

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

August 2018
Volume 8

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Primary Purpose

Intergroup Picnic a Huge Success!

Every one that attended our summer picnic/potluck seemed to have a fantastic time eating BBQ hamburgers, enjoying fellowship, and playing to win awesome raffle prizes!

It was even heard said at the Rep meeting that the baskets given as raffle prizes were some of the best ever seen! A special "Thank you!" to all of our wonderful groups that donated these beautiful prizes.

Lots of volunteers signed up to help with the picnic, and we even had a bouncy house for the kids for a while.

Although the picnic was not near water as it has been in years past, the group enjoyed the clean and spacious park area supplied by the Marshall Center, with its central location and easy access parking.

Preliminary talk of next year's picnic has been that it may be at the same location tentatively the week after the fourth of July, 2019. We hope to see you all there for some more summer fun!

Southern District Delegate's Report: "Lots of Exciting Things Happened!"

The 68th GSC was held at the Crowne Plaza in Times Square in Manhattan this year. Our delegate, Steve C., reported that "Lots of exciting things happened"! There were about 135 people there including 93 delegates, 26 trustees and directors and 17 staff. A new electronic voting system made the voting process fast and they are talking about introducing it at Area in October. **(Delegate's Report — Cont. Pg.2)**

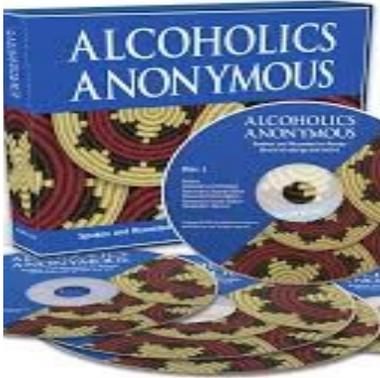
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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Finance Comm. Mtg. -09/10 @5:30 PM
- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. -09/10 @6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Mtg. -09/17 @6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. -09/25 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. -09/27 @7:00 PM

(All monthly business mtgs. are held at the Intergroup Office).



Delegate's Report — Cont. from Pg. 1

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous is now available in the Navaho Language on CD! AA continues to demonstrate it's spirit of unity with developments like this! You can purchase your copy directly from the A.A. World Services, Inc.

Daily Reflections now has a new look! Copies of this beautiful new cover on a well-loved, conference-approved daily meditation book is available now at your local intergroup office!

In addition to many other exciting updates to current pamphlets, there is also talk of streaming video for pamphlet content on YouTube embeddable video.

For a full report of everything that happened at the 68th GSC, visit area72aa.org!

The Grapevine is also now available online for tablet or phone usage with a story archive subscription.



“AA Continues to demonstrate it’s spirit of unity with developments like this!”

\$7.40 Beyond 7/4

AREA CHALLENGE is being extended beyond July, 2018

In 2017 GSO provided services to 1,381,954 A.A. members at a cost of \$10,222,650. That’s \$7.40 per A.A. member for the whole year! If every member contributed \$7.40 once, it would support all of the services GSO provides to all groups, for one year!

Here’s how the challenge works: Groups pass a Special Basket or Can in addition to the regular 7th Tradition. Each member contributes \$7.40 (or round it up to \$8 to help those who can’t). Individual members can send money or contribute online any time. Remember this is in addition to what you put in the basket to support your group. For more info and forms check out area72.org.

Tradition One

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, “What a great thing A.A. might have been!”

“Does this mean, “ some will anxiously ask, “that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he too dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?”

We may certainly answer this question with a loud “No!” We believe there isn’t a fellowship on earth which lavishes more devoted care upon its individual members; surely there is none which more jealously guards the individual’s right to think, talk, and act as he wishes. No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled. Our Twelve Steps to recovery are suggestions; the Twelve Traditions which guarantee A.A.’s unity contain not a single “Don’t.” They repeatedly say “We ought...” but never “You must!”

...So at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question. In the world about us we saw personalities destroying whole peoples. The struggle for wealth, power, and prestige was tearing humanity apart as never before. If strong people were stalemated in the search for peace and harmony, what was to become of our erratic band of alcoholics? As we had once struggled and prayed for individual recovery, just so earnestly did we commence to quest for the principles through which A.A. itself might survive. On anvils of experience, the structure of our Society was hammered out.

—Excerpt taken from Twelves Steps and Twelve Traditions (Pg.’s 129-131).



If you would like to acknowledge someone celebrating a monthly or annual birthday, please call or let us know when you come in to purchase their coin so we can add them to the next newsletter!

Experience, Strength, and Hope...

