

t h e S C A n n e r

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCA NEWSLETTER

IT WORKS WHEN YOU WORK IT

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 14, 1990

"THE SEARCH FOR SERENITY" THE FIRST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

President's Day Weekend, February 16-18, marks a milestone in SCA history -- the first Southern California SCA National Convention; a weekend of meetings, spiritual gatherings, workshops, and discussions on issues concerning recovery from sexual addiction. AND.....a dance and entertainment! All this will take place at LA City College Student Center, 855 N. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. There are no fees or charges for convention activities, and free parking is available on campus. Non-SCA guests are also welcome to attend.

Three "official" delegates from the New York SCA Intergroup will join our three delegates, making this conference truly a National Convention. The major items to be discussed by the delegates will be steps toward the establishment of an international SCA organization, with unified "Core" literature being the first major step. The three SC-SCA delegates, named at the January 21st Intergroup meeting for a one-year committment, are: Hunt B., Maciek K., and Marshall L. Meetings are open to all interested observers, but only the delegates may vote.

Registration is at 7:00 PM, Friday, Feb. 16, when detailed schedules of the events will be handed out. The opening meeting will follow registration, and after that

See CONVENTION/ Page 4

WELCOME TO "the SCAnner" SC SCA'S FIRST NEWSLETTER

At long last, here it is..... Southern California SCA's first newsletter! Just in time for the Convention. We look at it as an aid toward promoting the common welfare and unity of the Fellowship and its members -- and as a way to get the word out! The name is tentative, the layout is tentative, we're not sure of the frequency; the only thing we know for sure is our determination to keep it going. To keep it going, though, we'll need input from the individual groups and members: group activities, poems, stories and experiences in recovery. Send your input to SCA, Attn: Newsletter, 4391 Sunset Blvd. #520, LA 90029, or call Richard K. at (714) 536-4477. [He's the one with the Compulsive Computer] In addition, of course, there'll be rundowns of the Intergroup meetings and the doings of the various committees.

Why the name -- the SCAnner -- for this first issue? Well, obviously "SCA" fits nicely into it, which is a good start. And, Webster's gives one definition of "SCANNER" as: "a device that checks a process or condition and may initiate a desired corrective action". Change "device" to "PROGRAM" and..... Need we get out the sledge hammer? Anyway, if you have names which you like better, plus ideas for future newsletters, and your own contributions, please send them in.

So we're off to a start! The appearance isn't the most polished in this day and age of desktop publishing and laser

See NEWSLETTER/ Page 4

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE SCA INTERGROUP COMMITTEES

SCA is blessed with a lot of dedicated people doing service by working on several Intergroup Committees to coordinate activities of the Fellowship and to carry our message to those out there who are still suffering. Here's a run-down of the committees and a brief description of their activities. They all need good help, so if any of them interest you, give a call to the Chairperson, or drop a line to: SCA, 4391 Sunset Blvd. #520, Los Angeles 90029; attention of the particular committee. This kind of participation not only keeps SCA going, but also is extremely helpful in getting us out of our isolation and firmly onto the road to recovery.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

This committee, with Stan C., Rob W. and others contributing a lot of sweat, has been taking care of the many details required for the success of the February SCA National Convention. It's duties are just about at an end for this go-around, but this isn't going to the last such meeting, so get ready to jump in for the next one. **AND A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO ALL THOSE ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THE GREAT JOB THEY'VE DONE!**

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

This lively committee comes up with the ideas and makes the arrangements for functions to help us out of our isolation through socializing. They worked up the Thanksgiving dinner for members, which was a great success. The big event now is the dance and entertainment for the February Convention. To get in on planning for, and helping out with upcoming events, give Bill Mc. a call at (213) 399-0688.

