



SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP NEWS

JUNE 2006 VOLUME 101, ISSUE 6

ACTIVITIES

Annual Founder's Day Picnic Celebrate AA's 71st Birthday June 10, 2006 12noon-5pm



To Volunteer: **Monika G.**

12noon-5pm

Saturday, June 10th, 2006

**DOYLE PARK
Sonoma Ave.
and Doyle Park
Dr. in Santa
Rosa, CA
Meeting Starts
at Noon
Speaker: TBA
Followed by
Sun, Fun, Food,
and Volleyball**

**Hotdogs and Hamburgers-\$4.00
Soda and Water-\$1.00
Bring Side Dishes and Desserts!**

Sobriety Birthdays		
Cynthia B.	May 17, 1971	XXXV
Steve J.	June 24, 1979	XXVII
Buz R.	June 15, 1981	XXV
Larry K.	May 15, 1998	VIII
Debbie T.	May 20, 2003	III
Tony S.	April 10, 2003	II
Pam Y.	May 7, 2004	II
DeeDee	May 13, 2004	II
Mark	May 13, 2004	II
Grant	May 14, 2005	I
Jason E.	May 23, 2005	I
Total:		CVIII

S.O.C.Y.P.A.A.
The young people in Sonoma County are holding their first speaker meeting and dance on June 2 at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street. The meeting will be at 7:00PM followed by an 80's themed dance starting at 8:30PM. The suggested donation for the dance is \$10.
If you are interested in S.O.C.Y.P.A.A., come to their monthly business meeting. It's the first Sunday of the month at 7:15PM at 1551 Montgomery Drive.

The rain is gone, the sun is shining and it's time to look forward to the Annual Founder's Day Picnic on June 10 at Doyle Park! The speaker meeting starts at noon and the BBQ and fellowship will go on until 5PM. We'll have hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas and water for sale and we'd love it if you could bring side dishes and desserts to share! We'll also have softball and volleyball so be prepared to have a blast in the sun.

The Spring Break dance on April 21st was off the hook!! DJ Aaron kept everybody shakin' their groove thing on the dance floor and the crowd of volunteers was amazing. We were able to get everything cleaned up in 15 minutes!! Awesome! A big thanks to Lori E. and her crew for an incredible job of decorating, Rich, Amy and Christi for coffee and snack sales, Beth and her gang for cleaning the hall beautifully, Preston and Jeff for manning the door, and everybody else who jumped in and made the dance a huge success. The next dance is August 26 at the Sebastopol Community Center.

Can I just tell you that this is the best commitment I've ever had!!!! Who knew that there were so many beautiful, exceptional, talented, creative people in Alcoholics Anonymous? God is so good and I'm so glad to be of service.

For information or to volunteer, call Monika G.

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**July Newsletter
Submissions Due:
June 12**

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

CHAIR: Bob K
 VICE-CHAIR: Tim P.
 SECRETARY: Bob P.
 TREASURER: John S.
 REGISTRAR: Susy E.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SEMINARS: Jim B.
 ACTIVITIES: Monika G.
 OUTREACH: Victoria H.
 COMMUNICATIONS: Dave H.
 TELESERVICE: Stephen I.
 ALCATHONS: Jeff S.

AA TELESERVICE



PHONE LINE COORDINATOR: Dave R.
 12 STEP COORDINATOR: James C.

AA HOTLINES

SANTA ROSA: 707-544-1300
 LONG DISTANCE: 800-224-1300
 PETALUMA: 707-762-5122
 SONOMA: 707-938-2027
 SPANISH: 707-829-1272

OPEN SHIFTS

NONE:
 THAT'S RIGHT: NONE!!!!

Opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Readings: Tradition 4: Carolyn
 Preamble: Margrete Concept: 4 Bob

Introduction of new reps to Intergroup:

Mary K. Tuesday Night Beginners
 Jonqui A. Sober Sisters
 Chris S. Cross Roads Meeting
 Frank S. 12x12@12
 Emelia A. Serenity Fellowship
 Adam W. Petaluma Early Birds
 Carolina R. Stein Group

March Birthdays: Bob G. 12 yrs., Frank J. 17 Yrs., Erin B. 14 Yrs., Jeff 3 Yrs., Mary K. 1 Yr.

