



SONOMA COUNTY INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP NEWS

March 2006

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 3

March Seminar Saturday the 18th SCIF Bookstore 750 Mendocino Ave Santa Rosa 3PM-5PM

Dear Subscribers:

Did you scribe to the *Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship News* in 2001? Are you still receiving a copy in the mail, in spite of the fact that you have never renewed your subscription? Believe it or not, but as far as we can tell, no subscription to the newsletter has ever expired. To correct this, the December 2006 issue will be the last one mailed to existing subscribers.

New subscriptions received after January 2006 will, of course be honored for their full time. Also Central Office/ Intergroup exchange mailings will continue unabated.

On the flip side, if you subscribed, but have never received your copy, please let us know as soon as possible. Or if your records indicate a different expiration date, please do not hesitate to inform us of that also. Together we can straighten all of this out, once and for all.

Thanks for your support!

SCIF Elections

Intergroup officer elections were held in January and all positions were filled. Bob K. will be returning as Chair. Tim P. is our new Vice-Chair. John S. is returning as Treasurer. The new Recording Secretary is Bob P. Last, but not least, Susy E. stepped down from seminars to become the new Registrar.

Happy Trails

This month the Happy Trails Group will be hiking at Shell Beach. Bring water, and lunch or snack. We will meet at 10:00AM on March 26th at the SCIF bookstore parking lot, 750 Mendocino Avenue.

I hope you can join us.
Lloyd

Sobriety Birthdays (January, February and March)

Maggie N.	Jan, 26 1986	XX	Jonqui A.	Feb 28, 1987	XIX
Dan P.	Jan 16, 1988	XVIII	Sonshine L.	Feb 3, 1988	XVIII
Diane D.	Feb 28, 1988	XVIII	Jobie S.	Jan 29, 1989	XVII
Sue D.	Feb 2, 1989	XVII	Lori E.	Jan 2, 1990	XVI
Dan K.	Feb 13, 1997	IX	Sue J.	Jan 26, 1998	VIII
Sue M.	Jan 24, 2000	VI	Susy E.	Feb 13, 2001	V
Tom R.	Mar 13, 2002	IV	David H.	Feb 14, 2003	III
Steve I.	Jan 17, 2004	II	Robert M.	Jan 23, 2004	II
Joann B.	Feb 2, 2004	II	Greg T.	Feb 21, 2004	II
Jill A.	Feb 25, 2004	II	Craig K.	Jan 29, 2005	I

Inside This Issue:

SCIF Minutes.....	page 2
Activities.....	page 3
ASL : Support It or Not.....	page 4
Financial Report.....	page 5
Hospital & Institutions.....	page 5
General Service.....	page 6
Service Calendar.....	page 6
PI/CPC Report.....	page 7
Meeting Changes.....	page 8
Bookstore.....	page 8

**April Deadline:
March 13**

Need a meeting? Check our online schedule for up to date info: www.SonomaCountyAA.org

SCIF BUSINESS MEETING January 23, 2006

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SEMINARS: Susy
ACTIVITIES: Craig G.
OUTREACH: Maurice
COMMUNICATIONS: Interim A.
TELESERVICE: Dave L.
ALCATHONS: Brian A.

AA TELESERVICE

SCHEDULER: Dave L.
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: 707-545-7417

OPEN SHIFTS

TUESDAY: 10PM-8AM
WEDNESDAY: 10AM-2PM
2PM-6PM Alt
THURSDAY: 10PM-6AM
SUNDAY: 10PM-9AM

Opened with the Serenity Prayer

Readings: Tradition 1 Carolyn Preamble: Jerry Concept: 1 Tim

Introduction of new representatives to Intergroup:

Bob-Keep It Simple, SR
Greg-By The Book, SR
Rosann-Beach Meeting, Friday Nights
Dennis-Winners Group, SR
Johnny-Friday Night Traditions Group, SR
Bob-No Frills Group, SR
Melanie-Closed Discussion Group, Lady Bug Park, SR
Jan-Beginners Group, SR
Leon-Kenwood Group, Wednesday Nights
Victoria-Thanksgiving Group, SR
Josh-HOW Group, Sunday Nights at Newanga, SR

January Birthdays: Jack-6 yrs, Meilani-1 yr, Courtney-2 yrs, Valentin-18 mos, Larry 17 yrs

December 2005 minutes were approved.

