Chair said this has been good informed group conscience.

***Primary Purpose Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, Dallas, Texas is an A.A. Group, not a national company or organization. Information in the Steering Committee minutes was inaccurate.**

Statement in Support of request to be reinstated into SCIF Meeting Directory:

Two years ago the Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group was removed from the Sonoma County meeting directory for being listed on another groups website as a Big Book Study Group (no longer listed). Some personalities came before spiritual principles and a very inaccurate appraisal of our group was posted in our newsletter, thus resulting in a biased view of our meeting. Which we feel produced an uninformed group conscience.

Let's review the statement printed on the back of the directory.

"Groups are listed in this Meeting Directory at their own request. A Directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of

any groups approach to or practice of the Traditional program of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Now let's look at the AA guiding principles from the A.A. Service Manual & Twelve Concepts as well as Language of the heart, both by founder **Bill W.**

Concept Twelve Warranty Six

1) "In preceding Concepts, much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the AA Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group:

- a) **"No penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to AA principles"**
- b) "No fees or dues to be levied – voluntary contributions only"
- c) "No member to be expelled from AA – membership always to be the choice of the individual"

d) "Each AA group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes – **it being merely requested** to abstain from acts that might injure AA as a whole"

e) "And finally that a group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.

The Language of the Heart

1) Pg. 80, paragraph 2

a) "Let us look more closely at Tradition Four. The first sentence guarantees each A.A. group local autonomy. With respect to its own affairs, the group may make any decisions, adopt any attitudes it likes."

b) "No overall or intergroup authority should challenge this primary privilege. We feel this ought to be so, even though the group might sometimes act with complete indifference to our Tradition."

Statement Against request to be reinstated into SCIF Meeting Directory

The Nor Cal Primary Purpose Group (NCPGG) is requesting at this time that it be reinstated to the Sonoma County SCIF Meeting Directory. Two years ago, the SCIF Steering Committee voted to remove the group from the meeting directory. That action was later supported by the SCIF General Meeting.

The decision two years ago to remove NCPGG from the Meeting Directory was based on the group's affiliation with the Primary Purpose Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, Dallas, Texas, and the conclusion that it was in conflict with Tradition Six. The Nor Cal Group's affiliation consisted of a listing on the Dallas Group's website, and the use of a Study

Guide that originated with the Dallas group, which is not A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature. Based on this information, SCIF representatives voted to uphold the decision to remove the NCPGG from the Meeting Directory.

Since the decision two years ago, the NCPGG has had its meeting removed from the website of the Primary Purpose Group of Alcoholics Anonymous – Dallas, Texas. However, NCPGG continues to use the Study Guide that originated with the Dallas group.

As the SCIF considers the motion to reinstate NCPGG, the issue for Intergroup Reps. and their groups to consider is affiliation. Tradition Six in the long form, states that: **"While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual**

or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one." (emphasis added)

In addition, Tradition Three in the long form states that: **"Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."**

While the NCPGG has removed its listing from the Dallas group's website, the continued use of literature that is not A.A. General Service Conference-approved has the appearance, or implication of affiliation. Tradition Six states that affiliation can be "actual or implied."

It is each group's responsibility to consider this issue carefully and bring their informed group conscience to bear as the SCIF considers the NCPGG's request.

Start Thinking of Group Inventory Questions

In the service manual for General Service on page 31, the first paragraph has inspired me for years since I became a District Committee member. It says, "A district is a geographical unit containing the right number of groups - right in terms of the committee member's ability to keep in frequent touch with them, to learn their problems, and to find ways to contribute to their growth and well being."

I have been serving District 12 for about 8 years now, first as a GSR and then as a District Committee officer in several jobs. As part of doing my job I have visited many groups, always at their requests, listened to their problems and, as a way to contribute to their growth and well being, I have suggested and facilitate group inventories. A group inventory is just as vital to a group as a personal inventory is to the individual's sobriety. I have learned to really trust this process, a process that enables the group to look at itself, its strengths and weaknesses, and to come to solutions for these problems as a group.