I remember that I began my first step during a night that I slept on a sidewalk here in Vancouver. It was the beginning of my spiritual awakening. I was completely alone, sick, hungry, and cold. I was in the middle of making a grand scheme which I figured would either end with my arrest, or in acquiring a tent, a sleeping bag, and maybe a few other supplies to help with the cold, wet air against my terribly thin body. Either way, I knew I would be better off than I was then. I began to consider the next part of my plan which included making some new connections for buying something that would help with the withdrawal sickness.

All at once I had a thought that was completely outside of myself in a voice that I have since learned to recognize and love as that of my Higher Power. The thought was, "If you go and get loaded again, your life will only get worse. It seems so obvious now, but at the time I was dumbfounded. I couldn't imagine how life could possibly get worse. And yet, somehow I knew deep down inside that this was true.

So, I threw my hands up in the air and said, "Fine, I hear you! But what do you want me to do? I have already tried to stop drinking and using many times, and it never works. I can't do this on my own. I need help!"

After saying that desperate prayer, people from A.A. started to miraculously appear on my path in the most unusual ways. With their help, I eventually I made it into an Oxford House and then a treatment program, and I continued running into people from A.A. everywhere I went. They all shared with me what I needed most and had lost long ago, HOPE.

It has now been over four years since that day and my life has completely changed in every possible way. Now I live my life according to God's will and devote much of my time to helping others who are currently where I once was. I owe everything I now have to Alcoholic Anonymous and my Higher Power. I am filled with love and gratitude for you all!

—Cassia N.

We are now accepting personal story submissions like this one for future Newsletter additions. They can remain completely anonymous if you so choose. Please submit your entries via email to vancaa@vanintgrp.com. Thank You!

Bookstore News

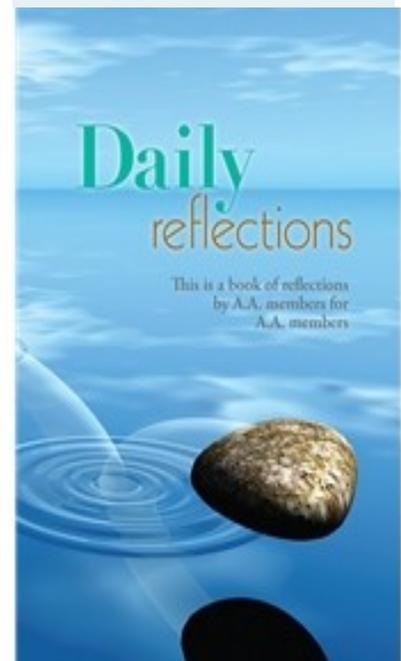
If you are interested in service work, the Intergroup office sometimes needs a little help. Please call the office at (360) 694-3870 or stop in and sign up!

The following books are

on sale now!

Come by the office today to get your 10% off discount!

- ◆ **KEEP IT SIMPLE: Daily Meditations for Twelve-Step Beginnings and Renewal**
- ◆ **TOUCHSTONES: A Book of Daily Meditations for Men**
- ◆ **SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS II: More Journeys of the Spirit**
- ◆ **NO MATTER WHAT: Dealing with Adversity in Sobriety**



Group Contributions and Financial Statements

| July | Donations | Year to Date |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 271.82 | A New Morning | 2,370.77 |
| | As Bill Sees It | 200.00 |
| 611.74 | B & P | 2,035.74 |
| | Camas Group | 31.19 |
| 10.00 | Cascade Group | 160.00 |
| 66.78 | Chapter Nine | 180.68 |
| | Cornerstone | 37.27 |
| 689.60 | District 7 | 1,379.20 |
| | Early Light | 125.00 |
| | Eastside Brown Baggers | 230.00 |
| | Eastside Women's Book Study | 100.00 |
| | East County Women's Group | 50.00 |
| | First Shot | 265.30 |
| 79.03 | Fresh Start | 609.98 |
| | Gorge Gals | 50.00 |
| | Ground Zero | 0.23 |
| 149.57 | Hokinson | 149.57 |
| 12.15 | La Center Group | 19.90 |
| | Ladies by the Lavender | 100.00 |
| 30.41 | Lewis River AA | 45.41 |
| 30.00 | Lighthouse | 210.00 |
| 100.00 | McGillivray Study Group | 275.00 |
| | Men's Eastside | 250.00 |
| 330.00 | Men's Fireside | 490.00 |
| 127.00 | Minnehaha | 127.00 |
| 300.00 | Miracles at Noon | 2,087.28 |
| | OB's Speaker's Meeting | 197.96 |
| | Primary Purpose | 155.75 |
| | Ready and Willing | 47.16 |
| | Reconciled | 241.55 |
| | Renegades | 70.00 |
| | Round Table | 199.88 |
| 5.00 | Russian Pacific Group | 5.00 |
| | Saturday Night Big Book Study | 337.00 |
| | Sober Uppers | 42.06 |
| | She Who Remembers | 80.00 |
| 64.00 | Step Sisters | 145.20 |
| | Stevenson AA | 450.00 |
| 150.00 | Sunday Night Alternatives | 150.00 |
| | Sunday Solutions | 732.00 |
| | There Is A Solution | 161.00 |
| 293.84 | United Sober Group | 293.84 |
| 14.90 | Wayfarer's | 143.91 |
| | Wednesday Night Recovery | 258.53 |
| 30.57 | Welcome Home | 85.62 |
| 13.69 | West Vancouver Group | 20.58 |
| 3,380.10 | SUBTOTAL | 15,396.56 |
| 276.30 | Miscellaneous/Individual | 1,315.96 |
| 3,656.40 | TOTAL | 16,712.52 |