LIAISON REPORTS

H&I Report: Mark V. reminded folks that H&I meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Center with an orientation for those interested in this service commitment taking place at 5:30PM, followed by the business meeting at 6:00PM.

General Service: Margrete substituted for Kenin H. On April 8th and 9th our area, California Northern Coastal, held its pre-conference assembly in Napa. There were 475 representatives in attendance. On Monday June 5, GS will host a BBQ (Pot Luck) at Faith Lutheran Church at 4970 Newanga Ave. starting at 6:00 PM. The 2006 Pacific Regional Forum is scheduled for June 23 ~ 25 in Seattle, Washington. The forum is put on by the AA General Service Board and is designed to enhance communication and participation among AA members, the General Service Board, the Grapevine staff and General Service office staff. All AA members are welcome.

PI/CPC Report: Dave R. Encouraged anyone wanting to be of service to this committee that they meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month at SR City Hall lounge w/ speaker training at 7:00PM and the business meeting at 7:30PM. They are in need of volunteers. He explained the function of the group is to provide accurate information about A.A. and to distribute literature to hospitals, police stations, hotels, jails, libraries, etc. They are in need of speakers for the County's drinking/driving program.

This commitment requires two years of sobriety.

Bridging The Gap: Carolyn A. reported the purpose of BTG is to introduce newly released residents of treatment facilities to AA their local community. They use a list of AA volunteers to coordinate with newly released AA newcomers and take them to their first meeting. All that is required to be a volunteer is 6 months of sobriety and a working knowledge of the steps. Having transportation is helpful. Business meeting is held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the AA Bookstore at 7:00PM. There were 43 local requests this past month, 10 more than last month.

SOCYPAA: Larry C. reported that the Dodge Ball Pot Luck was a success! Outreach has started a fourth young peoples meeting on Friday at 6:30 PM. The address is 4515 Ross Rd., Sebastopol. SOCYPAA will hold a dance on Friday June 2nd at the Sebastopol Community Center. There will be a speaker meeting before the dance.

Access Sonoma County: Diane W. reported that ASC meets at the 2nd Thursday of the Month at 6:30 PM at the Bookstore. Access is more than wheelchairs. She encourages intergroup reps to discuss with their groups different ways to make meetings more accommodating for members with disabilities. A good guide is the "Green Pamphlet" offered by ASC.

OFFICER REPORTS

Intergroup Chair: Bob K. mentioned vehicles parked at meetings have been vandalized. Owners should take appropriate precautions with valuables.

Vice Chair: At 7:30, a half hour before the regular meeting, new reps. are informed about Intergroup, its functions and responsibilities.

Treasurer: John S. reported that contributions were slightly improved this month.

Bookstore: Gloria reported volunteers are needed to work on Monday afternoon. The book, The Home Group, will be half priced next month.

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SCIF MEETING

Registrar: Susy E. asked how the sign in process went this evening-no complaints!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach: Victoria H. is promoting Inter-group to the meetings she is attending.

Activities: Monika G. reported the "Spring Dance" was a success. The next dance will be in August.

Seminars: Jim B. The May seminar will be held on the 3rd Saturday (May 20th) from 3pm until 5 pm at the bookstore on traditions 1, 3, and 5.

Alcathons: Jeff S. mentioned that the Alcathons are coming up. He is coordinating with the facility where the Alcathons will be held. Jeff will be looking for volunteers.

Teleservice: Dave L. substituted for Steve I. and reported that the business meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00PM at the Bookstore. Teleservice needs a volunteer to be a Recording Secretary.

Newsletter/Communications: Dave L. mentioned that the Newsletter Committee meets at the Bookstore at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. E-Mail Newsletter subscriptions are being considered as a revenue source for Inter-group.

Old Business: Need Liaison between Inter-group and General Service.

New Business: Need a volunteer, preferably with a business background and 2 years sobriety, to be a member of the Inter-group Central Service Committee (ICSC) at the Bookstore.

Group Concerns/Sharing: There are only 25 to 30 slots available for the rafting trip, early bird gets the worm, sign up soon!

Summation: Tim P. outlined the meeting. Inter-group will be hosting Unity Day this year. He asked if anyone would bring nominees for the soon vacant ICSC position.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer
Gratefully In Service,
Bob P.

