

# LAKE COUNTY



AA Newsletter

Winter 2018

## SOBERFEST is Coming!

Camping, BBQ, meetings, fellowship!

Date & Location TBD



### Planning Meetings:

Saturday, February 24, 1:15

Lakeport Fellowship

Saturday, March 31, 1:15

Lower Lake Fellowship

Saturday, April 28, 1:15

Lakeport Fellowship

**Come and help plan**

**YOUR Soberfest event.**

### Calendar of Events:

*PRAASA 2018, Mar 2-4,  
Reno/Sparks, NV,  
Nugget Hotel 800-648-1177,  
mention group code G-PRAASA*

*Lake County Agenda Topics Workshop  
March—TBD*

*Aging in Sobriety, by Access Sonoma County,  
March 10, 1:00-4:00*

*NCAA, 71st Anniversary Spring Conference  
March 30-April 1, San Ramon  
[www.norcalaa.org](http://www.norcalaa.org)*

*Pre-Conference Assembly, April 7-8  
Santa Clara Fairgrounds, San Jose*

*Pre-Conference Assembly Dinner, April 7  
\$20-25 contribution, Madeline P.-speaker*

*Post-Conference Assembly, May 12  
Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo*



Photo by Leah

## From the General Service “Desk” – Winter 2018

READY OR NOT, HERE THEY COME: The Agenda Topics for the 2018 General Service Conference are about to land, and we hope that all groups in our District will make their voices heard!! The preliminary list of topics is available and some of them are especially exciting. For instance, there are 18 items on the agenda for literature including:

Consider adding an appendix to the Big Book reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress

Consider adding the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the Big Book

Consider request that A.A.W.S. publish “The God Word”, a pamphlet currently published by the GSB of Great Britain. Here’s a link to the pamphlet: <https://aaagnostica.org/2016/11/03/the-god-word/>

Consider a request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist/agnostic members. Some members feel that “Many Paths to Spirituality” falls short of meeting this need.

Consider a request for the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies, member sharing on Recovery, Unity, Service

Some items of interest in Pacific Regional Trustee, Joel C’s latest report:

The newest AAGV publication, “Voices of Women in A.A.”, has grossed ten times what was budgeted, clearly a book the Fellowship has wanted.

Background material is being developed that will facilitate a robust Fellowship-wide discussion of A.A. principles and history as they relate to the Board’s responsibility to protect and be good stewards of A.A.’s intellectual property. This may be in response to the recent Big Book original manuscript litigation whereby Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) discontinued action seeking the recovery of the 1939 “Printer’s Copy” (original working draft manuscript) of “Alcoholics Anonymous”, which had been purchased at auction by an outside individual, even though the manuscript had been previously gifted to A.A.W.S. The time and expense of this litigation goes against A.A.’s principles of pacifism and the avoidance of controversy and conflict where possible. Hence, A.A.W.S. waived its claim to the manuscript allowing the individual to hold free and clear title to it.

## Continued “From the General Service Desk”

The grassroots initiative that started in the Pacific Region and spread throughout the service structure inviting members and groups to collect \$7.27 on July 27 to contribute to GSO yielded \$76,829!! The amount, \$7.27 approximates the cost per member per year to provide services at GSO.

The Google for Nonprofit YouTube account, which was authorized at last year’s GS Conference, is expected to be launched in January 2018.

Joel reported on a sharing session during the same October 2017 Board weekend on the theme, “Accessibilities – Serving All Alcoholics”. One of the speakers reflected on barriers including age, gender, gender identification, race, education, physical disability, psychiatric/mental status and caregiver duties and she challenged the audience to pay attention, take inventory, and seek to meet the challenge of “the still empty chair.” The sharing session afterward focused on understanding, effort, inclusion, and care, all aimed toward helping the alcoholic who hasn’t reached us yet, or has arrived but feels unwelcome or is experiencing barriers in fully accessing the A.A. message.

On the District front:

We had a wonderful speaker at the January District meeting, Doug G., CNCA Panel 53 Delegate serving on the Conference Literature Committee, International A.A. ambassador, and Chair of the 2018 Pacific Regional Forum Welcome Committee. Here is the essence of Doug’s presentation: He said our groups matter! We’re trying to exercise Tradition 2, “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience....” He talked about the upcoming Agenda Topics (ATs) in preparation for the General Service Conference, and how the role of the General Service Representative (GSR) through their process of obtaining group consciences helps the General Service Board weigh in and make decisions relative to the outcome of the ATs. This demonstrates the immense importance of the GSR. He advised the GSRs to focus on the process when obtaining group consciences, and not to get wrapped up in the background material. He said to ask what your group feels (about a given AT) and to ask “why?”. Don’t worry about numbers (e.g. how many in favor or against), but content. He also reminded 2<sup>nd</sup> year GSRs to start recruiting your replacement for the next panel. Bring them along to events, and include them in your Agenda Topics process.