Financial Statements

| | July (\$) | YTD (\$) |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Sales | 3,474 | 29,922 |
| Contributions | 3,656 | 16,713 |
| Fundraising/Picnic | 1,282 | 1,282 |
| Misc. Income/ reconciliation | 196 | 1,055 |
| Total Revenue | 8,608 | 48,972 |
| Expenses | | |
| Cost of goods sold | 2,000 | 18,120 |
| Fundraising Expenses | 356 | 1,098 |
| Merchant Services | 56 | 794 |
| Office supplies | 91 | 779 |
| Equipment rent | 126 | 1,269 |
| Building rent | 875 | 6,125 |
| Utilities | 428 | 3,359 |
| Business Expenses | | 52.12 |
| Net Wages | 1,798 | 13,624 |
| Payroll taxes | 426 | 4,009 |
| Insurance | | 500 |
| Licenses | | 111 |
| Total Expenses | 6,155 | 49,788 |
| Net Income / Loss | 2,453 | (816) |

July 31, 2018 Cash Balances

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Main Checking | \$ | 4,951 |
| Event Account | \$ | 1,654 |
| Prudent Reserve | \$ | 17,038 |
| Total Cash Balance | \$ | 23,643 |

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes for July 9, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Chairperson | Ronnie C | Alternate | absent |
| Vice Chair | Deb T | Recording | excused |
| Position 1 | Phil B | Office Mgr. | Lani W |
| Position 2 | Laurie H | Office Asst. | Cassia |
| Position 3 | Glenn | Visitors | none |

The meeting was opened at 6:07pm with the Serenity Prayer. Steering Committee meeting minutes for June 11, 2018 were approved. Intergroup meeting minutes for June 18, 2018 were reviewed.

HOTLINE REPORT (Lani)

There are opening for Thursdays 6:00am-noon, Saturdays 9:00pm-6:00am and Sundays 9:00am-noon.

TREASURERS REPORT (Laurie)

Due to the Independence Day holiday the bank statement has not yet been received so the report is not finalized. There is approximately a \$1500 deficient of which approximately \$700 is for training wages.

INTERGROUP REPORT (Lani)

No new information to report.

WEBSITE REPORT (Lani)

See attached Website Dashboard report.

OLD BUSINESS

PICNIC (Deb)

The annual picnic was held July 8, 2018. The picnic chair was asked to approach the event as a social event and not a fundraiser but not to lose money. The picnic profited \$162.41. The picnic was held at the Marshall Center and is anticipated to be held at the same location in 2019 as there is easy access by bus; tentatively on July 14, 2019.

GUIDELINES

Revisions are still pending. When made revisions will be recommendations only and will be sent to the groups/meeting for approval.

OFFICE RELOCATION

No recommendations made as of this time.



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes — Cont. from Pg. 5

NEW BUSINESS

ROCK BOTTOM RECOVERY (Deb)

The group will be closing after it's 7:00pm meeting on July 12, 2018 and not reopen until the 7:00pm meeting on July 15, 2018. Lani will notify Maureen the Hotline Chairperson so callers looking for a meeting are not directed there during this time.

NEWSLETTER (Ronnie)

The common consensus is that our newsletter is boring and changes need to be made. Cassia has been challenged to change this. She was given copies of newsletters from other Intergrups that have accomplished the results we are looking for.

