

Community News

East Bay Intergroup, Inc.

May 2008

CONTENTS

The Short Form	2
Twenty-Nine Five.....	3
GSR Report	3
Intergroup Meeting Minutes	4
Intergroup Reports.....	5
Readers Contributions	9
AA Birthdays	9
From the Grapevine.....	10
Financial Report.....	11
Group Contributions.....	11
Speaker Meetings.....	12
Intergroup Calendar.....	12

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THE SHORT FORM:



I am one of those annoying people who are grateful to be alcoholic. If I hadn't been an alcoholic, I would have muddled through life as an unhappy person, filled with envy, resentment, and self-obsession. Because I had a disease so dramatic I couldn't overlook it, I got to AA. Here I was given tools that have enabled me to have a quality of life I couldn't otherwise have imagined. I learned to respect myself and others; that lying, cheating, and hate are a violation, not only of others, but of myself.

AA invited me to become part of a spiritual community, and gave me a place to share my life, my fears, and my achievements. I learned that, whatever I am feeling, it is well within normal limits, and that my Higher Power is taking care of me and all of us. The community of AA is an amazing generator of hope, joy, and help.

Last week a friend of mine committed suicide. She wasn't drinking; she wasn't even an alcoholic. So why bring it up here? Because she was a person so accustomed to self-reliance that no one—not one person—knew how despairing she was. "She was always so cheerful," her friends are saying. "I had no idea she was suffering so terribly."

Here was a person who had had half a dozen major losses in less than a year. And she held them all inside, feeling that it wasn't okay to share her unhappiness and fear. It became too much for her, and she decided on the permanent solution to the temporary problem.

I mourn her loss, and am at the same time even more grateful for the enormous gift that has been given to all of us in AA—we don't ever have to do it alone anymore.

Kate G.

CONTENTS

The Short Form	2
Twenty-Nine Five	3
GSR Report	3
Intergroup Meeting Minutes	4
Intergroup Reports	5
Readers Contributions	9
AA Birthdays	9
From the Grapevine	10
Financial Report	11
Group Contributions	11
Speaker Meetings	12
Intergroup Calendar	12



COMMUNITY NEWS

Published monthly by East Bay Intergroup, Inc.
Please send comments and contributions to:
Community News Editor at Central Office.

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Submission deadlines for articles, flyers,
letters to the editor, announcements, etc.:

June issue: Wednesday, May 14, 2008

July issue: Wednesday, June 11, 2008



Talent show rocks!! The talent show was another great success. More and more artistic talent on display! Thanks to everyone who helped, performed or just showed up, particularly Gordon O., our special events coordinator! Rumor has it fall event is in the works!

Fireworks on June 7! Please join us for sober major league baseball, the Oakland As (I think that stands for Alcoholics) versus the Angels. Tailgate party starts at 3:30 pm Game at 6:00 pm and a huge fireworks display thereafter!! We have reserved 140 seats- come in or call in your order asap!!

Secretary workshop All current, and potential east bay secretaries encouraged to attend. Event will be Led by Richard M. at Central Office on Saturday, May 31 at 3:00 pm sharp to 4:30 pm. Participants will review the suggested role and responsibilities of the job with sharing of experiences and problem-solving.

Foreign-language 12-Step list is being formed.

Any bi-lingual members willing to help new alcoholics who have a language barrier to hearing our message are encouraged to sign up at Central Office. With our expanded foreign literature selection and willing, fluent members to interpret or sponsor, we can make a real difference. Requests for help come almost every week. Please sign up.

Raiders game planned for this fall. The details are hot off the press, but Paul E. is spearheading a group trip to see a Raiders game. We do know that the tickets will be \$36 each and that includes a Raiders cap and a coupon for a hot dog, chips and a soft drink. Invite friends and family for a sober day of NFL football! All groups and any interested members are encouraged to attend and contribute.

New products for sale

- **New black enamel fancy medallions are in stock.** red and blue also, **but only for 1, 5 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years.** Other years can be ordered, \$14 each. (gift box \$1).

- **Listen to the solution while you drive. Emotional Sobriety on CD** (vol.1 & 2) for \$15 ea. and **Living Sober** (4 CD set) for \$15 per set are now available!

- **The 3rd, 7th & 11th Step prayer laminated wallet cards** and other AA inspiration only \$.40 each.

- **Foreign Language Big Books on sale!**

Armenian to Hindi to Thai spread the word!

- **San Francisco-Marin AA Meeting Directories** are on sale at Central Office. Steve F.

GENERAL SERVICE REPORT

We just returned from two days at the Pre-Conference Assembly in Antioch, where over four hundred of us general service types delivered literally hundreds of Group consciences to our Delegate, Sharon B., so that she can be fully informed on our Area's views on the topics that will be discussed and voted on at this year's General Service Conference in New York City from April 27 to May 3.

