

Northern California World Service Area

Newsletter

April 2003

Annual Report Issue

Volume 39 Issue I

Contents

Events.....	2
Inside this issue...	3
Delegate"s...	4
Officer.....	5
Change.....	5
Financial.....	6
Coordinators.....	6
Districts/Intergroups...	7
Check page 8	8
Coordinat Cont.....	9
Features.....	10/11
Tribute to Dottie	12
Flyers.....	13/14
Contact Information.....	15/17



Event Calendar

See <http://www.ncwsa.org/cal-2003.html> for latest calendar.

Date/Time	Event	Location	Contact
April 26 7:30-9:30 pm	District 20 Speaker Mtg	Immanuel Lutheran Church 14103 Saratoga Ave Saratoga	Edie 510-797-1387
April 26	The Steps to Serenity Guest Speaker Bo T West Blockton, Al	Trinity Lutheran Church 1225 Hopyard Rd at Del Valle Pky Pleasanton	
May 10		Elegance in Recovery Willow Park Country Club 17007 Redwood Road Castro Valley, CA	510-537-3174 Debgi Irby 925-484-3992
May 16 7—9 PM	Speaker Meeting District 23	Dominican Hospital Education Center Rm B1 & B2 1555 Soquel Dr, Santa Cruz	
May 16—18 2003		28th Annual Hispanic AA Convention. Hotel Holiday Inn Capitola Plaza 300 J St Sacramento, Ca	Cont Phil C. 916-966-4789
May 17 All Day	Day in Al-Anon Speaker—Chris C.	Congregational Church 751 Alameda de las Pulgas Belmont, Ca 94002	Terie 650-851-1702
May 17 Sat	District 13 Speaker Chris C. Isleton	Day In Al—Anon Relationships in recovery Cong Church of Belmont 751 Alameda de las Pulgas	Belmont, Ca
May 23-25 2003	District 24	MBAR Al Anon/AA Monterey Convention Center Monterey Ca	General Information Holly C. 831-642-0118 Barbara P. 831-392-1813
May 30- June 1	Growing Together Weekend	Westminster Woods Occidental, Ca	Pete R 530-458-3324 Jennifer F 408-294-0873
Oct 3– 4 4 - 9:30 PM 8 AM - 9:00 PM	District 18 Speaker Meeting Speaker	Reap the Rewards of Recovery Martha Ann E Virginia Beach Modesto Centre Plaza 10th & K Street Modesto, Ca	Bobbie L 209-543-6882 centreplaza.com Registration: \$10

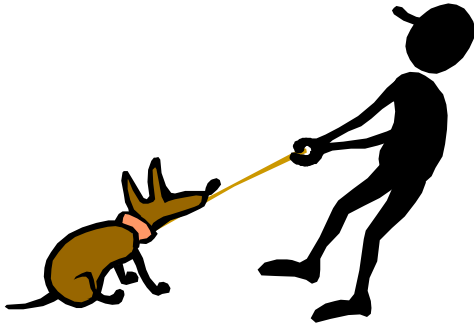
These are just a few of the coming events. These are all listed [ncwsa.org](http://www.ncwsa.org).

Inside this issue

This is my first issue and it has been a challenge to do this. I have made it and I'll welcome all suggestion made. If they fit or usable, they will be appreciated. Just being a past DR, the last year I felt that I was on cloud nine at times. I hope that buy the time I am on the last year I'll be their again. My sponsor give me a complement for being able to grow since I entered the program. Your growing when you also submit articles for the Stepper, The Forum, plus photos with or without caption
 You can send an original to me or email a file, such as GIF or JPEG file. Please send sharing MS Word 2000.
 2002. It makes it much easier to process. Thank You. Harlan

Contacting NCWSA

Northern California AI-Anon Web <http://WWW.ncwsa.org/>
 AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters
 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456-5617
 web <http://www.ai-anon.org/>



Can we talk about this

The 12 Stepper...

Is the newsletter of the Northern California World Service Area (NCWSA) and is published three (3) times a year. A free copy is mailed to AI-Anon and Alateen Groups registered with NCWSA, NCWSA Officers, Coordinators, S Liaisons, and District Representatives. A limited number of copies are shared with other newsletters across the country. All others are sold on a subscription basis.