H&I COMMITTEE

H&I stands for Hospitals and Institutions, and that stands for a lot of good potential outreach work in the jails, hospitals and other institutions around the area, bringing the existence and principles of SCA's Program to the attention of residents of

these facilities. The Committee is presently formulating its plan of action and format. Peter H., at (213) 874-7676, needs people versed in our Program to make institution contacts, provide ideas and to be speakers, either singly or on panels. There is even the possibility of working up a weekly SCA meeting at one or more of these facilities, similar to AA. Peter needs active member participation in and from both the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Michael L. is dedicated to working with the individual group literature representatives by obtaining and stocking SCA approved and suggested literature in bulk. SCA Intergroup maintains a stock of books which groups can draw from at cost. For groups with skimpy budgets, consignment arrangements can be made. Contact Michael at home (818) 990-0142, or work (818) 954-1645. He'd also like to hear from members about books which may have been particularly meaningful to them. These might not make the "approved" or "suggested" list, but could prove to be helpful to others in the Fellowship.

RETREAT COMMITTEE

Serenity is an elusive thing which we all want to grasp in one way or another. Retreats, where members can gather for a couple of days in quiet surroundings for workshops on subjects of mutual interest, meetings, and informal sharing of feelings and experiences, are a step in the serenity direction. They are a time for reflection without having to keep one eye on the clock -- a time for checking out the old belly button to see if there's anything in there besides lint!

The Committee's goal for 1990 is to sponsor two weekend retreats at a facility not too distant from our area with simple overnight accommodations and meal availability, and reasonable on the budget. Unfortunately, the

WHAT'S GOING ON IN INTERGROUP?

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

Basil C. was elected Intergroup Secretary for 1990 at the January meeting. He joins Doyle S., Chairperson, and Brant W., Treasurer, as Intergroup's officers for the year.

GROUP INPUT REQUESTED FOR TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

Several items on the agenda of Intergroup's January 21st meeting at Plummer Park were referred back to the individual groups for discussion and group conscience as to disposition. The aim in tabling and referring these items was to obtain the feelings and recommendations of each group so that a truly "group conscience" of the Fellowship could be realized. Intergroup may then act on any or all of the agenda items at a later meeting -- hopefully, the next meeting on March 18, 1990. These items are listed and summarized below:

FOLLOW-UP PHONE CALLS

Many times, a new member, after one or two meetings, might still be in the dark as to the Program and how he/she might fit into it, or might just have a general feeling of frustration and confusion. A phone call from a group volunteer could be very meaningful to such a person, and might even be instrumental in helping him/her stick with the Program.

A similar situation might exist for a member of fairly long standing who suddenly stops showing up at meetings. Once again, a phone call from a member could help "save the day", or better yet, **save the body!**

GUIDELINES FOR SPONSORSHIP

"Sponsorship is one of the most effective and personal tools of recovery in SCA" to quote from our recovery booklet. It is a relationship in which two people share their experiences, strength

and hope with each other; where the sponsor offers the sponsee support in times of crisis, celebration in times of success, help in developing a sexual recovery plan, and sharing of how the program works for them. And all this without getting into the role of a "FIXER". A pretty heavy job for a professional; a very difficult job for those who are in recovery themselves.

Intergroup requests that the individual groups discuss the characteristics that an ideal sponsor might have, and not have, toward formulating guidelines for members to consider before making themselves available for sponsorship. The intent is not to come up with hard and fast rules -- there's no place for that sort of thing in our Program. But there have been times when a member, in his/her honest attempt to be helpful, has bombed as a sponsor because he/she just wasn't ready. So what is "ready"? That's what we hope to find out. That's where all of you come in. We're looking for your experiences and suggestions in this matter -- whether as a sponsor or sponsee.

Don't forget, we're looking for **GUIDELINES** not regulations.

GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING AS "RECOVERING"

This subject deals with members identifying in meetings as "recovering" after experiencing sobriety according to their own recovery plans. Several of the groups use this distinction -- some recommending a period of time; others letting the issue be up to the individual's self-honesty and comfort level.