We had about four tables full of GSRs and DCMs from Districts 07 and 70; one of the best turnouts in recent history. Your trusted servants are doing their jobs!

For me, the most interesting topics that were discussed had to do with the question of whether we are fully complying with the Seventh Tradition, since not all Groups contribute to the General Service Office, and because a significant part of GSO's annual budget is funded by profits from literature sales, as opposed to Group contributions.

There are those in AA who believe that we will not be truly self-supporting until Group contributions fund 100% of GSO's budget. That was Bill W.'s dream, and the goal of our outgoing Manager of the General Service Office, Greg M., as well as the most recent non-alcoholic past Treasurer of AA's Board of Trustees, Vince Keefe. Greg and Vince have told me that they believe they are exhibiting leadership in AA by advocating that GSO should be fully supported by group contributions, and I have told them that I believe what they consider leadership is, in fact, governing, which we trusted servants don't do, per the Second Tradition.

Whatever may be true, the issue is up for discussion and debate on this year's Conference agenda, and many of the groups in our Area weighed in with their informed group consciences. Listening to those group consciences in Antioch this Sunday morning I heard groups which had fully considered the issue, read the background material, and in some cases *AA Comes of Age* and other literature, and for the most part concluded that the way we presently do things isn't broken, so let's not try to fix it. One GSR suggested that the all or nothing approach is typical alcoholic black and white thinking, which has a tendency to get us drunk!

While it might be ideal to have the groups fully fund GSO's budget, it's not practical to mandate that, because the autonomous groups will do what they want to do, and because directives from GSO, especially about money, will not likely be embraced by the

(Continued on page 10)

INTERGROUP MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2008

The meeting opened at 8:02 PM with the Secretary, Ben, leading the Serenity Prayer.

Ryn read the 12 Traditions.

New Intergroup Representatives were welcomed:

John- *Joy of Living- San Lorenzo*

Mike- *East Bay Young People*

Fred- *Headline Group*

Fred- *Godless Heathens*

Steve- *Centerville Fellowship- Fremont*

Peter- *Monday Night Men's Literature*

All Intergroup Representatives were reminded to sign and update the attendance sheets. Newcomers were reminded to sign in on a separate sheet provided.

All attendees were asked to turn off their cell phones or turn them to vibrate mode.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Announcements:

We have a couple of new products: laminated cards (12&12, 3,7,11 Step Prayer Cards). We are starting to stock foreign-language *Big Books* (Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, German, French).

Steve also reports that there has been a turnaround in the finances of Central Office, and continues to be great. Group contributions are doubled from last February, and the surplus is being moved into the Prudent Reserve.

Please Support the Talent Show (Sat. March 29th)

Community Board Messages to AA Members: A board will go up on the back wall of Central Office for AA members to communicate with each other (Non-AA-related messages should be kept separate from AA-related material). Please date what you put up.

Community news is FREE. Just call us and tell us where to mail.

Please send written contributions, articles, opinions, and cartoons to centraloffice@eastbayaa.org.

4. Old Business:

PI/CPC Search Committee: There were two candidates, Sonya and Paul C. Sonya respectfully stepped down, as her being a paid worker for Central Office would have been in violation of our bylaws. Paul C. was unanimously voted in as new PI/CPC Chair.

Telephone Chair Search Committee: Kenny P. said, "We have a nominee." Jac made herself available (21 years sober, working a 10th step and needed a service commitment. Has volunteered on the Hotline as a service commitment before (1 year). Unanimous vote for Jac.

New Business:

Mike from EBYPAA reported we have a dance scheduled for April 18. As of meeting time there was no set location, but inquiries can be made by calling Mike at 510-350-6076. EBYPAA will also be having two barbecues in May.

Susan said she would like to discuss creating a meeting room use committee. Steve F. said we would need to have a meeting where we would have all of the groups attend to talk about meeting room usage. We just completed a study on meeting room contributions. The room usage is almost self-

supporting, but not yet. We are starting to invoice the meetings, and our rent will go from \$50 to \$55 per month. We want to break even, but not make a profit, or be a drain. Susan stated that we were hoping to have a committee to get the meetings to play nice with each other, so items can be put back in their proper place when the meeting is over. Steve will invite every group to a meeting to discuss best practices.

Steve reported on the new Detox, Cherry Hill, located below John George on Freedom Road in San Leandro. He also mentioned the new meeting forms for groups that wish to start and be reported. There are two new meetings that want to start (one in Berkeley).

