

### Making Amends to G.I. Joe

**I**t took seventeen years to muster the courage to face him. My best friend's dad was a Marine Corps colonel and our childhood hero. His immaculate camouflage uniform commanded respect. He would salute me, but he always hugged his son, Matt. He rarely spoke; he had a face that said everything. We spent years imagining what he did when he was away. To us, he was the real G.I. Joe.

Matt and I abused alcohol and drugs over the years. We got a job together on the same shift. I was caught stealing to support my habit. I denied it and Matt defended me, so we both got fired. During a drunken conversation, it slipped out that I did in fact steal, causing him to lose his job. He was disgusted and stopped talking to me.

Shortly after, he found a girl and got his life in order. I didn't, and wasn't invited to their wedding. Matt and his new wife later died, trapped in a burning car after an accident. At his memorial I could barely stand. The shame and grief were unbearable. The only thing I remember is that I didn't have the courage to even look at his dad. I just wanted to disappear ... my superpower.

This was one of the many painful things that drove me to A.A. two years later. During my Eighth and Ninth steps I always got stuck on Matt. My sponsor suggested I trust my Higher Power to show me what to do, and when. Last summer, after fifteen years of recovery, it hit me: I had to talk to his dad. To me, the Colonel still was 10 feet tall and made of bullets. I was afraid to embarrass myself in front of him, but through A.A. I learned the courageous thing to do is to act in the face of fear. So I called him and he agreed to meet.

The Colonel had become a frail old man and Matt's mother was in early stages of dementia. We talked about Matt. I told him about feeling guilty for the life that recovery had given me, because Matt was gone. I apologized for not being there for them when they lost him, and told him it had been eating at me for years.

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I told them the only way I could continue to stay sober was to try to right that wrong – even if it took the rest of my life.

They were so loving and reassuring. They asked me to visit from time to time, because that's what Matt would have done. They missed him, and they saw him in me.

Before I left, the Colonel confided that his daughter was struggling with alcoholism, and asked if there was anything he could do. We talked. He was relieved to know he wasn't alone. Then this combat veteran of six tours in Vietnam hugged me, and held on tight. We cried together, unapologetically.

Today I visit them whenever I can. Sometimes, she thinks I'm Matt; I don't correct her because I don't want her to experience losing him again. I just tell her I love her and hug her. Matt's dad is in Al-Anon now. I call him my hero. He calls me his. I salute him. He hugs me.

*Jon B – Felton, CA*

## Keepsakes

**I**n one of my dresser drawers I keep two precious belongings: a bag of sobriety chips, and a charm bracelet my grandmother gave me as a child.

Recently it seemed like it was time to pass the charm bracelet on to the next generation, so I packed it up and sent it off to my cousin's daughter. She was happy to get it – the charms included six gold charms from my great-grandmother, including a tiny locket, a miniature bell, and a teensy owl. I added a few charms too over the years, including a small gold coffee bean, which stands as a tribute to the rooms of A.A.

It made me a little sad to part with the bracelet I'd had forever, but it also seemed right to pass it on. So I was glad to keep the items from my recovery family: the sobriety chips. These chips, collected over the past four decades, might be the most precious keepsakes of all – a lot of one days at a time.

When I came into A.A. the chips from the monthly birthday speaker meeting were plastic, marked in gold letters with “Santa

Cruz County” and the circle-and-triangle recovery symbol. Each year had a color: one year was light blue, six years was green, 10 years was dark blue and so on.

The monthly birthday speaker meeting started in the early '70s. It met those days in the Del Mar School auditorium. Almost everybody went to the monthly meetings, and since the local fellowship was smaller then, even as a newcomer you would know just about everyone there. All the usual Saturday night meetings would take the night off, and everyone would show up at the birthday speaker meeting.