Many of the members feel that being able to state "recovering", if they wish, is one more incentive toward sticking with their recovery plans; and we need all the incentives we can muster! Others have been concerned that those who, for whatever reason, have been unable to experience a

CONVENTION from Page 1

SOCIALIZING. Marathon meetings and the workshops will begin at 9:00 AM the following morning, and go on all day. Saturday will be topped off with a dance and entertainment from 8:15 to 10:30 PM. Sunday, there will be an optional fund-raising brunch at Michael M.'s home. A donation of \$20, if prepaid, or \$25 at the door will be requested, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Your GSR's have given out pre-registration forms which list the titles of the various workshop sessions, as well as a mail-in form indicating whether you'll be coming to the Convention, Brunch or both. Just because you haven't mailed this in, however, doesn't mean you can't attend the Convention -- it just helps in planning. Also, not registering on Friday night doesn't mean you can't attend Saturday's sessions.

This is a great event in the growth of SCA and we need all of you to give it your enthusiastic support. **IT'S YOUR CONVENTION! LET'S SEE YOU THERE!**

NEWSLETTER from Page 1

printers, but even Abe Lincoln got his start in austere surroundings, and look where he ended up. Come to think of it, with his assassination and all, he may not be the best example; but you get the point! At least it's readable, and our hearts are in it. So, let's hear from you -- it's your newsletter!

HELP LINE NUMBERS

The following are numbers for the three SC - SCA answering machine help lines:

Los Angeles - (213) 859-5585
Orange County - (714) 664-5105
San Diego - (619) 528-9888

Compassion is ... a spirituality and a way of living and walking through life. It is the way we treat all there is in life -- ourselves, our bodies, our imaginations and dreams, our neighbors, our enemies ... Compassion is a spirituality as if creation mattered. It is treating all creation as holy and as divine ... which is what it is.

- Matthew Fox

COMMITTEES from Page 2

monastery near Santa Barbara, which has been used for earlier retreats, is undergoing renovations and won't be available for awhile. So, first things first, the Committee needs to get a line on available places suitable for such an activity. If you know of such, are interested in retreats, and/or have input to give, call Brant W. at (213) 559-8319.

TWELVE STEP COMMITTEE

This committee takes care of SCA's outreach work -- preparing informational mailings to probation offices, DA's, attorneys, therapists, religious organizations with hotlines and other organizations which might refer people to the Program. It also handles individual outside requests for information about SCA, and maintains files of unique Program literature used by individual groups for other groups' information. And it maintains frequent contact with the New York SCA Intergroup for information coordination. And now, it is taking on this newsletter -- the **SCanner**! If you're experienced in the Program and like to do a lot of work with little recognition, but a lot of satisfaction, contact Marshall L., at (213) 656-3293, and you'll be in the thick of it in no time.

REMEMBER, SERVICE TO THE FELLOWSHIP IS, IN REALITY, SERVICE TO YOURSELF. TRY IT AND SEE!

Cheers!

Too bad about old George! I hear he was a co-dependent.

Yep! He was so co-dependent that when he kicked the bucket, another person's life flashed before his eyes!



SCA PANEL GIVEN AT OC GLCSC

On Saturday, January 20, the three Orange County GSR's, Gary S., Chuck S., and Richard K., conducted the first SCA panel for the hot line monitor trainees at the OC GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER in Garden Grove. The panel discussed what SCA is all about, its Traditions and its Twelve Steps -- a few of the trainees were in Twelve Step programs, but several hadn't the foggiest notion what they are. In addition, each of the GSR's shared portions of their own stories. The panel was very well received, judging by the interplay between the panel members and trainees -- for those of you with overly active imaginations, that's verbal interplay, thank you!

Megan Ross, the Administrator for The Center, was very pleased -- read "tickled pink" -- with the presentation and plans to invite SCA members back for future training sessions. For any SCA members who are well based in our Program and who wish to volunteer for future panels, contact Gary S. at (714) 832-9144. Work such as this is one more way to break out of our isolation, and to make SCA better known to others.