Sale of literature: It was noted that AA is NOT self-supporting through its own contributions and that if every member donated \$7.40 per year then AA would be self-supporting. AA is supported through the sale of literature. Cassia has been asked to promote a different literature item in each newsletter. It was noted the number of volunteers that currently are serving at several other Intergroup offices. Cassia has been asked to use the newsletter to promote volunteerism. Cassia has been given "poetic license" to include items that would be of interest to the local AA member.

District 7 and 37 hold their GSR meetings at the Intergroup office. Five copies of the newsletter are to be given to each GSR to take back to the groups/meeting they serve. As this would incur an expense it was approved with a formal motion which passed.

FACEBOOK

Consideration is being made to start a Facebook group for the Intergroup office. If the decision is made to create the group it would be a closed group in order to preserve anonymity.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:59pm.

Yours in Service,

Phil B



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

INTERGROUP REP MINUTES FOR JULY 16, 2018

The meeting opened at 6:31 pm with the Serenity Prayer

PURPOSE OF THE VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

The Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous exists to serve local groups of Alcoholics Anonymous within the vicinity of Vancouver, Washington. The organization serves as a clearing house to distribute literature to local Alcoholics Anonymous groups, to provide contact among these groups and to maintain an answering service.

ATTENDANCE:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Chairperson | Ronnie C | Vice-Chair. | Absent |
| Position #1 | Phil B. | Position #2 | Absent |
| Position #3 | Absent | Alternative | Absent |
| Recording Secretary | Marc T | Office Manager | Lani W. |
| | | | |
| Voting Representatives: | | | |
| Central Group | Phil B. | Miracles | Marc T. |
| Welcome Home | Michael W | Men's Lighthouse | Tom S. |
| LBL | Jess | A New Morning | John B. |
| Light House | Nicole W | B&P | Todd C. |
| Rock Bottom | Nicole | | |
| | | | |
| Visitors: | | | |
| Welcome Home | Michael W. | Intergroup | Cassia |

TRADITION REVIEW: Phil B did reviewed tradition seven, Laurie will do next months' review of tradition eight.

INTRODUCTIONS: 9 voting Intergroup Representatives in attendance.

LITERATURE PRESENTATION: Skipped, Dave is not here this month

MEETING MINUTES:

Intergroup Representative Committee minutes were reviewed from June; Marc moved to approve the Rep minutes; Phil B. second; motion passed; Steering Committee minutes from July were read by Ronnie C.

HOTLINE REPORT: (Lani) Looking for 3 open slots. Thursday 6:00 am – noon, Saturday 9pm to 6am, Sunday 9am to noon. Women are always needed for the 12 step call list.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Cont. from Pg. 7

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: (Marc) Overview of the financial summary for June 2018 was presented by Marc T. Corrections have been made in the Primary Purpose for the group contributions and in our overall reporting. Year-to-date VAI is \$1,300 below forecast, but with the expense of the picnic this month and its' income showing in July, we are on track. Phil B. made a motion to accept the financial overview, John Seconded. Motion passed.

INTERGROUP REPORT: (Lani) : In order to get more exposure for the primary purpose, we are working on overhauling the primary purpose. See additional information in new business.

WEBSITE REPORT: (Lani) . Refer to the website statistics attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

Guidelines: (Marc T) A subcommittee has been formed to review the current guidelines and propose changes to the reps. The committee is wrapping up the suggested modifications. We are looking to have the changes to the reps to take back to the groups in the August meeting.

Office Move: (John B) The committee met and is investigating some questions the committee came up with. A map was handed out by Cassia showing where Intergroup is located compared to meetings, each point only shows there is a meeting there but not the frequency of meetings. The committee is still exploring additional security and site options.

Name Change to Southwest Washington Area Intergroup: (Glenn) No update on this, Glenn was not present.

Intergroup Picnic: (Deb) SEE SC minutes old business.

Gratitude Dinner: (Deb) No, report Deb not present. The date is reserved, November 17th, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

Intergroup is attempting to reach out and gather energy by working with the districts we represent. Newsletter will be seeing updates over the next few months. We will provide 5 copies available for each Intergroup Rep to take with them to their home group for distribution. Possible workshop put on by Washington area and Vancouver Area Intergroup on September 22nd. Phil made a motion; seconded by Nicole to support and participate in a service workshop. Motion passed.

COMMITTIES:

Finance Committee: Meets 5:30 pm 2nd Monday of the month at the Intergroup office. If any group or person wants additional information, feel free to attend the monthly Finance Committee Meeting.