So, I am infinitely grateful to be on this path with you, and to have these sweet markers of trudging the road of sobriety. I've recycled some of these chips to other meetings through the years, or given them to friends. Other chips were given to me by A.A.s further along the path. The most precious of this collection is kept in its own ceramic dish: the chip for 24 hours. Keep coming back!

*A. Nonnie Mouse, Aptos*



# Happy Fiftieth Birthday, Central Office!

Santa Cruz County's first Central Office opened in 1973 by Mona, who got sober in the Bay Area and was familiar with A.A. service structures. Mona drove a big pale-yellow '70s Cadillac, and her license plate was "ESTR EG." Mona was tall, no-nonsense and a great A.A.

Mona sponsored Dossie, who was my sponsor. Dossie introduced General Service to Santa Cruz County a few years after Mona helped start our Central Office. Like Mona, Dossie got sober in the East Bay and brought her service experience with her when she moved to Santa Cruz in the early '70s.

That first Central Office was in Aptos on the frontage road, 9045 Soquel Drive, upstairs in a small office with large windows overlooking redwoods. The Sunday Morning Spiritual Meeting, started in 1975 by Richard, or "Sully," met there, the first Sunday-morning meeting in the county. When I wandered into A.A. in 1978, that became my home meeting for many years.

Central Office has had other locations over the years, including Plum Avenue in Capitola. It's been in its present nifty location in Soquel for many years. Long may it serve our local fellowship. Let's thank it for all it does for our fellowship; Happy fiftieth!

*Jean W., Aptos*



Music plays  
On God's radio  
Turn me up

*Kay M., Santa Cruz*



# America, Land of Libations

I grew up in a society that glorifies alcohol, while stigmatizing alcoholism as a moral issue and a weakness. That framing has driven many problem drinkers into hiding, instead of embracing the notion that addiction is a disease, recovery is possible, and help is available.

Now I'm an adult in a society that has begun to dig mental illness out of the darkness and embrace the need for discourse and destigmatization. I appreciate how far things have progressed, but I also recognize the poisonous cultural propaganda that shaped me growing up:

Picture the classic teen movie – adolescents stuck in a small, Ivy League town in the forest, their wealthy parents busy at work to keep up the demands of their latch-key children. All the cool kids meet at FoodStop on a Friday night, loitering by the payphone for an address on a lonely back-woods road where the beer will be delivered. Imagine a rambunctious high school party encircling a blazing fire, trespassing on some abandoned property, libations lavishly consumed until the cops show up. Drunken teens speed away, weaving home to watch *Dazed and Confused* or *American Pie* ... The American Dream.

Growing up, I starred in this movie, where drinking was part of the popularity contest – a hazing into the social hierarchy. To relieve the conviction I was the loser of my class, I did what any normal American teen would do ... what my whole family did, what celebrities and media exemplified: I drank. What freedom I had, sneaking out to crash fraternity parties. Every home had a liquor cabinet or bar, easily accessible while parents were out of town. Society justified my drinking with its endorsement of liquor. I had the Puritan work ethic; I deserved to let loose.

As I tried to meet impossible expectations, anxiety, OCD and depression crippled me. I self-medicated, hiding behind a veil of stoicism. I was convinced alcohol was the appropriate treatment for my trauma. No one in my family talked about our shared disease: alcoholism. No one wanted to look in the mirror. We hid happily behind a facade of silence, reveling in debauchery together.

Eventually came the other side: inappropriate behavior, concealing my drinking, guilt and shame of my “immorality”. No one ever told me, “Alcoholism is a disease and there is a solution.” Not until much later.

Hiding it only intensified the cycle of overindulging, then the unbearable sickness that only a drink would relieve. I grew self-destructive, damaging others, destroying relationships and my reputation. I tried to stop on my own, scared to admit my “weakness” – to be publicly branded “alcoholic” – that my addiction persisted perilously. I got a DUI. I lost a job. I nearly died.

I had reached the jumping off point when I heard the A.A. message: “You’re not a bad person; you have a disease. There is a solution. Asking for help shows strength.”