NY-LA PROGRAM PHONE CALLS

The NY-SCA Intergroup has requested a list of phone numbers of SC-SCA Members willing to take late evening Program calls from its New York Members. As you know, there is a 3-hour time difference between New York and LA, and New York late-nighters in need of a Program call might be more inclined to make that call if they know they're not likely to wake a Member up. If you're willing to be on the list, let Marshall L. (12-Step Committee; (213) 656-3293) know. New York has supplied Marshall with numbers of their members available for early AM Los Angeles area callers, and these will be released soon.

NEW SCA PAMPHLET IN THE MAKING

The Twelve Step Committee's latest project is to work up an informational pamphlet explaining what SCA and its Twelve Step Program is about. It plans to do this by coming up with a list of questions which might be asked by people totally unfamiliar with us, our Program, and Twelve Step programs in general, and presenting SCA's answers to those questions.

The pamphlet is planned to supplement the yellow SCA pamphlet, as well as the SCA blue recovery booklet, and will be included in a streamlined mailing package sent to those requesting information. At present, a rather bulky "starter kit" is sent out to first-time requesters including the pamphlet and booklet, as well as information on how to start a group along with several meeting formats. This latter material will still be available on request, but we feel it's a little too much for the first shot.

Members -- especially those new to the Program -- can be a great help to the Committee by coming up with questions of their own, whether they know the answers or not. Send these in to the SCA mailing address, Attn: Twelve Step Committee, or call Marshall L. at (213) 656-3293.

Yes, Virginia, there actually IS A MARSHALL!

Friendship is freedom, is flowing, is rare. It trusts, understands, grows, explores; it smiles and weeps. It does not exhaust or cling, expect or demand. It is, and that is enough.

- James Kavanaugh

**MEETINGS ARE ONE OF
OUR GREATEST
TOOLS.... KEEP
COMING BACK.... IT
WORKS.... WHEN YOU
WORK IT!**

We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us....

- Marcel Proust

INTERGROUP from Page 3

period of sobriety will feel intimidated by those who have and who state as "recovering".

This may seem like a small matter, but it deserves your serious consideration in group discussions.

MEETING ATTENDANCE FORMS

Unfortunately, there are times when members are required to, or advised to, furnish proof of their attendance at SCA meetings. Some courts require the use of their own forms. Others don't have any. Rather than having the meeting Secretary scribble his/her name on the back of a love letter or grocery bag, it would be a little classier to have a pre-printed form to use. The Orange County groups have such a form available, with SCA's name, address and phone numbers, and a statement that our program is based on the Twelve Step Program of the better known Alcoholics Anonymous -- and lots of blank spaces. Intergroup is asking for individual group consciences as to whether Intergroup should supply such forms, or masters of them, to all groups.

In the meantime, if individual members, or groups, would like such a form master, contact Richard K. at (714) 536-4477, and he'll mail one to you.

SCA NEWSLETTER

This proposition is whether Intergroup should sanction the production and distribution of an official Southern California SCA Intergroup newsletter. The one you are reading at the moment is a "trial run" by the Twelve Step Committee, rather than Intergroup itself. We believe the time has come for Intergroup to support such an enterprise.

Group consciences are requested as to whether a newsletter is desirable, and if so, group ideas are requested as to content, method of distribution, frequency, free or subscription, and all those good things associated with such an undertaking. Now's the chance

for some very good input on this subject.

These are the five items. Think about them. Talk them over in your groups and come to a group conscience about them. **AND ...** please get the group consciences back to Intergroup.

NEXT INTERGROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the SCA Intergroup will be at 4:00 PM, Sunday, March 18, 1990, in the Multipurpose Room at Plummer Park, at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., between La Brea and Fairfax, West Hollywood. All members are welcome to attend, but only the GSR's may vote. After the Intergroup meeting, there's a newcomers' meeting, and after that, the regular Sunday evening meeting at 7:30.

