

Vancouver Area Intergroup of  
Alcoholics Anonymous

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## VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

# Primary Purpose



## Growth Of Central Offices

<http://alcoholism.about.com/library/blmitch19.htm>

*This article is written by nationally recognized historian and oft-quoted Alcoholics Anonymous archivist Mitchell K.*

### Growth of Central Offices

The Jack Alexander article in the Saturday Evening Post not only began a large influx of prospective members into AA, it began a new phenomenon. This new concept in AA was the beginning of Central Offices and Intergroups.

On March 2, 1941 a "Clearing House Committee" was formed in Cleveland, Ohio. This was an outgrowth of the AA Association which was formed in the late summer or early fall of 1939. The AA Association helped keep records of those prospects who were hospitalized for detoxification in the Cleveland area. It also was responsible for making sure all hospital bills were paid.

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next page!*

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#### Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. –  
02/08@6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. –  
02/15@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. –02/23  
@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 02/25  
@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 27 Business Mtg. -  
02/20 @ 12 PM

(All monthly business mtgs. are  
held currently on Zoom).

# Growth Of Central Offices Continued...

The Clearing House Committee was comprised of two (2) members from each and every AA Group in Cuyahoga County. The motion that created this committee stated that "This Committee to have NO AUTHORITY to commit, involve or bind any one or all of the Groups in Cuyahoga County in any manner whatsoever without first referring proposed ideas, plans or prepositions to each individual Group for its acceptance or rejection."

In New York City, the AA Clubhouse on 334 1/2 West 24th Street was established in 1940. This was the hub of AA activity on the local level. In 1942, the first New York City Central Committee was formed to handle inquiries from new prospects. They hired two (2) secretaries who were responsible for answering letters and phone calls.

The New Jersey meetings were also using the Clubhouse on West 24th Street as their headquarters. Meetings in New Jersey, started by Hank P. began in 1936. Even though these weren't officially, AA meetings, AA grew in New Jersey until it was necessary to form their own Central Committee in 1944.

## First Newsletters

Many Central Offices or Committees were formed around clubhouses until they could move out and pay rent on office space. These committees helped consolidate the "business" end of AA work and maintain a local telephone contact number for prospective members as well as publishing their own literature.

AA's first newsletter was the **Cleveland Central Bulletin**. Its publication began in October 1942. It was an outgrowth of the mimeographed "Bulletin to all Groups" as a way of sending information not only to the Cleveland, Ohio Groups, but to the Cleveland AA members serving in the armed services. The New York headquarters liked the Central Bulletin so much that they began publishing their own "meeting in print" in 1944 – The Grapevine.

Throughout the 1940's, AA Central Offices sprung up around the country as AA membership and the number of Groups grew. Each one had their own set of rules and regulations affecting local groups. Some areas even had rival Central Committees due to one faction not agreeing with the other one's rules. The long heard Rule 62 story probably came about as a result of all of these rules and regulations. If all the rules were put into effect by AA, no alcoholic would qualify for membership in Alcoholics Anonymous.



# Growth Of Central Offices Continued...

## Progress, Not Perfection

One story has it that a group responded to some questions posed to them by Bill W. by stating that they are all doing well. The members of that group were no longer drinking hard liquor and only drinking beer. They thought that this was a great accomplishment for hard-core alcoholics. The AA Club in Springfield, Missouri was raided by the police on August 25, 1948 and seven members were arrested, tried and convicted for gambling. Even though there was a 10 cent limit on bets, the police still considered it gambling.

The Central Committee, Central Office and Intergroup are all part of AA's history and continue to be an integral part of AA's growth. Local telephone services handle thousands of calls for help on a daily basis all around the world. Many use AA members to answer the phones and some use professional answering services who either give out meeting information or refer the calls to a local AA member. Many of these committees or offices coordinate local activities, publish local literature and order Conference-approved literature in quantity so that they may pass along the volume discount to the groups.

Unfortunately, many areas do not understand the importance of Central Offices or Intergroups and financial support for them is not forthcoming. These offices are often the lifeline for the still sick and suffering alcoholic who reaches out for help.

More will be revealed...  
Mitchell K.

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<http://alcoholism.about.com/library/blmitch19.htm>



## AA Literature of the Month

### **P-83 - Access to A.A.: Members Share on Over- coming Barriers**

This pamphlet includes the experience of A.A. members who are hearing and visually impaired, housebound chronically ill or disabled due to brain damage or stroke. Their stories tell how they found A.A. and are living new and productive lives free from alcohol.