The A.A. family loved me when I couldn’t love myself. They gave me hope when I had none. They offered a spiritual solution for daily living that relieved the obsession with alcohol. I committed to 90 meetings in 90 days, began working the steps rigorously with my sponsor, and my attitude and outlook brightened. Hours turned into days, days into weeks, and weeks into three years. I’m grateful now for what I’ve been through because of who I’ve become. I look at what I have instead of what I’m missing.

Framing is everything. When I used to lament to my therapist she’d ask, “What if it could be wonderful?” My suffering has given me gratitude, optimism, and the opportunity to help others with my story. A.A. has not branded me – it has afforded me life! There is a solution, if we’re willing to admit our powerlessness, go to any lengths for sobriety and turn the wheel over to a Higher Power.

Being an alcoholic can be wonderful when we are living in recovery, spiritual surrender and acceptance. I hope we continue to dispel the stigma that still clings to addiction, and normalize this discourse as we model the freedom and joy of sobriety. We can become the collective beacon that illuminates the way for those still suffering.

*Lara, Santa Cruz*



# The Pathway of Healing

*A story of living amends*



**A**t 15 years of sobriety, I found myself in the hospice unit of a Midwestern hospital, holding my father's hand as he died. A few days earlier I'd received a 3 a.m. phone call, and with my sponsor on speed-dial and my A.A. literature in tow, I flew to Indiana to be with my family for several weeks as my father slowly passed. I didn't know this experience would anchor my sobriety and bring about true healing.

Amid the beeping monitors and the constant rotation of nurses and doctors, I felt the loving arms of God and our fellowship embrace me. It carried me through the long days and nights waiting for my father to transition.

The examples set before me by so many in our fellowship, and the words of my sponsor — “How can you be of service?” — compelled me to be there for my family in a way I'd never been before. My mother, the woman who had appeared on so many of my resentment lists over the years, now needed comfort and support. I held her in my arms as the doctor told us my father would not recover. Once, envy and pride had pushed distance between us. Now I nestled my cot beside my sister's. I held her hand through the night as we watched our father sleep.

I'd never been able to find common ground with my mother and sister, even after years of working the steps on these damaged relationships. I was grateful for the opportunity to be the rock of support they needed as we lost my father. I'd always been the black sheep of the family. But over 15 years of sobriety, I'd grown and matured without realizing it. Now I had the privilege of being there for them when they needed me most.

There were moments during those weeks in hospice when they pushed old buttons, and I would feel my heart harden. I'd find a quiet corner and call my sponsor, who would gently nudge me toward the solution: “How can you be of service?” That question would refocus my heart, and I'd step back into the hospital room with renewed strength.

After my father passed away, I knew that part of my living amends to him was to take care of “his girls” — my mother and sister. I'd kept them both at a comfortable distance for years. Now I knew I needed to start traveling uncharted territory — learning to love and support them in new ways.

*I'd find a quiet corner and call my sponsor, who would gently nudge me toward the solution: “How can you be of service?”*

An A.A. friend spoke of “changing the narrative.” Going back into the steps helped me do that. As I turned the “magnifying mirror” away from them and toward myself, I was able to see my part more clearly. I became a part

of their lives. I began calling them each week. We established a new tradition: I'd travel with my sons each summer to see them. With each visit, I took the A.A. fellowship with me, and the encouragement to understand rather than be understood, and to love rather than be loved.

As our literature states, pain is often the pathway to growth. The loss of my father gave me an opportunity to grow as a daughter and sister. Next week, we are heading to San Antonio for our fourteenth summertime visit. We've missed my father for all those 14 years, but I know he would be proud of the way “his girls” have come together to love and support one another more deeply.