Discussion Topics:

Topic I: Tech Soup is a non-profit whose function is self-described as "Bringing Technology to Nonprofits." The organization obtains donations from software and hardware manufacturers and makes them available to non-profits for a minor administrative fee. Can we purchase from this service and not violate our traditions?

Joe: I work for Tech Soup, and I want to listen to the concerns you might have on breaking Traditions. This is a God moment me being here. He states that for AA to use the service, you need to prove that you are a non-profit. (AA can).

Ray: My group felt strongly that this would break with the Tradition 7. However as long as Tech Soup doesn't affiliate the AA name it's not a problem. If we get a special discount, it's a problem. If it is budgeted as office supplies not a problem.

Miko: Felt that we weren't getting special favors, so it's great. Gave a member example of the World Conference in San Diego where shuttles were provided by the city. This was done for every gathering that was at the Stadium, so not special treatment. If that was okay so is this.

Tuesday Night Old People: Most in favor as long as it benefits everyone.

Gordon: Someone said this breaks our Seventh Tradition. Why?

Ray: Can't speak for group, but personally, if we get it some other group just as worthy might not get it (non-profit). I follow my group conscience.

Steve: Is it enough to be treated fairly as a reason to do this? If Starbucks gave non-profit coffee, would we take it?

Anthony: As long as we get some price to pay that everyone pays, no problem. The question is, is our non-profit status a violation? If it's not, then neither is Tech Soup.

Patrick: After group discussion of Tradition Seven, we decided that we do try to go to the cheapest vendor. Unanimous for.

Steven: If this was a discount, no problem, like Costco. Tech Soup gets this stuff donated, then charges an administrative charge on a donation.

Bruce: If this is explained correctly, why is it called a purchase? Administrative fee isn't a purchase.

(Continued on page 10)

INTERGROUP REPORTS

CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT
Steve F. - 510-839-0709

Financial Report

February continues our financial improvement due to strong group contributions and literature sales with a \$5,300 surplus versus (\$1,100) last year. Keep up the good work!

Closeout! To make room for the new CD's and DVD's, all videos and tapes in stock are on sale for 50% off.

Community News for Free!

We are still looking to increase our readership of *Community News*, and are working to make it a better means of communicating within the fellowship. Therefore, we are offering **free 12-month subscriptions** to all subscribers. Please notify us at centraloffice@eastbayaa.org, call us at 510-839-0709, or sign up on line, www.eastbayaa.org.

New Products for Sale

We now have Big Books in 11 different languages on sale at Central Office: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, French, German, and others.

Also now available are laminated wallet cards of your favorite **AA passages and prayers** only \$.40 each.

Treasurer's Aids

We now have pre-printed worksheets available for group treasurers to help keep the books straight. They're free- just come in and ask!!

More new arrivals are pre-addressed distribution envelopes in packets. Six complete sets are in each bundle and are on sale at \$2.00 per packet.

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Office Coordinator

Bruce F.

No report.

Beginners Meeting Chair

Bob W.

In the immortal words of Kevin Bacon in *Animal House*, All is well!

We're looking for a two-person team starting in late May. Any questions, call me!

Special Events Chair

Gordon O.

No report

Booked Special Events are listed below. All events will be held at 27th and Harrison:

Event	Date	Time
All Groups Day	Fri, 7-4-08	10 am–10 pm
Gratitude Night	Tues, 11-25-08	7 pm–9:30 pm
New Years Dance/Party	Wed, 12-31-08	8 pm–12:30 am

Telephone Committee:

Kenny P.

Hotline is fully staffed.

PI/CPC Chair:

Jake B.

510-839-0709 – (Central Office)

PI/CPC is always seeking volunteers. Workshop held at Central Office on February 23 was informative and well attended. Twelve new members have been invited to the group site. New members have already signed up to observe seasoned presenters at upcoming presentations. Richmond Neighborhood House added five new dates to the March calendar. San Leandro High postponed a student union event, however, will contact PI/CPC again with a new date.

Search Committee is currently seeking a new PI/CPC Chair. A newly-elected chair expected to be announced shortly. (Report written by Sonya C., Central Office Assistant, for Jake B.)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS EAST BAY INTERGROUP FIRST FRIDAY SPEAKER MEETING

MAY 2

SPEAKER: DIANA O., CUPERTINO

HOST GROUP: MONDAY N NIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE

JUNE 6

SPEAKER: TROY M., OAKLAND

HOST GROUP: GOOD MORNING AMERICA, OAKLAND

FELLOWSHIP 7:30 PM MEETING 8:00 PM BIRTHDAY MARBLES
COME AND CELEBRATE YOUR AA BIRTHDAY. GET ONE OF YOUR MARBLES BACK.
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OAKLAND,
2501 HARRISON ST. AT 27TH ST.

