

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

July/August 2019
Volume 19

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Primary Purpose

VANCOUVER INTERGROUP INTERGROUP

Pacific Northwest Conference — 2019

Panel: “Yesterday’s World —Our Legacies Begin

Topic: “Carrying the message using the 12 Concepts,
then and now.”

By: Gary, Panel 68 Alternate Delegate and Registrar for
Washington State East Area 92

Good afternoon, I’m Gary and I’m an alcoholic. I currently serve as the Panel 68
Alternate Delegate and Registrar for Washington State East Area 92.

Thank you to Joe S., and the PNC 2019 Program Committee, for the opportunity to
participate on this panel.

This presentation has two components. First, a snapshot of my personal introduc-
tion to A.A. and receiving its message. Second, a brief overview of the evolution
of A.A.’s General Service Manual and the 12 Concepts, which ensured that our ser-
vice organization would carry the A.A. message for over eight decades.

For the full article...turn the page!



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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. –
8/12@6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. –
8/19@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. –8/27
@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 8/22
@7:00 PM

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

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Continued...

In December of 1987 I arrived at the doorstep of A.A. in Area 44, Northern New Jersey. The immediate cause of my arrival was a conspiracy, not known by me at the time, of my ex significant other, my estranged children, my sister, my attorney, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, a lifelong business associate and a physician with decades of experience working with alcoholics and addicts. By the end of that first day, I survived an emotional, one-on-one intervention with my non-alcoholic business colleague, met with a remarkably insightful doctor who convinced me that I needed to **ask for help**, signed up for IOP and met my counselor who had 20+ years of sobriety, attended my initial AA meeting and found myself drawn to the first of many A.A.'s, that I've had the good fortune to bond with along the road of happy destiny. What a day!

Among the meetings attended that first week, was an 8:30 pm, Tuesday open speaker meeting...held in Verona, New Jersey in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. The meeting leader, the readers and the speaker, stood behind a large, impressive oak podium. One feature was particularly memorable. This podium had a blocked letter inscription carved prominently on its face in a circle. The inscription read **"THOSE WHO FAIL TO REMEMBER, ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT."**

At 4½ days sober, those words struck a chord of absolute truth. After drinking, virtually every single day for 22 consecutive years, in ever-increasing quantity and consequence, I arrived at AA with a gift -- of being in a state of suicidal depression, or as I learned, "pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization". After, *"I can quit anytime, I just don't want to"* the second most frequent and insidious lie that I told myself during those drinking years was, *"this time it will be different"*. *"...the persistence of this illusion is astonishing."*

The A.A. men who "adopted me" during those early weeks and months, had recovered. They shared their stories, and the principles embodied in A.A.'s Twelve Step program that worked for them. They inquired about my life and pointed me to key, useful ideas in A.A. literature. This information was supplemented by the education received at IOP and a constant exposure to numerous alcoholics sharing their experiences, at just a few of the thousands of meetings held across metropolitan New York. The messages that held me, including the one carved into an oak podium, had "weight and substance". I slowly learned what to do, to achieve and maintain sobriety.

Our 12 Concepts and the A.A. Service Manual have their origins in the first draft of Bill W.'s **"A.A.'s Legacy of Service"**. This draft, circulated in early 1951, was Bill W.'s effort to document lessons learned and codify the service principles & procedures that he, Dr. Bob and a couple AA friends had developed and refined over the previous 15 years.

Pacific Northwest Conference — 2019

Continued...

In his opening paragraph, Bill writes, *“Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A. fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles: it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die...”* Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer...

...The sum total of all these services is our “Third Legacy of Service.”

By 1951, realities of scale, in numbers of groups, total membership and expanding geography, proved daunting. Consider this trajectory. In early 1939 when the Big Book was published, there were about 100 members in perhaps half a dozen groups in two locales. By January of 1941, there were 2000 members and by 1948, 100,000. Indeed, Bill’s *“A.A. Legacy of Service”* document states *“To maintain all these ever-lengthening service lifelines, the office had to go on expanding ...”*

So, as Bill’s early draft was being reviewed, it also became abundantly clear, that A.A. needed an organization that was scalable, affordable, non-perishable, and with operating practices that protected our hard learned, vital service principles. The “Birth” of the General Service Conference and A.A.’s 12 Concepts was underway.

Here are just a few of the challenges that Bill identified at the time; *“....How on earth were we going to cut down destructive politics, with all its usual struggles for prestige and vainglory? How many delegates would be required and where should they come from? Arrived at New York, how could they be related to the board of trustees? What would their actual powers and duties be?”*

These “weighty considerations” along with numerous other concerns led to a concerted effort by Bill and a couple of trustees and staff, to begin composing a plan to address them.