Registrar: Deborah: Said goodbye as outgoing Registrar. Thanked the group for the opportunity to represent Intergroup in this capacity.

LIAISON REPORTS

H&I Report: Mark V. reminded folks that H&I meets on the first Wednesday of each month 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: Kenin H. reported that the General Service Conference will be distributing the Preliminary Agenda Topics. GRS Representatives will soon be sharing these with their groups for a group conscience. Spanish speaking members are still being encouraged to send their personal stories for consideration in the 3rd edition of the Spanish Big Book. The deadline has been extended to June 1st of this year. Coming up March 2-5th is the Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly in Woodland Hills, CA. PRAASA is an annual event, the purpose is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and areas of the Pacific Region. All AA members are welcome. For more information go online to PRAASA.org.

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 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: Susy reported the purpose of BTG is to introduce the newly released residents of treatment facilities to AA in 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 16 local requests this past month, 13 Out of District, 14 Out of Area, 2 coming back to our district. BTG now has a recording secretary. Susy will be giving up this commitment.

SOCYPAA: Larry C. Flyers will be available for conferences coming up for young peoples groups. Outreach to start in Sebastopol on Friday nights. ACYPAA conference coming up at the end of February. SOCYPAA would like to put on a dance each month.

OFFICER REPORTS

Intergroup Chair: Bob K. In-coming Officers were elected and confirmed by the group. Five positions were filled in all. Bob K. will continue his role as Intergroup Chair, Tim P. will take over as Vice Chair, Susy will take over the Registrar position, John will be the new Treasurer and Bob P. will be the new Recording Secretary.

Vice Chair: Steve B. reported that there were 5 new representatives but there was no time to do orientation this month. It will be postponed till next month. All new representatives need to fill out information sheets. Orientation begins at 7:30PM each month.

Treasurer: Tom R. directed everyone to the monthly financial report in the Newsletter and gave a detailed explanation the finances which were located on pages 4 and 5 of the Newsletter. Finances were O.K. in November. Group contributions are covering expenses. The prudent reserve is just being met and it may be smaller than it should be. This issue may need further review and evaluation. He is available to discuss Intergroup finances by home phone as

(Continued on page 3)

SCIF Meeting

noted in the Newsletter or by cell phone: #XXX-XXXX.

Bookstore: Gloria was not present at the meeting. Volunteers are needed every other Monday and every other Thursday from 2:00PM to 6:00PM.

Outreach: Maurice has recruited a couple of new representatives. He is making the rounds to meetings that don't currently have Intergroup reps. He would like to see each AA group have a representative in place when a former representative steps down.

Activities: Craig's last activity was the Valentines Day Dance which was very well attended. He needs to rotate out of his position as Activities Chair. Ideally he would like a woman to take his place in the spirit of rotation. At the last dance there were issues in acquiring a band. Craig asked if he could D.J. the event for \$600, it was put to a vote and passed. This money was used to defray the money owed for the Pirate Dance.

Seminars: Susy reported that the seminar on Saturday, January 21, 2006 "Different Aspects of Sponsoring" went very well. She will be rotating out of this commitment and will create a "pass it on file" to the next volunteer which will be available at the Bookstore.

Alcathons: No report.

Teleservice: Dave L. gave report. Business meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00PM at the Bookstore. There are several Friday and Saturday shifts available to volunteer.

Newsletter/Communications: Dave L. will be willing to volunteer as interim newsletter editor, replacing Charles. He will run for the position in the upcoming committee chair elections to be held at the business meeting on the 4th Monday in February.

Old Business: Pat requested that an extension be given on the Graton Fellowship motion presented last month so that groups can have time to take this motion for group conscience from their meetings. It will be discussed at the next general meeting.

New Business: Special needs committee is being formed. At the agenda meeting on February 22, 2006 a report will be given.

(Continued on page 5)

ACTIVITIES

Hello Everyone!

Sorry I didn't get my article in on time last month. So, that's why you didn't read one. (If you thought you read my article last month, you either need to go see your doctor about changing your meds, or your group needs to get it's Intergroup rep to get to the business meetings and pick up the current newsletters, because you were obviously reading one that was out of date. Guess you'll have to change your plans for the Alcathon you were planning on attending this next weekend, huh?)