SECOND SATURDAY BIRTHDAY GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Monthly Birthday/Speaker Meeting 8:00 PM

AA

May 10

Philo H.

San Francisco CA

June 14

Bill B.

Sunnyvale CA

Open meeting - Non-smoking - Book and Gift Raffle
Family, Friends, and Quiet Children Welcome

Birthday Chips and Cake to Celebrate All Birthdays During the Month

First United Methodist Church
1600 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA
(on Bancroft between Dolores and Maud)

AA LITERATURE STUDY:
A NEW MEETING FOR WOMEN
“LADIES’ LIT”
Sundays at 4:30
Oakland—Mandana CRC*

We have a different Reader each week who selects a piece of AA literature to share for 10-15 minutes and then group members share on the reading.*****

* 3989 Howe Street: 1 block from Piedmont Ave.
Enter on 40th Way between 40th and 41st

** Easy to spot, because AA publications are marked
“This is AA General Service Conference-Approved Literature”

*** ‘Checking in’ is encouraged before and after, rather than during, the meeting.

Secretary’s Workshop
Conducted by Richard M.
For more information call Central Office: 510-839-0709
Saturday, May 31
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Central Office Meeting Room
295-27th Street, Oakland, CA

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE:
~ QUALIFICATIONS FOR GROUP SECRETARY
~ WHAT IS CROSSTALK?
~ RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TRUSTED SERVANT
~ SPIRIT OF ROTATION

East Bay current, wanna-be and soon-to-be secretaries are encouraged to attend!

READER CONTRIBUTIONS

This AA Program Really Works!

Editor's note: In June 2005, "Charmin' Billy" told us about his friend Jesse, a fellow AA and fisherman. Jesse also collected speeding tickets. Billy mounted a picture of himself and a 6-pound trout he'd caught onto cardboard, put a brass eyelet at the top, threaded it with a nice red ribbon, and gave it to Jesse to hang from the rear-view mirror of his car as a reminder not to speed. As of a year later, Jesse had managed not to get another speeding ticket.

Now, almost three years later, Billy has an update for us:

About six months ago Jesse told me that the fish picture had fallen apart from his good use. I had a big old 5-inch heavy-duty halibut fishhook, so I gave that to him. It would not wear out very readily.

Just recently Jesse sought me out after the meeting at The Upper Room.

"Guess what?" he queried me.

"What?" I responded.

"My insurance company dropped my rate back down to normal again! I couldn't believe it!"

"That's nice," I told him.

But he'd have nothing to do with my demand that he split the savings with me.

I'll still pray for him, anyway.

This AA program really, really works!

Charmin' Billy, Berkeley

Step Five

The short version of my first Step 5 is that I was drunk when I took it (unbeknownst to my sponsor), and so it increased the shame that I had thought was maxed out. I didn't think I could sink any lower than I had sunk by the time I hit my thirty-fifth year as a drunk, but I was wrong.

The short version of my second Step 5 is that it took me another three years and two sponsors to get there, and when my sponsor asked me if I was holding back a secret I hoped to take to my grave, I could say honestly, "You know the best and worst about me that I know at this point." I didn't think I would ever be able to look myself in the eyes again before I took my real first Step 5, but I was wrong.

In between my drunken, maudlin first Fifth Step and my successful second attempt, I got sober and moved to a different city, where I got a new sponsor. She was much younger than I in normie years, but had been sober twice as long as I had. I thank God for her, and she helped me a great deal during what has so far been my worst time in sobriety. But she was the wrong person for me to take a Fifth Step

with, which my Higher Power knew but I didn't. The woman I needed was exactly the woman I got a couple of years later, who was compassionate in the literal sense—she actually felt with me my pain and self-loathing, because she'd been there, done that, had the T-shirt and the scars. And she had what I wanted, self-esteem.

Some of us who are blessed to be trudging the road of Happy Destiny together have done more terrible things than others of us. If I had to guess, I'd say I'm somewhere close to the middle of the grading curve on that one, which is where, I am now glad to say, I am on most things. One of the things I have learned in my few years of sobriety is that none of us has done anything so terrible it cannot be told. And while I have never been a big fan of the "let us love you until you can love yourself" perspective, I know I would not be here unless AAs had forgiven me until I could forgive myself.

With deepest gratitude for each of my sponsors, including number four, who is patiently waiting for me to take her suggestion and do another Fourth Step.

Susan S.

WHAT'S NEW

Twelve Step Coordinator Needed! Are you qualified? Can you help? Our Hot-line Service needs an experienced sober member to coordinate our most important service of all, twelve step work. The new coordinator fields all referrals from the hot-line to a pre-qualified list of twelve step volunteers, recruits and trains new volunteers and supports the other Hot-line services. We need a member who has the energy and enthusiasm to make our 12 step assistance reach all the outstretched hands of suffering alcoholics.