*Kendra M.*

# Service extends the hand of A.A.

## News from General Service

**O**n a bike ride today I was thinking about past July 4th holidays. I remembered a balmy Minnesota evening when I sat with my mom on my parents' lake dock, drinking and smoking. We started talking about outside issues; suddenly, we were screaming at each other. I left abruptly, saying, "The only reason you enjoy my company is because you have someone to drink and smoke with!" Later that evening as I sat at a bar, nursing yet another drink, I told the bartender, "I'll show her! I'm going to quit smoking!"

Another time I was water-skiing in jean short-shorts. As the boat lifted me into the skies, my jeans ripped in a very inconvenient place. A sensible person might have let go and slipped into a cloak of water. But the many cocktails I'd consumed beckoned me to continue skiing, shorts flapping in the wind at the waist only, in front of my parents and their closest friends sitting lakeside in their lawn chairs.

I don't do that kind of embarrassing stuff now, thank God and Alcoholics Anonymous. It's incredible that once I was embarrassed to think of myself as alcoholic. Today it's an incredible gift to know I'm alcoholic. Thank you, A.A.

Another huge gift is a willingness to be of service to the Fellowship I love so much. This didn't come naturally. My first sponsor showed me how. I remember hearing, "If you want what we have, do what we do." I wanted, and continue to want. At this point in my sobriety I'm afraid not to do service. My life is so much saner and richer for it, and I need you folks.

Why is service important? So many out there don't know how their lives could change for the better if they joined us ... so many family members, so many friends, work colleagues, so many kids and seniors, so many people. I want the hand of A.A. always to be available to everyone who needs us, now and for generations to come.

Our Area Delegate Eric L. recently reported on the 73rd A.A. General Service Conference to our district. General Service reps have begun sharing bits of this talk with their home groups. The Plain Language Big Book is in development; updated material on safety addresses respect for the rules of facilities, diversity, participation and inclusion; there will be a new Grapevine App soon. Controversy regarding the resignation of the board chairperson has moved from disruption to solution. Additional controversy about two recent changes in the 12x12 prompted conversation about the process for future revisions. The General Service Board reviewed finances and discussed online group participation in our service structure.

Why is this work important? Because on July 4th, many folks are going to drink too much and do things they regret. We want to be ready for them with understanding and hope.

With much gratitude,  
*Deb A.*



**New Zoom Login**  
**General Service Monthly Meeting**  
**second Wednesday of each month**  
**at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting ID: 898 9003 8938**  
**Passcode: 121212**

# SOBRIETY MILESTONES

## June

Vince H . . . . .	June 7, 1966
Caroll Y . . . . .	June 1, 1976
Caroll Y . . . . .	June 1, 1976
Marilyn T. . . . .	June 1, 1979
Cynthia S . . . . .	June 15, 1980
Barbara B . . . . .	June 8, 1984
Peter V . . . . .	June 6, 1985
Terry M . . . . .	June 6, 1985
Peter V. . . . .	June 6, 1985
Joan Rose S. . . . .	June 17, 1985
Jennifer M . . . . .	June 6, 1987
Earlene W . . . . .	June 5, 1989
Jerry M . . . . .	June 6, 1989
Dana C. . . . .	June 16, 1993
Kelley H . . . . .	June 29, 1996
Stan . . . . .	June 4, 1999
Tom R . . . . .	June 21, 1999
Kathie W. . . . .	June 12, 2000
Carrie Z . . . . .	June 21, 2001
Dave S. . . . .	June 6, 2005
Gary R . . . . .	June 9, 2006
Sean H. . . . .	June 10, 2006
Carrie O . . . . .	June 2, 2007
Jess F. . . . .	June 27, 2009
Jocelyn M. . . . .	June 29, 2009
Janice O . . . . .	June 15, 2011
Johnny R . . . . .	June 3, 2012
Amanda T . . . . .	June 6, 2012
Sal L . . . . .	June 12, 2012
Craig M . . . . .	June 6, 2013
Steve C . . . . .	June 1, 2014
Rob V. . . . .	June 8, 2016
Marta S . . . . .	June 22, 2016



