

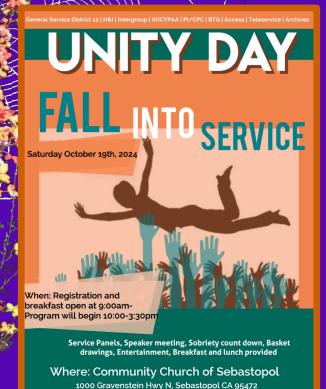
## Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship A E T S Oct 2024











The SCIF News is free. It is made possible through contributions of our members to Intergroup. Read this newsletter, pass it on, and contribute! The SCIF News is also available at www.sonomacountyaa.org DISCLAIMER: The Fellowship News is the monthly newsletter of Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship. Opinions contained herein are strictly those of the authors. The publication of opinions, articles, and announcements does not necessarily represent endorsement, approval, or affiliation by the Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length, and any content that may violate A.A. Traditions.

### **New Meetings & Meeting Changes:**

- Monte Rio's Saint Andrew's Church has bee sold, but the Monte Rio Fellowship is still at the 20329 Hwy. 116 location!
- The Sunday Night Madness at 7:00 pm meeting has moved to the Cross Point Church, 1577 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.
- El grupo en Español para mujeres, "Otra Oportunidad," se ha rehubicado de Rohnert Park al 2841 Cleveland Ave. #7 en Santa Rosa.
- If your meeting on Zoom isn't there, double check the online meeting schedule to see if it has become in-person only.

### PI/CPC:

When I first started my sobriety adventure over 10 years ago, I heard that I would have the opportunity to speak to others about Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous through PICPC. I counted down the days until I qualified to go to high schools and DUI classes to educate young people and talk to those who may be struggling. Last year I began educating the students at Santa Rosa Junior College. This education and harm reduction originated from PI. I never imagined my higher power would lead me in that direction. I now have a position where I am able to directly work with students who live in the dorms on campus. It's so fascinating how normalized alcohol is and young adults still do not understand much about alcohol misuse and alcoholism. There are so many students who are interested in AA, I always direct them to our AA meeting site, and to our young people in AA meetings, SOCYPAA. Recently we created a beautiful framed poster with multiple AA flyers all in one space with QR codes. It's genius because even if a student does not feel comfortable reaching out to someone, they are able to link to resources where they can find help. Please reach out if you are interested in the large or small beautiful framed posters with pamphlets and QR codes.

—Tova E.

### **H&I – The Hospital and Institution Committee:**

The H & I business meeting took place at the Center for Spiritual Living on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:15pm.

A warm welcome to our newest Meeting Reps: Peter N, Emily M, Tiana W, Corey C, David P, Eric K, Jodie S, Patti S, Laurence G, Virginia T, Jolene M, and Ryan. Thank you for your service! And welcome to our visitor, Keith. Keep coming back!

September Sobriety Birthdays: Patrick P. 26 yrs, Fritz S. 20 yrs, Kiva 17 yrs (August), Dan G. 2 yrs (August), Mandy J. 18 months, Lynn 18 months, and Hanna 18 months. Happy Birthday!

H & I is always looking for new speakers to come into the facilities. Please come to the next business meeting! We are starting back up for our Women's Meetings at Sonoma County Jail after 4 and one half years! We are hoping that the men's meeting will start up shortly as well.

The next business meeting is on Wed., Oct. 2, at 6:15pm at The Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Rosa. New Rep and visitor orientation begins at 5:45, and all are welcome to attend.

— in service, Cat C.



### **General Service Corner: I am – Responsible?**

I began in General Service a few years ago as a GSR but when my term was up I found myself feeling anxious. I began questioning what would be next? I did what I was taught and paused and tried to figure out the next right thing.

I sat with this question and I checked in with my HP but alas no clear answer came forth by the time the district business meeting came around where we were holding an election for this position. I was attending online as I have 3 kiddos, I work full time and go to school part time. Having the General Service meetings as hybrid had really helped me commit to this service position in the first place. When they asked if anyone was available, my virtual hand shot up and just like that I was elected the District 12 Registrar for the remainder of the panel.

Equal parts elation and anxiety hit me. On one hand, I was relieved I had a way to stay in the middle of service - it had proved to be so important to me and really had up leveled my program, my recovery and my life. On the other hand, I had recognized a while ago through step work, talks with my sponsor and my therapist that I am a chronic over do-er. Was I taking on more than I could handle? I reached out to my service sponsor, who didn't at all tell me what to do like I hoped she would, she basically told me to pray on it and trust the right answer will come.

By the time I met with the Area Registrar, I was still so unsure of my ability. However he calmed almost all my fears in short order. He explained the work flow, how he finds ways to fit it around his life, and gave me tips. I began my work and funny thing is, just like all the rest of the program I found out I wasn't alone in this. Progress not perfection has taken on a whole new meaning for me in this role. Even if I make a mistake, I try to mend it and do better next time. I am so grateful I have had the honor to be in this role over the past few months, to greet the new representatives of our district meetings as they first come in, to attend to the business of our district and area, to sit in cars with fellows discussing traditions, concepts and our lives and for being given one more day of sobriety.

— *Meg S*.

### Upcoming Seminar: Life on Life's Terms - Applying The 12-Steps as a Program of Recovery

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 5:30 pm either at the AA Bookstore or at the Sebastopol Christian Church – T.B.A.