Community News for Free!

Circulation reaches 350- shooting for 1,000

We have increased our readership of CN over 50% over the past three months and want to get all members on board. We are offering **free 12 month subscriptions** to all new subscribers. Please notify us at centraloffice@eastbayaa.org, call us 510-839-0709 or sign up online at www.eastbayaa.org and tell us where to send your new subscription.

"The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails."

Reprinted from As Bill Sees It, p. 115 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

A A BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the following members, who celebrated their birthdays at the April First Friday Speaker Meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sober Date</u>	<u>Home Group</u>	<u>City</u>
Jackie B.	4/1/1978	Sunday Step Discussion	Oakland
Alison	4/4/1982	Step Sisters	Berkeley
Carl	4/3/1983	Men's Stag	Oakland
Donna	3/16/1987	Sisters in Sobriety	Oakland
Fran	4/4/1987	Up To My Neck	Oakland
Patricia	4/1/1988	Women's	Alameda
June	3/12/1989	Step Sisters	Berkeley
Gilbert	3/11/1991	Berkeley Fellowship	Berkeley
Vera H.	2/4/1994	Sunday Step Discussion/GMA	Oakland
Marie	3/15/1994	Sunday Step Discussion	Oakland
Brenda P.	3/13/1997	Sisters in the Solution	San Leandro
Donna	3/15/1997	Women's Mtg	El Cerrito
Timothy R.	3/5/1999	Serenity Central	Oakland
Joe G.	3/22/1999	El Cerrito Fellowship	El Cerrito
Todd S.	3/4/2001		Oakland
John S.	2/5/2002	Safe Haven	Oakland
Jahowa	3/8/2003	A Common Solution	Oakland
Nika	3/11/2003	Step Sisters	Berkeley
Tricia J.	3/22/2003	Berkeley Fellowship	Berkeley
Shunkila	1/4/2004		
Chelsea	3/11/2004		
Joe	3/16/2004	Just the Book	Oakland
Jessica K.	3/27/2004	College Bay	Berkeley
Liz E.	4/4/2004	Berkeley Fellowship	Berkeley
Edward G.	7/23/2004	Sunday Step Discussion	Oakland
Cloia S.	9/16/2004		
Mindy R.	12/12/2004		
Harry S.	2/26/2005	Noonie Tooners	Berkeley
Kate S.	4/3/2005	Rockridge Fellowship	Oakland
Mary H.	4/4/2005		
Rebecca F.	2/25/2006	The Upper Room	Oakland
Jilala F.	3/15/2006	The Upper Room	Oakland
Nikoli L.	12/29/2006	Just the Book	Oakland
Marcia M.	3/19/2007	Safe Haven	Oakland
Erica B.	3/19/2007	Rockridge Fellowship	Oakland
Bridget H.	3/24/2007	College Bay	Berkeley
Sam B.	3/26/2007		
Gary H.	4/4/2007	Men's Single Topic	Oakland
Jerry N.	6/29/2007	Godless Heathens	Oakland
Evella H.	12/17/2007	In-Between Fellowship	Oakland
Deborah R.	1/11/2008		
Byron	1/18/2008		
Valerie	1/25/2008	The Upper Room	Oakland
Tomas	1/25/2008		
Jose	1/27/2008		
Rocky	2/4/2008	College Bay	Berkeley
Analisa	2/6/2008	Godless Heathens	Oakland
Paul R.	2/10/2008	Good Morning America	Oakland
Sonia	2/20/2008	Rockridge Fellowship	Oakland
Donna R.	2/20/2008	Rockridge Fellowship	Oakland
Jesse B.	2/24/2008	Good Morning America	Oakland
Aaron	3/15/2008		
Jordan H.	3/19/2008	Good Morning America	Oakland
Lewis	3/27/2008	The Upper Room	Oakland
Keith B.	11/5/2008		
Chris B.			

GRATEFUL GIVERS

The Grateful Givers program is a means whereby members of East Bay AA may express their gratitude through contributions. Members contribute once, occasionally or regularly, or elect to contribute painlessly through automatic credit card deductions. There is no better way to guarantee that the hand of AA will always be there than through support of the many Twelfth Step services provided by Central Office.

We want to give special thanks to the many who contributed throughout the year and to those who saw the need and were especially generous at year's end.

We'd also like to encourage you to become a Grateful Giver—call us at Central Office, 510.839.8900, and let us know!

