

# SCVAFG Intergroup Newsletter

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

## Coordinators' Corner

Hello again! I am amazed at how quickly the days go by and it's time for the Summer Newsletter. Barb H. and I committed to do four newsletters a year and it's been a great experience.

Barb and I have become a real electronic team. We rarely see each other, except at meetings, and we never meet formally. We assemble these newsletters via e-mail, sharing our thoughts and ideas, correcting grammar, and just in general sprucing up the language.

Producing these newsletters has become a fun event for me, one that I look forward to doing each quarter of the year. I am happy to report that service can be fun.

In this newsletter, Bob J contributes his thoughts about service, its meaning and importance. Since Al-Anon is self supporting, volunteer service is this organization's backbone. Bob shares how service is not only important for the work Al-Anon does but also plays a vital role in our personal recovery.

I enjoy shares like Bob's because it reminds me that the inside of my head isn't always the best place to hang around

So, if you're not doing any kind of service, think about it. It adds an extra dimension to recovery.

Speaking of service, on September 29th, there will be a special event celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Al-Anon. I hope to see many of you there.

Yours in Service,  
Joe D

## HOPE

I am hope  
I will always be with you  
You can't see me  
You can't hear me  
But I am always there  
I am hope  
You can use me whenever you want  
You can use me again and again  
Because I will always be with you

Mellissa M. age 11

## An Open Letter to all Al-Anon Groups

Many of you do not know me, but I am a District Representative and on the NCWSA Executive Committee. I have been a member of the Al-Anon program since Memorial Day 1976. I only mention this to let you know I strongly believe in this program and in Al-Anon Service. I take my service commitments seriously. And that is purpose of this letter.

I am looking for help! Your help.

We have a very active program here in northern California. Most meetings are doing quite well--for the most part. I say "for the most part" because we are having trouble with our members not wanting to become involved in service. Many of our groups that do not have Group Representatives (GRs) and several have GRs that do not take an active role in their position. We have districts that do not have a District Representative (DR) or Alternate. Some areas only have a small number of GRs who attend the district meetings. As an

example, at a recent meeting of District 7 there were four GRs out of 14 meetings, and only an average of about six meetings make regular contributions to the district and the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) office, NCWSA & WSO.

This brings up a few questions: What does your group do with the 7th Tradition collection? Does it get the local newsletter and do you read it? Do you subscribe to the 12 Stepper? Is your group registered with WSO? Does your group contribute to NCWSA and to WSO? Do you know what the letters "NCWSA" and "WSO" stand for? Does your group have a GR and an alternate GR that takes the position seriously? Does your group know what a GR's duties are? Does your group support your GR financially to go to the Assemblies and Conventions? Do you believe that Al-Anon is a program that you can just take from and give nothing in return except maybe a buck a meeting? How serious are you in your program? Have you ever taken an active service role? If not, why not? Does your group have business meetings? Does your group get regular Treasurer reports? Do you know where your contributions go? What happens to the contributions? District 7 helps provide scholarships for Alateens to go to NoCAC. We help groups that need funds for literature. If a group cannot fully support its GR to attend Assemblies and Committee meetings, the district can and does help. We also support the local AIS office, NCWSA and all of its activities. Last but not least, we support WSO and its large number of worldwide. Does your group?

These are basic questions each of us should be able to answer.

My call for help is simple. I'm asking YOU to get involved. Please be an active group and member of your district. If your group has a GR, urge him or her to attend the district meetings and if the GR doesn't (GR information and duties are found in the Information Sheet G-1 I) read up on the duties of the position, then volunteer to do the job yourself. Believe me, you will get a large measure of satisfaction in knowing you are giving back to the program that helped change your life. If you believe in the program and believe in yourself, why not get involved in service? And, even if you are not a GR, you are more than welcome to attend any district meeting. Who knows--- you just may hear something that inspires you become active in service.

**A special thanks to all of you who do take an active role in service**

There are those of you who do get involved in service and you are both welcomed and thanked, because without you so many things would not happen. When someone calls the AIS office number, hurting and looking for help in getting their lives back on track, it's a volunteer they talk to. When that person walks into their first meeting not knowing what to expect, it's the volunteer who opens the door, make the coffee, opens the meeting and it's a volunteer who sees to it that literature is available for them. Volunteers work wonders! So, once again, a special thanks to all of you who do volunteer because without you, we would not have a program and that is fact.

**Bob J, District 7 Representative**  
*(Reprinted with permission)*

### Upcoming Event

Keep **Saturday, September 29**, 2001 available for yourself and your family!

**“The Many Faces of Recovery”**

Speaker: Julianna B. of San Jose, CA

**Plus:** Panel of speakers from NA, Al-Anon, AA, Alateen

**What:** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Clara Valley Al-Anon Family Groups Intergroup Special Event.

**Where:** Immanuel Lutheran church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

**And** there will be a potluck too.

**Please** mail pre-registration with check payable to:

SCV AFG Intergroup, Inc. plus a SASE by 9/15/01 to:

Wanda S. @ SCV AFG

Intergroup, Inc.

1 West Campbell Ave, Room Q-83, Campbell, CA 95008

Suggested donation of \$5.00 per person (\$7.00 at the door)

**For more information or to volunteer to help, call Susan P. at 408-399-0079.**

### 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.**

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### Meeting Change

The Sunday Afternoon Recovery in Action group has moved from St. Edwards Episcopal Church to

**Trinity Presbyterian Church,  
3151 Union Ave  
San Jose**

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### New Meeting

Saturday Morning Paths to Recovery group meets at:

St. Edward's Episcopal Church  
15040 Union Ave @ Hwy 85  
(Southeast Corner)  
(In the Fireplace Room)  
10:00AM to 11:00AM

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### Newsletter Contributors:

We would like to express many 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: S.C.V.A.F.G. Intergroup Office, Attn: Newsletter Coordinator, 1 West Campbell Avenue, Room Q-82, Campbell, CA 95008 or e-mail either me, Joe D. at [joe@jdoll.com](mailto:joe@jdoll.com) or Barbara H. at [Agape51@yahoo.com](mailto:Agape51@yahoo.com).

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**AL ANON IS a Fellowship** of relatives and friends of alcoholics who believe their lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. An **Anonymous** program with the identity of all Al-Anon and AA members protected and since its inception in 1951 operates **WORLDWIDE** with more than 32,000 groups in more than 104 countries.