

# SUMMER EDITION 2011

A publication of the  
Napa Valley Fellowship of  
Alcoholics Anonymous



# napa valley

i n t e r g r o u p N E W S

## NEW NEWS

These are some updates  
about what is going on in  
Napa Valley AA

### INTERGROUP

#### Update

**Intergroup meeting  
SECOND SATURDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
CROSS WALK CHURCH  
2590 First Street, Napa**

*Check out  
aanapa.org*

Your resource site for  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
In  
Napa Valley

### OPEN INTERGROUP POSITIONS

**ANNEVERSARY PARTY CHAIR**

Alcathon Chairs

for

Thanksgiving

Christmas

New Years

Delegate At Large

WE are all delegates at large carrying the message  
Share what you know about Intergroup and AA in the Napa Valley at your home group

### Tools of Sobriety

Workshop

DATE at [aanapa.org](http://aanapa.org)

### AA HOTLINE

We are looking for a few good women...and men!  
The AA Hot-Line is looking for people (You do have to be sober!) who are willing to be available whenever someone reaches out for the hand of AA.

Each shift is 6 hours long, one day a week. The shifts start at Midnight, 6 a.m, Noon and 6 p.m.

You do need to commit to being available during the time slot that you sign up for so that the phone calls don't go to answering machine or voice mails.

You can also sign up to be on a backup list. If the person who is on shift

cant answer for whatever reason, the call could come to you and you to can do 12th step work!

If you want to get involved, please call Jim Wall at [415 497 8848](tel:4154978848) or email him at [hotline@aanapa.org](mailto:hotline@aanapa.org)

NEW HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER  
855-531-1100

### Self Support

From a spiritual standpoint, self-support can help us avoid the corrupting influences that come from: (1) establishing dues or fees, (2) relying upon outside donations, or (3) resorting to the sale of our recovery program for profit or personal gain.

So long as we can rely upon our own group contributions and so long as we can limit the amount on individual contributions, the problems associated with perilous wealth and authoritative powers will not erode our unity or effectiveness.

Self-support not only avoids corrupting influences, it includes principles that contribute to our spiritual growth, such as self-respect and freedom to express our feelings, as well as to question our own motives, without fear of retribution or worry over loss of operating funds.

It fosters the justice and sense of fairness that come from voluntary sharing in the costs according to our own abilities and our own conscience. With each of us doing our part, the principle of group autonomy is automatically practiced and protected.

Self-support gives us a sense of belonging and the satisfaction of being part of a fellowship that we have helped to foster and nourish.

It brings serenity to our souls through doing our share today. This action both helps us and, at the same time, provides a positive influence in the destiny of others.

Self-support makes for prudence through the exercise of reason and skill in the management of our practical financial affairs.

F. B.  
Spanish Fork, Utah

February 1981

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### NEW MEETING NEW FORMAT

Wednesdays at 3:30pm Experience, Strength & Hope group of A. A. meets in the Conference Room at Crosswalk Church.

Information about the group is on the blog at <http://eshnapa.wordpress.com/about/> This is a read/share format and the literature is selected a week prior and posted on Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/eshnapa/>

### District Calendar

August 13, Summer Assembly  
Vacaville

**August 19, 20, 21 2011**

2011 Pacific

“Additional”

Regional Forum

With our US/Canada General Service Board

Warner Center Marriott

21850 Oxnard Street

Woodland, Hills, CA

(818) 887-4800

November 5, Fall Assembly,  
San Francisco

### District Meeting

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

10:00am –12:00

Yountville Vets Home  
Building A

District Officer Positions open

Archives Chair

Unity Day Chair 2012

### H&I

What happens to the \$\$ in the pink can??

In the early years of Hospital and Institution work, literature was paid for by individuals or groups supporting a given meeting. As the need for literature grew, this became impractical and the idea of the Pink Can was formed. The Pink Can violates no tradition. The money is from AA members for AA members. We are self supporting through our own contributions. The money from the thousands of Pink Cans is pooled into a central fund. Literature for AA members who are confined is purchased and distributed from this fund. No H&I member is paid for any service to the program nor reimbursed for expenses carrying the message. This is our personal donation to the program.

If you are interested in supporting H&I please attend the business meeting the first Friday of the month at the Sea Scouts Hall at 6:45.

UNITY\*RECOVERY\*SERVICE

**How A.A.'S World Services Grew  
Part Two of a three-part series on AA history by  
our co-founder, Bill.**

WE had started the year 1941 with 2,000 members, but we finished with 8,000. This was the measure of the great impact of the Saturday Evening Post piece. But this was only the beginning of uncounted thousands of pleas for help from individuals and from growing groups all over the world that have continued to flow into General Service Headquarters to this day.

This phenomenal expansion brought another problem, a very important one. The national spotlight now being on us, we had to begin dealing with the public on a large scale. Public ill-will could stunt our growth, even bring it to a standstill. But enthusiastic public confidence could swell our ranks to numbers of which we had only dreamed before. The Post piece had proved this. It was not only a big problem, it was a delicate one. Blunders that aroused prejudice could cost lives. A carefully thought out public relations policy had to be formed and put into operation.

