

MAY/JUNE 2020

THE GRAPE-SC- CIN

Intergroup Newsletter
grapesccin@gmail.com



Santa Cruz County Inter- group

5732 Soquel Drive, Soquel, CA 95073
M-F 9 am–5 pm / Sat 10 am–2 pm
24-Hour Hotline 831-475-5782
www.aasantacruz.org

This 3-page informational newsletter will be the hard copy mailed-out to subscribers and printed for distribution at service functions (when they resume.).The email version will also contain articles and flyers submitted to the newsletter. If you want something included in the email version, send your finished copy as in WORD or PDF to: grapesccin@gmail.com

My name is Mary K. and I'm the new GrapeSCCIN editor. My background is being a chef, teacher and writer/librarian. I moved to Santa Cruz from Oakland/Berkeley last summer. I'm happy to be of service again as a volunteer to AA, which gave me a new life.

LINKS TO VIRTUAL LITERATURE: Free Grapevines: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help>
<https://aasfmarin.org/meeting-forms> (the meeting format, readings, plus prayers)

DONATIONS are needed! Please support AA Santa Cruz Central Office by making a donation to <https://www.paypal.me/intergroup923> Please indicate in the Note section if it is from a group or an individual. Mail checks.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

— contact Magi R. for more info@ magiruizlove@yahoo.com

Volunteer for: - Recording Secretary: Record minutes at Intergroup Council every 1st Wednesday and Steering Committee every 3rd Wednesday. Send typed minutes from Intergroup Council to Central Office email, Newsletter email prior to third Friday. Send typed Steering Committee minutes to Central Office to be printed prior to Steering Committee meeting. Position-re-elected in February 2021.

- **Bylaws Committee Chair:** Work with bylaws committee to edit bylaws as needed. Attend Intergroup Council every 1st Wednesday and Steering Committee every 3rd Wednesday. Submit changes to state. Position will be re-elected in February 2021. Eligible to serve up to 2 terms.

- **Area 1 Rep- Watsonville/La Selva Beach** (till 3/21)

-**Area 7 Rep.- Downtown Santa Cruz** “

-**Area 11 Rep- San Lorenzo Valley** “

BIRTHDAY SPEAKER committee: volunteer for BSM Committee
For more information, contact the Birthday Committee at bsmcommittee@gmail.com or call Kathy C. or Molly.

24 HOUR DIVERTER HOT LINE: One shift open: 3rd Sat, 7-11 pm. {Volunteers needed to answer phone calls (diverted to your personal phone) when Central Office is closed., usually a 2 or 4 hour shift, once per month.) Leave message for Scott B. Central Office to relay your interest 831-475-5782

H&I: Zoom mtg. on 4th Wednesday (Only 2 – 4 hours, once a month commitment; sobriety requirement varies with facility. If you have any questions visit www.handisc.org or phone Central Office to relay your interest 831-475-5782 **Currently in person visits closed.**

CENTRAL OFFICE: Help Keep Central Office Open. Pick up a Desk Shift: T, 1-5; W.1-5; F, 1-5 . One year sobriety preferred. Only one volunteer and one customer allowed at a time. Call ahead if wanting literature. (831) 475-5782- Bob@Central Office, 5732 Soquel Dr., Soquel; or info@asantacruz.org.

BRIDGING THE GAP: Under SIP, meetings are cancelled.

PI / CPC: Zoom 2nd Sat @9am contact Central office for link.(Help inform students, probation officers, doctors and others about AA.,service literature racks and staff tables.)

NOTICES

A.A. MEETING NOTICES— All meetings are virtual currently.

- The Trudgers Meeting at 7:30 pm T. is cancelled.
- Once a Drunk- 8:15 pm W. is cancelled

BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MEETING—

- **7:00 pm, June 6: ZOOM BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MTG-** Speaker: Alison G. with 31 yrs. from Salinas. Host: MidCounty Women's Group
- **Intergroup Activities Committee Needs Your Help** - Plan the next year of Santa Cruz fellowship. Contact Grey S. through Central Office at (831) 475-5782 • info@asantacruz.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS— All on Zoom check with Central office to have Zoom links sent

Santa Cruz County Intergroup Council Meeting

1st Wednesday June 3 at 7:30 pm - open to all

Tue. June 16 6:00 pm: BYLAWS COMMITTEE MEETING if we have Bylaws committee chair by then!

Wed. June 17, 7:30 pm: INTERGROUP STEERING COMMITTEE, closed to public

Thurs. June 25, 6:00 pm: BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MEETING COM- MITTEE meets on Zoom. For more info, contact Kathy or Molly or email to bsmcommittee@gmail.com

Wed. June 24, 7:00 pm: HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS COMMIT- TEE

Sat. June 13, 9 am-PI/CPC Committee meeting

The first day of the mandatory sheltering at home, or self-quarantine, order in mid-March here in northern California because of the global pandemic, I was on the phone with my friend Trish L. We were both slightly dazed by the all changes around us in the world. The shelter in place lockdown was imposed to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. It was to be the norm here locally and in many places around the globe. All group gatherings locally were prohibited, including AA groups. That had never happened, ever. Even my 90-year old sponsor said she had never seen anything like it.