The *12 Stepper* is mailed non-profit, third class bulk rated within the continental U.S. and is not forwarded, by the Post Office. *12 Stepper* mail lists are maintained by the NCWSA Records Coordinator and are periodically up dated upon receipt of a completed registration/change of address form. The *12 Stepper* editor or staff cannot be held responsible for non delivery or the statements and views, of those contributing articles or letters.

Remember that contact lists are Confidential and are for AI-Anon use only.

On line and the Web

See the 12 Stepper and other NCWSA information on the NCWSA Web site ncwsa.org.

Submitting material to the 12 Stepper

An members of AI.~Anon and Alateen are urged to contribute information about district, group news, fundraisers, and special events. Material submitted is subject to editing. Please include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address if you have one. Names will be withheld, if requested.

Submitting material in electronic form is preferred and looks a lot better in the Steppe!{

Send material via e-mail to hoks@redshift.com or regular mail (on white paper please!} to:

12 Stepper Editor, 1117 Baldwin St Sp 63, Salinas, Ca, 93906-3658.

The deadline for the Assembly Issue is May 25,

NCWSC
January 31 and February 1, 2003
Monterey, CA

It's been a while since I felt totally inadequate to a task. but here I am. Delegate! The brown envelopes started arriving even before the new year. There is lots to read and assimilate - fortunately it is a subject for which I have a deep love.

In January the outgoing NCWSA committee had its turnover meeting at my house. This meeting was well attended and well behaved. I received MUCH information from our outgoing Delegate, Marilyn. on how to look good no matter what no TRUST GOD no matter what. Yea. That's the ticket.

I have been assigned to the Group Services Committee for WSC and my Conference Sponsor is Dru Sears, from Missouri. As new incoming Delegate I have received many welcoming letters and cards from past and present Delegates and board members from around the World. It's like joining a new sorority (not that I've ever done that before, but I can imagine).

March is one of those insane months. I will be attending the Southwest Regional Delegates Meeting in Denver as well as PRAASA in Reno and the Area Convention in San Ramon. Oh and the H&I Conference in Milpitas.

In April I will sleep! Up until I leave for conference on the 22nd. After conference I will be presenting the bid for the 2008 International Convention to a special committee. Northern California received bids from San Jose, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Thank you to Art, Sandi and John for your hard work in gathering those. After reviewing all three of these bids, it was decided to submit San Jose's to WSO. I am very excited (and nervous) about presenting this bid. There will be competition from EVERYWHERE, but we know where the best of the best is CALIFORNIA NORTH!...CALIFORNIA NORTH!...CALIFORNIA NORTH!...

At Conference, rumor has it that I will have many love gifts to give away from y'all. Thank you so much to you crafty, busy districts and groups. Please be sure that your packages are mailed directly to the hotel, keeping in mind that I will be arriving on the 22nd and the conference starts with an orientation on the night of the 23rd. The hotel address is:

Ramada Plaza Resort Hotel
5700 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-2236



Phone 1-800-365-3032
ATTN; Vicki Hoppin

Cards of encouragement will be appreciated too. And maybe some great big handsome masseuse! If you send a card, please use my home address as the return address in case your card doesn't get to Virginia Beach in time. (4294 Latimer Ave, San Jose, Ca 95130).

Attached is a couple of things I thought you might find of interest. A copy Of the guideline for the committee I will be serving on, information on the American Medical Review video (Tom Kellogg-PI/CPC Coordinator has the video -invite him to your next district meeting to show it!) and information regarding resumes and timelines for WSO position. Thanks for your support and keep those love meteors flying my way.



Officers

It has been a whirlwind start to the new term, but I have been able to meet (via email, at least) with our bookkeeper and CPA. They are eager to help and get me off to a good start.

There have been some catching up things to do -- getting signatures authorized with the bank (which will soon change from CalFed to Citibank), getting permit to hold raffles, getting sales taxes for the last three years sorted out with the state, getting the IRS what it wants.