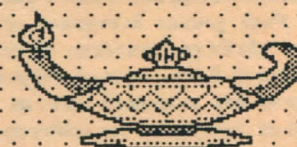
Within every man there is the reflection of a woman, and within every woman there is the reflection of a man. Within every man and woman there is also the reflection of an old man and an old woman, a little boy and a little girl.

- Hyemeyohsts Storm

HELP LINE ANSWERERS NEEDED

The SCA 213 helpline needs volunteers to pick up a day or two a week and answer questions left on the service by callers. If you are well based in the Program and want to help out, call Marshall L., at (213) 656-3293.

To help out in San Diego, call George M. at (619) 565-1294, and in Orange County, call Gary S., at (714) 832-9144. Every bit helps.



THE SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity to
accept the things I cannot
change,
the courage to change the
things I can,
and the wisdom to know the
difference.

SCA MEETINGS

The following is the current schedule of SCA meetings in Southern California. All are open to all unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY

7:00 PM - West Hollywood: Methodist Church, SE corner of Fountain/Fairfax, street-level meeting room.

8:00 PM - Pomona: Ponomo Valley Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center, 1910 Royalty Drive, Room F.

TUESDAY

6:00 PM - Long Beach: Atlantic Alano Club, 1936 E. 4th Street.

8:00 PM - Hollywood: Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Room 205.

8:00 PM - Garden Grove: Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 12832 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite A.

8:00 PM - San Diego: Alano Club, 4th Street near University. [Gay and Bi men only]

8:15 PM - West Hollywood: Methodist Church, 2nd floor meeting room, SE corner Fountain/Fairfax.

WEDNESDAY

7:30 PM - Atwater: St. Francis & St. Mary of the Angels Chapel, 3621 Brunswick Ave., off Glendale Blvd.

THURSDAY

10:00 AM - West Hollywood: West Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Center, 8939 1/2 Santa Monica Blvd., between Robertson & San Vicente.

8:00 PM - Silverlake: AT Center, Terrace Room, 1773 Griffith Park Blvd., near Fountain/Hyperion. [Chips].

8:00 PM - Santa Ana/Tustin: NCA - OC, 2110 E. 1st St, Suite 120.

FRIDAY

6:00 PM - Silverlake: AT Center, Terrace Room, 1773 Griffith Park

Blvd., near Fountain/Hyperion. [Gay & Bi men]

8:00 PM - West Hollywood: Methodist Church, street-level meeting room, SE corner of Fountain/Fairfax.

SATURDAY

11:00 AM - Long Beach: Atlantic Alano Club, 1936 E. 4th St.

Noon - Hollywood: Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Room 205. [Chips].

8:15 PM - Hollywood: Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, rear street level room 117, 1213 N. Highland Ave.

SUNDAY

5:00 PM - Pasadena: Throop Memorial Church, 300 S. Los Robles, corner Los Robles/Del Mar, entrance on Del Mar.

7:00 PM - Huntington Beach: Seaciff Village Shopping Mall, Room 16R, Goldenwest/Yorktown/Main. [Closed, for SCA-identified members only]

7:30 PM - West Hollywood: Plummer Park Multipurpose Room, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

8:00 PM - San Diego: Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 3780 5th Ave.

SCA MEETINGS OUTSIDE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The following cities have SCA meetings. For information, ask your GSR, or call Marshall L., in LA (213) 656-3293, or Brian K., in New York, (212) 873-8168.

New York City, lots;
Albany, NY - 3;
Middletown, NY - 1;
Poughkeepsie, NY - 1;
Philadelphia, PA - 1;
Chicago, IL - 4;
Atlanta, GA - 2;
Guanajuato, Mexico - 1;
Montreal, Canada - 1;
Paris, France - 2;
Rome, Italy - 1