With no meetings now, and in an effort to talk about something familiar on the phone to my AA friend, I mentioned that I had just read a wonderful story from the Big Book's first edition. I had been given a first edition Big Book through an old-timer's generosity two years prior. The story, "The Unbeliever," was an amazing almost verbatim conversation between, very possibly, Bill W. and AA member number five in his struggle to get sober and find a higher power. I was so touched by the honesty, immediacy and history in the story, I wanted to read it aloud to my friend in lieu of a meeting. But since Trish did not have a copy of that first edition story in front of her, we decided to read from our current Big Books to each other instead. So, we started the first day of the pandemic lockdown by reading from the Preface at the very beginning of the book, then went on to the Foreword to the First Edition. It was so interesting and comforting we wound up reading all the Forewards aloud on the phone.

"This is great," we agreed. "Let's see if anyone else wants to join us tomorrow."

I arranged for a free, on-going conference call number for us, and we found ourselves unintentionally starting a meeting the next day. All AA meetings locally were disbanded temporarily at the time because of the pandemic, something that had never happened. So now at least we had our phone meeting. Many other local AA meetings eventually became virtual meetings with a video platform ('Zoom' meetings), but ours began and remained the sole phone-only meeting we knew of during the pandemic.

Another friend joined us on the phone the next day, St Patrick's Day, 2020, when we had our first official meeting of the new Thursday noon Big Book phone meeting. Trish wisely suggested we read an entire chapter each week, a very good idea. The meeting has remained small, which gives everyone time to share afterward we read. Jennifer M. suggested we have a "real meeting" with the How It Works and Traditions read, so we do. The Thursday noon Big Book group is now one month old - this is being written during the pandemic sheltering in place, which has just entered its second month.

Our little meeting at this point is truly one of the highlights of my week. I love the intimate and almost meditative quality of reading together on the phone. Nicki P. suggested we keep the meeting as a phone meeting, not a virtual meeting, as almost every other AA meeting became. This was a very good suggestion, for it has kept the feeling of intimacy as we read, plus it is been especially useful to people who have limited access or interest in virtual meetings, or perhaps are older and not as familiar with on-line interaction. Our little phone-meeting-that-could has been useful.

We have a newcomer in the group, someone who is working on her thirty days of sobriety, and who is showing the rest of us what courage is – getting sober during a global pandemic, on St Patrick's Day, no less.

We have had some long-term AA birthdays celebrated in the short time we have been meeting: Nicki with 32 years and Iverne with 44 years. Even Claire T. with 59 years, has stopped by to join us, to our amazement.

The group ranges from thirty days to 59 years with only six people.

Iverne reads from her second edition Big Book, some of us read from the third or fourth editions. Since the idea of this group was inspired by a first edition story, our tiny meeting has, inadvertently, had people reading from their first, second, third and fourth editions of their Big Books!

We don't know how long the shelter in place order, or the pandemic, will last, but we pray and hope and trust that we will all get through this dark and unfamiliar time both as a planet and as a fellowship, one day at a time. We hold good thoughts for all who are struggling, and for the many people who are bravely working hard during this surreal time. We are hoping our cozy phone group will continue following the pandemic. We're planning to read stories from all four editions of the Big Book.

And given that our small meeting is the same size – 5 or 6 people – as was the size of the entire AA fellowship at the time that first edition story was written, 1935 - the story that so influenced the creation of this meeting - that even during this 2020 global pandemic, with its fear and uncertainty, and with us all isolated at home, we have felt very close to AA as a whole.

As we like to say at the end of our little meeting, "Keep Calling Back!" Jean W., Aptos, CA, Spring 2020

A BIG ASK FOR ALL AREA REPS from newsletter editor Mary K.- send responses to : grapesccin@gmail.com

I am trying to compile an article on how groups have been dealing with the shelter in place rules to protect our health and that of our loved ones, but also to have good meetings and reach out to newcomers.. Please ask your group members these questions at this month's business meeting or informally. There is also an excellent survey on aasfmarin.org which goes into more detail. Also great info there on preventing Zoom-bombing.

Have you adjusted to having only virtual or phone meetings? Problems you overcame? Are you using the suggested Zoom protocols to prevent meeting disruption? Any unexpected bonuses to having virtual meetings?

How do you try to keep reaching out to the newcomer: via chat, potential sponsors offering phone numbers, offering to meet for a walk? Other?

Have you had a group business meeting to discuss how to readjust when Phase 3 begins? When groups under 20 may meet with proper distancing? Have you considered remaining a virtual meeting for a while if it is a large meeting? Some kind of hybrid? Have you had contact with the representatives where you rent space about the possible protocols. Has your rent been suspended for the time being? Is treasurer contributing to Central office for 7th tradition? Our donations are down and NY General Service has gone \$3.5 million into their prudent reserve! Please, send in via <https://www.paypal.me/intergroup923> or a check by mail.

INTERGROUP MINUTES OF May 6th 2020 (These minutes have not been approved.)

This meeting was hosted on Zoom. Documents made available during meeting through Zoom Chat.