INVITATION TO OUR READERS

We need you! Other readers need you! Send us your stories, funny or tragic; your insights, before or after the fact; why you picked the home group you did; the history of your home group; what staying sober has meant to you; what you can laugh at now, that used to make you weep; how your bowling scores (not to mention your attendance at work) has improved with sobriety; the things you love that used to be invisible to you.

Send us your stories! Let us share them with the rest of our community! Contact us by email to cncditor@eastbayaa.org, or call Central Office at 510-839-8900.

General Service Report (Continued from page 3)

groups and their members. Over the last few years, I have observed our delegates coming to our District to report on what happened at the General Service Conference, exciting our District's GSRs and DCMs about all that GSO is doing to carry AA's message worldwide, only to throw a proverbial bucket of cold water on all that enthusiasm by talking about how we are not fully self-supporting because the Groups do not fully fund GSO's budget. That's not the best way to get Groups to contribute to GSO.

If we're excited about what GSO is doing, we'll contribute. If we're not, some of us won't, but many will still do so out of a sense of duty. That's OK, and it's the message I think we are sending back with Sharon to the General Service Conference this year.

Let's be sure to show up for the Post-Conference Assembly on May 17 in Lakeport, where Sharon will report back to us on what happened at the General Service Conference. She will also be reporting to us at Central Office's All Group's Day on July 4th. Be there, or be square! OK, so I'm a dinosaur!

Come join us in general service; its fun, believe it or not! District 07 (Oakland and North) meets at the First Christian Church, 29th and Fairmount in Oakland at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of every month, and District 70 (South of Oakland) meets at Trinity Baptist Church, 577 Olivina Ave., Livermore, at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of each month. May God bless and keep you.

Kris W., Chair (DCMC), Dist 07

Minutes (Continued from page 4)

Justin: Money that comes from contributions is supporting ourselves. If this is allowed as a discount purchase, where will the savings go? Answer: Prudent Reserve.

Steve: San Francisco and San Jose Intergroups do buy from Tech Soup. No precedent if we do.

Motion to Vote: Seconded. It was noted that the wording had changed on the motion, albeit slightly.

Steve: If you feel this should go back to the groups vote "no".

Vote :Yea: 19 Nay: 17 Abstain: 5 Not substantial unanimity. Goes back to groups. Motion to table- seconded.

Topic II: Speaker Bureau People ask Central Office for speaker lists. A lot of Intergroups have them as well as speaker bureaus. Should we?

Liz: When we discussed this, most said yes. Minority opinion: Elevates names and personalities of individuals. It is personalities over principles.

Raw speakers vs. polished speakers was discussed.

Susan: Most people said NO. Most telling question: How do you know if the speaker is still sober just because they are on the list? Who keeps it up to date?

Vera: Consensus was that it would inhibit people from going to other meetings to find speakers.

Motion: Table or Vote? Motion to table- seconded. One abstention.

Meeting ended at 9:00 P.M.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE

A Sponsor Is. . .

To ME, a sponsor is the one who comes out on a Twelfth Step job after you have picked up the phone and dialed AA and yelled, "Help!" He arrives, and through the fog of alcohol and tears, the aftermath of a five-day bender, and the hair of the dog that morning, you hear him say, "Well, my son, got a bit of a problem?"

"A bit of a problem!" you say. "Do you really know?" Boy, does he know! With all the patience and understanding in the world, he sits and talks to you, not preaching, but explaining. After a bit, you don't feel alone any more.

He comes back to see you in the comedown period, when you feel like the wreck of the Hesperus and you're crying out for that one drink which you may think will put things right, but in fact will push you one more step down the ladder.

The phone rings, and a cheerful and happy person is on the other end--somebody who cares what is happening to you through John Barleycorn. He takes you to your first meeting. You go with a certain amount of apprehension, but again you are met with that feeling of "Somebody cares," and you join the most exclusive club in the world--exclusive because each one has paid the highest entrance fee that can be paid.

The sponsor is the man who is responsible now, for rescuing from the ashes a marriage and the love of small children and for making a drunk a happy man. As a comparatively new member in the Fellowship, I shall never cease to be grateful to my sponsor, Steve, for the time, patience, and attention he gave to me. When I could not get to meetings in the early weeks, there wasn't a day he failed to call. Every night he rang up (and still does). Far from feeling that he was checking up on me, I welcomed his continual reassurance and proof that AA had indeed brought me friends who cared what happened to me.

God bless all sponsors in AA! Perhaps this article will give them a view of one newcomer's opinion of one great sponsor.

