

Napa Valley Intergroup Newsletter

Issue #6

April - June 2002

Hello Napa AA. If you have been reading the newsletter for some time you will notice some changes. The only thing that never changes is that things always change. So today lucky reader, you are blessed with a new format and a new editor!

First let me assure you that this is the same Napa Valley Intergroup Newsletter that you know and have come to love for many years. It just has a new look and you will see some new features from time to time.

The most exciting new feature, will be the Miss Nude Drunk pictorial, I plan to publish. Girls please see me personally for the auditions. **JUST KIDDING.** The most exciting new feature is that you can now access this newsletter on our Napa Website, which is www.aanapa.org. (yes hard copy will continue to be available) Also I plan to have regular updates on what is happening with recovery online. The newsletter will continue to have local events and the minutes/treasurers report from our local Intergroup and AA and recovery articles of interest, local contributions and poignant and inspiring stories by me, your new editor.

So who the hell am I? Funny you should ask. My name is Matt T. and I am an alcoholic. I am 2 years, and 5 months sober at the publishing of this newsletter, and I love my sobriety. Staying sober is the best thing that I have done in my life and I do this recovery thing better than anything else I do. I was once told if you ever wonder if you are a working a strong program ask yourself these questions: What is my homegroup? What am I doing for service? When was the last time I spoke with my sponsor? What step am I working ? He then went on to tell me that your program is only as solid as the answers to these questions.

My homegroup is the Fri 12:15 meeting at St Mary's, I am editor and Intergroup secretary and work with sponsees, I talk with my sponsor all the time but at least 2 times a week. I am currently working (or stuck on) step 9.

When the opportunity came up to be editor I jumped on it. I like to write and I truly believe that recovery is an ongoing process; we grow by continuing to educate ourselves.

So here I am a fellow alcoholic, trying the very best I can to be of service, in the tradition of Bill W " Keeping the message moving ". So please feel free to contact me at resort@interx.net and let me know what you like or not.

Whether I make jokes or push some boundaries, my sole motivation is pure recovery and love for all my brothers and sisters in the program. I will honor my commitment and the work that has been done before I ever got sober and stay true to the traditions of AA.

Sincerely , your new editor,

Matt T.

HOTLINE 707-255-4900 - Up Valley HOTLINE 707-963-4673 - WEBSITE www.AANapa.org

FYI

Because AA has never attempted to keep formal membership lists, it is extremely difficult to obtain accurate figures on total membership at any given time.

Some local groups are not listed with the General Service Office. Others so not provide membership data, thus are not recorded on GSO computer records. The membership figures listed below are based on reports to the GSO as of January 1, 1996, plus an average allowance for groups that have not reported their membership.

There is no practical way of counting members who are not affiliated with a local group.

Estimated A.A. Membership and group Information in the US and Canada

Groups in US..... 50,671

Members in US 1,153,795

Groups In Canada..5,259

Groups Overseas 37,082

Members Overseas614,466

Groups in Correctional Facilities.2,154

Total Reported

1,922,269 Members

95,166 Groups

From A.A. Fact File



Events

April

26-28 Irvine, Ca 21st Annual H & I Conference. 2245 W. Vancouver Dr #E Anaheim Ca 92804

May

17-19 Bakersfield CA Convencion Estatal de California. Com.org, box 3336 Bakersfield Ca 93385

June

TBA

Please Note!

Some of our Intergroup mail was recently returned undelivered due to an expired forward. Our correct address is:

Napa Valley Intergroup
P.O. Box 10948
Napa, CA 94581-2948

Napa Valley Intergroup meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 A.M. at the Alano Club, 1115 Jordan Lane. All are welcome to come and observe.

MINUTES: The minutes from Feb were approved.

TREASURER: Charlie T. was present and gave a written report, which was approved.

ANSWERING SERVICE: Not Present/ no report.

BIRTHDAY MEETING: Not present/ no report.

LITERATURE: Frank was present and submitted oral report. We do have 4th ed big books available for sale, @ \$5.50 ea.. Transition from previous Lit chair is going smoothly. New Sched are out in "Haight Asbury Purple".

GSR Liaison: Not present, Intergroup needs a new GSR liaison. All reps were asked to ask for volunteers, req 2yr clean/2 year commitment.

H&I Liaison: Not present no report

ALKATHON: Not Present/No report. We need this position to be filled.

ANNIVERSARY PARTY CHAIR: Bill Present, theme for Anniversary party will be "Fun in Recovery". Party will be Oct 26 @ Veterans Home. Motion by Neil R. to make a \$200 donation to Vets home, approved. Motion by Charlie T. to have a suggested \$5.00 entrance fee for entertainment (only), Charlie then revised the motion to add "children admitted free, and suggested entrance fee could be waived for people who cannot afford it". Motion passed

WEBSITE: Charlie present and gave oral report. Map Link to meetings changing from Map Quest to Yahoo Maps, because of problems with Map Quest. Information on the 4 week long step study at Tome Foolerys, will be on website.

Camp out: Not present, report submitted via Rich L. Plan to sell spots for the campout, next month.

Newsletter: Matt Tulsy has taken over responsibilities for newsletter and will have it printed and available on the website on April 1, 2002.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion by Matt T. from last month, to change printed definition, on schedules, of closed meeting to read "closed meetings are for AA members only or for those who have a drinking problem and a desire to stop drinking." Approved and will take effect on next printing of schedules.