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE

Access to A.A.  
Members share  
on overcoming  
barriers



***The Intergroup Bookstore is now open!***

# Financial Statements

	December	Total	Ytd Forecast	Variance
<b>Income</b>				
Sales	\$ 1,501	\$ 20,875	\$ 30,900	\$ (10,025)
Group Contributions	\$ 1,544	\$ 25,822	\$ 48,000	\$ (22,178)
Individual Contributions	\$ 409	\$ 12,333	\$ 1,200	\$ 11,133
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 12,398	\$ 12,857	\$ 1,800	\$ 11,057
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ (3,000)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 15,852</b>	<b>\$ 71,888</b>	<b>\$ 84,900</b>	<b>\$ (13,012)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
COGS	\$ 700	\$ 13,580	\$ 30,900	\$ (17,320)
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ 220
CC & Paypal Fees	\$ 44	\$ 957	\$ 1,260	\$ (303)
Office Supplies	\$ 34	\$ 1,355	\$ 1,500	\$ (145)
Insurance	\$ 48	\$ 627	\$ 600	\$ 27
Licenses & Fees	\$ 22	\$ 674	\$ 288	\$ 386
Payroll/Contract Svcs	\$ 3,203	\$ 32,391	\$ 28,675	\$ 3,716
Copy Machine	\$ 131	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,400	\$ (370)
Rent	\$ 962	\$ 8,010	\$ 7,252	\$ 758
Utilities	\$ 680	\$ 5,263	\$ 4,957	\$ 306
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,824</b>	<b>\$ 65,106</b>	<b>\$ 77,833</b>	<b>\$ (12,727)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,028</b>	<b>\$ 6,782</b>	<b>\$ 7,067</b>	<b>\$ (285)</b>

December 31, 2020 Cash Balances	
Main Checking	\$ 4,693
Event Account	\$ 13,798
Prudent Reserve	\$ 12,875
Till Cash	\$ 100
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 31,466</b>

## December Bottom Line

- Total Revenue – Total Expenses = 10,028
- Group contributions were only 1,544
- Showing grant deposit this month
- Year-to-date (4,587) behind on prudent reserve reimbursement

# Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

## **Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee meeting of December 14, 2020**

Attendance: Dusty, Marc, Lauri, Phil, Connie, Patrick, Bruce, Jennifer, Dee. A quorum exists.

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:02pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the November Steering Committee (SC) meeting were accepted. Minutes from the November Intergroup Representatives (IG) meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: Patrick advised that the Hotline Committee will meet December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Marc will attend to set up Zoom (Zoom: 990 5854 9843, passcode: 685669). It was noted that there have been issues of volunteers not being able to answer questions regarding the office. Patrick advised callers are instructed to contact the office during business hours. A question was asked about training. Patrick advised that volunteers are provided literature and expectation explained.

Treasury: Please see attached report for detailed information. Laurie advised that the dollar amount that the office is down is approximately the same amount that is normally earned from the gratitude dinner which had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Office: There are no issues at this time.

Website: Marc advised that there are many changes occurring with meetings and that the schedule is constantly being updated. There is no new webmaster as of yet. Marc advised there has been an inquiry if meetings can be searched by region. They cannot, however, searches can be done by city and maps can be zoomed in on.

Activities: There was discussion about holding bingo in late winter or early spring. Jennifer will look into reserving a location with city/county parks for a 2021 picnic (pandemic allowing).

District Meetings: Dusty advised he was not able to connect with the District meetings, presumably they were rescheduled due to Thanksgiving.

Old Business/Elections: Additional nominations, if any, and voting for Chair, Vice Chair and Position 1 on the SC will take place at the December 21<sup>st</sup> IG meeting. Also SC Position 4 is vacant with no nominations at this time.

Old Business/Grant: The PPE grant award to Intergroup was \$12,204.00. It is unknown how the grant administrator determined that amount however Dusty noted that is approximately the same amount the office's prudent reserve and donations are down by.



# Steering Committee Meeting Minutes Continued...

New Business/Iron Tribe: Phil brought up that there have been complaints regarding Iron Tribe. There have been complaints regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition, however in autonomy that is their issue to deal with. It was questioned if there is a 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition issue as the complaints are reaching outside of their own group. Dusty said he spoke with the person who started the meetings who said he was unaware of the issue and will talk to the meeting secretaries. No motion/no action.

New Business/Staffing & Training: It was noted that some duties are being handled off site while we have employees on site with spare time. Additional training will be conducted with the on site employees.

New Business/Saturdays: When the office was opened on Saturdays it was done so with unpaid volunteers. Since reopening after the initial pandemic closure there have not been any volunteers and the office is staffed with paid employees. Sales on Saturdays have been minimal. The question of should the office be closed on Saturdays will be put to the IG reps at the December 21<sup>st</sup> IG meeting.

New Business/Holiday Hours: A motion was made and passed to close the office on December 24-26<sup>th</sup> and January 1-2<sup>nd</sup>. A new motion was made and passed to be open December 24<sup>th</sup> but to close at 4:00pm.

New Business/2021 Forecast: Please see attached report. This is a rough draft only. Please share input with Laurie by emailing her at the office: [vabcaa@vanintgrp.com](mailto:vabcaa@vanintgrp.com)

New Business/Payroll: Phil advised Heather is not being properly compensated. A motion was made and passed to trade Heather and Laurie's compensation which Laurie agreed to.

Group News: Anyone with information regarding any New Year's Alkathons is asked to contact the office so this information may be shared.

Closing: The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:21pm.

Yours in Service,  
Phil B.



# Non-Regular Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

## **Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Non-Regular Steering Committee Meeting of December 28, 2020**

Attendance: Laurie, Phil, Cassia, Marc, Bruce, Dee, Dusty, Patrick, Jenn

Purpose: A non-regular Steering Committee meeting was held as the office manager tendered her resignation which would take effect prior to the next regular Steering Committee meeting.