In November, we will have the opportunity to take a group inventory at District and again at Area at the Fall Assembly in San Francisco. I encourage everyone in the Fellowship to start thinking now about what are the questions we should be asking ourselves. How well are we doing? What can we do better? How can we as a district better support the GSR in doing their job? How well do all of us understand our service positions? How do we contribute to the growth and well being of all the groups in Sonoma County? What more can we do to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers? My email is on the back of the SCIF newsletter. If you think of something that you believe General Service should be looking at, please let me know.

— Joann L.

PI/CPC NEWS

Spreading the Word of What A.A. Is — and Isn't

Service seemed to be the answer, to be involved as much as possible was my goal. I had been sober before but without getting involved. And it didn't last. Later I was a meeting greeter, this was a great commitment in the beginning. I met lots of A.A.s, and welcomed many newcomers.

To me PI/CPC is a lot like welcoming newcomers who don't even know they could be newcomers. At a speaker training class with Nick, we learn to share what A.A. is and is not, what you may experience at an A.A. meeting, the difference between open and closed meetings. It's a unique approach to people who may not know about alcoholism, the disease, or alcoholics. Just because someone got a DUI doesn't mean they're an alcoholic, but by attending the class people may walk away more informed. Possibly a neighbor, family member or friend may need help one day and we've given them information to help.

Check out this amazing way of service on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. for speaker training and 7:30 for the business meeting.

— In service, Mike D.

A 'Warm Introduction' to A.A.

I may not have been broke by the time I got to A.A., but I was broken. Interaction with others was difficult. Being in a room full of strangers seemed insanely intimidating. I was uncomfortable in my own skin. I was as scared of the people in A.A., as I was in need of them. Linear thought eluded me as if it were the Roadrunner, with me playing Wile E. Coyote.

The feelings of early sobriety were hard to deal with, and I literally did not know how to be around people. Discomfort almost kept me from attending meetings that I needed in order to live. I wished there was something there to help me feel more comfortable, to make me not feel like an outsider.

That's where Bridging the Gap comes in. What we try to do, along with educating people about A.A., is to bridge that gap between treatment centers/detoxes and the rooms of A.A. I think of it as a "warm introduction." We try to make the newcomer feel comfortable. We introduce them to our friends in A.A. and bring them to our home group. We may take the newcomer for coffee and get to know them. As with any Twelfth Step work, there is much latitude and it seems that whatever is supposed to happen does.

We also bring meetings into the local detox and rehab programs. We share about ourselves, what A.A. is to us, and what A.A. has done for us. Those who are interested in connecting with Bridging the Gap volunteers are encouraged to fill out a contact card. We use those cards to match prospective A.A.'s with their volunteer, taking into account gender, age, and area.

Every day I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service with Bridging the Gap. It helps to keep me sober and working with newcomers helps me to recall "with sufficient force" the suffering that brought me here in the first place. It has brought me new friends, both in those I serve and those I serve with. I read somewhere, "Practical experience shows us that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics."

We are always looking for volunteers. You can check us out the third Tuesday of each month at the Bookstore. Orientation is 6 p.m. There are openings for volunteers who would like to share at facilities, help newcomers get to meetings, or join our Bridging The Gap committee.

— Howie G.

TELESERVICE FLASH

The Hotline — A.A.'s Front Line

As a hotline volunteer you are the voice of hope. You can help alcoholic, as well as non-alcoholic, callers. Calls range from directions to meetings to Twelfth Step work. Get into service, help a drunk in need.



If you're interested, contact Joe at 591-9376, or email teleservice@sonomacounty-aa.org and sign up for a shift or get on the waiting list.

— Joe B.