**Want to list your A.A. anniversary in the GrapeSCINN? Email your name and sobriety date to: [grapesccin@gmail.com](mailto:grapesccin@gmail.com)**

## In memoriam

Richard Lien	48 yrs. 1933 - 2014
Rich L.	38 yr June 1965 or 6
Richard (Sully) S.	June 22, 1962-2020

**1 JULY** | **7:00 P.M.**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M.**  
**MID-COUNTY SENIOR CENTER**  
**829 BAY AVE. CAPITOLA**

**KELLIE C, CONCORD**  
**6 YEARS SOBRIETY**
**HOSTED BY THE**  
**SANTA CRUZ FELLOWSHIP**

**BIRTHDAY SPEAKER MEETING**

# JULY 2023 EVENTS

For more information  
about this month's events, visit  
[aasantacruz.org](http://aasantacruz.org)

July 1 @ 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

## **Birthday Speaker Meeting**

Mid-County Senior Center  
829 Bay Ave., Capitola, CA

July 2 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

## **CRUZYPAA Monthly Meeting**

Harvey West Park 326 Evergreen St  
Santa Cruz, CA

July 4 @ 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

## **BLF July 4th Alcathon**

Ben Lomond Fellowship  
9496 Hwy 9  
Ben Lomond, CA

July 5 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

## **Intergroup Council Meeting**

Meeting ID: 828 1508 0970  
Passcode: 588309

July 8 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

## **4th Step Workshop**

Ben Lomond Fellowship  
9496 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond

July 15 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

## **Early Risers Picnic**

Anna Jean Cummings "Blue Ball" County Park  
461 Soquel San Jose Rd  
Soquel, CA

July 16 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

## **CRUZYPAA Monthly Meeting**

Harvey West Park 326 Evergreen St  
Santa Cruz, CA

July 19 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

## **Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting**

Meeting ID: 861 8723 8980  
Passcode: 723088

July 24 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## **Santa Cruz Fellowship Birthday Speaker Meeting**

Santa Cruz Fellowship  
412 Front Street  
Santa Cruz, CA



**BEN LOMOND FELLOWSHIP**

# 4th of July ALCATHON

Meetings every hour from  
**8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

POTLUCK STARTS AT 1 P.M.

**Tuesday, July 4**

Ben Lomond Fellowship  
9496 Highway 9  
[benlomondfellowship.org](http://benlomondfellowship.org)

## **EARLY RISERS PICNIC "BLUE BALL PARK"**

Anna Jean Cummings County Park  
461 Soquel San Jose Rd, Soquel,  
CA 95073



POTLUCK-BBQ-FELLOWSHIP-FUN ACTIVITIES-JAM  
SESSION (BRING AN INSTRUMENT)-LAWN  
GAMES-VOLLEYBALL-BADMINTON-50/50 RAFFLE  
AND PRIZES! SPEAKER MEETING 2 PM



GUEST SPEAKER  
SEAN D-14YRS  
SANTA CRUZ

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

**Saturday, July 15th**

**11 AM-3:00 PM**





## Santa Cruz County - Area 73 Hospitals and Institutions Committee **Help Wanted July 2023**

### Hospitals and Institutions Committee Positions

**Volunteer Coordinator.....**6 months sobriety

### Recovery Centers

**Si Se Puede - Needs Secretaries** for Tues & Sat @ 7pm, Male or female, 6 months sobriety, working the steps with a sponsor. Call or Text **Victoria** 818-804-1496 / viaha6181@gmail.com

### Correctional Facilities:

**Salinas Valley State Prison – Needs Visiting Sponsors.....**Male, 5 years sobriety

**Water Street Jail/Women – Needs Secretaries.....**Female, 1 year sobriety.

**Water Street Jail/Men – Needs Secretaries...** Male, 1 year sobriety

**Juvenile Hall – Needs Coordinator.....**Male and Female, 1 year sobriety.

**Meetings at Santa Cruz County Jails (Water St. Men’s and Women’s, Blaine St. Women’s, and Roundtree Men’s Facilities) are on Standby but Water St will open again in July, Secretaries needed.**