Alcohol Anonymous is a continuous program of action. This seminar will cover the experience of how the presenters walked through difficult times applying the steps of Alcohol Anonymous to their life problems. Looking for two more speakers with enthusiasm on the topic of working the steps.

If you're interested in being a speaker, please send a short message to <a href="mailto:seeminars@sonomacountyaa.org">seeminars@sonomacountyaa.org</a> telling why you'd like to be selected.

### Is the Lord's Prayer chanted at AA Meetings Inclusive?

In 2024 I'm celebrating 26 years of continuous sobriety thanks to better choices and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The road was a bumpy but awesome journey as I'm also a healthy and vibrant 75-year-old man.

I began my AA journey as a Christian. Bill W. Dr Bob, and the majority of the "First 100." The Lord's Prayer, though not prescribed in AA principles, became a common meeting-ending prayer. But my journey made a radical change in 2011. Without first realizing it, my "Happy Destiny" led me on the path to atheism.

In 2011, I became a deacon student in the Roman Catholic Church. I read the Bible with a critical eye. God became a man-made myth. With this new outlook I left the Church. I just had to find a new way to define Higher Power, since I now believed in the here and now was of paramount importance. Carrying the message and serving my fellows both in the program and in the world were essential to me. So, what about the Lord's Prayer that was chanted in my home group?

After my de-conversion from Christianity and theism, I learned how excluding the Lord's Prayer actually was to the non-believer, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Zoroastrian, and even polytheist. I learned empathy and humility if only a bare beginning. I decided to introduce a discussion of replacing the Lords's Prayer to my home group's business meeting. My fellow AA's listened to my explanation of how the Lord's Prayer excludes so many members as well as to prospective newcomers. I shared that the prayer was a direct quote of Jesus Christ in both the gospels of Mathew and Luke in the New Testament. I further asked the group how this prayer tells the newcomer that the Fellowship is non-religious and inclusive to all and accepting to all or no beliefs?

After six months we came to a vote on a motion to replace the Lord's Prayer with the Responsibility Declaration. An influential opinion from an admitted born-again Christian, insisted that the message of inclusiveness prevailed. The motion passed overwhelmingly. Unfortunately, we lost some members, but the majority passed the motion to close with the Responsibility Declaration. I now call my Higher Power "love." It is the group conscience which has helped me stay sober, alive, and happy these almost 26 years.

-Chris S.



## **ICSC Committee Members Sought**

The Intergroup Central Service Committee is a management and oversight committee specifically charged with the responsibility to set the policy, regulate the affairs and oversee the operation of the Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship (SCIF) Central Office, also known as the Bookstore. It advises the Steering Committee on matters affecting SCIF's status as a non-profit corporation, making sure that state and federal government regulations are followed and regulatory filings are completed as required. As such, it fulfills many of the functions cited as responsibilities of "Board of Directors" in the California Corporations Code.

The Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship will be holding an election for a new ICSC committee member at the October general meeting, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 905 Mendocino Ave., S.Rosa. This election is held twice a year, April and October.

To volunteer, nominate someone, or for more information, scan this QR code to read the job description, or contact Clark W., Kevin H., or Tina T.K. of the ICSC Nominating Committee.

## SCIF General Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2024

The meeting opened at 7:30 with the Serenity Prayer and Preamble, followed by readings of Tradition 8 and Concept 8.

Introduction of New Representatives: Patrick, Sunday 9am Village; Steve, Up the Steps; Jessica, Sober Sisters; Keva, Resilient Women Living Sober; Herb, 6:30 Early Bird at 6:30 and Drop the Rock in Cotati; Vincent, SWACYPAA; Angie, Alcoholics Only Center for Spiritual Living; Paul, Tuesday Promises Group Sebastopol.

**Birthdays since we last met:** David, 18 months; Amay, 2 yrs; Alison, 20 yrs; Linda, 27 yrs; Kira, 2 yrs; Chris, 2 yrs; Nancy, 19 yrs; Mike, 30 yrs; Travis, 2 yrs; Chris, 16 yrs; Keva, 17 yrs; Jessica, 17 yrs; Amber, 10 yrs; Megan, 6 yrs.

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

Chair: (Amber C) Front page of newsletter There are only 26% of meetings with a representative. This is an issue, please if you attend a meeting and there is no intergroup announcement please ask secretary if the position is filled. We need your help!! We want to reach much more meetings. Last year ICSC add from email. We ask to keep the officer and committee reports brief, no longer than a paragraph so they can all fit on the newsletter. Website is back up. It may not open if you have it saved as a bookmark on your phone or computer. Don't use the www. address, just put in sonomacountyaa.org

Vice Chair: (Bruce) 4 new people attended orientation tonight. If you have never attended an orientation plan to be here a half an hour early in person.

Secretary: (Megan M) Clark motion to approve minutes from last meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise.

Treasurer: (Holly H) The Bookstore income for August 2024 was \$9,9190. Cost of goods total was \$6,331. Total expenses for August were \$3,483, for a subtotal loss of \$623.Central Office income for August 2024 was \$7,180. Total expenses for August were \$4,430, for a subtotal gain of \$2,749.Intergroup Activities income for August 2924 was \$1550. Expenses for August 2024 were \$0, for a subtotal gain of \$1550. Overall for August, there was an overall gain of \$3,676. Year to date our income is \$125,271, total cost of goos is \$76,352, and our expenses are \$66,664 leaving a gain of \$9,688.