The Origin of the Serenity Prayer

For many years, long after the Serenity Prayer became attached to the very fabric of the Fellowship's life and thought, its exact origin, its actual author, have played a tantalizing game of hide and seek with researchers, both in and out of A.A. The facts of how it came to be used by A.A. a half century ago are much easier to pinpoint.

Early in 1942, writes Bill W., in A.A. Comes of Age, a New York member, Jack, brought to everyone's attention a caption in a routine New York Herald Tribune obituary that read:

"God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference."

Everyone in A.A.'s burgeoning office on Manhattan's Vesey Street was struck by the power and wisdom contained in the prayer's thoughts. "Never had we seen so much A.A. in so few words," Bill writes. Someone suggested that the prayer be printed on a small, wallet-sized card, to be included in every piece of outgoing mail. Ruth Hock, the Fellowship's first (and non-alcoholic) secretary, contacted Henry S., a Washington D.C. member, and a professional printer, asking him what it would cost to order a bulk printing.

Henry's enthusiastic response was to print 500 copies of the prayer, with the remark: "Incidentally, I am only a heel when I'm drunk . . . so naturally, there could be no charge for anything of this nature."

"With amazing speed," writes Bill, "the Serenity Prayer came into general use and took its place alongside our two other favorites, the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of St. Francis."

Thus did the "accidental" noticing of an unattributed prayer, printed alongside a simple obituary of an unknown individual, open the way toward the prayer's daily use by thousands upon thousands of A.A.s worldwide.

But despite years of research by numerous individuals, the exact origin of the prayer is shrouded in overlays of history, even mystery. Moreover, every time a researcher appears to uncover the definitive source, another one crops up to refute the former's claim, at the same time that it raises new, intriguing facts. What is undisputed is the claim of authorship by the theologian Dr. Rheinhold Niebuhr, who recounted to interviewers on several occasions that he had written the prayer as a "tag line" to a sermon he had delivered on Practical Christianity. Yet even Dr. Niebuhr added at least a touch of doubt to his claim, when he told one interviewer, "Of course, it may have been spooking around for years, even centuries, but I don't think so. I honestly do believe that I wrote it myself."

Early in World War II, with Dr. Niebuhr's permission, the prayer was printed on cards and distributed to the troops by the U.S.O. By then it had also been reprinted by the National Council of Churches, as well as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Dr. Niebuhr was quite accurate in suggesting that the prayer may have been "spooking around" for centuries. "No one can tell for sure who first wrote the Serenity Prayer,"

writes Bill in A.A. Comes of Age. "Some say it came from the early Greeks; others think it was from the pen of an anonymous English poet; still others claim it was written by an American Naval officer. . . ." Other attributions have gone as far afield as ancient Sanskrit texts, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and Spinoza. One A.A. member came across the Roman philosopher Cicero's Six Mistakes of Man, one of which reads: "The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected."

No one has actually found the prayer's text among the writings of these alleged, original sources. What are probably truly ancient, as with the above quote from Cicero, are the prayer's themes of acceptance, courage to change what can be changed and the free letting go of what is out of one's ability to change.

The search for pinpointing origins of the prayer has been like the peeling of an onion. For example, in July 1964, the A.A. Grapevine received a clipping of an article that had appeared in the Paris Herald Tribune, by the paper's correspondent in Koblenz, then in West Germany. "In a rather dreary hall of a converted hotel, overlooking the Rhine at Koblenz," the correspondent wrote, is a tablet inscribed with the following words:

"God give me the detachment to accept those things I cannot alter; the courage to alter those things I can alter; and the wisdom to distinguish the one thing from the other."

These words were attributed, the correspondent wrote, to an 18th century pietist, Friedrich Oetinger (1702-1782). Moreover, the plaque was affixed to a wall in a hall where modern day troops and company commanders of the new German army were trained "in the principles of management and . . . behavior of the soldier citizen in a democratic state."

Here, at last, thought A.A. researchers, was concrete evidence-quote, author, date-of the Serenity Prayer's original source. That conviction went unchallenged for fifteen years. Then in 1979 came material, shared with G.S.O.'s Beth K., by Peter T., of Berlin. Peter's research threw the authenticity of 18th century authorship out the window. But it also added more tantalizing facts about the plaque's origin.