The meeting was opened at 6:33pm with the Serenity Prayer. The issue of the office manager's resignation was discussed and plans on how the office would be staffed. The availability of the office assistant is unknown at this time. She would be working next on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Marc stated he would contact her in person at that time. The consensus was at this time that we may need to hire another employee with one working two days a week and the other working three days.

A motion was made, and passed, to restore Laurie's pay retroactive, to what she was previously being paid.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:53pm.

### **Post-Meeting Note**

Marc advised that he contacted the office assistant and that she was willing to work five days a week with Laurie as her back-up when she was unable to be at the office. Marc further advised that Cassia stated she would provide training. An email was sent to the Steering Committee members advising of this. Of the Steering Committee members who responded to the email, all agreed that this was an agreeable plan and that there was no need to hire another employee. The number who responded constituted a majority.

Yours in Service,  
Phil B.





# Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

## **Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Representatives meeting of December 21, 2020**

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:31pm. Roll call was not taken however it was verified that there was sufficient attendance to qualify a quorum. Minutes from the 12/14/20 Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Minutes from the 11/16/20 Intergroup Representatives meeting were accepted.

Deaf Access: Sarah is looking for support for the deaf access community. Contact can be made at 503.493.8360 or [sarahjmadson@me.com](mailto:sarahjmadson@me.com) or at their website pdacaa.org

Hotline: Patrick advised that there will be a Hotline Committee meeting tomorrow and shared the Zoom link.

Treasury: Please see attached report for detailed information.

Office: Laurie advised Heather, Marc, Cassia and herself will be working together on staff structure.

Activities: Jenn is hoping to hold a bingo event in February. She is waiting to hear back from Living Hope church which is the intended venue.

Old Business/Webmaster: Scott continues to support Intergroup until there is a new webmaster.

Old Business/Hotline Chair: Emily was voted in as the new Hotline Committee chair taking over on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Old Business/Office Closure: No action. At this time there is no indication that proclamation by the governor will require the office to close.

New Business/Grant Award: Intergroup was awarded a grant through the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce of \$12,204.00. Intergroup applied for the grant as authorized by the IG reps in September, but did not request a specific amount. It is unknown how that amount was determined, however the amount awarded is approximately the same amount Intergroup's prudent reserve and donations are down by since the pandemic.

New Business/Christmas Eve: The office will be closed on 12/24/20.

New Business/New Years Events: IG reps were requested to notify the office of New Years events so they may be posted on the website.

New Business/Saturday Hours: When the office opened on Saturdays it was done with unpaid volunteers. No volunteers are making themselves available and the office has been staffed with paid employees. A motion was made and passed to close the office on Saturdays.

(Yea: 9, Nay 3, Abstain: 5)

## Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued...

New Business/2021 Forecast: A 2021 budget forecast was distributed. This is a draft only. Input should be shared with Laurie.

New Business/Guideline Committee: Patrick made a motion to create a temporary guideline committee to review practices and define responsibilities. Patrick rescinded the motion.

New Business/Elections: Dusty (chair), Marc (vice chair), and Dee (position 1) were previously nominated to continue their position. No additional nominations were made and they were voted to retain their positions. Bruce was nominated for position 4. No additional nominations were made and he was voted into the position.

New Business/PC: A question was asked if the office had a need for a PC. Marc will discuss the matter further with the IG rep making the inquiry.

Group News/Central Group: Phil advised Central Group is opening to in-person meetings beginning 12/28/20. Attendance limited to 25 and social distancing guidelines need to be followed. Meeting at 6:30; not the traditional 8:00. Meeting schedule will be updated.

Group News/Lighthouse: There have been issues of the in-person Lighthouse meetings not opening. They will not open unless both a secretary and a chair are present. Those looking for a service commitment should contact the Lighthouse.

District News/27: It was noted that since joining Intergroup and the schedules being updated that District 27 is seeing attendance by those in District 7 and 37.

Closing: The meeting was closed at 8:10pm with the Serenity Prayer.

Yours In Service,  
Phil B.

*For a full description of upcoming events including locations or zoom information, visit the events page on our website at:*

*[www.vancouveraa.org](http://www.vancouveraa.org)*

*To add any events to future calendars, please email us your flier at [vancaa@vanintgrp.com](mailto:vancaa@vanintgrp.com) (even if it's a zoom event)!*

*All Newsletter submissions are due on the 1st of the month for which you want them published.*

# Upcoming Events

## February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	9	10	11	12	13 Wayfarer's Speaker Mtg. on Zoom: 7:00 pm
14	15 Intergroup Rep. Mtg.: 6:30 pm	16	17	18	19	20 District 27 Business Mtg.: 12 pm
21	22	23 District 37 Mtg.: 7:00 pm	24 Peninsula Group's Business Mtg.: 6pm	25 District 7 GSR Mtg.: 7 pm	26	27
28						

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.

Don't get too...

Hungry

Angry

Lonely

Tired

**The Vancouver Area  
Intergroup**

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