Anyway, this will be my last article as the activities guy. I'm both happy and sad about that. This position has been really rewarding; it's taught me some important lessons in business, working with others, organization, communication, and time management. It's also been a lot of fun! The part I'm happy about will be that I can finally relax when a holiday is approaching, knowing that I don't have to worry about decorations, flyers, volunteers and such. That... will be very nice indeed.

I'll really miss writing this column. I've had a number of people give me positive feedback about it, and have encouraged me to continue to submit articles. I very well might do that from time to time, possibly to keep all of you in touch with my other commitment, being the chairperson for SOCYPAA!!! Which stands for Sonoma County Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous!!!

So, I hope everyone had a great time at the Valentine's dance. Again I'm writing this days before the event. I'd like to apologize that there were conflicting announcements about the dance. The early flyers that were in this newsletter said it would be a "DJ and Band" like I've done in all my other dances. But the actual event was only DJ'd by yours truly. Well for all of you that were not at last month's Intergroup business meeting where I got to explain; I had a band lined up, no contract or anything, but there ended up being some issues with their lead singer. It was really too late to get a contract with anybody else, especially when I had to get the flyers out that day, or else they wouldn't be out at all. So, that's what happened. But at the same time I'm happy I got to do it alone this time, because I got to show everyone that I'm not just a one trick pony DJ who plays only Pop and Rap music. That was usually the case when I was playing with a band, because I had limited time, and was supposed to be catering to the crowd who did NOT come to hear a band, but wanted to hear exactly that; Pop and Hip Hop. So, I never got to pull out my Swing music, or my Rock, and Oldies, and more that I also enjoy playing.

I got to talk to a person recently who I love a lot, but who was also a big critic of what I played at dances. She was shocked when I told her that a lot of what I play at dances is not what I enjoy listening to at home. I try and play to the crowd, not to my own tastes. I've found that no matter how much people like music, they tend to only last for 4, maybe 5 songs before they need to go and rest, have a smoke, or get some water. So, I try and use the vast amount of tastes that we have in AA and constantly rotate the floor. Maybe I'll play some Rock songs; one crowd gets on the floor while others scoff at the music, and while the scoffers are resting, the rockers are getting worn out dancing. Now I change it up, and play some Hip Hop, and a different crowd takes the floor while the rockers are now the ones that are put off. It keeps the dance floor packed, and hopefully everyone gets to hear at least a little bit of what they like to dance to. That's the other key thing; I try and play dance music. It's called a dance because that's what you are supposed to do. I've had people ask me to play "Metalica" and other Heavy Metal. Well, "Metalica" is fine music to listen to, but when I've tried in the past to play it at dances, the floor empties and I have 5 rockers on the side, playing air guitar, and banging their heads, while you can practically hear crickets on the dance floor itself (it's hard to hear the crickets because of the loud Heavy Metal blasting at that moment, but trust me, they are there). If you want to listen to that, do so in your car, but if you aren't going to dance to it, don't expect it to be played.

Sorry this is such a long article, but I wanted to say so much before I had to go. I hope that the new person who gets this job has as much fun with it as I have. I've vowed to help the new person in any way I can to help them make this position as easy for them as I can make it. Whoever it is, we already have a date for their first event, it will be on Friday, April 21st. at the Sebastopol Community Center, and the theme is up to whoever takes over. So, mark your calendars for some kind of fun to be happening that night.

There are so many people who have helped so much, but I really want to put a special thank you out to these people have really gone beyond the call of duty and have just showed up over and over. I'll end this by listing their names. So, I want to thank Jeff S., John S., Steve B., Larry C., Rob S., Jessica S., Larry O., Rochelle & Toby, Jolie B., Preston and Dorian, Jason K., Jake, Chris B., Mike & Jessica K, Jeff and Sarah, Randy C., Tim B., Brian S., Dennis B., Tom R., John S., the people at A Step Up, Orinda Center, Saint Anthony's Farm, the many members of SOCYPAA, and many more whose names I can't recall. These people showed up for many events, and helped in many different ways, some with setup, some with cleanup, helping me to get the stuff to the events, and back, and much, much more. So, thank you, to all of you!

And finally thank you Sonoma County Fellowship for being so loving, and understanding, and accepting of me. It's truly been a wonderful experience. God Bless, take care, and remember that we are NOT a glum lot!!