In addition:

District 13 is planning to hold its own Agenda Topics Workshop sometime in early March to help GSRs and A.A. members learn more about the ATs in preparation for obtaining a group conscience on some of the topics. To learn more, contact your GSR or Mary Ellen at 707-928-4830.

District 13 participated in the Interdistrict Workshop (a joint event of Districts Solano, Napa and Lake) at the end of January.

We also held a GSR Orientation before the February District meeting. There are still many groups in our District that are not represented in General Service and therefore are missing out on what’s happening in the greater A.A. Fellowship.

More participation in H&I is needed to get the message into the jail  
Soberfest is on!

PRAASA is in Reno this year, Mar 2-4, Nugget Casino, admission \$25. To register go to <https://praasa.org/>. To reserve your room at the Nugget Casino call **800-648-1177** and give the **group code: GPRAASA**

If you are interested in learning more about General Service, please feel free to come to our monthly business meetings as a guest. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Galilee Lutheran Church, 8860 Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville.

By Mary Ellen R.

## The Spirit of Rotation

When I stumbled into my first meeting I wasn't there as an unbiased investigator with immediate questions about how AA was structured or how well its organization functioned. I was just glad there was a metal folding chair for me at the table, and I didn't give any thought to who set it up. Nor did I hear any references to structure in my early months of sobriety, though there probably were some. What I did hear in every meeting were repeated references to service. The Preamble's, statement of primary purpose, the Responsibility Statement and the 12<sup>th</sup> Step, all gave a central role to carrying the message. And on my first chip there was service again--one of the three legs of the unilateral triangle, giving it equal importance to recovery and unity.

It was after about five months that I first heard the term 'rotation.' The secretary announced it was time for her to step down. The group elected me secretary, and in the next six months I learned in a deeply personal way how service is linked to recovery. It drew me closer to all the members of what had become my home group; with their vote of confidence in me I began to feel more self-confident; with their trust, I wanted to be trustworthy. Without our practice of rotation, I wouldn't have had this opportunity for service at that early stage of recovery when it meant so much to me. And when we maintain the practice of rotation we allow greater numbers of us to experience that feeling of unity that service enhances and the growth that it fosters. Being a GSR (General Service Representative) for my home group has provided a deeper understanding of how growth is promoted by rotation and service. After researching this topic, I have fuller answers to those questions I never asked about structure and function at my first AA meeting. And when I finish my two years as GSR, I'll be just one of the many members who has information that can help the next person in service if they ask for it.

In one of the meetings I now attend weekly the same person had been secretary for almost three years. At the beginning of his commitment he often opened the doors and sat there alone for the entire hour; gradually, and largely through his efforts, the group grew. When the group conscience decided it was time to rotate, he seemed shocked and stated that being secretary had helped him greatly in his recovery, but he came around to seeing that that was precisely why others should have the same opportunity. Though there will always be some exceptions to the rule, there are real dangers if we fail to follow the suggested guidelines for length of service that are spelled out in our pamphlet, "*The AA Group*." These suggestions are an outgrowth of the trials and errors of our founders and early pioneers.

## Continued—Spirit of Rotation

Probably most AA members would think of Bill formally stepping down at the 1955 Convention as the prime example of rotation, but since our organizational triangle is base up, not top down, it's fitting that the first Cleveland group was where the practice of rotation originated. It wasn't until twelve years later that the 2-year rotation of GSO staff was instituted. Bill explains in *AA Comes of Age* what led to this change. Too much centralization of knowledge and authority resulted in near disaster with the collapse of one staff person, soon followed by another. Instituting a system of rotation was a successful solution, and it was later formalized in Concept 11. Two-year rotation has become the custom throughout AA, from group GSRs, to district committee members, and to the delegates elected by area assemblies to attend the General Service Convention. The exception is the General Service Board, but its members **do** rotate every four years.

We affirm at every group meeting in Tradition 2 that we want our leaders to be “trusted servants,” and rotation helps avoid the misconception in them or others that they have been elected to govern. Without rotation the chances are greater for issues of ego to become a problem--power-driving and attempts to control and dominate could overshadow the principle of unanimity, and the role of group conscience if those in service become entrenched. Bill gave many examples in *AA Comes of Age* of the negative effects of his own overweening tendencies; if anyone doubts the potential pitfalls of ego, even in a great leader, ponder the fact that Bill **seriously** considered, at one point, naming the *Big Book* *The B.W. Movement*. Fortunately, his habits of taking his own inventory and seeking group conscience were already in place.