Then came the reality check -- the first General Service Conference. Given the “weighty considerations” it is easy to imagine that this April 1951 meeting was undertaken with significant apprehension. However, here is what unfolded, as excerpted from Bill’s report after it concluded.

“In came the delegates. They looked over the offices, cellar to garret, got acquainted with the whole staff, shook hands with the trustees. That evening, we gave them a briefing session, under the name of “What’s on your mind?” We answered scores of questions of all kinds. The delegates began to feel at home and reassured. They inspected our finances with a microscope. After they had listened to reports from the board of trustees, there was warm but cordial debate on many a question of policy. Trustees submitted several of their own serious problems for the opinion of the conference.

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Continued...

*So went session after session, morning, afternoon and evening. The delegates handled several tough puzzles about which we at GSO were in doubt, sometimes giving advice contrary to our own conclusions. In nearly every instance, we saw that they were right. **Then and there they proved, as never before, that A.A.'s Tradition Two was correct. The group conscience could act safely as the sole authority and sure guide for Alcoholics Anonymous.***

Nobody present will ever forget that final session of the first conference. We knew that the impossible had happened, that A.A. could never break down in the middle, that Alcoholics Anonymous was safe from any storm the future might bring...

...As I watched all this grow, I became entirely sure that Alcoholics Anonymous was at last safe—even from me."

By 1962, the 12 Concepts were being formally composed...and **not surprisingly**, the first and foundational Concept I states, *"The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."* This was supplemented by numerous other renowned policies and concepts. You know them well...Third Legacy Procedure, Alternating Panels, Principle of Substantial Unanimity, Right of Decision, Right of Participation, Right of Appeal, etc. etc.

In closing, please consider this. The experience highlighted in my personal A.A. snapshot... **is not unique!** Nor does it take much thought to realize, that carrying A.A.'s message to tens if not hundreds of millions of alcoholics, just like us, across the globe, through numerous diverse channels, using multi-faceted media, and within a myriad of cultures and languages, is deliberate! **We choose to do it.**

So, from my 3 decades of the 68 years since that first General Service Conference, it seems to me, that the wisdom and relevance embodied in the **"A.A. Service Manual Combined With 12 Concepts for World Service"**, have stood the test of time. Together, they solidly established and fortified a specifically commissioned A.A. service organization. Through this organization and those enlightened principles, we have been able to successfully execute the same, deliberate, primary purpose for 84 years. Again, as Bill stated in 1951, ***"...an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer --..."***

Thank You.

Congratulations!

***On your continuous length of sobriety...
You did it one day at a time!***

MAUREEN P. — 35 YRS.

SCOTT L. — 6 YRS.

PAM B. — 6 YRS.

PAUL P. — 30 YRS.

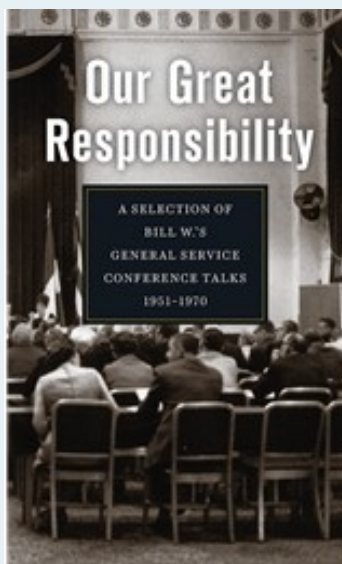
If you would like to acknowledge someone celebrating a monthly or annual birthday, please call, email, or let us know when you come in to purchase their coin so we can add them to the next newsletter!

We are now accepting personal A.A. stories for our “Experience, Strength, and Hope” section in future Newsletter Editions...if you have a story about how A.A. changed your life, please submit via email to:
vancaa@vanintgrp.com

Bookstore News

“Our Great Responsibility”

has arrived!



A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference talks, 1951 - 1970. Timeless and timely, these 16 selected talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.

Hotline Chairperson Position Open!

“I am responsible... when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”



The Intergroup is currently looking for someone to fill this position!

The following is a list of qualifications:

- ♦ Two years or more of current and continuous sobriety.
- ♦ Previous hotline experience as a shift volunteer or comparable experience.
- ♦ Ability to recruit volunteers or groups to cover the regular shifts.
- ♦ Basic computer skills- emailing, word processing and spreadsheets. Can use and understands web-site.
- ♦ Organizational and communication skills are very important.
- ♦ Self-starter.