- B., Birmingham

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FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	MAR	YEAR
Member Contributions.	\$ 25.12	\$ 2,798.07
Group Contributions	6,362.15	27,501.89
Meeting Room	1,560.96	3,867.78
Literature Sales	4,922.60	19,377.98
Directories and Cards	934.36	2,172.54
Birthday Chips & Misc.	304.93	1,415.42
Shipping	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10.53</u>
Total Income	\$14,710.12	\$57,144.21

EXPENSES	MAR	YEAR
Office Supplies	881.62	2,230.37
Lease costs	2,890.56	8,625.74
Insurance	0.00	669.67
Building Maintenance	0.00	50.00
Telephone Committee	636.93	1,047.06
Community Outreach	1,149.28	3,443.53
Payroll Expenses	4,174.50	16,662.32
Special Events	2,372.36	2,591.9
Meeting Room	345.88	724.11
Literature Expenses	893.58	9,243.46
Birthday Chips, etc.	106.65	298.35
Write Off	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5.95</u>
Total Expenses	\$13,451.36	\$45,592.51
Net Income	\$1,258.76	\$11,544.20

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP	MARCH	YEAR
ALA Happy Hour	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00
ALA Morton	120.00	120.00
ALA Park St. Center	865.20	2,463.60
ALA Serenity	155.00	155.00
ALA Women's Serenity	0.00	60.00
BRK Berkeley Fellowship	92.44	530.35
BRK Drunks R Us Grps.	0.00	2,175.93
BRK Nooney Tuners	200.00	200.00
BRK Sun Candlelight	0.00	273.83
BRK Sun Nite GLBT	49.00	278.68
BRK Walnut Square	0.00	877.01
BRK Walnut Square Friday	333.19	333.19
BRK Walnut Square Tuesday	0.00	114.53
CSV Back to Basics	0.00	75.00
CSV Camel C. V. Serenity	0.00	67.00
CSV Gratitude Grp	121.97	301.31
CSV Irregulars	0.00	123.40
CSV Serenity by the Lake	0.00	150.48
CSV Serenity Group	0.00	44.78
CSV Sunday Nite	79.04	221.37
EIC Godless Heathens Group	0.00	15.50
ELS El Sobrante Fellowship	0.00	85.39
FMT Five Cities Fellowship	0.00	100.00
FMT Fremont Fellowship	0.00	0.01
FMT Mission San Jose Grp	0.00	360.00
FMT Wed. Nite N/S Stag Group	0.00	70.20
HWD BYOB	0.00	100.00

HWD Road to Recovery	\$ 0.00	\$ 60.00
HWD Step By Step Mens Stag	0.00	135.60
Intergrp - 3rd Wed	101.27	336.93
Intergrp 1st Fri Spkr Mg	460.38	887.84
NWK Newark Fellowship	100.00	220.00
OAK A Vision for You	172.20	411.88
OAK Adeline Group	0.00	100.26
OAK Breath of Fresh Air	329.16	961.56
OAK Clinton Group	0.00	91.95
OAK Diamond Link	0.00	63.62
OAK Finally Friday Group	0.00	78.45
OAK Friday Nighters	0.99	0.99
OAK Good Morning America	263.56	693.09
OAK Howe St., How It Works	0.00	253.20
OAK In-Between Fellowship	0.00	300.00
OAK Interest in Our Fellows	82.23	82.23
OAK Lady A Group	39.60	39.60
OAK Lake Shore Lushes	0.00	241.57
OAK Last Chance	0.00	273.00
OAK Late Show-Wed	0.00	113.50
OAK Men's Single Topic	0.00	528.58
OAK Montclair Group	462.12	503.06
OAK Nursery # 1	0.00	198.00
OAK Old Timers	229.00	351.00
OAK Podium Participation	41.40	215.10
OAK Practice These Princ.	0.00	568.50
OAK Rockridge Fellowship	0.00	3,365.00
OAK Safe Haven	0.00	112.62
OAK Saturday Night Live	18.00	18.00
OAK Serenity Central	0.00	230.00
OAK Sisters in Sobriety	74.94	219.55
OAK Sober 51/50s	20.00	85.00
OAK Sun 9am Step Study	161.86	579.37
OAK Sweet & Condensed	94.04	94.04
OAK The Upper Room	0.00	553.18
OAK Thirsty Thursdays	0.00	154.70
OAK Up to My Neck Group	0.00	411.64
OAK Workenders #2 Fri	178.35	178.35
OAK Young People	381.61	831.61
PMT East Bay Grp	0.00	224.79
PMT Group Six	0.00	198.97
PMT Montclair Weekenders	0.00	370.76
PMT Piedmont Group	0.00	390.24
PNL We're Here	0.00	20.35
PTR Tue Pt Richmond BB	0.00	25.00
SLN Book Worms B/B	0.00	129.60
SLN Mon Women's BB Study	120.00	120.00
SLN The Answer Grp Men's Stg	431.67	1,167.05
SLN Triple Twelve	40.00	40.00
SLN Wed Night	90.00	180.00
SLZ Fireside Grp	0.00	80.00
SLZ Joy Of Living Grp	0.00	360.00
SLZ Mon Night	268.29	344.76
SLZ Morning Recovery Grp	60.00	120.00
SNP Women of AA	170.00	170.00
UNC New Start Grp	110.64	110.64
UNC The Unkn Heroes	0.00	165.00
TOTAL	\$6,562.15	\$28,101.89