"The first form of the prayer," Beth wrote back, originated with Boethius, the Roman philosopher (480-524 A.D.), and author of the book, Consolations of Philosophy. The prayer's thoughts were used from then on by "religious-like people who had to suffer first by the English, later the Prussian puritans . . . then the Pietists from southwest Germany . . . then A.A.s . . . and through them, the West Germans after the Second World War."

Moreover, Beth continued, after the war, a north German University professor, Dr. Theodor Wilhelm, who had started a revival of spiritual life in West Germany, had acquired the "little prayer" from Canadian soldiers. He had written a book in which he had included the prayer, without attribution, but which resulted in the prayer's appearance in many different places, such as army officer's halls, schools and other

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Hospitals and Institutions

"For myself, I try to seek out the truest definition of humility that I can. This will not be the perfect definition, because I shall always be imperfect.

"At this writing, I would choose one like this: Absolute humility would consist of a state of complete freedom from myself, freedom from all the claims that my defects of character now lay so heavily upon me.

"Perfect humility would be a full willingness, in all times & places, to find & to do the will of God. When I meditate upon such a vision, I need not be dismayed because I shall never attain it, nor need I swell with presumption that one of these days its virtues shall all be mine. I only need to dwell on the vision itself, letting it grow & ever more fill my heart. This done, I can compare it with my last taken personal inventory. Then I get a sane & healthy idea of where I stand on the highway to humility. I see that my journey toward God has scarce begun.

"As I thus get down to my right size & stature, my self-concern & importance become amusing." [Bill W., Grapevine, 1961]

At the May 3 meeting of the H&I Committee, we were all pleased to welcome new reps Robert, from the Serenity Fellowship; Brad, Not Just Any Newcomer group; Emily, Reading Between the Lines; Jim, Wednesday Matinee; Cheryl, Campobello; William, 5th Street Light; and Michael O, Quitting Time. Visiting the meeting were Gail and John. Glad to see you all here!

Celebrating a total of 117 and ½ years of sobriety were Robert, with 3 years; Margie, 26; Jasmine, 1 ½; Coop, 12; Keith H., 23; Daniel G., 7; Manuel, 16; Larry R., 1; Ellie R., 7; and Dave F., 21. Keep coming back—something's working!!!

Jim B., in his 5-minute chair, told of how good service in H&I has been for him over the years. When he first got sober, he shared, he didn't have a clue as to what to do. Then a panel from H&I came to the house where he was staying and he decided to check out an H&I meeting. He met a lot of people with a lot of sobriety and has since taken meetings into the Norton Center (formerly Oakcrest), Lytton Springs and others. Sometimes, he said, his service has been what has kept him sober, got him past his fears, and he is now a meeting coordinator. He has met people at "outside" meetings who remember him from bringing the message of AA into a facility and thank him. "Being in service," he said, "has changed the way I am."

Need some change in your sobriety? How about sharing it with those who are unable to get to meetings? For more information, just show up at the next meeting of the H&I Committee on Wednesday, June 7, at 6:00 at the Santa Rosa Senior Center on the corner of Bennett Valley Road and Rutledge Avenue (1 block east of Santa Rosa Avenue). The orientation, which is open to all, begins at 5:30. We hope to see you there!

In Service,
Mardi

My Experience with the Teleservice Hotline

Well, first what I must do is give a little history. When my alcoholism became a serious problem in my life, everyone around me knew except me, of course. I was oblivious to the pain and suffering I was creating in and around my life.

It was suggested by my therapist that I had a problem with alcohol. She suggested that I needed to seek outside help through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. She added that if I were unwilling to do so, she would have to terminate our relationship. She indicated that my behavior had gotten way out of hand.

At first I was in denial. "I couldn't possibly be an alcoholic. I was just having a hard time managing things in my life, that's all." I rationalized my problem away.

When I finally realized that my drinking was too much even for me, I didn't know where to begin. I picked up the phone and called the AA Hotline. The person who answered my call was helpful and told me where and how to get to my first meeting. He was kind and

told me not to be afraid. Ever since then, I have been able to look back and remember that sweet moment in my life.