Then I've been sorting out forms and duties and responsibilities, etc., etc., etc. Some of you have tried to get procedures and forms from me that I didn't know either. I think we've sorted most of it out.

There will be a new expense/supply reimbursement form soon. We're trying to simplify the form for tracking sales of t-shirts, literature, etc. I certainly welcome any ideas you would like to share about these. I am grateful to Janice for the work she did the last tenn and that inherited the situation she did when she took over.

I hope you will be patient with me (I know you will). I will not have all the answers to your questions but I will try to write them down and get more information to you later. If you write them down, too, and give them to me, it would help immensely.

Your trusted servant.

Carol Kane, *Treasurer*

Change

Change! Create New Possibilities

COURAGE – to give up how things have been, make ready to go forward into what feels like the dark. New is not comfortable.

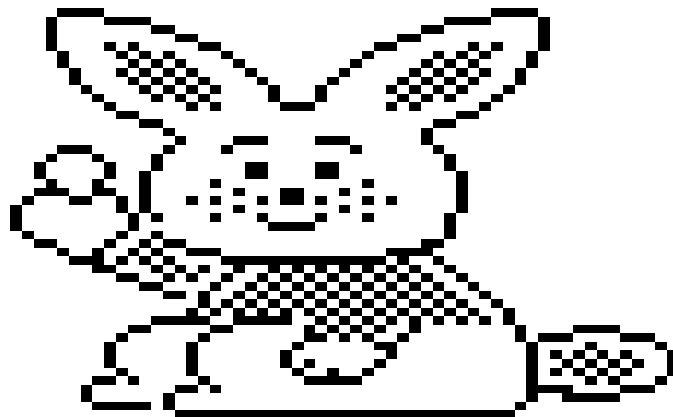
HONESTLY – give other ideas a chance
Go beyond the old ideas. Listen with an opened and heart.

ALLOW – yourself to step out of that comfort zone and risk even making a mistake. A mistake does not mean failure. A mistake means you tried.

NEW- The new ideas members shared upon arriving in Al-Anon felt, foreign, totally new..Could be right in their thinking.

GROWTH- how comes from a change in how we see the world. Give new concepts and thoughts a chance to make them our own.

EXPERIENCE- your heart, your mind, your knowledge and your thinking about yourself, your program, and



Financial Report 2002

NCWSA Balance Sheet

	Dec 31. 02	
Assets		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
101 Cal Fed—New Account	<u>4,846.04</u>	
Total Checking/Savings	4,846.04	
Other Current Assets		
104 6 mo CD	5009.87	
105 12 mo CD	5013.84	
106 Money Market	5007.88	
110 Advances	1715.00	
Total Current Assets	<u>16,746.59</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>21,592.63</u>	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
2200 Sales Tax Payable	<u>180.83</u>	
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>180.83</u>	
Total Current Liabilities	<u>180.83</u>	
Equity		
300 Opening Bal Equity	26,333.61	
Net Income	<u>-4,921.81</u>	
Total Equity	<u>21,411.80</u>	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>21,592.63</u>	



Coordinators

Public Outreach Public Information/ Cooperating with The Professional Community

January 4th, 2003 I went to Connie's and spent a few hours connecting with her 3 years of experience with this position. I drove home with several boxes, the pom-poms and feeling honored to serve in this position as a way to give back to the universe a small portion of what I have received from AI-Anon. At our first committee meeting January 31st" 2003 in Monterey I again felt honored to be given a video tape about how AI-Anon helps people affected by the family disease of alcoholism. It is four minute news spot made by the American Medical Review that was sent to all public television stations last December. It is available from Virginia Beach (A V -31) for \$5. Be sure to check out the Outreach resources in the Service part of ncwsa.org Love in Service,
Tom Kellogg

T

Committees Archive Committee Members Wanted!

There are many ways of serving AI-Anon/Alateen to Give back what this program has given to us. Some of us are interested in doing "this" others are interested in doing "that".

For the past two years I have been privileged to serve AI-Anon/Alateen Archives in our area along with Linda J. Alternate. Your cooperation makes my job A little easier. However, forming an Area Archives Committee as described on page 184 of the current Service manual could add so much more to help our archives blossom. To thjos of you who have a few years in AI-Anon and would be interested in serving on such a committee, please contact me.