If you are interested in this position, please call the Intergroup office at (360) 694-3870 or send us an email at vancaa@vanintgrp.com.

Group Contributions and Financial Statements

Contributions for June	Group Name	Contributions Year to Date
	159th Street Women's Group	150.00
279.37	A New Morning	1,823.31
	Amboy Renegades	35.00
	As Bill Sees It	440.25
	As We Recovered	50.00
	Birds of a Feather	100.00
	Chapter Nine	188.00
40.85	Camas Group	188.13
	Cornerstone Group	20.00
25.00	Doing Right on Thursday Night	25.00
52.00	Early Light	52.00
50.00	East County Women's Group	50.00
220.00	Eastside Brown Baggers	600.00
	Fireside	605.00
55.92	First Shot	350.13
76.27	Fresh Start	401.98
146.75	From the Book	146.75
	Gorge Gals-North Bonneville	50.00
	Hokinson	192.01
	La Center Group	15.08
	Lewis River AA	125.96
50.00	Lighthouse	280.00
	McGuilivray Study Group	639.00
	Men's Fireside	200.00
350.00	Miracles at Noon	2,049.60
	Ready and Willing	26.66
	Reconciled	281.71
	Renegades	35.00
	Ridgefield AA	30.00
	Rock Bottom Recovery	115.00
334.40	Round Table Group	334.40
	Saturday Night Big Book Study	304.00
	She Who Remembers	140.00
	Sober Uppers	25.00
	Step Sisters	222.00
250.00	Stevenson AA	400.00
	Sunday Night Alternative	40.00
367.60	Sunday Solutions	1,176.35
	There is a Solution	94.15
	Wayfarer's	50.36
54.00	Wednesday Night Recovery	312.67
	Welcome Home	50.95
	West Vancouver Group	62.36
40.60	Wine to Water	40.60
	Women's Fireside	200.00
	Women in Sobriety	155.00
2,340.76	SUBTOTAL	12,930.85
150.34	Miscellaneous/Individual	1,663.84
2,491.10	TOTAL	14,594.69

Financial Statements

	June (\$)	YTD (\$)
Revenue		
Sales	3,683	26,317
Group Contributions	2,341	12,873
Fundraising/Picnic	0	0
Misc. Income	94	780
Individual Contributions	150	1,664
Total Revenue	6,268	41,635
Expenses		
Cost of goods sold	1,881	14,848
Fundraising Expenses	0	0
Merchant Services	73	520
Office supplies	114	1,082
Equipment rent	258	1,243
Building rent	875	6,125
Utilities	351	2,201
Net Wages	2,435	11,284
Payroll taxes	591	3,188
Insurance	48	191
Licenses	10	10
Travel and Meetings	0	79
Remodel Project	66	1,781
Total Expenses	6,701	42,552
Net Income /(Loss)	(433)	(918)

June 2019 Cash Balances

Main Checking	\$	4,754
Event Account	\$	1,400
Prudent Reserve	\$	17,047
Petty Cash	\$	100
Total Cash Balance	\$	23,301

June Bottom Line

- **Total Revenue – Total Expenses = (\$443)**

- **For the month of June Net Income was \$232 less than forecasted.**

- **Year to Date Net Income is \$1,855 more than forecasted.**

2020 International Convention Frequently Asked Questions



In less than two years — July 2-5, 2020 — the International Convention will celebrate A.A.'s 85th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan. With a theme of “Love and Tolerance Is Our Code,” A.A.s from around the world will converge on Detroit to celebrate sobriety and to share experience, strength and hope in meetings, panels and workshops at the Cobo Center, the Ford Field stadium and at other locations throughout the friendly city. Members of the Fellowship are now gearing up for this wonderful event, and the General Service Office is beginning to receive inquiries. So here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the Convention.

Registration

Q When will registration forms be available?

A Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, central offices, intergroups and international G.S.O.s. Online registration will be available September 9, 2019.

Q Will I be able to register online?

A Yes. There will be links to registration on G.S.O.'s A.A. website, www.aa.org.

Q What about on-site registration?

A On-site registration will be set up at the Cobo Center and will open on Wednesday morning, July 1, 2020.

Q Must everyone register? I thought I didn't have to pay to go to an A.A. event.

A Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary, and, as responsible A.A. members, “we pay our own way.” The International Convention is paid for by those A.A.s who participate in it.