Registrar: (Ellen W) Covered by Stacy T. As of July 2024 there were a total of 239 groups here in Sonoma County offering a total of 423 meetings each week. There were a total of 71 reps in attendance and 5 were new. Reps: Zoom 18, In-person 48, New reps 5. Meetings Zoom 120, In person 278, Hybrid 25.

### **Committee Reports:**

ICSC: (Greg) The Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship will be holding an election for a new ICSC committee member at the October general meeting, Oct 28th 7:30 pm, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 905 Mendocino Ave., S.Rosa. This election is held twice a year, April and October.

BOOKSTORE: (Bob F) Sept 1st the English and Spanish hard cover Big Book price increases to \$10.98 plus tax for a \$12 out the door purchase. This is the first cost change in 6 years. Book of the month for September is the soft cover Big Book in English of Spanish At the bookstore mid September will be a new revision of the pamphlet #P51 "Black in AA" list price 75¢ New AA literature service tool: "Literature Workbook" for literature committees for \$6 (See "plain language" flyer QR code on table) near the end of September the new Spanish edition of Daily Reflections in large print comes out for \$19.95, Coming in November the "Plain Language Big Book" will be available for \$13.50 (price error on flyer) The bookstore will have sufficient inventory and groups can pre-order bulk quantities. (See QR code) The bookstore has a donated collection of vintage past Unity Day mugs for \$20 with half going to the Unity Day basket fund. Also: the bookstore will be open next Monday, Labor Day

**OUTREACH: (Peter)** Outreach looks forward to having the information form the new sign in sheet to be able to focus the meetings we go to that do not have representation.

ACTIVITIES: (Erica C) Paint Chat and Snack Party at Lady Bug Park in Rohnert Park September 28th 2-5pm. \$25 per person includes materials. Glow in the Dark Halloween Party. Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> Lady Bug Park 7:30-11pm \$20 per person .

ALKATHONS: (Shauna) The Alkathon lottery will be held next month September 23<sup>rd</sup> Intergroup General Meeting. The Alkathons this year will be help at 1495 W Steele Ln., Santa Rosa. Groups that want to participate need to be prepared to have a secretary, 2 speakers, volunteers to work your slot at the drink counter/coffee maker, 2 kitchen helpers, parking lot security, a variety of food and a pound of coffee. There is no WIF1 at Steele and Range, anyone with ideas on how we can still make zoom happen for alkathons please help me!!

**NEWSLETTER: (Arjuna)** Thank you to everyone who contributed their articles, reports, and time to the newsletter. The deadline to submit things for the September issue is Friday, September 13th at 5 pm. Please keep reports short and to the point for newsletter.

**WEBMASTER:** (Dave N.) Please send in your current meeting information. There is a form to fill out on the website or a paper copy you can fill out at the intergroup general meeting. Also, when submitting Events or Meeting changes, please be as explicit as possible as to where when...dates, times, open, closed and special things about the meeting.

**SEMINARS: (Stacy)** Spiritual Intoxication and Emotional Sobriety Saturday September 21. From 4-5:30pm at Sebastopol Christian Church.

**TELESERVICE:** (Anne G) Mike giving report. Teleservice shift that is open: Tuesday 10pm to Wednesday 8am. This is an overnight shift. (This shift has been open since the beginning of August. Right now the calls are being forwarded to a voicemail extension which is being monitored by the Teleservice chair. Requirement: 1 year of sobriety and working knowledge of the steps and traditions. This is a weekly year-long commitment.

ICSC NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Clark) Next election will be October to start in November. We are beginning outreach this month and will publish the requirements of the commitment in next month's (September) newsletter. Anyone with questions or with a name to nominate please contact me, Tina T or Kevin H.

UNITY DAY: (Maria) Held at 1000 Gravenstein Highway in Sebastopol at the Community Christ Church. Date is October 19th theme is Fall into Service. Breakfast will be served

continental style, mugs have been ordered, big books have been purchased for newcomers, Wednesday September 18th next meeting at bookstore at 6:30pm. Mary Ellen Basket Chair for Unity Day: Looking for donations for baskets for a drawing during unity day things like literature. Ex: Grapevine, grape inspired basket, Great outdoors basket with a Sonoma County Parks pass. Would like to get 13 baskets.

### **Liaison Reports:**

**SOCYPAA:** (Vincent) SWACYPAA conference was a success. Elections were yesterday which is why Vincent is here tonight. Women rep and LGBTQIA rep needed for SOCYPAA.

**SPANISH Central Office: (Alma)** Alma is back! Went to first meeting last Saturday with Spanish office. We are back in correspondence.

H & I: (Joe) Tim filling in. H & I needs speakers to go into jails and institutions to share your experience, strength, and hope. You need to go to the H & I business meeting to be a speaker. Find which meeting speaks to you and talk with that coordinator. 1st Wednesday of every month at the Center for Spiritual Living at 5:45 for new reps for orientation, 6:15 regular start time.