Irma C.

Web Site Committee

We now give the viewer an easier way to find meetings anywhere in the world. Upon looking at the meeting index, they can choose, [outside of California](#) Which connects to the WSO . Getting in Touch page in [Southern California, which connects to a list of AISs in Southern California, Northern California,](#) Which now list over 300 cities. 25 of 27 districts now also have their meeting lists posted on a link from the index.

The NCSC Guidelines Book has been added to Web Site under the button call "SERVICE" .

Art B.

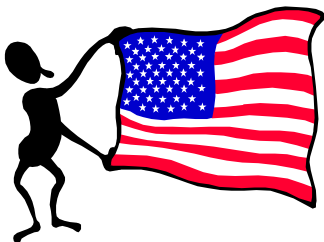
Districts & Intergroups

AIS REPORT District 6 - 10

This is the beginning of a new year, with all new DR's. Debbie S. has resigned as our Telephone Coordinator, and our Pi Coordinator. However, we were lucky enough to have two new people step up to the PI Coordinator & Alternate positions. Martha Del Rio & Bill Fellers. The Secretary, Marcene D., has also stepped down. Therefore we need to fill the following offices: Alternate Chair, Secretary, Telephone Coordinator, Alateen Coordinator, and the ByLaws Committee Chair.

Our Birthday Party is coming up in May, and Plans and activities are in the initial stages of planning.. We have decided that we will only do two non-event fundraisers this year, along with the Birthday Party. The Bunny Basket will take place during the month of March and Fill the Pumpkin in October.

The AIS meeting will continue to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at the AIS Office, 5429 Palm Ave., Suite A., Sacramento, CA 95841.



DISTRICT #5

That Monday morning at 9 a.m. I called Sarah at the Hilton to give her the good news. She was thrilled too; she had worked very hard to help AI-Anon make this happen, and had a commitment to the event. She assured me the contract would go out for signature to John and Tomi that day.

The 2002 Assembly was the very best Assembly I've attended. District #5 made a bid for Assembly 2003 based on pure enthusiasm. As the new D.R., I was scared to death but encouraged by my Service Sponsor to see if we could make this happen for Sonoma County. I forged ahead. Many hours and days were put into this project; we were committed. September 2003 would be the height of the tourist season, but we actually came up with two viable bids, the Doubletree in Rohnert Park and the Hilton in Santa Rosa. The better of the two was the Hilton. A formal bid, along with a letter emphasizing the reason District #5 needed to be seriously considered to host the event, was given to Vicki, our chairperson, in late October.

I presented the proposal in February 2003 at the NCWSA business meeting. I and my ADR were shocked that the 2003 Assembly was awarded to District #5.

On Wednesday morning around 10:30 a.m., Sarah called to say the Hilton had sold our banquet room out from under us for Saturday, September 20th. How could this happen. Someone on a higher level made this decision without even giving us a 24 hour right of refusal, which is standard practice in the hotel industry.

I could go on for pages with intonation on what Sarah and I tried to do to make it work, somewhere, somehow, but after 48 hours of jumping through hoops, it became clear that I could not fix what the Hilton had done.

By Thursday evening I felt morally and ethically the need to call Vicki and John, which I did Friday morning. It was hard to accept that all the planning and work was finished. I was clearly powerless to make it happen after working so hard for 5 months.

Linda D. DR

District Representatives Report

A new year, and a new panel of Officers and Coordinators. Welcome, and I am looking forward to working with all of you. I am especially looking forward to working with Jeri W. as Alternate DR. She and I will be working as a team, which means she will be heavily involved in all District business. The District will be going to their groups for donation drawing gifts for the convention. Whatever they wish to donate will be forwarded to the committee, in time for the convention.

I saw a reminder of the Delegate going to the WSO Conference in April 24-28. As is custom, we will send cards to her. The district voted to make some book markers for Vicki to take with her as love gifts. We will be getting together the first of march to put them together.