My first step to recovery began with the AA hotline. It is the frontline of AA. The people who are involved are passionate about what we do. We get an amazing feeling from being able to help someone in dire need. We may possibly help someone maintain their sobriety for another day or hour or even minute. I have received such gratitude from callers that it makes me want to continue my sobriety even stronger than ever.

It is hard to express how much working on the hotline means to me. It is something I plan for each week. I look forward to each call. Whether it is helping someone get to their very first meeting, or just talking with someone who is having a hard day, it is a great experience. I plan to keep doing it for a long time to come.

May you have many great days ahead in your sobriety!

God Bless,
Peggy S.

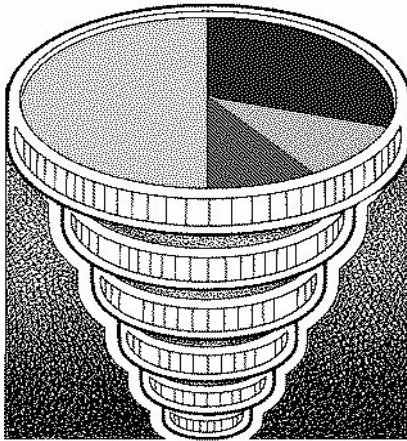
I can name two things happening on June 2nd.

Can You?

Turn upside down for the answers:

First of all,
S.O.C.Y.P.A.A. is putting on its first speaker meeting
and dance at the Sebastopol Community Center,
390 Morris Street, Sebastopol.
7:00 PM - Meeting (Free)
8:30 PM - 80's Dance (\$10)
Secondly,
The Oceanside Campfire Meeting
is starting again.
Once again Schoolhouse Beach will be
host to alcoholics of all ages and sanity levels.
6:30 PM : Bring your own food to burn and share
8:30 PM : 90 Minute Speaker and Discussion meeting.

SCIF FINANCIAL SUMMARY APRIL 2006



Examples 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

Month of April

Year to Date

	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
Central Office						
Groups						
Individuals						
Office Rent						
Teleservice						
Web Site						
Newsletter						
Interest						
Subtotal:						
Bookstore						
Activities						
Alcathon						
Seminars						
TOTAL:						

Assets & Liabilities

Memo:

Cash in Bank & Petty Cash
 Prepaid Expenses
 Liabilities
Subtotal:
 Literature Inventories
 Property
 Total Assets & Liabilities

Cash in Bank & Petty Cash
 Prudent Reserve
 Liabilities
 Total (unassigned funds)

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Meeting	Apr	YTD	Meeting	Apr	YTD	Meeting	Apr	YTD
11th Step Meeting			Just For Today			Spirit of Akron		
12 X 12 @ 12 Group			Lunch Bunch Group			Sunday PM Closed Discussion		
12 X 12 Plus			Mature & Sober Group			Sunday Sanity		
A Vision For You			Monday Mood Swings			The Sunday Night Group		
AA Cache Creek Group			New Women In AA			There Is A Solution		
AA Check It Out Group			Newcomers & Oldtimers			Think About It Group		
AA Health Professionals			Not Just Another Newcomer's Mtg			Third Step Group		
AA of Sonoma, Thursday 11th Step			Open Door			Thurs. Big Book Step Study		
AA of Sonoma, Tuesday Big Book			Out of the Ashes Group			Thurs. Night 12 X 12 Discussion		
Acres Fellowship Group			Prayer & Meditation, Sebastopol			Tuesday Afternoon Delight		
Any Lengths Group			Promises Group			Tuesday River Discussion		
Attitude Adjustment Group			Quitting Time Group			Up The Steps		
B.Y.O.B.B.			Redwood Winners			Wednesday Night Men's Stag		
Big Book & Step Study, Sebastopol			Round Barn Big Book Study			Wednesday Wonders		
Big Book Review			Saturday AM Fellowship			We're In The Now		
Breakfast Club			Saturday Men's Mtg, Healdsburg			Womens Growings Pains of AA		
Fourth Monday			Saturday Morning Beginners			Women's Perspective AA Group		
Good Neighbors, Geyserville			Saturday Night Living Right			Womens Step Study & Discussion		
Graton Fellowship			Sebastopol Step Study Group			Women's Step Study, Sonoma		
Gualala Group			Serenity Fellowship Hall			Working Winners		
Happy Hour Group			Sharing & Caring			Young & Young At Heart		
Healdsburg Sunday Morning AA			Simply AA			(Unknown Group)		
Here and Now			Single Purpose Group			(Unknown Group)		
Higher Power Group			Sober Sunday Group					
Highlander Group			Sonoma Valley Fellowship					
How It Works Group			South Park Survivors					

Total

(Unknown Group) means that no group name was printed on check or money order.