**All Jail Facilities:** One year sobriety, 5 years since last felony & 2 years since last misdemeanor required. Orientation and clearance required for service at both men’s and women’s county corrections facilities. Orientation is held at the Sheriff’s offices at 5200 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz. You must complete an application before orientation can be scheduled. Live Scan background check cost will be covered by H & I.

**All other H & I Facilities:** Please visit fill out the volunteer form. We will be in touch with you to initiate your volunteering and assistance in placement into an open meeting.

***If you are interested in any of the above service positions please email:***

**[SantaCruzcountyHI@gmail.com](mailto:SantaCruzcountyHI@gmail.com)**

**H&I holds their business meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Youth Room at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 420 Melrose Ave in Santa Cruz. Meeting begins at 7PM. All AA members are welcome.**

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: H & I Committee, P.O. BOX 5131, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95063-5131

PLEASE PUT YOUR GROUP OR MEETING NAME ON THE CHECK

# Intergroup Report

Member Contributions June 2023				
<b>Anonymous</b>	143.00		<b>Midtown Womens</b>	390.00
<b>Aptos Women Serenity</b>	600.00		<b>Monday Mens Meeting</b>	327.00
<b>Birthday Club</b>	200.00		<b>No Frills</b>	231.30
<b>Bonny Doon 7 pm Wednesday</b>	281.11		<b>Ocean View</b>	219.00
<b>Brown Baggers</b>	248.07		<b>Roxas</b>	150.00
<b>Early Risers</b>	283.07		<b>Sunday Morning Spiritual</b>	209.70
<b>In the Woods</b>	256.20		<b>TGIW</b>	380.00
<b>Jade Street</b>	544.80		<b>Triple Winners</b>	49.00
<b>Jack B.</b>	300.00		<b>Women in the Woods</b>	60.00
<b>LSB</b>	60.00		<b>Paypal</b>	30.00
<b>Men's Basic Step</b>	216.00		<b>Venmo</b>	31.89
<b>Total 5,210.00</b> <i>Thank you</i>				

## Statement of Activity

May 2023

	ACTIVITIES	BSM	G&A	NOT SPECIFIED	TOTAL
Revenue					
Donations	300.00	1,029.00	4,905.14	5.00	\$6,239.14
Sales			3,418.50		\$3,418.50
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$1,029.00</b>	<b>\$8,323.64</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$9,657.64</b>
Cost of Goods Sold					
Cost of Goods Sold			20.50		\$20.50
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20.50</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$1,029.00</b>	<b>\$8,303.14</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$9,637.14</b>
Expenditures					
Activities	576.00				\$576.00
Bank Charges & Fees			380.40		\$380.40
Birthday Speaker Meeting		475.00		380.00	\$855.00
Equipment Rental & Leases			191.93		\$191.93
Insurance			221.52		\$221.52
Legal & Professional Services			56.25		\$56.25
Office Supplies & Software			571.09		\$571.09
PayPal Fees			0.75	0.15	\$0.90
Payroll Salaries & Wages			956.88		\$956.88
Payroll Taxes - Employer			1,562.94	278.59	\$1,841.53
Rent & Lease			1,730.00		\$1,730.00
Repairs & Maintenance			284.04		\$284.04

# Intergroup Council Minutes - May 3, 2023

## REPORTS:

**Chair:** Christopher A. Office Manager review is coming up.

**Treasurer:** Matthew W. Reports added to the email sent for the meeting; Matthew would like more clarification about report topics. It seems the information is repeated. There is discussion of hiring a bookkeeper to put another set of eyes on the books. Washas interviewed and like one person that charges \$50.00 per hour, and he highly recommends.