Q How much will registration cost?

A Advanced registration for the convention between September 9, 2019 and April 14, 2020 will be \$115.00 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee

Q Can travel agents register groups or individuals?

A No. Payments from travel agencies to register groups or individuals will not be accepted.

Housing

Q When can I reserve my hotel room?

A Once you have registered for the Convention, you will receive housing information by the same method you sent in your registration. Please take into consideration that individual members will be able to book up to four (4) rooms. If you are traveling in a group and need more than 4 rooms, more than one member in your group would need to register and book the necessary hotel rooms. For large groups requiring ten (10) rooms or more, there is a separate procedure. For information on this procedure, please contact the international Convention coordinator at G.S.O. at 2020ic@aa.org. While we are trying to meet everyone's needs, we attempt to ensure fairness for the entire Fellowship so that attendees traveling in a group and single attendees have equal access to hotel arrangements for the convention.

Housing

Q Where are the main hotels?

A Our Convention hotel block of over 10,000 rooms will be in five main areas, four in Michigan — downtown Detroit, Dearborn, Southfield and Romulus/Airport — and one just across the Canadian border, in Windsor, Ontario. Of those 10,000 rooms, only 3,000 are in downtown Detroit and within walking distance of the Cobo Center and the Ford Field Stadium.

Q Can members contact hotels directly?

A No. To make the process as fair as possible, all housing requests will be processed through the Convention Housing Bureau.

Q Can travel agents make room reservations?

A Room reservations can only be made in an individual's name. Rooms available through the Housing Bureau, at specially negotiated Convention rates, are not commissionable to travel agents.

Q Can we request a room in the same hotel with friends?

A Yes. You can reserve more than one room through the housing process as long as your friends have registered for the Convention. You will need to provide their name(s) and be prepared to pay additional deposits.

Transportation

Q Will local transportation be available?

A All members in housing blocked for this event will be provided with shuttle buses for a less-than-45-minute ride to the Cobo Center and the Ford Field stadium. Some members will be within walking distance of the meeting venues.

Q What about special airline rates?

A As at other International Conventions, there will be special fares available. That information will be available with the August 2019 registration information mailing and on the International Convention Website.

Q Where can I find information about crossing the border into the U.S. for this event?

A For accurate, specific and up-to-date information about visas and travel into the U.S., visit the United States Department of State website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>.

If you are coming from abroad, you may need a visa. Most Canadian citizens and many citizens of countries in the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP) do not need a visa. However, you will need a machine-readable passport valid for at least 90 days past your date of departure. The VWP countries are: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

If you do not come from a VWP country, you must obtain a nonimmigrant visa. Plan ahead; it may take six (6) months to receive a nonimmigrant visa, depending on the demand in your country.

Please note, some of our available hotels are located in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Therefore, attendees staying in Windsor will be crossing the international border at least twice a day, when coming into Detroit and when departing. While this is handled routinely, it will require you to carry your passport at all times.

Q Where do I obtain more information about the 2020 International Convention?

A More information will be available throughout 2019 and 2020 in Box 4-5-9 and on G.S.O.'s website, www.aa.org. All necessary information will be included in the registration packet, which will be available August 2019. G.S.O.'s website will be updated as more information becomes available.

**We hope to see you in Detroit to celebrate the
85th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous.**



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Steering Committee meeting minutes for June 10, 2019

Attendance: Ronnie, Chris, Marc (by phone), Dee, Cassia and Phil

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:03pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the 5/13/19 Steering Committee meeting were accepted. Minutes from the 5/20/19 Intergroup Representatives meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: No report was provided however there are no known incidents of the hotline not being covered.

Treasury: A report in the usual format was not available however raw data is available. It was noted expenses are up due to the remodel.

Office: A filtered water cooler was brought in on a free trial basis. If kept there is a one-time charge of \$99 then \$55 per month. Large water bottles are not needed. A motion was passed and approved to retain the water cooler under the condition that small disposable cups are purchased so everyone may use it.

Website: The plug-in is now live. Information has been added to the meeting guide app.

Old Business/Elections: Additional nominations and voting for a chairperson will take place at the 6/17/19 Intergroup meeting.

Old Business/Service Positions: There is still a need for a Hotline chairperson and an Activities chairperson. There was also discussion regarding a possible person to co-ordinate crew members when the office opens on Saturdays however no conclusion was arrived at.

New Business/Holidays: A motion was made and passed that the office will observe (close) on New Years Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There was no discussion as to whether the office manager would be paid. Our current office manager is salaried however should we ever hire an hourly paid office manager that is a topic that would need to be determined.