 Sonoma Valley Fellowship of A.A. Archives Committee presents

The Origin of The Twelve Steps



Saturday, Sept. 28 2013
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

St. Andrew Hall
16290 Arnold Drive, Sonoma

Info: Dan M. (707) 537-8541

 SCIF & SOCYPAA Present

Halloween Dance and Masquerade Extravaganza



Veterans Memorial Building
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa

Friday, October 25, 2013

AA meeting at 7pm
w/Suprise Guest Speaker

Dance 8:30pm to midnight
DJ Nickodemus

Donation \$10

Volunteers Needed! Call Lori S. 529-9664



SEPTEMBER • 2013



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 SOCYPAA First United Methodist 7:15 Business Meeting	2 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45 Service Manual Study 6:45 New Rep. Orientation 7:30 Business Meeting	3	4 Hospitals & Institutions Community of Christ Church 5:45 New Rep. Orientation 6:15 Business Meeting	5 Access Sonoma County SCIF Bookstore 6:15 Orientation 6:30 Meeting	6	7
8	9 SCIF Bookstore 6:00 Teleservice Meeting 6:30 ICSC Meeting 8:00 Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	10 Interpretation & Translation Committee 7:00 Aroma Roasters, 95 5th Street in SR.	11 PI/CPC S.R. City Hall- 7:00 Training , 7:30 Business Unity Day Planning 6:00 Bookstore	12	13 October 2013 Newsletter Deadline 5 p.m.	14
15 SOCYPAA First United Methodist 7:15 Business Meeting	16 Alkathon Planning 7:00. SCIF Bookstore	17 Bridging The Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:00 New Rep. Orientation 6:30 Business Meeting	18	19	20	21
22	23 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30 New Rep. Orientation 8:00 Business Meeting	24	25 Seminar - The First Tradition: A.A. Unity Comes First Bookstore 7-8:30 p.m.	26	27	28 General Service Area 06 Committee 320 N. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma
29 Happy Trails Meet at Coddington Post Office, 10 a.m. Call John S 494-9049	30	First United Methodist Church: 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa Faith Lutheran Church: 4930 Newwanga Ave., Santa Rosa St. Luke Lutheran Church: 905 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa Community of Christ Church: 1495 W. Steele Lane, Santa Rosa S.R. City Hall Employee Lounge: First St. & Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa SCIF Bookstore: 750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10, Santa Rosa				

SCIF FINANCIAL SUMMARY JULY 2013

	Income	July 2013 Expense	Net	July 2012 Net	Year to Date Income	Year to Date Expense	2013 Net	2012 Net
Group Supported:				Comparison				Comparison
Central Office								
Groups								
Individuals								
Teleservice								
Web Site								
Newsletter								
ASL Interpreter (\$1500)								
Interest								
<i>Subtotal</i>								
Self Supported:								
Bookstore								
Activities								
Alkathons								
Seminars								
Unity Day								
<i>Subtotal</i>								
TOTAL								
Assets & Liabilities								
Cash in Bank & Petty Cash					Memo:	Cash in Bank & Petty Cash		
Prepaid Expenses						Prudent Reserve		
Liabilities						Liabilities		
<i>Subtotal</i>						Operating Reserve		
Bookstore Inventory								
Property								
Total Assets & Liabilities								

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS 2013

MEETINGS

JULY 2013 YTD

11th Step AA Moment of Silence
 11th Step Meditation
 11th Step Meeting, Healdsburg
 11th Step Meeting, Petaluma
 12 x 12 @ Noon
 12 x 12 Plus Step
 A Vision For You
 AA Health Professionals
 AA of Son., Tues. Big Book Group
 Access Sonoma County
 Any Lengths Group
 B.Y.O.B.B.
 Be What You Want To See
 Beyond Belief Group
 Big Book Review
 Cazadero Group
 Chair It or Air It, Petaluma
 Check It Out
 Cloverdate Fellowship Hall
 Coming Together So. County
 Early Birds Fellowship of Pet.
 Expect A Miracle
 FAHA Home Group
 Fresh Air Group
 Friday Night Healdsburg Grp.
 Friday Night Vets
 Friday Nooners of AA
 Gay Newcomers
 Geyserville Good Neighbor
 Graton Fellowship
 Great Reality Big Book Study
 Grin & Win Group
 Guerneville Women's Group