We are also submitting a bid for both the May Committee meeting, and the Assembly in September. Looking forward to this exciting year

Roylyne Markos

District 7 Representative

From Lois Remembers

Page 176, 2nd paragraph, from the bottom, of the page.

We sent a memorandum to AA asking permission to use its Twelve Steps, in our Fellowship. AA agreed unofficially, but its members felt strongly that we should be a separate society and not a subsidiary of Alcoholics Anonymous, and that we should not include "AA" in our name. In addition Bill felt AAs should hold office in our structure. He often said, "Keep us drunks out of it." In the beginning he had thought perhaps an Al-Anon member should be on the AA board of trustees, but this hasn't worked out so far. If you go to this page and read above this paragraph you'll understand why there is always a misunderstanding about double winners doing service above group level
A thought from Irma, *Alternate Archives*

ACRONYMS

AA	Alcoholics Anonymous
AFG	Al-Anon Family Groups
AIS	Al-Anon Information Service
AWSC	Area World Service Committee
CAL	Conference Approved Literature
CPC	Cooperating with the Professional Community
DR	District Representative
GSO	General Service Office
GR	Group Representative
H & I	Hospitals & Institutions
ISR	Information Service Representative
IAGSM	International Al-Anon General Service Meeting
LDC	Literature Distribution Center
NCWSA	Northern California World Service Area
NCWSC	Northern California World Service Committee
ODAT	One Day At A Time
PI/CPC	Public Information/Cooperating with the Professional Community
RSS	Regional Service Seminar
WSO	World Service Office

Check your 2002-2004 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual pgs. 26-27 & 99-103 for a complete list.

A Little Known Al-Anon Statement

Hank G., Chair of the Board of Trustees moved that the following statement be adopted by the World Service Conference as 'Al-Anon's Declaration of Unity'. It is a sentence from the 1980 Al-Anon New Orleans International Convention Souvenir Booklet, written by Linda Mc, the WSO Literature Secretary. "Each member of the fellowship is a significant part of a great circle of hope. While respecting each other's individuality, our common welfare must come first. Our recovery depends on our mutual need and an atmosphere of trust." The 1984 World Service Conference unanimously approved the motion.
With Al-Anon Love,
Irma Chace, *Alternate Archives*

Coordinators Continued

January 31, 2003

Group Records Coordinator Report . . .

We'll it's the beginning of a new panel and I'm anxious to get started. At the transition meeting I reviewed the position with the past Group Records Coordinator, Beverly. I also received a file cabinet with files and several boxes and a copy of the area database on a zip disk. The position came with a wonderful duties manual full of samples and instructions. I took the time to read through the manual, now all I. needed was a zip drive so I could unlock the database. Finally I borrowed one from Gary only to find out a critical file was missing. No problem. I just asked for help and the file was emailed and loaded. Now I feel like I have the tools, I just have to practice using them until they become familiar. A little awkward at first when I realized I was not going to get it all figured out before the first committee meeting. Oh well, its practice not perfection right. First things first. Here is what I. know so far.

Penny from WSO has contacted me and she will be emailing the master group list to me soon. I expect to be able to have these group lists available for the D.R.'s at the next committee meeting. I could probably email these sooner to the D.R.'s upon request. I will be updating the database for any group changes received so far and I will provide labels to Carol for the appeal letter. New G.R.'s and D.R.'s please get your changes in as soon as possible. You can reach me by mail or email. I prefer not to take group records changes over the phone. I have updated the group records form with my address, see attached sample for distribution. I have an electronic version of this form available in word which can be

completed and emailed to me directly for updating the area database. There is also a copy of the form on our website, newsa.org which can be printed, completed and mailed. Will create the new NCWSC panel list and create labels upon request.

If you need labels for a mailing or project, please give me at least two weekends notice so I can arrange plenty of time.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve and grow, SERVICE- The Bridge to Recovery

Chris Mowrey, Group Records Coordinator



Features

About Service in Al-Anon
Greetings District 003 Members,

The settlers of old formed a circle with their wagons, which provided equal access to the center of protection for everyone. They also created, in the circle, a Community of contact and interaction for the basic functions of living and to express their general and personnel wishes. The circle helped make them a community. So is our circle of friendship in Al-Anon when we close our meetings.