Several of the articles I've read refer to rotation as anonymity in action because it emphasizes **the message over the messenger**—principles before personalities as our 12th Tradition reminds us. Rotating leadership is also effective in preserving our 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition because it allows “the least possible organization.”

Rotation also enhances spiritual practice for the member in service. When it's time to step down from a commitment it's an opportunity to exercise **humility**. It's also an opportunity to take on some other service commitment; the secretary of three years that I mentioned earlier, quickly moved on to the position of intergroup representative.

The corporate world would probably view our practice of rotation as an invitation to chaos, but corporations don't entrust their flow charts to the guidance of that "Ultimate Executive" to whom we surrender authority in Tradition Two. Balanchine, the consummate New York Ballet choreographer, said with humor that his guiding principle was, “When in doubt, twirl.” We, on the other hand, can rotate without any doubt. We hopefully pick the best leaders we can, suggest that they get service sponsors, and try to elect alternates. They may sometimes make mistakes, and even if they falter, as us alcoholics sometimes do, we can trust that our Ultimate Authority will always express itself in our group conscience.

Ruth A

# **CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA 06 OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

## **PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 2018**

**"A.A. – A Solution for All Generations"**

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY APRIL 7 & 8, 2018**

**Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Fiesta Hall  
344 Tully Rd., San Jose, CA 95111**

### **Saturday**

8:15 - 9:15am Registration

9:15 - 9:30am Orientation

9:30am Business Meeting

12:00 - 1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Remarks from the Delegate  
Conference Process Review  
Sharing on the Conference Theme

1:30pm Group Consciences

5:00-5:30pm What's on your Mind?

**Please clean up all your belongings**

### **Sunday**

8:00-9:00am Registration

9:00am Group Consciences

12:30-1pm What's on your Mind?

(If extra time is needed to hear group  
consciences, we will break for lunch and  
return at 2pm to continue)

**BRING YOUR FM RADIO FOR  
SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION**

LAKE COUNTY INTERGROUP FINANCIALS - DECEMBER 2017					
DATE	Description	Check #	Income	Expenses	Balance
12/1/2017	<b>Beginning Balance</b>				\$ 3,460.72
12/12/2017	ATT - Oct 24-Nov 23	AP		\$ 78.44	
12/13/2017	Galilee Church - rent for 2017	#1321		\$ 350.00	
12/19/2017	Deposit - Moose Lodge return deposit		\$ 150.00		
	Deposit - 7th Tradition		\$ 17.00		
	Deposit - Group 101074		\$ 20.00		
	Deposit - Friday Night Fireside		\$ 20.00		
	Deposit - Tuesday Nite Tootsies		\$ 50.00		
12/19/2017	Deposit - Soberfest account money transfer		\$ 655.68		
12/19/2017	Deposit - District half of Unity Day		\$ 327.56		
	<b>TOTALS for December 2017</b>		\$ 1,240.24	\$ 428.44	
12/31/2017	<b>Ending Balance (includes \$2000 prudent reserve)</b>				\$ 4,272.52
<b>TOTALS for 2017</b>					
1/1/2017	Beginning Balance				\$ 2,768.52
	Income		\$ 6,196.35		
	Expenses			\$ 4,692.35	
12/31/2017	<b>Ending Balance (includes \$2000 prudent reserve)</b>				\$ 4,272.52

#### A Message from Intergroup Treasurer

I took over the finances in November for the past treasurer who had too many personal things going on to keep up with it after Richard resigned. I am hoping to continue after our elections in January. I want to thank all the meetings who have donated to Intergroup whose checks I have deposited after I took over. Please include your group number and meeting name along with a return address so I can send you a receipt.

Group 101074 (Clearlake Oaks?)	2x20	\$40.00
Tues. Men Middletown		\$126.00
Suzannah P.		\$130.00
Wed. Night Riviera		\$50.00
Mens Riviera		\$50.00
Serenity Seekers		\$160.00
Friday Night Fireside	40+20	\$60.00
Tootsies		\$50.00
Tues Serenity Lower Lake		\$50.00
Lakeport Fellowship		\$366.21

Please remember when you look at Intergroup finances that we try to keep a \$2000.00 prudent reserve.

If you have any questions about Intergroup finances you can e-mail me at [stargar@sonic.net](mailto:stargar@sonic.net) Tanya S.

**God, grant me the serenity to  
Accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And Wisdom to know the difference.**

### **Contact Us**

Please submit future newsletter articles or announcements to:

[bev.marshall@att.net](mailto:bev.marshall@att.net)

**Next deadline for Spring Newsletter**

**April 20th**

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.lakecountyyaa.org](http://www.lakecountyyaa.org)



Photo by Leah