Harmony Group of AA
 Healdsburg Anonymity Group
 Healdsburg Womens Book Study
 Hessel Big Book Study
 Higher Power Group
 Hope 4 Today
 How It Works Group
 Keep It Simple
 Kenwood Group
 Kenwood Step Study
 Kittens On the Steps
 Language of the Heart Group
 Lost Then Found Group
 Lunch Bunch Group
 Monday Mood Swings
 Monday Night AA Sonoma
 Mondy Night Alcoholics Only
 New Sobriety Group
 North Bay Dog On The Roof
 Not A Glum Lot
 Oaks Fellowship
 Occidental Tonight Group
 Oh God It's Monday
 Open Door
 Petaluma Valley Group
 Quitting Time Group
 River Grace
 River Nooners
 River Women's Meeting
 Rule 62 Group
 Saints and Sinners
 Saturday Serenity
 Saturday Solution Group
 Sebastopol Men's Stag

Sebastopol Step Study Group
 Sharing & Caring
 Simply AA
 Sober Sisters
 Sober Sunday
 SOCYPAA
 Sonoma County General Service
 Sonoma Valley Fellowship
 South Park Survivors
 Step Sisters
 Sunday Breakfast Club
 Sunday Niters
 Sunday PM Closed Disc. Group
 There Is A Solution, Healdsb.
 There Is A Solution, SR
 Thurs. 11th Step Group, Sonoma
 Thurs. Night 12X12 Disc. Grp.
 Thurs. Night Big Book Study
 Thurs. Nt. Real Life Mtgs of AA
 Thurs. Night Women's AA
 Tuesday Noon, Alano Club
 Unity Day Planning
 Up The Steps
 Warm Springs Fellowship
 Wednesday Westsiders
 Wed. Womens Lunch Bunch
 Wednesday Wonders
 We're In The Now
 Women's Book Group
 Women's Step Study & Disc.
 Womens Tuesday At Noon
 Working Winners

Total

JULY 2013-YTD

A.A. HOTLINES

Santa Rosa (707) 544-1300
 Toll Free (800) 224-1300
 Sonoma (707) 938-8508
 Spanish Speaking (707) 623-6702



TELESERVICE

Phone Line Coordinator

Dave R. (707) 538-5758

Teleservice Chair

Joe B. (707) 591-9376

WEB LINKS

www.sonomacountyaa.org
www.aa.org
www.aagrapevine.org

ADDRESSES

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship

750 Mendocino Ave. #10
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4846

Sonoma County General Service

P.O. Box 536
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Area 22 H&I Treasurer

P.O. Box 192490
 San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

General Service Office

P.O. Box 459,
 Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163

CA Northern Coastal Area Treasury

P.O. Box 884222
 San Francisco, CA 94188

Sonoma County PI/CPC*

P.O. Box 11305
 Santa Rosa, CA 95406

SOCYPAA

P.O. Box 5784
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

**Funded solely through Sonoma County General Service*

CONTACT INFORMATION

SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP

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Vice Chair	Tina C.	vice-chair@sonomacountyaa.org
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Treasurer	Jimmie B.	treasurer@sonomacountyaa.org
Registrar	Carolyn A.	registrar@sonomacountyaa.org

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ICSC	Jim W.	icsc@sonomacountyaa.org
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Teleservice	Joe B.	teleservice@sonomacountyaa.org

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SONOMA COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE

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PI/CPC	Cindy L.	picpc@sonomacountyaa.org
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Chair	Laurie C.	handi@sonomacountyaa.org
Unity Day	Gretchen H.	unityday@sonomacountyaa.org

SONOMA COUNTY YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Chair	Fred S.	socypaa@sonomacountyaa.org
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