Craig G. (Batman)

At my first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, I responded to the request for newcomers by saying, "I'm Susan, I'm an alcoholic." I was shaky, sick and teary, but there was also a tremendous sense of relief in having told the truth out loud and hearing the group's welcome. The chairperson told a story about having been intercepted by the police while drunk - wearing nothing but a pair of green earrings - and I laughed for the first time in awhile, thinking of the green earrings that I had worn through similar escapades. After the meeting, people came up to me and told me I was in the right place, to keep coming back. I was talking to a man I would later know as Too Tall Tom, and was puzzled by the expression on his face. It was benign, but unfamiliar. Then it came to me that that was what listening looked like! It had been a long time since I had had anything but a bar conversation. In the crucial days that followed, I went to more meetings, talked with more people, got telephone numbers, made and received calls, went to coffee. A week later, I had a sponsor, and was able to pour out my story as I then understood it, hear some of hers, and begin to be guided through the 12 steps. I was one of those newcomers who had to speak at every meeting in order to feel part of, and I did so for at least the first three years.

I think of this beginning now, 26 years later, as I talk to people about the importance of providing American Sign Language interpretation to deaf newcomers. How would it have been for me if I had come to my first meeting, said who and what I was and been met with blank stares? If I had seen a bunch of hands moving but been unable to fathom their meaning. If there had been no after-meeting fellowship, no one to tell me that my problem was the first drink - not the fifth - or to listen to my desperate ranting? What if someone had put their hand over my mouth (i.e., shaken my hand), handed me a book in a foreign language, and sent me into the night?

How might your life have been different if there had been no way for you to identify, to connect, to be heard, comforted and guided when you came to AA?

Fortunately, there is now one meeting in Sonoma County where all those things can begin to happen for the deaf newcomer. Signs of Sobriety meets every Friday at 5:30 p.m. at 856 Fourth Street in Santa Rosa, and is the only consistently interpreted meeting north of San Jose. We face two big challenges. The first is coming up with the money needed to pay interpreters. A motion asking Intergroup to cover this expense as it had in the past was defeated at the Dec. 26 meeting by a vote of 14-10. Fortunately, Sonoma County AA has stepped up to fulfill the Responsibility Pledge: a growing number of groups has elected to pass cans at their meetings to help fund interpreters.

The second big challenge is getting the word out to the deaf community that the meeting is happening *and will not go away*. Consistency is vitally important to people who have been repeatedly dropped from programs because the funding for interpreters dried up. While there are many deaf alcoholics in Sonoma County, knowledge of alcoholism and AA is not nearly as widespread as it is in the hearing culture. Also, there are cultural barriers which must be overcome. It is exciting 12th step work!

We, members of the Signs of Sobriety, are tremendously gratified by the support received from our fellowship. Please call me at XXX-XXXX or Janet, our secretary-treasurer, at XXX-XXXX., if you would like a green can for your meeting or if you would like to discuss what we're doing. (These funds will only be used for interpreting services, not for other meeting expenses.) We will continue to report on the issues and progress of deaf AA in Sonoma County and will submit periodic financial reports to the Newsletter. Please visit our meeting if you can.

Susan C.

A meeting for the hearing-impaired is a wonderful idea. The stated purpose Of Alcoholics Anonymous is to carry the message to those who still suffer. The issue here is how do we fund this meeting? The sign language interpreters cost is \$75 per meeting or \$300 per month.

The seventh tradition states in a long form that each meeting shall be *fully self-supporting of its own members*, declining outside contributions. The short form does not mention "*of its own members*" which I believe translate that the members attending that meeting are responsible to support that meeting.

If we were to have separate donation can for each meeting in Sonoma County, having financial difficulties, no telling how many 7th Tradition cans would be lined at

The literature table. No meeting is more important than any other, because they all carry the message to the Alcoholic who still suffers.

If for example a meeting wanted to hire babysitters for members who bring small children to meetings so that someone could watch their children while they attend meetings and not be disturbed by their kids, this would also be a worthwhile cause. But it would be up to that meeting to raise the money for their babysitters, or call on volunteers within that meeting to watch the children. In other words, each meeting should rely upon itself to solve its own problems. If the meeting cannot solve its problems, then Intergroup is available for assistance.