Also, there are some expenses that are going to be requested, which will be substantial – he's inclined to go with him since it will generate income for the entire group.

The financial report also shows the prudent reserve of \$31,000, if the prudent reserve is supposed to be one year of expenses, we are shy, and how should we go about increasing it. Anyone previously in the Treasurer position would like to discuss.

**Questions:** Mary K. She remembers at Steering that a bookkeeper would look at the books quarterly, and Matthew likes the idea. Is it to look where we are out of line or to check with accuracy? Matthew says it's to verify that we're not getting too far out of line. There's one account called "Payroll clearing" and he was told not to make any changes to that at all. He wanted to get rid of categories that have zero amounts... what do we need it for? Sarah said that if Matthew wants to make a request for a bookkeeper, that it should be in writing. Matthew asked where to send the request. Sarah wanted an email so that she could then compose a response and make suggestions and share thoughts about report format. She also asked about budget and guidelines, even though she didn't read them closely.

Christopher mentioned that the use of a bookkeeper was mentioned in the guidelines, and that's a discussion for the Ad hoc finance committee.

**Office Manager:** Kerri F Activity report – 86 callers; 49 visitors; 16 meeting inquiries; 38 purchase 4 donations 12 step callers; 3 H&I calls. Purchases and visitors have diminished. She noted that the office is fully stocked with inventory, so please come on down to the service center and pick up your supplies! Fliers, meeting schedules, safety cards, new group forms; chips. For the groups that have provide insurance certificates for their meetings, please send the request to [info@asantacruz.org](mailto:info@asantacruz.org).

Venmo is totally working! Please announce at your Zoom meetings, and let people know that's the preferred way to donate to the 7th tradition. Sales were \$7,657.54 for the first quarter of 2023, and we paid 9.5% of that in sales tax = \$633. Questions? None forthcoming.

**BSM Chair:** Ed O. We're all set to go this Saturday! The meeting format has been changed a little bit. Jolene is the speaker, and we'll be taking care of her travel expenses. The speaker audio will be added to the county website the week after the meeting. Questions – Mark K – they would look for [www.asantacruz.org](http://www.asantacruz.org)

**Activities Chair:** Kimberlee K. Presentation for tshirtsweat shirt sales. Motions below. Dave M shared the screen to show the invoice and samples of the products. The possibility of making \$2,000+ for Intergroup. Also need \$1,000 for incidentals like serving ware, tablecloths, for Spring Fling. Motion Below.

**Diverter Chair:** Lily – Things are going well – some people have been on vacation, and Kerri got the word out to get the shifts covered. 4 openings Tues, 3, 4, 5th 117am; First Saturday 11pm to 7am. A Wednesday coordinator is needed. They send text reminders and fill in slots on their day.

**Bylaws Chair:** Sarah R the committee met last month, and the topic was electronic meetings. Bylaws have no mention of electronic meetings. They're discussing how to update the bylaws to briefly describe. Yes, to the electronic meetings, but not specific to the actual medium. They want to be general instead of more specific. Kimberlee asked when the next meeting will be. The meeting is on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact her to find the location [Bylaws@asantacruz.org](mailto:Bylaws@asantacruz.org).

**Website Chair:** Mark. They met last month. 2 issues are being addressed. One is the approval process for agendas and meetings being posted on the website. Also, a distribution mailing list for communications. A mailing list would be called "web list" which would include all members, and so if a communication is sent, it is sent to everyone. So, if the chair wanted to send minutes, it would go through the website, to protect people's private anonymity. Damien noted that the website shows intergroup starts at 7pm and there was discussion about adding calendars to the phone, and we are thinking that orientation would start at 7pm.

**Delegate at Large / Safety:** Magi R. No report for delegate. First meeting of Safety May 21st (3rd Sunday)

at the Resource Center for nonviolence on Ocean Street. First Topic is Eric from CNCA topic will be how groups can update their safety measures. She's hoping to have the availability to join Zoom also. Info in the chat.