GENERAL SERVICE: (Denise G.) General Service is the link between our fellowships and A.A. as a whole. We take the voice of our groups, and their group conscience, back to our delegate and the General Service Conference. We also keep our groups informed on what is happening within Alcoholics Anonymous. District 12 participated at our Summer Assembly earlier this August in Campbell CA. The morning was spent conducting area business, passing motions, etc. In the afternoon we attended informative presentations on a variety of topics. Our final assembly for this panel will be in Livermore on 11/9/2024. It is the Election Assembly, where next year's Area Officers are elected, including our Delegate for Panel 75. The Plain Language Big Book has gone to print! This new book is suggested as a tool to be used with reading our current Big Book. It should be available for sale on 11/1/2024 at our local bookstore. To avoid shipping charges do purchase and support our local bookstore. I have put flyers, detailing our new literature being released, on the back table. Registration and Housing processes for the 2025 International Convention will open on September 10, 2024. It is being held in Vancouver Canada next July. Please visit https://www.aa.org/international-convention for details. Our district elections will be held at our November business meeting on 11/4/2024. Our business meeting is hybrid and held on the first Monday of each month. Our next meeting is 9/2/2024. Please see sonomacounty@aa.org for details.

### BRIDGING THE GAP: (Nicole) no report

PICPC (Brett): PI/CPC is public information and cooperation with the professional community. PICPC's purpose is to educate the public and professionals who have contact with alcoholics about AA and our fellowship. Two positions available, a SOCYPAA liaison to share information between SOCYPAA and PI/CPC. Liaisons go to one SOCYPAA meeting a month and to the PI/CPC business meeting each month. And we need someone for professional Outreach. They will reach out to professionals in Sonoma County to coordinate presentations about what AA can and can't do. The current PI/CPC panel will rotate out at the end of the year. Eighteen positions will be up for election in January. If you're interested in reaching out to the public and to professionals, our business meeting is 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of every month at the bookstore with speaker training and orientation at 7:00 pm.

ACCESS SONOMA COUNTY: (Ben) Makes AA accessible for all. Looking for committee members meets second Thursday of every month at 7:15 pm on Zoom. There is a survey whether there's an interest in childcare at AA meetings. Flyers are available and will be in the next meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

NEW BUSINESS: Group Sharing:

- -Yuri: Men In The Solution group, men's big book study at 6 pm Spring Hills Church at Fulton Road is relocating to a new location. The new location available next month. It's a newish meeting and they are asking for support.
- -Stacy T: The Sunday Night Madness meeting at 7 pm is moving next Sunday to 1577 Guerneville Road.
- -Sonoma County Alano Club will have a BBQ on September  $14^{\rm th}$ .
- -Azure Acres Monday 7:30 pm meeting has reopened.

Group Representative Summation provided by Bruce.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Statement at 8:54 pm.

-In Service, Megan M.

Alma needs a letter saying that she was nominated by the SCIF to be our Spanish Central Office. Almatovar26@gmail.com

### Registrar's Report for August, 2024:

As of August 26, 2024, there were a total of 238 groups in Sonoma County with a total of 419 meetings each week: 120 meetings were on Zoom, 275 were in-person, and 24 were hybrid.

There were 71 representatives in attendance at the Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> Intergroup General Meeting: 47 in-person, and 22 were on Zoom. Of those, there were 8 new representatives at the meeting, 3 attended in-person, and 5 attended on Zoom.

71 reps ÷ 238 groups = 29.8% groups were represented.
— in service, Ellen W.

## **Non-Conference Approved Literature: Yes or No?**

After hearing the feedback from the Fellowship, and a thorough review of the process to bring Non-Conference Approved Literature into the bookstore, Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship (SCIF) Steering Committee has realized the need for an informed group conscience and vote by the Fellowship. SCIF kindly requests each meeting gather their group conscience and take a vote at meeting level (typically for multiple consecutive meetings, not just one).

We are asking groups to vote on whether the bookstore should carry non-conference approved literature. We are not asking you to vote on what books are carried, just whether we should or should not carry these books. The ICSC will vet and vote on all books we sell if we decide to keep carrying them.

At the January, 2025 General Meeting, the meeting representatives will vote on whether the Bookstore should sell Non-Conference Approved Literature. If you have further questions, please reach out to Amber C., SCIF Chair.

Please note: The below articles have been submitted by members of the fellowship and do not reflect the opinions of the Sonoma County Intergroup Steering Committee or ICSC. We kindly request additional submissions, both for and against Non-Conference Approved Literature sales in the Bookstore.

### **Book Banning in Sonoma County A.A.**

My time as Assistant Manger last year at the bookstore afforded me the privilege to attend a weekly meeting of bookstore managers across the USA. We discussed bylaws and the topic of what materials should be in Intergroup Central Office bookstores. Some groups had managers that made all the decisions; some had all mtgs vote on each item; some used sub-committees such as ICSC.

Bookstores are run like mtgs, Tradition 4 states we are autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Intergroup is 'us', our reps go and bring us information. The question of whether we want non-conference approved material in the bookstore is vague and I fear mis-represented. GSO put out form SM F-29 that I highly encourage ALL to read. Bottom line is the Conference does not disapprove of any materials. It is not their job to do so. It is up to the groups. We decide.

This topic we are being asked to vote on is too vague and misleading. I say throw the topic out, redefine it and try again! In love and service, Deo D.