**Where Money
and
Spirituality Mix**

SPEAKER MEETINGS

1st Friday Speaker Meeting

Monthly, 8:00 PM, First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. at 27th St., Oakland

2nd Saturday Birthday Speaker Meeting

Monthly, 8:00 PM, First United Methodist Church 1600 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

El Cerrito Fellowship

Saturdays, 8:30 PM, birthday chips 2nd and last Saturday, 11157 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

El Sobrante Fellowship

Last Saturday of each month, 7:30 PM San Pablo Alano Club, 2426 Church Lane, San Pablo

Fremont Fellowship

Saturdays, 8:00 PM, and Sundays, 10:30 AM 37365 Centralmont Pl., Fremont

Hayward Fellowship

Saturdays, 8:30 PM, 16250 E. 14th St., San Leandro

Island Fellowship, Last Saturday of each month, birthday speaker meeting, 8:00 PM, Island Fellowship, 1828 Lincoln Ave., Alameda

In-Between Fellowship

Fridays, 8:15 PM, 4710 International Blvd., Oakland

Park Street Center

2nd Friday of each month, 8:00 PM, 1510 Oak St., Alameda

Newark Fellowship

Last Saturday of each month, 8:00 PM, birthday cake and chips, 7115 Rich Ave., Newark

Triangle Fellowship

Last Saturday of each month, 8:00 PM, 26663 Mission Blvd., Hayward

SERVICE MEETINGS

Hospitals and Institutions — Area 53

1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM, First Christian Church of Oakland, 29th St. at Fairmount St.

Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)

3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Central Office, 295 27th Street, Oakland

Intergroup Meeting

3rd Wednesday of each month, 8:00 PM, Central Office, 295 27th Street, Oakland

General Service District 07

4th Wednesday of each month, (3rd Wednesday in Nov and Dec), 7:30 PM, First Christian Church of Oakland, 29th St at Fairmount St.

General Service District 70

4th Monday of each month, 7:30 PM, 20080 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley

EAST BAY AA CALENDAR

MAY2008

2

1st Friday

8:00 PM, First Friday Speaker Meeting
First Congregational Church of Oakland
2501 Harrison St., at 27th St.

7

1st Wednesday

7:30 PM, Hospitals and Institutions (Area53)
First Christian Church of Oakland
Fairmount St., at 29th St.

9

2nd Friday

8:00 PM, Speaker and Birthday Meeting
Park St. Center
1510 Oak St., Alameda

10

2nd Saturday

8:00 PM, Birthday Speaker Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1600 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

17

Saturday

2 - 4 pm Telephone Hotline Workshop
Central Office, 295 27th St., Oakland

21

3rd Wednesday

6:00 PM, PI/CPC
8:00 PM, East Bay Intergroup Meeting
Central Office, 295 27th St, Oakland

26

Fourth Monday

7:30 PM, District 70 General Service Meeting
20080 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley

28

4th Wednesday

7:30 PM, District 07 General Service Meeting
First Christian Church of Oakland
Fairmount St. at 29th St

31

Saturday

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Secretaries Workshop
Central Office, 295 27th St., Oakland

Last Saturday

8:00 PM, Speaker and Birthday Meeting
Island Fellowship
1828 Lincoln Ave., Alameda

Telephone Committee (Hotline) Workshop
Saturday, May 17, 2008
2:00 pm till 4:00 pm
Central Office Meeting Room
295 27th St., Oakland
Guest Speakers: Jac W., Donna B., and others
Join the front line of AA service

Our First Professional Baseball Outing

Offered by East Bay Intergroup Special Events Team

Saturday, June 7, 2008
Oakland Athletics vs Los Angeles Angels

3:30 pm — Our Tailgate Party

Bring-Ur-Own or purchase hotlinks or sausages (\$2) and soft drinks(\$1)

6:00 pm — First Pitch

Reserved Field Level: \$29.00 ea. (100 only)

Bleachers: \$18.00 ea. (40) only

First come - First choice

Bring your family and your friends

Tickets available at Central Office, 295 27th St., Oakland or by telephone
510-839-8900 using either MasterCard or Visa

Extravagant Fireworks Display Immediately After the Game!!!