New Business/Schedules: A motion was made and passed that future printing of schedules will include contact information to area Intergroup/Central Offices.

Closing: The meeting was closed at 6:48pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,

Phil B.



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES MEETING FOR JUNE 17, 2019

Attendance:

Ronnie, chair*	Cassia, office mgr.*	Laurie H, Sober Uppers
Jennifer H, East County Women's Grp.	Mark O, Reconciled	Tyler M, Cornerstone*
Phil B, Central Group	David R, Welcome HoneWarren R, A New Morning	
Tom S, Men's Fireside	Brian N, First Shot	Laura H, Women in Action
Jeff C, District 7*	Chris H, MSG*	Dusty G, Cornerstone
Kasmir Z, East Side Brown Baggers		*Indicates not a voting IG rep

Opening: Ronnie opened the meeting at 6:30pm reading the purpose of the Vancouver Intergroup office followed by the Serenity Prayer. Ronnie had a presentation of the 6th Tradition. The chair's statement discussed the importance of the traditions. Minutes from the 5/20/19 IG meeting were accepted. Minutes from the 5/13/19 and 6/10/19 SC meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: Wendy submitted a written report. There currently are openings for Monday 6am-9am, Monday 9am-12pm and Friday 9pm-12am. There will be an upcoming need for a substitute Monday midnight-Tuesday 6am as well as substitutes at large for vacationers. Wendy also reported the 12-Step list is light and could use more members. Wendy's last day as chair is 6/28/19.

Treasury: Please see attached financial report. Laurie reported that we are ahead of the forecasted numbers however expenses are up from the remodel. It was noted that group donations are down however individual donations are up. The next quarterly financial meeting will be at the Intergroup office on July 15th, 5:30pm (immediately prior to the IG meeting). It is helpful if questions/concerns can be emailed in advance to insure accurate information is obtained.

Office: The website plug-in is now live. Meeting information has been shared with the meeting guide app (chair icon). Also the schedules are now working with google maps. The open on Saturday project is coming along as items are now organized and books priced. Cassia has been working with a candidate to chair the Saturday project. The property manager has given Cassia permission to have a Grand Reopening Open House. No date has been selected but most likely will be in August.

Old Business/Elections: Last month Marc T was nominated, and he accepted, to be the SC chair. There were no further nominations. Marc was elected and will assume duties as SC chair 7/1/19.

New Business/Elections: With Marc's election the position of vice chair will be vacant 7/1/19. Phil was nominated which he declined citing conflicting work schedule. Kasmir inquired about the responsibilities then made himself available. He was nominated and elected and will assume duties as SC vice chair 7/1/19.

Old Business/Activities: Jennifer reported about Kristina who she has in mind for this position. She will ask Kristina to be at the July IG meeting to introduce herself.

Old Business/Outreach: Dusty made himself available, was nominated and elected to chair this committee.

Old Business/Hotline: Wendy's last day chairing this committee is 6/28/19. No replacement has been found. Flyers available in office and in the newsletter.

Group News: Jennifer reported that the East County Women's Group is holding a kid-friendly, free picnic on 8/17/19 at 11am at LaCamas Lake. Attendees are encouraged to bring school supplies which will be donated to Oxford Houses. (Please note as this is not an AA event, flyers will not be available at the IG office and this can not be added to the website [6th Tradition]. It is noted here as it was brought up at this meeting and the minutes need to show an accurate accounting of the meeting.)

District News: Jeff reported the Delegate Report will be 7/20/19, 11:30am at Beautiful Savior Church. Flyers available in the office and newsletter.

The meeting was closed at 7:36pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,
Phil B.

Upcoming Events

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Friday Night Happy Hour Speaker Mtg.: 7:30 pm	3 OB's Speaker Mtg.: 7:30 PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Wayfarer's Speaker Mtg.: 7:00 pm
11	12 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	13	14	15	16	17 Rule 62 Speaker Mtg.: 7 :00 pm
18	19 Intergroup Rep. Mtg.:6:30 pm	20	21	22 District 7 GSR Mtg.: 7 pm	23	24
25 ♦ Sideways Sunday Potluck: 7:30am ♦ Carson Potluck: 6:30 pm. Speaker: 7:00 pm ♦ Hokinson Potluck: 6:00 pm	26	27 District 37 Mtg.: 7:00 pm	28	29	30 Central Group's Birthday Meeting: 8:00 pm	31

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 July 1951 magazine.