## A Few Facts and Thoughts About Those Other Recovery Materials

I don't believe that anyone ever got drunk or died from reading Drop the Rock. But I do know people who have gone to drink and died from anger, resentment, fear and indignation. So, no matter what happens, I hope we can all remember to love and trust and focus first on Tradition One. (Would the meeting in Cotati called Drop the Rock need to change its name?).

I call them Other Recovery Materials, as listed in our Unity Day flier (for years) asking for items for our raffle baskets. That's what they are. There are no Conference Disapproved materials and we're told to encourage anything that will help us or someone else stay sober. According to General Service we should never tell anyone not to do something that might help. I don't tell anyone else what to call anything. We know what we mean. Non-Com sounds judgmental to me. Words matter.

In fact, the process for including these materials was done correctly, although clearly not to everyone's satisfaction. These materials have been requested in the bookstore for

years. We took all of the steps: New Business, Old Business, tell the Steering Committee all along the way. Announce the discussion at successive monthly General Meetings. Not a lot of people were showing up. Some reps hadn't been helped to understand how to report to their group or meeting. It was passed and still a 45 day comment period was announced.

There are some well meaning folks who feel, and believe, that they know the "real" AA way. Bill might not agree. In the East a newcomer is that for 90 days. Here it's often 30. Nobody's wrong. No meeting or group should be forced to use any materials they don't want to use. But banning useful, familiar books, thoughtfully vetted, just doesn't seem necessary or godly or "our way"...

But according to our bylaws the Group Conscience can overturn an ICSC decision, with a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> majority vote of the representatives. If that happens I'll be disappointed but I'll respect the Group, try to keep an open mind and heart, remember Rule 62 and keep coming back.

In Love and Service, Clark W.

## **Non-Conference Approved Literature: Yes or No?**

## Why Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship Should Not Be Selling Non-Conference Approved Literature

This January our Fellowship will be voting on whether or not the Intergroup Office/ Bookstore should continue selling Non-Conference Approved Literature (Non-CAL). This decision belongs to the Fellowship and in order to arrive at an informed group conscience, there needs to be a robust discussion of the issues

Our Intergroup Newsletter published a well written statement from the general service office on what is and is not Conference Approved Literature. Now, we'd like to highlight some of the conflicts with our traditions arising when our bookstore sells Non CAI

Conflict with Tradition One: Disagreements about these materials create conflict within our fellowship, it harms our unity therefore is in conflict with this tradition. While many people will like those ideas and opinions, many will find them offensive and/or incompatible with AA principles. This tradition so clearly states that for most of us there is no sobriety without AA; our life depends on our unity and on the preservation of our program.

Conflict with Tradition Six: When our bookstore sells Non-CAL there is an implied endorsement of the ideas and opinions of the

authors of that material. There is also a lending of the A.A. name to the outside enterprises publishing these materials and that money and property start diverting us from our primary purpose.

Tradition Seven has immense spiritual significance for us individually and collectively as an organization. It tells us to be responsible for ourselves financially; not depending on outside sources, and that includes running a business. This tradition tells our trusted servants that we need to live within our means, the contributions and if they need more money, they come to us, the fellowship. Engaging in money making business is a perilous activity for us, alcoholics. Where does the selling other literature end?

The PREAMBLE to our SCIF By-laws state that SCIF is a <u>service</u> <u>body</u> directly responsible to the A.A. groups and provides <u>services</u> <u>as required</u>. In <u>all</u> of its proceedings, the Sonoma County Intergroup <u>shall</u> observe the spirit of A.A. Traditions.

Our SCIF should not be selling Non-CAL because it's mandatory for SCIF to observe A.A. Traditions. Any conflict with any tradition should be a compelling reason to stop selling it.

respectfully, Esther S., Gail M., Steve Z,

### **Traditions & the Non-Conference Approved Literature Discussion**

Many groups in Sonoma County have already been talking at great length about the changes in our Central Office, generally referred to as "the Bookstore." The discussion topic now before us all—whether the Central Office should sell non-Conference approved literature—is really part of a much bigger conversation about how the Fellowship intends to apply AA Traditions in our daily affairs (specifically, Traditions 5, 6, and 7)...

Of course the questions now before Sonoma County are not at all new. The General Service Office in NY has a publication called "The AA Guidelines for Central or Intergroup Offices." Instructions on how to run a Central Office and its sale of "books" are already spelled out for us.

The Guidelines state that "At regular intervals, the central office may publish and distribute up to date lists of meetings and other information about local AA services. Many intergroup/central offices sell AA Conference-approved literature for the convenience of local groups.

So it seems odd that groups are being asked to discuss this non-AA literature issue, when the greater question is: Does Sonoma

County want to repurpose our Central Office into a more commercial bookstore? The sale of merchandise directly to the alcoholic (hats, t-shirts, non-AA approved literature, etc) is not part of the designated function of a Central Office. Just because we lovingly call our Central Office "the bookstore" doesn't mean that it IS a commercial bookstore.

So when we address the non-AA approved literature question, we are really being asked to ignore the Instruction Manual for how to run a Central Office.

But why? Why would we ignore AA's hard-won experience, upon which our Guidelines and Traditions are based? Has our Central Office commercialized because we are not supporting them financially (Tradition 7)? If so, a conversation about individual inventory items is wholly irrelevant.