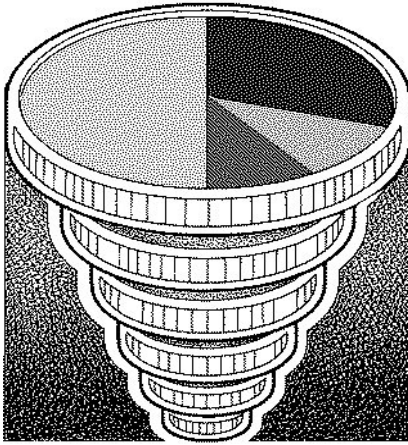
In the publication AA guidelines, it explains how we can help members who are hearing-impaired. In that brochure it mentions Intergroup supplying the necessary material.

Again, this responsibility falls back on intergroup. It is not the responsibility of other meetings to finance a particular meeting.

I believe, by allowing these cans to be placed at other meetings for donation is a direct violation of the seventh tradition. This is a touchy subject, because it deals with people who have a hard enough time staying sober because of their disability. The Issue here is financial responsibility, who supports this meeting, not whether or not this meeting is worthwhile. AA has survived for Seventy Years because we have adhered to our traditions.

Bob P.

The above letters represent the opinions of the authors and not of the fellowship.



Examples of Suggested Group Contributions To AA Service Entities

- ▲ 50% to Intergroup
- ▲ 30% to Local General Service
- ▲ 10% to CNCA
- ▲ 10% to GSA New York

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

SCIF Meeting

Group Concerns/Sharing: Carolyn said there are a few changes to the Cash Creek Trip. May 1st the initial payment is due, June 1st the final payment.

Summation: Valentines Day Dance needs volunteers. Gloria needs volunteers for inventory. Teleservice needs help, call Dave L. Newsletter guidelines to be reviewed by individual groups, discussed at next committee meeting.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

Gratefully In Service,

Erin B.

Hospitals and Institutions

"The problem of resolving fear has two aspects. We shall have to try for all the freedom from fear that it is possible for us to attain. Then we shall need to find both the courage and the grace to deal constructively with whatever fears remain." [Bill W., Grapevine, January 1962]

A big welcome to all the new meeting reps who introduced themselves at the February meeting of the H&I Committee: Donna (Women's Step Study Group); Panchie (Highlander's Group); Tonya (Just For Today Group); Coop (Big Book Review Group); Lisa (Sisters of Surrender Group); Hans (AA Stag Group, Sebastopol); John (Expect A Miracle Group); Christie (Oaks Fellowship); Connie (Spirit of Akron Group); Bobbie (We are In The Now Group); Tom (Tuesday Orinda Center Group); and Schaut (Sonoma Valley Fellowship). And the same warm hello to visitors Mary, Eric and Ken.

Celebrating February sobriety birthdays were Karen, with 3 years; Katherine, 3; Greg, 2; Christie, 1; George, 8; and Mardi, 11.

Five-minute share Laurie told us of her experience, strength and hope in AA and with her service with H&I.

How about you? Are you looking for a way to share your experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic? Then maybe H&I is for you. Come visit us and find out at the next meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, March 1, at the Santa Rosa Senior Center on Bennett Valley Road (one block up from Santa Rosa Avenue at Rutledge). The orientation, which is open to all, begins at 5:30, with the main meeting starting at 6:00. Come on down and bring a friend!

In service,
Mardi

What Goes on in General Service

Ever wonder what goes on in General Service? I thought I tell you a little about it. In the past several years we have considered the following motions or proposals:

That several changes be made in the words used in the big book. For example it was suggested to change "Him" to "God", thus making it gender neutral. Big discussion, a lot of fireworks.

That AA publish a pamphlet for the "non-theist". Big discussion, more fireworks.

That the grapevine publish a collection of recovery stories of women in AA. Kind of big discussion, some small fireworks.

That CNCA fund the panel 55 delegate to attend the 70th International Convention in Toronto, Canada, to as amount not to exceed \$600.

That professional translation be provide at each of the Area assemblies" (for Spanish to English and visa versa).

Currently one of the things being discussed

locally is whether or not to restore a phrase in the Forward to the First Edition to its original form.

All of these things (and many more) were discussed at the CNCA business meetings (held once a month in Petaluma) or at the area assemblies (which are held in various locations 4 times a year). CNCA stands for the "California Northern Coastal Area", our area, which extends from Oregon border to roughly Salinas/Monterey, all along the coast. It is a big area, and the area business meetings are frequently attended by over 100 people, area assemblies by 300 plus.