**GS Liaison:** Deb Calif North Coastal Area 06 there are 93 areas through US and Canada. Eric sent a couple things. A full report will be at the assembly. May 13 will be in San Francisco. Changes will be made to discrimination manuals. Plain language Big Book, there is continuing work; there will be a translation tool. The GS Board Chair resigned in January, and then they learned she was asked to resign by the entire board. There was an interest in censuring the board, and the motion to censure the board for communication, and the motion failed. Our local Teddy was elected to be on the Grapevine Committee. Deb posted things in the chat. They are still receiving checks at the old address, please ask your meeting Treasurer to double check the address.

**H&I Liaison:** Mary K. She is covering for the rep. She missed the meeting last Wednesday, so she doesn't yet have the pdf version of the May "Help Wanted" She'll send to Christopher to send out with the minutes.

IVSF (Inside Visiting Sponsor) Salinas, Soledad - still looking for up to 8 men. New openings in Watsonville also. Please see Handlsc.org

**BRIDGING THE GAP** (added to agenda) Julie. She gave the help wanted flier to Christopher. A member has been added. They meet once a month at Erik's Deli in Aptos; first Sunday of the month at 2:30 - 1 hour meeting. She brings a new member once a month to Janus, and one other facility. Bridging the gap donations are the bright yellow can, H&I is the pink can.

**CRUZYPAA Liaison:** VACANT Christopher let us know Sober Prom is coming up! Flier on the website. The June event is June 3rd beach meeting at Twin Lakes at 1:00 games at 2: Business Mtg 1st & 3rd Sunday at Harvey West. Flier attached for the October event.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Vacant officer and area rep positions. Call for anyone to make themselves available for: Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and vacant Area Reps. Carla B asked about the recording Secretary. Christopher read from the Bylaws. And noted that the meetings 1st Wednesday of the month. Carla qualified, just celebrated 18 months and is requesting time to be waived. Magi made the motion to waive time, Sarah Seconded, and a vote taken. 18 in favor. Chris placed Carla in the breakout room for a vote to be taken. Vote for Carla or "Person X" The vote was sent via electronic vote, and 26 votes were for Carla, and zero for person X.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion 1: To authorize the purchase of 100 tshirts and 75 hooded sweatshirts for the quoted price of \$3,200. Will be sold at a profit. Any unsold items at the event would be offered for sale at the Central Office. Magi said she thought that changing the name "Spring Fling" to "Santa Cruz" would be easier to sell if they don't all sell at the event. People were hesitant about the expense. Suggestions were made to cut the order in half. Tabled for steering.

Motion 2: To authorize a "not to exceed" additional advance of \$1,000 for the purchase of dry goods and raffles prizes for Spring Fling. Kimberlee made the motion to approve, 2nd'd by Rob. Chris opened the discussion. People were freaked out about the expense. Suggestions were made to cut the order in half. Jackie wanted to have a history of expenses to make an informed decision. Kimberlee asked if she would head up that project, and Jackie declined. The motion was seconded, and not voted on without more info of what will be purchased. Kimberlee is to prepare a report to be more specific about the expenses.

#### **Area Rep Reports:**

- Area 5 (Capitola/Live Oak): Rob Mc. Rob announced the camp out being put on by Early Risers.
- Area 6 (East Santa Cruz): Mary K. Friday Nite Live Group is hosting the BSM this Saturday!
- Area 7 (Downtown Santa Cruz): Dave H. Santa Cruz Fellow will be hosting the June BSM; he attended the business meeting and there are service positions available.
- Area 11 (SLV): Jackie E, "Take your sponsor to dinner" is in Felton on the 7th from 5 to 8pm and the 4th step workshop is happening at the fellowship. She's going back to work full time and may not be able to attend all the noon meetings.