We can easily get distracted by the "ancillary merchandise" issue. My hope is that we can do an inventory in light of AA's Traditions and Guidelines. And in order to do that, we need more than a Yes/No vote in December.

Submitted in love and service, Adriane G.

## **Vote on Non-Conference Approved Literature**

Intergroup Reps in Sonoma County AA are asking their meetings & groups to discuss & vote if Non-CAL should continue to be sold in the AA Central Office Bookstore. This is a change from the past; since the Non-Profit Articles of Incorporation state that one of our Primary Purposes is to distribute AA Literature. Every dollar that is put into a meeting basket supports the Central Office and the Bookstore, so every Sonoma County AA member can vote for changes in policy. Sales of the few book titles that are Non-CAL do not cover Bookstore rent, but a Yes vote opens the door for many other books to be sold. Do we want Al-Anon, Overeaters Anon, Sobriety without God, and miscellaneous sober authors' books to be sold in our AA Central Office Bookstore? Last week, the SCIF Steering Committee voted not to advertise Alateen meetings. Why then are we currently selling Al-Anon literature and workbooks?

The Bookstore is in our AA Central Office, and we are not an

Alano club (like Petaluma Alano Club). An independent Alano Club is not a Non-Profit; they have meetings at their locations but are not part of AA. They can sell anything they want to support their club and pay rent and other expenses. However, there are regulations for how a Non-Profit organization handles sales; and sales should not show large increases of profits after expenses are paid.

Please be aware this is NOT a vote on merchandise, just literature. We have sold chips, leather book covers, jewelry and other items for more than 20 years. Any questions about merchandise are separate from this vote.

Thank you for reading, and please pass this information to all your meetings to make an Informed Decision after sharing and discussion sessions.

Wendy P.

### Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship Statement of Activities by Entity August 2024

Accrual Basis

# AUGUST 2024 Treasurer's report

Bookstore income for August 2024 was \$9,9190. Cost of goods total was \$6,331. Total expenses for August were \$3,483, for a subtotal loss of \$623.

Central Office income for August 2024 was \$7,180. Total expenses for August were \$4,430, for a subtotal gain of \$2,749.

Intergroup Activities income for August 2924 was \$1550. Expenses for August 2024 were \$0, for a subtotal gain of \$1550.

Overall for August, there was an overall gain of \$3,676.

Year to date our income is \$125,271, total cost of goods is \$76,352, and our expenses are \$66,664 leaving a gain of \$9,688.

In Service, Holly Hulsey

			Bookstore		,	Central Office		т.	tal Intergro			TOTAL	
		Aug 24	Jul 24	Aug 23	Aug 24	Jul 24	Aug 23	Aug 24	Jul 24	Aug 23	Aug 24	Jul 24	Aug 23
Ordinary Income/E:													
Activities In- Bookstore	come	9,190.46	9,019.73	7,066.45					39.43		9,190.46	39.43 9,019.73	7,066.45
Central Office	ce Income				7,179.73	7,685.08	5,431.81				7,179.73	7,685.08	5,431.81
Seminar Inc Unity Day In						71.00		1,550.00	800.00		1,550.00	71.00 800.00	
Total Income		9,190.46	9,019.73	7,066.45	7,179.73	7,756.08	5,431.81	1,550.00	839.43		17920.19	17615.24	12498.26
	s Bookstore Processing Fees	5,993.65 193.70 143.31	5,679.30 166.16 176.43	537.37 141.96							5,993.65 193.70 143.31	5,679.30 166.16 176.43	537.37 141.96
Total COGS		6,330.66	6,021.89	679.33							6,330.66	6,021.89	679.33
<b>Gross Profit</b>		2,859.80	2,997.84	6,387.12	7,179.73	7,756.08	5,431.81	1,550.00	839.43		11589.53	11593.35	11818.93
Expense Accounting,	Bookkeeping & Legal	125.00	600.00		125.00	600.00					250.00	1,200.00	
Depreciation	n Expense	128.63	128.63	128.63	128.63	128.63	128.63				257.26	257.26	257.26
Directories Dues & Sub	scriptions	21.00			135.00	37.50					135.00 21.00	37.50	
Insurance E		21.00		42.11			42.10				21.00		84.21
Licenses &	Permits						50.00						50.00
Newsletters Office Expe	nses	529.83	224.13	90.62	596.50 272.17	401.50 76.91	466.50 90.63				596.50 802.00	401.50 301.04	466.50 181.25
PayPal Fees Payroll & PF		1,818.13	1,740.48	1,348.14	1,818.16	5.17 1,740.52	32.25 1,348.17				3,636.29	5.17 3,481.00	32.25 2,696.31
Payroll Expe	enses												
Renovations Rent - Facili	s - Bookstore ty & Storage	664.16	664.16	70.72 648.59	1,094.46	1,094.46	1,047.14				1,758.62	1,758.62	70.72 1,695.73
Taxes							(75.00)						(75.00)
Telephone E	xpense	84.56	84.56	82.67	84.55	84.55	82.68				169.11	169.11	165.35
Teleservice Utilities - Fa		111.89	113.26	84.23	58.04 111.89	58.04 113.27	58.77 84.23				58.04 223.78	58.04 226.53	58.77 168.46
Web Site & I	nternet Costs				6.00	6.00	19.99				6.00	6.00	19.99
Total Expense		3,483.20	3,555.22	2,495.71	4,430.40	4,346.55	3,376.09				7,913.60	7,901.77	5,871.80
Net Ordinary Incom	ne	(623.40)	(557.38)	3,891.41	2,749.33	3,409.53	2,055.72	1,550.00	839.43		3,675.93	3,691.58	5,947.13
Net Income		(623.40)	(557.38)	3,891.41	2,749.33	3,409.53	2,055.72	1,550.00	839.43		3,675.93	3,691.58	5,947.13