Of highest importance would be our relations with medicine and with religion. Under no circumstances must we get into competition with either. If we appeared to be a new religious sect, we'd certainly be done for. And if we moved into the medical field, as such, the result would be the same. So we began to emphasize heavily the fact that AA was *a way of life* that conflicted with no one's religious belief. We told the doctors how much we needed hospitalization, and we urged upon psychiatrists and drying-out places the advantages of cooperating with us. At all times, religion would be the province of clergymen, and the practice of medicine would be for doctors. As laymen, we were only supplying a much-needed missing link.

Maintained over the years since, these attitudes have brought heartwarming results. Today we have the unqualified support of nearly every religious denomination. Most medical practitioners who really understand AA send their alcoholic patients to us. AA members frequently speak before religious gatherings and medical societies. Likewise, the men of medicine and religion are often seen at AA's large open meetings.

Important as they are, medicine and religion proved to be only a fraction of the total public relations field.

How could we best cooperate with press, radio, motion pictures and, more recently, television? How would we deal with employers who wanted special help? What would be the right attitude toward the field of education, research and rehabilitation, private and public? What would we say to prisons and hospitals that wanted AA groups within their walls? What were we to say to AAs who went into some of these fields and were tempted to capitalize on the AA name publicly for advertising or fund-raising? What would we say or do if AA were ever

publicly exploited, defamed or attacked by outsiders? Right answers and workable solutions to all these and many more such problems would have to be found or else AA would suffer.

Finding the right answers to all these public relations puzzles has been a long process. After much trial and error, sometimes punctuated by painful mistakes, the attitudes and practices that would work best for us emerged. The important ones can today be seen in the AA Tradition. One hundred per cent anonymity at the public level, no use of the AA name for the benefit of other causes however worthy, no endorsements or alliances, one single purpose for Alcoholics Anonymous, no professionalism, public relations by the principle of attraction rather than promotion--these were some of the hard-learned lessons.

Thus, our Board of Trustees and the Headquarters office became the focal point around which the AA Tradition was formed. By 1945, order had come out of what had been a chaotic public relations situation. On all sides, the leadership of our society asked for the experience and guidance of the New York office in these matters. So much success attended these efforts that the average AA member has always taken our excellent public relations record for granted. That was natural since these services were largely invisible to him. Nevertheless, this unseen public relations activity has surely been responsible for much of AA's unbelievable growth.

Thus far in our Service story, we have seen the Foundation, the AA book, the development of pamphlet literature, the answered mass of pleas for help, the satisfied need of groups for counsel on their problems, the beginning of our wonderful relations with the public, all becoming part of a growing Service to the whole world of AA. At last, our society really began to function *as a whole*.

Bill W.  
AA GRAPEVINE  
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**WHEEL OF SOBRIETY HOSTS**  
CHILI COOK OFF  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2011  
Cross walk Church  
10:00 cooking starts  
1:00 tasting starts  
TEAM= 2 or more cooks!!  
Registration forms at [aanapa.org](http://aanapa.org)

## Opportunities To be of Service

### AA Answering Service Hotline

Jim Wall  
( 4 1 5 ) 497-8848  
**NEW HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER**  
**855-531-1100**

### Bridging the GAP

#### Speakers needed

Contact  
Leilani  
707 934-5812

### Come and get involved Young Peoples meeting

First United Methodist Church  
5th and Randolph ST.  
Wednesday-7:30pm

### MEETING CHANGES CONTACT

**JEAN C**  
**(707) 980-1177**

**QUESTIONS ?**  
WEBSITE OR NEWSLETTER  
CONTACT  
John at [Webmaster@aanapa.org](mailto:Webmaster@aanapa.org)  
Elisabeth at [Newsletter@aanapa.org](mailto:Newsletter@aanapa.org)

**H& I**  
SERVICE OPPERTUNITIES  
First Friday of the Month  
**SEA SCOUTS HALL**  
**6:45**



**NAPYPAA**  
Business meeting  
1st & 3rd Wednesday  
6:00  
Methodist Church  
625 Randolph Street  
**Needs support**  
Opportunities to be of service  
Many service positions are available

**NEW HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER**  
**855-531-1100**

## NAPA VALLEY

### *Ongoing activities*

*Check out the new info on these familiar ongoing activities. Many are new locations*

Beginner's Meeting	Every Monday	7:30 pm	625 Randolph St., Kagawa Rm, Napa
Birthday Meeting	Last Friday of the Month	7 pm	Crosswalk Church, 2590 First St. Napa
H&I Business Meeting	First Friday of the Month	6:45 pm	SEA SCOUTS HALL
District 11 Meeting	First Saturday of the Month	10 am	Yountville Vets Home, Section A
Intergroup Meeting	Second Saturday of the Month	10 am	CROSSWALK CHURCH
Saturday Speaker Meeting	Every Saturday night	8 pm	625 Randolph St., Methodist Church, Napa