General Service is the forum in which the general running of AA takes place, and although it can be boring, it is frequently exciting and interesting. Virtually every action which New York takes for the fellowship typically originates in a district (we are district 12), in an Area (we are area 06), and then on to New York.

When I was in Intergroup, I frequently heard from members that they did not

want to participate in Intergroup because it was "too political", and I have heard the same thing about General Service. The fact of the matter is that someone needs to make the many decisions, someone needs to take the actions, which make AA run and allows it to be there for the new-comer. Whether it is publishing a meeting guide, running a bookstore, or passing opinions on to New York, someone needs to do it.

And by the way, many of the motions and proposals which come up in General Service call for a group conscience, and that is what your GSR is there to do - to keep you informed and facilitate getting that group conscience.

So I would suggest that if you are an Intergroup Rep at a meeting that does not have a GSR, that you advocate getting someone elected to that position, and if you are a GSR at a meeting which does not have an Intergroup Rep that you advocate getting one also.

In service, Bill K.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SCIF CALENDAR • MAR 2006</h1>			1	2	3	4
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.			Hospitals & Institutions S.R. Senior Center 5:30 New Rep Orientation 6:00 Business Meeting			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	General Service Faith Lutheran Church 6:45 Service Manual Study 7:00 New Rep Orientation 7:30 Business Meeting		PI/CPC S.R. City Hall 7:00 Speaker Training 7:30 Business Meeting	Access Sonoma County SCIF Bookstore 6:30 Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	SCIF Bookstore 6:00 Teleservice Meeting 7:00 ICSC Meeting 8:00 Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting		Newsletter SCIF Bookstore 6:30 Committee Meeting			Seminar 3PM-5PM SCIF Bookstore
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Bridging The Gap SCIF Bookstore 6:30 New Rep Orientation 7:00 Business Meeting				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Happy Trails 10:00 SCIF Bookstore	Intergroup St. Luke Lutheran Church 7:30 Newsletter Collating 7:30 New Rep Orientation 8:00 Business Meeting	General Service District 12 Officers Meeting 6:15 SCIF Bookstore			Bookstore Inventory 2PM SCIF Bookstore	

PI/CPC

I am the schools coordinator for PI/CPC. This means that I contact all the schools in Sonoma Co., and offer to bring in AA speakers to their classes to discuss what AA is and isn't. This past Fall we had four schools that invited us in to talk with their students. I was able to get some young people to speak as well as adults that ranged up to grandparent age.

Some adults feel that they can't connect with teenagers because they remember their own isolation and distance from adults. But the difference is that an alcoholic relating their experiences, their pain and confusion and the subsequent peace they've found by joining AA will get across to anyone that is receptive. Age, race, class, gender and doctrine are no barrier to those that want what we have. It is our job to educate - that can be accomplished with honesty and clarity because these traits ring true for anyone that is open-minded.

We are the face of AA to the public, and it is important that we present the principles and traditions so that our audience will be able to determine for themselves if AA can help them. Students are ready and willing to learn, if they haven't been hardened by contempt prior to investigation. We won't reach those people anyway, so our mission is to educate the rest of the class in the event they need AA or know someone in their circle that may benefit from hearing about the solution to alcoholism that AA offers.

Being of service in this way is a challenge because it requires one speak in terms that people who are not indoctrinated to AA jargon will understand. Speaking clearly of our experience yet being general enough to present a full view of Alcoholics Anonymous and what it is - and isn't - is a fulfilling opportunity to review and clarify the precepts and principles of AA.

Speaker training (suggested two years of sobriety) is the second Wednesday of every month, March 12th, at 7 pm in the room off the underground parking garage below City Hall. Our general meeting follows at 7:30 pm.

Questions? Call us at XXX-XXXX.

Nicky Y.