Musts? You Bet! There Are Two!

THE importance of giving the new man the best possible start in AA Life cannot be over emphasized. In the spring of 1945 the blessings of AA began to move in on me. They have never ceased to come; to the end, that each day is just another opportunity for gratitude and some form of accomplishment.

At my first AA meeting a speaker said, "Tonight could be the most important night of your life." Another said, "You never need to shake again, ever, unless you want to." An AA from another city said, "Between the covers of this book, (*Alcoholics Anonymous*) lies your one hope of salvation." Many other things were said, but these *three fundamentals* took a precarious root.

Times without number during my first year, when the urge to make a fast "run" to the nearest gin mill came upon me, I suddenly remembered that my one hope of salvation lay between the covers of my *Big Book*. Miraculously I would stop, open it to any page and start reading. Equally miraculous was the fact that just one paragraph would return me to sanity, and the emergency was passed. The blinding urge to take a drink had gone, I know not where. Other older AAs have related the same experience to me, therefore, let's tell the new candidate that there are only two *musts* to get started on our new way of life:

1. *Ownership of the Big Book*
2. *Subscription to the Grapevine* both available for the price of a quart of good whisky.

I want a new man to have the monthly visit of the current accomplishments of Alcoholics Anonymous, told in a way that only we alcoholics appreciate. I have found that an awaiting *Grapevine* at the end of a business day was easily good for a whole day of contented sobriety. Some of the side effects carried clear through a month till the next issue was due. Never before have I had the privilege of reading a magazine written by alcoholics for the likes of me, another alcoholic. It has been like the visit of a favored relative.

Muskegon AA now makes it possible to start every new member with these two indispensable tools, fifty cents cash and an equal amount each pay day. One of the members handles the credit detail and without a trace of trouble. He has yet to find the new member who is not delighted to get his disease under control so simply and easily.

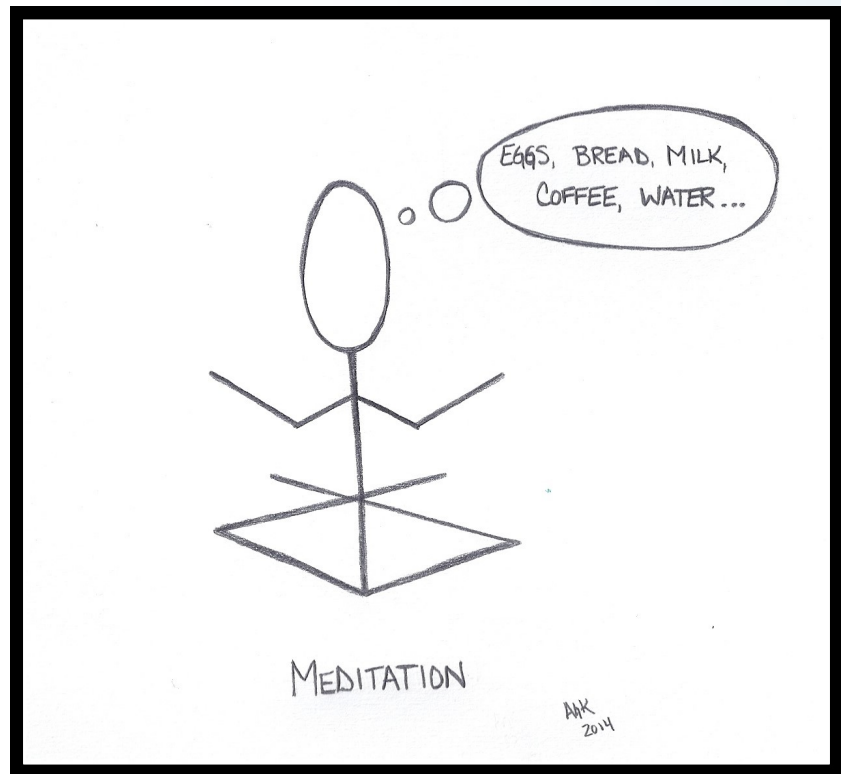
After six years of thinking AA, dreaming AA, alcoholically trying to live AA it is my humble opinion, that when a man starts on the wonderful Alcoholics Anonymous journey properly equipped, he usually can be found among that famous *fifty per cent* who took their last drink before they came to their first meeting.

We can all have a hand in seeing to it that the new man or woman goes in rightly equipped.

-- S. B. M.

Muskegon, Michigan

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.



*This comic was taken from <https://annkroger.com/drawings-and-cartoons/>

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