CALLED to ORDER 7:35 p.m. OPENING CUSTOMS • Serenity Prayer • Preamble • 12 traditions •

No sign-in sheet (members post info in chat or email/text Magi in place of sign in) and 7th tradition (PayPal info posted)• No Introductions

BIRTHDAYS: Jenn 2 years

Magi tells group we will be moving agenda around to do Old Business/Open Positions first, then will move into reports

OLD BUSINESS

• Open positions: Magi reads each position description, reminds group that all sobriety requirements are waivable now. Bylaws Committee Chair – no one is available, position is still open. Recording Secretary – no one is available, position still open. Newsletter Committee Chair: Mary K is available! Mary K voted in as Newsletter Committee Chair. Area 1 (Watsonville/La Selva) – no one available, position is still open. Area 3 (Greater Soquel) Maryanne B. is available! Maryanne voted in as Area 3 Rep. Area 7 (Downtown SC) – No one is available, position is still open. Area 8 (Little Red Church) – Erin C. is available! Erin is voted in as Area 8 Rep. Area 9 (Westside)- Holly is available! Holly is voted in as Area 9 Rep. Area 10 (Scotts Valley/Emeline) – Steve A. is available! Steve voted in as Area 10 Rep. Ag Secretary, Area 1, Area 7, Area 11 still open.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS

CHAIR—Magi

• Thanks everyone for their patience as we try to transition onto Zoom. Still working to get contact info for all reps. Please send your info, email and phone, to Magi either in Zoom chat, by email, or text and if you know of any reps not currently getting emails please forward Magi's info or send their info. Gives summary of motions passed at last steering committee meeting. Group voted to give Bob Office Manager a cost of living increase retroactive to date of last raise. Discuss Joint Committee on Safety, asks any members interested to contact, will have meetings planned soon for committee as soon as we get some more interest from Intergroup members. Ken asks for list of meetings within areas so he can better inform people that may be interested in taking positions, Magi will send out email with position descriptions of all open positions as well as list of all meetings in each area.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS AD-HOC COMMITTEE - Murias

• Got some new people on committee. Possibly will be doing work on new website. Grey has question about virtual meetings with letters in passwords for phone callers. Murias says it should work to use keypad in place of letters, but its up to each group to choose/publish their password

VICE CHAIR—Marianne (absent)

TREASURER—Ken

• Has not had access to reports, working with Bob to figure that out. Rick asks about getting PayPal info more publicized, Murias will help get PayPal info posted and publicized more, available to help with it later this month after steering committee

OFFICE MANAGER—Bob S.

• Been getting donations from PayPal, not sure if they are coming from specific groups unless PayPal has group name, got \$90 most likely from BSM. Hasn't been going into office as much, taking longer to put financial reports together. Rent and taxes are paid. Will be opening office next week, only allowing 1 person in office at all times, volunteers will have to wear masks, cleared with Sheriff to make sure it was okay. One volunteer opening Wednesday afternoon 1-5. Recommend calling in to office before coming in to make sure someone is there if needing to pick up something, purchase literature, etc

BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MTG CHAIR—Kathy

• No income from April BSM, didn't have PayPal set up yet. Reimbursed committee member Molly for setting up Zoom account. June BSM speaker Allison G. from Salinas with 31 years, hosted by Mid County Women's Big Book Study. July BSM speaker Rick K. from San Ramon with 39 years. Host groups have been doing readings and BSM committee is doing rest of meeting (secretary, announcements, etc)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIR—OPEN

TELEPHONE DIVERTER CHAIR—Scott B. • All shifts filled

ACTIVITIES CHAIR—Grey

• Have 3ish new members in committee, hoping to plan an event for Summer, still looking for new members of committee. Contact info on website still needs to be updated

NEWSLETTER— Damien (outgoing)

• Thanks group for letting him be of service. Welcomes Mary to the Newsletter position and offers to help, Brandon B also offers to help Mary with newsletter. Damien gives contact info to Mary

WEBSITE COMMITTEE CHAIR—Porter (absent, Magi reads report)

• Volunteer web builder had phone meeting at 3 with last web builder and Porter to see if he will be able to complete the website. More will be revealed.

GENERAL SERVICE LIAISON – Murias

• Assembly last weekend, delegate will be giving report next month. GSO needs support, have reached into reserves to keep paying salaries and rent, donations can be made online or through the mail.

H&I LIAISON – Mitch(absent)

CRUZYPAA LIAISON – Quinn • No report

AREA REPORTS

Area 1: OPEN –

Area 2: Rick – made it to meetings in area, 7 of 8 meetings in area have virtual meetings

Area 3: Maryanne B.– newly elected

Area 4: Jack – no report

Area 5: Nicole – absent

Area 6: Randy – absent

Area 7: OPEN -

Area 8: Erin C. – newly elected

Area 9: Holly – newly elected

Area 10: Steve A. – newly elected

Area 11: OPEN–

TAKE BACK THESE ITEMS TO YOUR GROUP: Open positions: Recording Secretary, Bylaws Committee Chair. Area Rep- 1, 7 & 11

Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer.—Submitted by Magi R., Recording Secretary