Ronnie asked for motion to adjure the meeting: Phil made the motion, Marc second; passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Yours in Service,
Marc T.
Recording Secretary

**LET GO
&
LET GOD**

Upcoming Events

September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 OB's Speaker Meeting: 7:00 PM |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Friday Night Happy Hour Speaker Meeting: 7:30 pm | 8 Wayfarer's Speaker Meeting: 7 pm |
| 9 | 10 Finance Mtg.—5:30 pm Steering Committee Mtgs.: 6:00 pm | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Kleen Street Speaker Meeting: 7:30 pm | 15 Rule 62 Speaker Meeting: 7 pm |
| 16 | 17 I.G. Rep. Meeting 6:30 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Carson Potluck: 6:30pm Hokinson Potluck: 6pm | 24 | 25 District 37 : 7:00 pm | 26 | 27 District 7 GSR Meeting: 7 pm | 28 Central Group's Birthday Meeting: 8 pm | 29 |

For a full description of each of these upcoming events including locations, visit the events page on our website at: www.vancouveraa.org



AA GRAPEVINE

From the December 1948 Magazine **Washingtonians:** (The first in a series)

IT was Friday evening, April 3rd, 1840. Six men, tipplers all, were gathered about a table at Chase's Tavern on Liberty Street in Baltimore. To the casual passerby, there was nothing unusual about them; just another bunch of harmless drunks. From the way they talked, one might gather that they were old friends, that this was no casual meeting but one made familiar through long repetition. Among them were two blacksmiths, a tailor, a carpenter, a coach-maker, and a silversmith. At least that's what they were when they sat down. But when they left the bar that night, they were pioneers in a new field; the originators of an idea for the scientific rehabilitation of chronic alcoholics that was destined to sweep the country.

WITH the founding of the first temperance society at Litchfield, Conn., in 1789, the early Nineteenth Century found the United States enjoying (or enduring, depending on which viewpoint) a wave of temperance reform. Baltimore was no exception. On the evening of which we speak, a well known temperance lecturer was scheduled to hold forth at a church not far from Chase's Tavern. One of our six drinkers suggested they send a delegation to hear what he had to say — just for the record, of course. Four of their number blarily volunteered, and when these intrepid adventurers returned, quite a discussion ensued as the value of temperance. At the moment, the landlord came in with another round.

"What's all this about temperance?" he asked jovially.

"It's not such a bad idea," said John F. Hoss, the carpenter, thickly.

"Temperance speakers are all fools and hypocrites," angrily replied the landlord.

"Of course, it's to your interest to cry them down," argued William K. Mitchell, the tailor, and soberest member of the party.

"That's absolutely right," cried McCurley, the coach-maker. "Think of all the money we spend here, while our poor families..." For the moment emotion got the best of him, and he sought relief from his glass.

"I know what we ought to do," shouted Anderson. "We oughta form our own temp'rance society." Everyone except the landlord burst into roars of inebriated approval.

But the next day, after they'd sobered up, the idea somehow stayed with them. Realizing they were no longer able to drink in moderation, they made up their minds "to drink no more the poisonous draft, forever."

BEFORE taking this drastic step, they met again two nights later at the tavern for their last bout. It was agreed that Mitchell should draw up a total abstinence pledge, and they would all sign it. Just before closing time on that same evening, one of them held up his glass.

“This,” he said, “will be our last drink.” Believe it or not, it was. They decided to convene nightly at their various homes, and each man promised to bring a friend with him to the next meeting. By recounting their experiences as reformed drunkards, they hoped to induce the new members to join them in signing the pledge. Thus started the Washington Total Abstinences Society.

The movement spread like wildfire, and branches were soon set up in various parts of the city. In March 1841, a delegation was sent to New York where thousands flocked to the meetings. A Boston chapter was organized in April, and by the end of the year the organization had a total membership of something like two hundred thousand. Reformed men, as they were called, like John B. Gough and John Hawkins, were in demand all over the country as speakers for the various groups.

IN Baltimore, a grand procession was held with “six or eight thousand” in the ranks, led by John Hoss and fifty mounted marshals “with their various insignia. Speakers and other dignitaries rode in open barouches drawn each by four grey horses,” while bands and banners added gaiety and color to the occasion.

In the meantime, in Dedham, Mass., a Mr. Thompson proved himself such an eloquent speaker that the entire town joined the Washington movement. The leading liquor merchant gave up his business, signed the pledge and was made President of the village society. “Amid the cheerings and rejoicing of the populace,” the newly elected Washingtonian official supervised the disposal of his entire stock of liquor “By pouring it upon the ground.”

—Richard Ewell Brown

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***This Comic is from Western Washington Area
72 Newsletter (August 2018 edition)**

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Everything is OK in
the end. If it's not OK,
then it's not the end.
Anonymou