Origin of the Serenity Prayer (continued)

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institutions. The professor's nom de plume? Friedrich Oetinger, the 18th century pietist! Wilhelm had apparently selected the pseudonym Oetinger out of admiration of his south German forebears.

Back in 1957, Anita R., browsing in a New York bookstore, came upon a card: "Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, give us Serenity to accept what cannot be changed, Courage to change what should be changed, and Wisdom to know the one from the other, through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

The card, which came from a bookshop in England, called it the "General's Prayer," dating it back to the fourteenth century! There are still other claims, and no doubt more unearthings will continue for years to

come. In any event, Mrs. Reinhold Niebuhr told an interviewer that her husband was definitely the prayer's author, that she had seen the piece of paper on which he had written it, and that her husband-now that there were numerous variations of wording - "used and preferred" the following: "God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

While all of these searchings are intriguing, challenging, even mysterious, they pale in significance when compared to the fact that, for fifty years, the prayer has become

so deeply imbedded into the heart and soul of A.A. thinking, living, as well as its philosophy, that one could almost believe that the prayer originated in A.A.

Bill made this very point years ago, in thanking an A.A. friend for the plaque upon which the prayer was inscribed: "In creating A.A., the Serenity Prayer has been a most valuable building block-indeed a cornerstone."

And speaking of cornerstones, mysteries and "coincidences"-the building where G.S.O. is now located borders on a stretch of New York City's 120th St., between Riverside Drive and Broadway (where the Union Theological Seminary is situated). It's called Reinhold Niebuhr Place.

The 19th Annual
Cache Creek

trip will be June 24 & 25.

If you haven't sent in your deposit you will have to wait until next year as we are filled up.

For the folks who haven't paid for their full trip, now is the time to send in your money as the remainder is due

June 1, 2006.

Thanks to all who work on this trip every year to make it a success.

Many of the folks on the steering committee have been doing this for years.

We are looking forward to a great time on the river and you will see a follow-up article after this years trip.

Your humble Servant,
 Paul S.

JUNE 5, 2006

A day to plan for.

A day to fall on a Monday.

A day to hear about AA in action.

A day to eat. Come to the General Service BBQ picnic and potluck.

6:00 PM

4970 Newanga

Happy Trails

The June happy Trails hike will be at Armstrong's Grove. Bring water and a lunch if you wish.

We will meet at the SCIF book store at 10:00AM on

June 18th.

Please note:

This is the third Sunday in June instead of the last Sunday due to the Cache Creek Rafting trip. You



can also meet us in the parking lot just outside the park at approximately 10:50AM

I hope you can join us.
 Lloyd -



SCIF CALENDAR • JUNE 2006



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
SCIF Bookstore750 Mendocino Ave. Suite 10 Faith Lutheran Church.....4970 Newanga Ave. St. Luke Lutheran Church.....905 Mendocino Ave . S.R Senior Center704 Bennett Valley Rd. S.R. City Hall Employee Lounge...First St. and Santa Rosa Ave.					1 Cache Creek Final Payment Due	2 SOCYPAA Dance 390 Morris St. Seb. 7:00 Meeting 8:30 Dance	3
4 SOCYPAA 1551 Montgomery 7:15 Business Mtg.	5 General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:00 BBQ Picnic 6:45 Service Manual Study 6:45 New Rep Orientation 7:30 Business Meeting	6	7 Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:30 New Rep Orientation 6:00 Business Meeting	8 Access Sonoma County SCIF Bookstore 6:30 Meeting	9	10 Founders Day AA Turns 71! Picnic at Doyle Park Noon—5PM Food, Fun, and Sun	
11	12 SCIF Bookstore 6:00 Teleservice Meeting 7:00 ICSC Meeting 8:00 Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting	13	14 PI/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00 Speaker Training 7:30 Business Meeting Newsletter Committee 6:30 SCIF Bookstore	15	16	17	
18 Happy Trails 10:00 SCIF Bookstore	19	20 Bridging The Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30 New Rep Orientation 7:00 Business Meeting	21	22	23	24 Cache Creek	
25 Cache Creek	26 Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30 Newsletter Collating 7:30 New Rep Orientation 8:00 Business Meeting	27 General Service District 12 Officers Meeting 6:15 SCIF Bookstore	28	29	30 Bookstore Inventory 2:00 SCIF Bookstore		