Motion for SCIF Newsletter Content

Resolved: that the *Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship News* has traditionally had & should continue to have:

1. A masthead with the SCIF name in display type and the volume date.
2. Minutes of the last SCIF business meeting, as transcribed by the SCIF Recording Secretary. (To be corrected, amended, & approved by the Reps at the business meeting.)
3. Proposed motions of SCIF business with explanations of intended effect, financial impact, and arguments pro & con.
4. A brief, intelligible financial statement prepared by the SCIF Treasurer and a list of year-to-date contributions by member groups. (To be reviewed and accepted by assembled Reps at the business meeting.)
5. A listing of Intergroup, Teleservice, General Service and H&I committee officers by first name and initial with phone number.
6. A listing of mailing addresses for group contributions and correspondence.
7. Information about coming events (Activities, Seminars, H&I, General Service, Petaluma Fellowship, etc.)
8. Committee reports submitted by committee chairs or designates: Teleservice, Activities, General Service, H&I, PI/CPC, BTG.
9. A monthly calendar of regular and special local AA events.
10. Letters to the Editor, printed at the committee's discretion.
11. Articles submitted by local members, sharing experience, strength and hope.
12. Occasional memorial notices and remembrances for passed members.
13. Reprints, with permission, from other AA journals; *The Grapevine*, Box 459 and other AA fellowship newsletters.
14. Other appropriate material (informational, inspirational or humorous), at the Editor's discretion.
15. A consistent style, limited to two or three legible typefaces with simple and clear formatting of articles and notices. (Many excellent style sheets are available.)

Cache Creek

The 19th Annual Cache creek trip is June 24-25, 2006. This year the price is the same as last year \$135 for the weekend, payable in 2 payments! The first payment is due between now and April 30, 2006 with the second payment due by June 1, 2006.

But what do you get for the \$135? You get to raft for 2 days, your food provided for 2 days, a meeting on Saturday night under the stars with 150 other alcoholics and the companionship of all, for the entire weekend!

When you arrive Saturday morning at 9:30, you first check in and then get bussed about a mile to the put in point on the river. After a basic rafting seminar (15 minutes) you are out on the river for a day of rafting. You stop somewhere on the river (your choice of where) and eat a lunch that was provided by the rafting company.

When you are finished rafting for the day, you set up your camp site and get served appetizers and then dinner. Dinner is a 1 pound baked potato, pasta salad, corn on the cob, and your entree, either chicken, veggie burger, or New York Steak!

After dinner is the highlight of the weekend. That is when the meeting under the stars takes place. We have 150 alcoholics at that meeting sharing their experiences of the day, their hopes, and their recovery with each other. It is truly something to experience.

The following morning we break camp and have breakfast cooked for us including fruit, juice, eggs, and potatoes. Then we get on the bus and raft again including another lunch on the river.

Don't miss it again this year! Don't be left behind this year! What else do you have in your life that the price has stayed the same for 3 years?

Look for the blue brochures in your meeting or the bookstore! If you cannot find a brochure feel free to give me a call.

Your humble Servant,
Paul Salisbury

MEETING CHANGES

Claverdale

Sisters In Step Tues, 6:00 PM (C)(W)
Now signing attendance sheets.

Guerneville

Rule 62 River Readers Mon, 8:00 PM (O)
Book Study Group Wed, 8:00 PM (O)
Both meetings have moved to Monte Rio
Community Church (across from Fern's).

Petaluma

Keep It Simple Tue, 5:30 PM (O)(W)
Keep It Simple Fri, 5:30 PM (O)(W)
No longer providing child care.
Baby Steps Wed, 10 AM (O)(W)
New name (was Women's 12+12 Study)

Santa Rosa

Young Peoples Meeting Sun, 6:00 PM (O)(W)
Moved to Church 1551 Montgomery.

Sebastopol

Stein Group (Lesbian) Sun, 7:00 PM (C)(W)
Moved to Palm Drive Hospital.

NO LONGER MEETING

Santa Rosa

Living The Steps Thur, 6:15 PM
Kiss Big Book Study Sun, 4:00 PM

*To report meeting changes
Contact Russell @*

(New Number)

Gloria's Corner

The book I am Responsible is in at the bookstore. Some Volunteers have been out sick. We wish them a speedy recovery so they can return.



Many Blessings,
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

*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: scaaweb@earthlink.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: Dave L. scaaweb@earthlink.net
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: Michael Q.
Newsletter: Bill K.
Bridging The Gap: Bob F.
PI/CPC: Yannick W.
Recording Secretary: Donna K.
Treasurer: Vinny M.

Hospitals and Institutions

Chair: Kelly T.

By sending \$7 to SCIF you will cover the cost of printing & mailing a newsletter to your home or to a friend. Mail to:

Fellowship News Subscription

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Apt. # _____

City: _____