This Saturday is an open meeting, but also a circle. I will bring food, a gift, love and some ideas to share. This is for the good of the group. We have the opportunity to come together to listen to thoughts of what others expect from Al-Anon as a group, as a district, and as an area. Recovery in our lives starts as a very personnel thing. And then when I feel stronger and develop a more confident sense of self I realize that my growth and enjoyment of the beauties of life comes from the people around me. Service is a word that is useful for attaining greater levels of self-understanding (give to receive). There are many aspects of living that I would never experience without being part of the circle, without being in service, and without knowing all of you.

If everyone brings just himself or herself to the circle on Saturday, it is a beginning. There is no agenda, bring yourself, bring some ideas and bring an open mind. It'll be fun. See you at ten. And bring a friend.

Hugs and God Bless America, Bruce, :)
from Yuba City

About Service in Al-Anon This was an email
for our District Meeting in January.

Greetings District 003 Members,

The settlers of old formed a circle with their wagons, which provided equal access to the center of protection for everyone. They also created, in the circle, a Community of contact and interaction for the basic functions of living and to express their general and personnel wishes. The circle helped make them a community. So is our circle of friendship in Al-Anon when we close our meetings.

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DR Report *continued*

Greetings from District 19,

D 19 is the southern most district in NCWSA. We cover Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties. March 21-23 we participated in the 56th NCCAA Conference at the Fresno Convention Center. Our speakers, workshops, and attendance were great. And oh those baskets-our groups really came forward with 24 beautiful ones. We thank AA for allowing us to participate in their annual conference. We look forward to being involved in the 2005 conference.

D 19 has two monthly speaker meetings-one in Fresno and the other in Visalia. These are great fellowship times. Our Special Events team has an idea about a "traveling road show" for the spring months. These would be satellite meetings or mini fund raisers (meetings on wheels) in different towns. Our P&I coordinator is really spreading the word by introducing the media and schools to AI- Anon through PSA's. More and more people are volunteering for district service and this is really making a difference here. Concept 4, "Participation is the Key to Harmony" is really starting to take hold in District 19. Come on down and see us. In Love of AI-Anon Service, Linda W. D19 District Representative

Features *continued*

What Value Sanity?

I'm going to talk about money. There, I've said it. "Money!" For a long time now I've been thinking about the \$1 donation I put into the 7th tradition basket. The \$1 that seems to be the official, unannounced, ongoing "traditional" donation at all the AI-Anon meetings I have been to. Why \$1?

I read an article in the Forum a few years ago about this \$1 donation. If my memory serves me correctly, a \$1 donation was what the forefathers of AI-Anon gave. Wow, how some things never change?

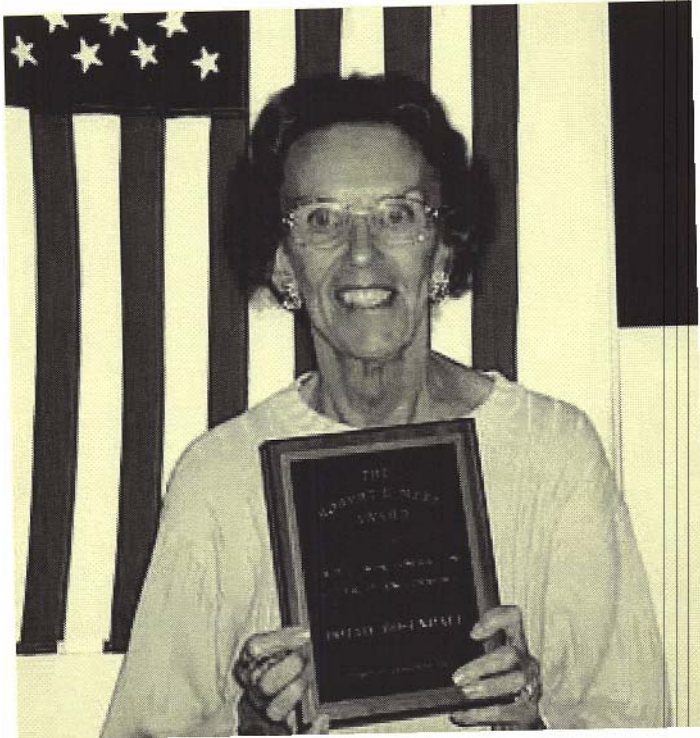
When I came to AI-Anon I couldn't afford counseling, but here at AI-Anon, and only for \$1, I get more counseling, more sanity than I would get paying hundreds to some professional. Don't get me wrong, the professionals are needed and over the years I've had some professional counseling too. But think about AI-Anon. For \$1, I get more than my money's worth.