GENERAL SERVICE REPORT

Seen any frantic GSRs lately?

This time of year is the busiest time for your trusted servants **GSRs**.

In April we help gather group information so our DCM and Recording Secretary can insure the AA meeting Directory is accurate. We also perform the Agenda Topic sharing sessions within our groups. We attend the Pre-Conference Assembly in Napa to give our Delegate-Francisco your ideas, experiences, and thoughts on the topics.

We catch a breath and May is quickly upon us. We have a District meeting, sub-district meeting and the Post Conference Assembly in San Jose. Francisco returns and gives us his report from the New York General Service Conference. We then promptly report to you the outcome of the Agenda Topics and share about Francisco's journey. Two weeks later we put on a BBQ inviting **you**, the Sonoma County Fellowship, to meet Francisco and enjoy his "special" personal report about his trip.

We are nowhere near the end of our service work for the year. There is a new motion at District 12: "That Sonoma County General Service adopt the Access Sonoma County (ASC) committee as a District 12 General Service standing committee, with the same recognition as the Bridging the Gap (BTG) and Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community committees (PI/CPC)." We will work hard to get information on this motion and your group conscience.

We have a CNCA motion requiring more discussion - "That CNCA form a special needs standing committee." In addition are beginning discussions on three new motions:

1. "That a pamphlet be created specifically for the alcoholic who suffers grace emotional and mental disorders such as Serious Depressive Disorder, Bi Polar Disorder and Schizophrenia"- from Dist. 40 Santa Clara North.
2. "That the area change from 4 assemblies per year to 3 assemblies per year" - District 04 Santa Clara North.
3. "That the Area Delegate suggest to the General Service Literature Committee to come up with procedures to automatically discontinue pamphlets which do not justify further production or continued storage because of low distribution levels for the past five year period" - Alamo Big Book Study Group.

A GSR is your voice, expressing your thoughts and experiences. This communication is everyone's responsibility and our assurance that AA will remain healthy, unified, and growing. When we keep you involved our Delegates can authentically act for our AA fellowship. Tradition Two states "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority-a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants they do not govern." The Conference Delegates get their guidance from you, through your trusted GSRs servants. Every member/group that is linked to our local general service group, through a GSR, automatically has a connection and a responsibility to the "AA Fellowship group conscience" and AA's around the world.

Bring a dish and come join us at the potluck June 5th at 6PM, followed by Francisco's report 7:30PM. Come see your trusted servants at work and play.

With Gratitude,

IT'S BEEN A BLAST

I had no idea how much I would love doing the newsletter. I look forward to formatting this or that. Fiddling one thing or another. Getting that last bit to fit. And now that I have really got it figured out, I have to quit.

I will miss being the communications chair/newsletter editor. But not nearly as much as I will miss all of my sobriety brothers and sisters here in Sonoma County. I have come to love you all. And a few of you I have come to like. Many of you have touched my heart in ways I don't even know yet.

So many ideas I wanted to try. Exploring old back issues of the newsletter for inspiration. Recreating our Web site to be more accessible. Badgering members for stories.

I'm not sure how much I'll miss those middle-of-the-night calls that teleservice brought my way. But, I know that I will miss teleservice. Not as much as I will miss the people that do teleservice. They really are the hand of AA in action. I'm sure that once I learn enough local geography around my new digs, I'll be signing up again.

But it seems to be time for me to turn the page and begin a new adventure. So, I'm off to Texas where I will be able to be self-supporting though my own contributions while doing work that a digit head like me dreams of doing. Why God thought I should do it in Texas, I have no idea. But I thank God that AA in Sonoma County will stay strong and vital and will still be here when I return to visit my friends and family.

