

SCVAFG Intergroup Newsletter

<http://www.ncwsa.org/scvafg/>

Coordinators' Corner

Hi, my name is Joe.

I am one of your new newsletter co-coordinators and look forward to serving you. Barbara H. is my cohort and she will say a few words about herself in the next newsletter.

So, by way of a brief introduction, this month marks my sixth anniversary in recovery -- and what an adventure in self-discovery it has been. I remember when I attended my first few meetings that I shared little, if at all. It took me quite a while before I even started doing the steps. Now, here I am, doing service, working full time and attending graduate school. This may sound like a lot. But, through recovery, I have been amazed to learn that when I *live* life one day at a time, instead of trying to plan and control everything and everyone around me, how much extra time I have to participate in all those important relationships and activities which help make me feel like a complete human being.

I recently heard a funny story about co-dependency that really struck home (humor always does with me). To paraphrase: "I was so co-dependent that if I were ever in a life threatening situation, somebody else's life would flash before my eyes".

I look forward to getting to know you.

Yours in recovery - Joe

Events Update

STEPPING STONES: BACK TO BASICS A Big Success

Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup held its 6th Annual Special Event on October 28, 2000, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Saratoga. A slide show of "Stepping Stones," the home of Lois and Bill W." began the festivities. Long-time members Jay R., Jo, and Cathy C. shared about the early days of this area's Al Anon. The KISS Sisters sang beautifully and a comedy skit on how *not* to work teleservice kept everyone laughing. The main speaker Linda McF. from Arizona shared her story with both wit and wisdom. Linda O. won the drawing for the much coveted and stunning "Critter's Quilt" which was made by several of our talented members who turn material and thread into works of art. This event could not have been the success that it was without the hard work of our chairpersons Louise M. and Joan W. and our members who donated their time and talent (as well as some wonderful gifts for the rest of the drawing.)

SERVICE PUTTING LOVE INTO ACTION

By Louise M.

After the Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup Special Event on October 28, 2000 was over, I had a chance to sit down and think

about my experience as the Chairperson. I marveled at how the event came about, the way everyone worked together that day and how God provided the answers to my prayers. Of course there were the normal glitches that come with any organized event, but overall everything worked out fine. I witnessed the gift of service in action. There was Margaret S., the artistic one, decorating the tables and room with birdhouses and sprays of flowers. David and Sue organized the food and kitchen work. Susan kept track of the money and registration. Joan W. hosted our guest speaker and solicited donations for the drawings. Mary Jane and the Alateens provided the soft drinks. Last but not least John F. took care of both set up and clean up.

I realized I have come a long way from when I first began my service in Al-Anon. Initially, I was concerned that my lifelong habits of needing to control and manipulate others might hinder my ability to do service. I soon learned how wrong I was. My service work allowed me to put love into action.

I wonder where I would today without having Al-Anon meetings to attend so that I could deal with my pain and suffering. I wonder if, during those first few months, I would have kept coming back if I did not have the opportunity to serve at various meetings as the coffee person or literature person, treasurer or secretary. Eventually, I was asked to replace my best friend as a Group Rep when she became a District Rep and could not finish out

her term Later, I served as an Alternate Rep and liaison for Intergroup. I found that service helped diminish my personal pain and that the more I reached out in love, the more I began to recover.

I still remember the day John F. asked if I would consider being Intergroup Chairperson. "Oh, No!" I cried. "I can't do that!" On my way home that day I realized that before my marriage to the alcoholic in my life, I had served as a President and Vice President for two separate statewide professional associations. I cried when I discovered how the disease of alcoholism had chipped away at my self-esteem.

I also know how much I receive from other members' service. After all, where would Al Anon be without the people who put the directories together and answer the calls that come through teleservice? Where would Al Anon be without the bookstore and its volunteer staff; without the newsletter and website volunteers?

I believe that service is the heart of Al-Anon and that each one of us needs to do our share. I know I reclaimed my self worth by the giving of my time and talents. So, won't you put your love into action this year? You too will discover the joy of giving back something to a program that has given us all so much.

Newsletter Contributors:

Thanks to all who provided articles and information for this newsletter. If you have an article or information you want published, you can either drop

them it off/mail it to:
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1 West Campbell Avenue, Room
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or e-mail either me, Joe D. at
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Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 20, 2001

District 22 Day in Service

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
St. Edward's Episcopal Church
15040 Union Avenue at Highway
85 in San Jose

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February 2001

District 20 Open Speaker

Meeting and Day in Al-Anon

Friday, February 23rd 7:30 to 9:30
PM and Saturday, February 24th
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM –

Campbell Community Center

Orchard City Banquet Hall (Building F75)

1 West Campbell Ave. in

Campbell (corner of Campbell
Ave. and Winchester Blvd.)

Thanks For All The Hard Work in 2000

December will bring to a close this year's Santa Clara Valley AFG Intergroup. Our officers included David P. as Chairperson, Louise M. as Alternate Chair, Margaret S. as Secretary, Ed W. as treasurer, Linda O., Pauline B., and John F. as Service Board Members-at-Large. Our Coordinators include Walter A. (Directory), Pam P. (Facilities), Luisa D. and Karen M. (Hospitals and Institutions Co-Coordinator), Pauline B. and Mark I. (Literature), Joe D. (Newsletter), Jim P. and Denise M. (Public

Information), Terri M. (Teleservice), and Louise M. (Special Events). We have a total of 71 Al-Anon meetings, six Alateen meetings (which includes one Spanish Alateen), and two institutions meetings. Please check our web site at <http://www.ncswa.org/scvafg>. Donated funds from our groups have been healthy and our literature sales are still going strong. We have had a busy year planning for our various activities that culminated in our October 28th Special Event by held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Saratoga. The new panel of officers were voted in at the Intergroup meeting held on December 12th. We hope you will join us in service and help make 2001 another great year.

Bookstore Hours



Intergroup needs volunteers to sell literature. Current store hours are:

Mon.	5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Tues	4:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Wed.	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Thurs.	12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Sat.	9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Before making a trip to our office, please call (408) 379-9375 to verify that the store is open.

Recovery by Candlelight

Monday night's Serenity at St. Lawrence group (7:30 to 8:45 PM) holds a special candlelight meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month. Bring your own candle and experience the glow of serenity.

Intergroup Needs Volunteers for:

Co-Alateen Coordinator
Co-Facilities Coordinator
Co-Literature (bookstore) Coordinator

January 2001 Newsletter

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