## **FORUM**

### SATURDAY **OCTOBER 19**

10 AM -4:30 PM



I AM RESPONSIBLE

CAMPBELL COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM Q 80 1 W CAMPBELL AVE. CAMPBELL 95008

ZOOM ID: 821 3562 3703 PW: 1935

**Lunch Provided** 

DISTRICTO4CNCA.ORG





California Northern Interior Area - 07

Last Sunday of the Month 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Spanish translation is available

Zoom Meeting ID: 830 3187 6507

### Mark your calendar! **AA International Convention**

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Members will gather from around the globe to celebrate AA's 90th anniversary at the 2025 International Convention!

### www.aa.org/international-convention

As the Convention approaches, we will update the aa.org website with registration information. Join AA members and their families at the Vancouver Convention Center and BC Place Stadium for an exciting weekend of meetings, workshops, dances and events. Let's celebrate sobriety together in 2025!



6g

THE HOPE CENTER | 2275 MORELLO AVE | PLEASANT HILL | CA

## 750 Mendocino Ave., Suite 10, Santa Rosa 707 546-2066

Open Mon. - Sat., 10:00 - 6:00

Closed Sundays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Years Day. Online there open 24/7: https://scif.myshopify.com/



## **Fall Trio of Grapevine Books** \$2 Off Sale

"No Matter What" for \$16.49 "Emotional Sobriety 1 & 2" \$16.49 "Happy Joyous and Free" (English & Español) for \$13.75





ALCOHOLICS



## October Book of the Month

\$7.80







**Soft Cover & Large Print** English y Español



**Hard Cover Gift Edition** 



### **Unity Day 2024** Fall Into Service

We're looking for donations and baskets for a drawing during Unity Day 2024!

Where: Unity Day is October 19, 2024 at the Community Church in Sebastopol, 1000 Gravenstein Hwy N, Sebastopol

Who: Groups or individuals can donate

What: Connect it with AA / recovery / working a program / service / unity / newcomers / old timers / LGTBQ / etc...

Books or recovery materials from outside sources

- AA Literature and pamphlets
- Donated items/services from the community
- Include a list of the basket's contents. Baskets will be wrapped by the committee.

When: Due at the Bookstore by 10/11/24.

Questions? - contact Maria Silveira at conniesilveira1@gmail.com or 707 694-7708



### **Gift Cards**

You and group literature reps can buy gift cards at the Bookstore for your purchases! QR codes on the receipts show the amount and balance stored in the POS.



## Plain Language Big Book goes on sale Nov. 1



We are ordering a large quantity that will take time for shipping. Groups can preorder their copies now. Members can come to the Bookstore to pre-purchase at \$13.50 each.



- submitted by S. Finley Passing the Bar! Answer to riddle on pg. 3:

Group Number	Name	City	Day		Aug	Т	otal YTD
644153	Be Who You Want to See	Sonoma	Thur	\$	50.00	\$	50.0
626044	Bobs Big Book Study	Oakmont	Tue	\$	213.00	\$	409.5
140181	Came To Believe	Santa Rosa	Sun	\$	750.00	\$	750.0
671519	Early Birds	Petaluma	Daily	\$	1,900.00	\$	1,900.0
697772	Good, Bad, & Ugly Group	Petaluma	Sun	\$	90.00	\$	285.0
716681	Knuckleheads	Santa Rosa	Tues	\$	250.00	\$	500.0
708310	Monte Rio Fellowship	Monte Rio	any	\$	126.00	\$	1,008.
175749	New Women in AA	Rohnert Park	Mon	\$	30.00	\$	238.
102247	Newcomers	Santa Rosa	Thu	\$	110.00	\$	110.
486288	Online Early Birds Group			\$	313.50	\$	1,368.
525335	Outsiders Group	Petaluma	Tue	\$	260.00	\$	260.
	Personal donations			\$	251.60	\$	251.
175166	Quitting Time	Petaluma	Th,Sa,Su	\$	145.70	\$	888.
	Realización	Santa Rosa	Daily	\$	50.00	\$	350.
100513	Sat Afternoon Winners	Santa Rosa	Sat	\$	100.00	\$	300.
697920	Saturday Solution Group	Petaluma	Sat	\$	100.00	\$	844.
141447	Simply AA	Santa Rosa	Sat	\$	437.00	\$	437.
355860	Sonoma Sober Sunrise			\$	184.60	\$	784.
675950	Tea and Recovery	Sebastapol	Fri	\$	616.00	\$	616.
671043	There Is A Solution	Healdsburg	Sun	\$	300.00	\$	550.
136816	Thursday Night Womens	Petaluma	Thu	\$	50.00	\$	145.
675551	Women's Tuesday at Noon	Windsor	Tue	\$	364.92	\$	917.
111111111111111111111111111111111111111		Total for August 2	2024	\$	6,692.32		
	Totals all groups year to date			- 1	\$43,870		