New Business: None

Napa Valley Intergroup
Treasurer's Report
12/1/01 - 2/28/02
Prepared by Charlie T., Treasurer

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|----------------------------------|----------|
| Balance Summary | |
| November 2001 Balance | 1749.23 |
| December 2001 Income | 357.16 |
| January 2002 Income | 171.95 |
| February 2002 Income | 47.80 |
| February 2002 Balance | 2326.14 |
| Less H&I Included | -35.29 |
| | 2290.85 |
| Less Prudent Reserves | -1900.00 |
| Excess on 2/28/02 | 390.85 |
| Meeting Revenue Summary | |
| 7 Men Stag | 126.00 |
| Alkathon | 212.47 |
| Birthday Meeting | -72.16 |
| Chosen One's AA-Vet's Hom | 100.00 |
| Deer Park Discovery | 128.00 |
| Friday Night at the Queen | 40.17 |
| Intergroup | 4.96 |
| Joe's Group | 63.06 |
| Living Sober | 70.00 |
| S.O.S. Group | 174.01 |
| SASTO Group | 181.00 |
| Sunday Night Big Book | 188.38 |
| Sunnyside Serenity Group | 89.36 |
| Thurs Women's New Life | 31.50 |
| Total | 1336.75 |
| Literature Summary | |
| Books Purchased | -587.00 |
| Books Sold | 1021.50 |
| Pamphlets Purchased | -105.66 |
| Total | 328.84 |
| Expense Summary | |
| Ads, Napa Valley Register | -291.24 |
| Phone Services | -282.59 |
| Printing | -213.96 |
| Storage Rent (literature, chips) | -100.00 |
| Tax on 2001 Book Sales | -137.21 |
| Website Hosting | -95.00 |
| Total | -1120.00 |

This is a summary report only. Our books are open to anyone who cares to view them and are available at the monthly Intergroup meeting held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Napa Valley Alano Club.

In Tokyo, One Alcoholic Can Now Talk With Another In Español

It started as a love story. Martin G., of Guatemala met and fell in love with a Japanese girl. They married and set up housekeeping in Tokyo and Martin hoped for a happy ending, that eventually did come, but not as he had envisioned. Never one to refuse a libation, Martin began drinking heavily; soon he drank himself out of the marriage and into the hospital. Then he found A.A.

Martin attended both Japanese- and English-speaking A.A. meetings and hung on to his sobriety. Someone gave him a copy of the Big Book in Spanish—*Alcohólicos Anónimos*—and he began to have a better grasp of the program. But in meetings he longed to share in the language he understood best, so he decided to form a Spanish-speaking group.

Tentatively he approached a Spanish-language newspaper in Tokyo and entered a small item noting the place and time the first meeting would be held. Much to his surprise, several people showed up. Reported Martin in mid-December” “We are five members in the group—three women from Columbia, one man from Peru and one me from Guatemala. The man from Peru and one woman from Colombia have not touched alcohol for three months, one woman hasn’t drunk for three months and 15 days, another woman is sober two weeks, and I have not picked up a drink for six months and 12 days, thanks to the program.”

The fledgling group was flourishing, except for a key problem: Other than Martin’s lone copy of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, they have no Spanish-language A.A. literature. So one afternoon Martin visited the Japanese General Service Office to see what could be done. The office had one copy of the Big Book in Spanish but no other material. What they did have, though, was a visitor from G.S.O. in New York, Bill A., staff member serving on the International desk. He was delighted to meet Martin and immediately arranged to have the full spectrum of Spanish-language literature sent out from G.S.O.: more Big Books along with copies of the Twelve and Twelve, *La Viña*, (the Spanish edition of the Grapevine), pamphlets and much more.

Recalls Bill: “The fact that I was there when Martin came calling seems to me to be another example of a power greater than myself working anonymously. Being able to help him made me feel like I was making a giant Twelfth Step call. And it shows that what can’t be done by one person alone can so often be done by many of us pitching in together.

Martin and his fellow group members consider the Spanish-language literature integral to their staying sober and carrying the message of recovery. They feel as A.A. co-founder Bill W. did when he pointed out that the Fellowship’s success with a newcomer rests “squarely on our ability to identify...in experience, in language, and especially in feeling—that profound feeling for each other that goes deeper than words. This is what we really mean when we say ‘one alcoholic talking to another.’ “

(The Language of the Heart, p. 293)

A Word From The Webmaster

This edition of the *Napa Valley Intergroup Newsletter* marks the first edition to be published in dual format—both in hard copy and on our website. I’ll be working closely with our new Newsletter Editor Matt T. to coordinate content between the two, especially in the area of announcements and events.

Our website has the unique opportunity to provide very current information, between the printing cycles of the Newsletter any the regular meeting schedules. For example I recently published an announcement on the Web for the River Group’s 4-week step study class—an event that came and went between publications of the regular meeting schedule. They plan to hold this class again, so stay tuned to www.AANapa.org for more information.

I’d like to encourage any of you who have announcements or other content appropriate for the website to make submissions. This includes announcements of new meetings, other recovery-related events, regional roundups, District and Regional service events, H&I, etc.

Electronic submission is always welcome and saves me some typing. Please send your flyers, posters, etc. to me at Webmaster@AANapa.org. You can also call me at 707-321-4339, mail materials to the Intergroup mailbox at P.O. Box 10948, Napa, CA 94581, or bring them to the monthly Intergroup Business Meetings. Intergroup meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Napa Alano Club. I’ll make sure that anything you submit is also passed on for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and participation,

Charlie T.
Webmaster AANapa.org