So this started me thinking. What if I doubled my giving? Now that's a new concept for me. Give more? But how could I? I prayed over it and started to put this new concept into practice. Just as I don't profess to know how AI-Anon works, but I know it does. I don't know how this giving thing works either, but I know it does. So, at my next meeting I doubled my giving. Wow! That didn't hurt. As a matter of fact it felt good. It down right surprises me. The more I attend AI-Anon the more money I seem to have to give.

So today, when I see that 7th tradition basket go around, I'm doubling up. If \$1 has brought me out of insanity, I can hardly wait to see where \$2 will lead me.

In Love of AI-Anon, Linda W., D19

In Fond Memory of our Beloved Dottie



"Surely the presence of God is in this place I can sense the holy essence and the grace I can see a touch of glory shining on each face Surely the presence of God is in this place."

It sometimes is said in Al-anon that there are no coincidences. At 9:30 on Jan. 6, 2003 as the Monday Morning Step Study meeting began we Al-anon! Alateen members lost the immediate tangible presence of "Dottie R".

Dottie would always say "Do what you did and get what you got," and "Nothing changes until it changes." I know for myself I hate change, but change is inevitable. And whether we like it or not death is yet another change we will all make one day. I, for one hope, she will be there to greet me when my turn comes.

She would tell the newcomers "If someone's drinking is driving you crazy, you're in the right place" and "if someone's sobriety is driving you crazy, you're also in the right place."

Another quote that seems to make its rounds at meetings is "Everything happens for a reason." Maybe that reason is to prompt some spirit inside of us to step up to the plate and help sponsor Alateen Meetings. Maybe that reason is to get some of us off our duffs and do those questions at the end of the readings or maybe it is unknown to us at this very moment, and that's alright too.

We hear there are no coincidences. Why is it not surprising then to find that Monday was also the Feast of The Epiphany (The remembrance of the gifts brought to the Christ Child by the wise men)? Dottie would often tell the story of the person who died and went to heaven, only to have St. Peter say "Dh, we have something of yours." They would be lead by St. Peter to a closet which upon opening it was filled to the brim with presents. When asked what all these were, St. Peter replied "these are the gifts you never opened." Dottie must have opened all of hers.

Yes, SHE was a present, one we were all lucky to experience. Her physical presence surely will be missed, but her elegance, grace, wit, and sense of humor will always be with us!

By Diana D. District 23

Join us for an al-Anon Speaker Meeting/Discussion!

Service in Al-Anon above the District level
By dual members (Al Anon/AA) will be the topic.

Friday, May 16, 2003

7 – 9 PM

Dominican Hospital

Education Center, Rooms B1 & B2

The Education Center is behind Dominican Hospital, which is located at 1555 Soquel Dr, Santa Cruz, Ca.

Speakers include Art B., who will provide a historical
Perspective on the topic, and other members who will share
their experience on both sides of the issue.

**Finger foods or desserts to share are welcome, but
not
Required**

Note: There was a motion made at the 2002 Assembly asking that each Group Reps bring back a group conscience from his/her own group on whether dual members should be allowed to serve and vote above the District level. This Speaker Meeting/Discussion meeting is an opportunity to share and hear the experience, strength and hope of our District 23 members on this topic.

DISTRICT 18

Join Us

October 3rd and 4th

Modesto Centre Plaza

for

Speaker

Martha Ann C

from Virginia Beach, Va.

33 years in Al Anon

For more information please contact

Bobbie L 209-543-6882

or email: trlbalford@aol.com

More information to come.