## October 2024 — Service Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	1st Wednesday  H&I 5:45 New Rep Orient. 6:15 pm Business Mtg Center for Spiritual Living 2075 Occidental Road Santa Rosa	3	4	5
1st Sunday 6 SWACYPAA Business Mtg. 7:30 pm 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa.	1st Monday 7 General Service Business Mtg. 7:30 pm New Rep Orient, 6:30 pm 4930 Newanga Ave, SR For Zoom ID: Email chairperson.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Teleservice 6:00 pm on Zoom ID: 860 4370 3384 PW: 62	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday PI/CPC Business Mtg. 7:30 pm at the AA Bookstore Hybrid — Zoom ID: 961 8127 1048 PW: Dist12GS 7:00 New Rep Orient	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10 Access Sonoma County Business Meeting 7:15pm on Zoom ID: 934 2984 1277 PW: 804715	Unity Day 11 Baskets due at the Bookstore.	12
13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday SCIF Steering Committee 7:00 pm AA Bookstore 750 Mendocino Ave. Hybrid: Go to sonomcountyaa.org for ID and password	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday <b>15 Bridging the Gap</b> Business Mtg. 6:30 pm at the Bookstore. 6:00 pm New Rep. Orientation.	16	17	Newsletter Submission Deadline 5:00 . newsletter@ sonomacountyaa.org	Unity Day 9:00 - 3:30 Community Church of Sebastopol 1000 Grav'stein Hwy.N. Monte Rio Fellowship 1 year Anniversary 20329 Hwy. 116 12:00 - Meeting Celebration follows
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday <b>20</b> SWACYPAA Business Mtg. 7:30 pm 1551 Montgomery Dr. Santa Rosa	21	22	23	24	25	Glow in the Dark Halloween Dance Party 7:30 – 11:00 Ladybug Park 8517 Liman Way Rohnert Park \$20.00
27	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 28 SCIF Intergroup Business Mtg., 7:30 pm St. Luke Church 905 Mendocino Ave, S.R. Hybrid — Zoom ID: 860 4370 3384 PW: 62 7:00 pm New Rep Orient.	29	30	31		



## Receive the Newsletter in Your Inbox!

Sign up at the bottom of our home page: https://sonomacountyaa.org



## A.A. Hotlines:

English: 707 544-1300 Español: 707 623-6702

### Common Acronyms:

SCIF = Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship ICSC = Intergroup Central Service Committee PI/PCP = Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community

### **Mailing Addresses** & Internet Links

**Alcoholics Anonymous** www. aa. org

### Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship

750 Mendocino Áve, Suite 10 Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4846 intergroup@@sonomacountyaa.org sonomacountyaa.org

### **Sonoma County General Service**

P.O. Box 536 Santa Rosa, CA 95402 generalservice@sonomacountyaa.org

### **NORCAL H&I**

Hospitals and Institutions Committee, Area 22 P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

NY General Service Office P.O. Box 2407 James A. Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407

California Northern Coastal Area 06 1390 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite G Petaluma, CA 94954 www.cnca06.org

### **Access Sonoma County**

750 Mendocino Ave, Suite 10 Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4846 asc@sonomacountyaa.org

### **Bridging the Gap**

750 Mendocino Ave, Suite 10 Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4846 btg@sonomacountyaa.org

### Sonoma County PI/CPC \*

PICPC c/o General Service P.O. Box 11305, Santa Rosa, CA 95406 picpc@sonomacountyaa.org

### **SOCYPAA**

Sonoma County Young People in AA P.O. Box 7232, Petaluma CA 95954 socypaa@sonomacountyaa.org www.socypaa.org

### **Teleservice**

750 Mendocino Ave, Suite 10 Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4846 teleservice@sonomacountyaa.org

### AA Grapevine/La Vina 475 Riverside Dr. 11th Floor

New York, NY 10115 www.aagrapevine.org

## **Contact Information**

All emails are @sonomacountyaa.org If your email is returned as "undeliverable," the recipient may have not yet set up their account.

### **SCIF OFFICERS**

Amber C.	intergroup@
Bruce	vice-chair@
Megan M	secretary@
James B.	treasurer@
Ellen W.	registrar@
	Bruce Megan M James B.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Activities	Erica C.activities@				
Alkathons	Shauna C.	alkathons@			
ICSC	Greg A.	icsc@			
Seminars	Stacy T.	seminars@			
Outreach	Peter R.	outreach@			
Teleservice	Anne G.	teleservice@			
ICSC Nominations	Clark W.	icscnic@			

### COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter	Arjuna	newsletter @
Website	Jay	webmaster@
Meeting Changes	Jay	webmaster@

### **GENERAL SERVICE**

DCMC	Denise G.	generalservice@
Treasurer	Shelly J.	treasurer-gs@
Registrar	Meg S.	registrar-gs@
Archivist	Athena C-M.	archivist-gs@
Grapevine	Blake B.	grapevine@
Access Sonoma County	Ben G.	asc@
Bridging the Gap	Nicole F.	btg@
PI/CPC	Eileen L.	picpc@
Interpret/Translation	Larry V.	it@

### **HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS**

Liaison Joe S. handi@