Bless you all
Dave L.

WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE ROOM?

More times than I can count, I've heard it said that the newcomer is the most important person in the room. Yes, it is true, the newcomer proves it still isn't working out there. But, the statistics that come out every year telling us how many fatalities there were due to drinking and driving also proves it still isn't working out there. The children who are removed from their homes due to alcohol/drug related problems in their environment also proves it still isn't working out there. My personal experiences in the E.R. of a large NYC hospital observing injuries and even

death at the hands of an alcoholic out of control, proves to me it still isn't working out there.

When I look into the eyes of a newcomer, I can see their fear and feel their pain. I realize I am one drink away from being a newcomer all over again. The guy/gal sitting next to me at a meeting is no more, nor any less important than I, or the newcomer. People assume because I am an "oldtimer" every day is peachy-keen for me. GET REAL! I am an alcoholic. There are days when I suffer just as much as anyone else. We ALL suffer from

this disease known as alcoholism.

I need to hear the message of recovery just like the newcomer. For ME, my sobriety is most important. Surely, without it, I could not help anyone, and my demise would be hastened. We are a bunch of drunks trying to stay sober one day at a time. In my opinion, we are equally as important in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

So my brothers and sisters in sobriety, who is the most important person in the room? I leave the answer up to you.

Roseann M.

NEW MEETINGS

Jenner

1st and 3rd (O) River Meditation
 Tue 7:00 PM (Women's meeting)
 Call 865-2248

Petaluma

Sat 8:00 PM (O)(W) Last Chance
 Alano Club 221 Water Street

Santa Rosa

Thur Noon (O)(W) Open Door Lit. Mtg.
 Oakmont 545 White Oak Drive

Sun 4:00 PM (O)(W) Women's Meeting
 525 Fifth Street

Sonoma

Sat 4:30 PM (O)(W) Young People's Meeting
 Fellowship Hall 276 E. Napa St. (In back)

MEETING CHANGES

Cloverdale

Mon 6:00 PM (O)(W) Monday Night Serenity
 Now 6:30 PM

Petaluma

Tue 7:30 PM (O)(W) Birthday Meeting
 Last Tuesday Kenelworth School
 800 Riesling Road

Santa Rosa

Thur 5:30 PM (O)(W) 12+12 Step Study
 Men Only

Fri 5:30 PM (O) Signs of Sobriety
 Now at 330 College Avenue

NO LONGER MEETING

Santa Rosa

Tue 8:00 PM Ask It Basket 525 5th St
 Fri 8:00 PM Gay People's Group

Jenner

Mon 7:00 PM Both Boathouse Meetings
 Sun 6:00 PM (Pending Repairs)

MEETING CODES

- (C) Closed meeting, alcoholics only.
- (O) Open meeting, anyone can attend.
- (W) Wheel chair access to meeting area.

To report meeting changes:
 Contact Russell

Gloria's Corner

Chip Sale—July 1/2 price. After this year, only meeting chips (bronze and aluminum) will go on sale. Openings every other Monday 2PM to 6PM and every other Friday 10AM to 2PM.



Thanks a lot,
Gloria

ADDRESSES

Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship

750 Mendocino Ave. #10
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Sonoma County General Service

PO Box 536
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Area 22 H & I Treasurer

PO Box 192490
 San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

General Service Office

PO Box 459, Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163

CA Northern Coastal Area Treasury

PO Box 884222
 San Francisco, CA 94188

Sonoma County PI/CPC*

PO Box 11350
 Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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 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 closed on these Holidays:

Memorial Day	May 29th
Independence Day	July 4th
Labor Day	September 4th
Thanksgiving	November 23rd
Christmas	December 25th
New Year's Day	January 1st

CONTACT INFORMATION

Newsletter/Web: Dave H. aaweb servant@yahoo.com
 Meeting Changes: Russell

Sonoma County General Service

DCMC: Margrete V.
 Alt. DCMC: Kenin H.
 Registrar: Chris B.
 Archives: Cory B.
 Grapevine Rep: DJ S.
 Literature: Ken M.
 Newsletter: Bill K.
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