

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

January/February 2019
Volume 13

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Primary Purpose



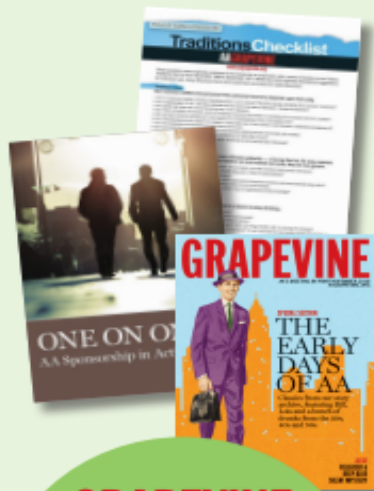
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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. -2/11 @6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Mtg. -2/18 @6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. -2/26 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 2/28@7:00 PM

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



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*Bill W. hoped Grapevine would connect members
and groups. The Grapevine 75th Anniversary Toolkit
celebrates and supports this vision.*

The Intergroup and A.A.

What Is an Intergroup (Central Office)? How Does It Function?

Your intergroup, or central office, is often where the still-suffering alcoholic first calls or shows up for A.A. help. Although local intergroups operate independently of A.A.'s worldwide service structure, they are a vital part of the Fellowship. In most areas, any group that so wishes can belong to the local intergroup, which is supported by contributions from its member groups. These contributions are purely voluntary. In areas where it may not be practical to open a service office as such, groups sometimes set up joint committees for their Twelfth Step efforts and activities, and use a carefully briefed central telephone answering service to take calls. Due to workload, a local service system of this type seems to work better if it is handled separately from the work of the area general service committee. Most intergroups function with only one or two paid workers (some have none) and so rely heavily on A.A. volunteers for help. Many A.A.s have found that serving at intergroup — answering calls from alcoholics and doing what else needs to be done — greatly enriches their sobriety and broadens their circle of friends. What Does an Intergroup (Central Office) Do? An intergroup or central office is a vital A.A. service office that represents a partnership among groups in a community — just as A.A. groups themselves are a partnership of individuals. These offices are established to carry out common functions that are best handled by a centralized office, and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups for their common interest. The office exists to aid the groups in carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers...

—Excerpt taken from “The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins” (P. 38)



INTEGRITY

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

First Ever Vancouver Meeting Schedule of Alcoholics Anonymous!

*What you do every day
matters more than what you
do every once in a while*

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

AA.....
ALANON....
ALATEEN...

TO-DAYS
UNBEATABLE
COMBINATION

Brochure by H.O.

The 12 Traditions of A. A.

1—Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity. 2—For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. 3—The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. 4—Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. 5—Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. 6—An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose. 7—Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. 8—Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers. 9—A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. 10—Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy. 11—Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. 12—Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The 12 Steps of A. A.

1—We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable. 2—Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. 3—Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. 4—Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. 5—Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. 6—Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. 7—Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. 8—Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all. 9—Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. 10—Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it. 11—Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. 12—Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

PLAN TO ATTEND
EVERY AREA
MONTHLY SPIRITUAL
BREAKFAST.....



Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



ALCOHOLISM INFORMATION & TREATMENT CENTERS

St. Joseph Community Hospital
4th Floor - 256-2170
Toll Free Callus - 834-3162
600 N. E. 92nd Ave., Vancouver

SWAMP Center - 696-1659
(Barnes Hospital, Ward 20)
E. 4th Plain & O St., Vancouver

Veteran's Hospital, Substance Abuse Center
(Barnes Hospital, Ward 24) - 696-4041
Extensions 524, 525, 526
E. 4th Plain & O St., Vancouver

Community Alcoholism Center - 696-1633
114 E. 33rd St., Vancouver

Receiving Center (Detoxification)
696-1631
116/118 E. 33rd St., Vancouver

Alcoholism Information School - Clark College
696-1631
1st & 2nd Wednesday each month
Open & Free to public
Rm. 201, Eng./Tech. Bldg.
E. Reserve Street, Vancouver

R & R

Drop-in Center - 696-4499
Phonings, pool, cards, TV, and relaxation
499 Main Street, Vancouver

A. A. MEETINGS	
MONDAY 8:30 P. M. SILVER STAR YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP, Contact: Marta, 699-6997 415 Main St., Vancouver	WEDNESDAY 8:30 P. M. ROUND TABLE GROUP, Contact: Walter M., 696-7885 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 12th & Franklin, Vancouver
MONDAY 8:30 P. M. ROUND TABLE, Ward 23, Contact: Sara M., 694-1741 Barnes Hospital, Port Vancouver Way, Vancouver	WEDNESDAY 7:30 P. M. BROKEN ARROW GROUP, Contact: Don S., 587-2996 United Methodist Church, 34th Street, Vancouver
TUESDAY 8:30 P. M. CENTRAL GROUP (BLUE DOOR) A.A. Unit, 695-9618 Academic Service, 696-8417, Secord's Apt. 3, 694-0728 112 E. 8th St., Vancouver	THURSDAY 8:30 P. M. GAMES A.A. GROUP Contact: Andy M., 634-1741, Howard M., 639-3408, 194 City Apt. (downstairs), Contact: Washington
WEDNESDAY 8:30 P. M. CENTRAL GROUP (BLUE DOOR) (See Tuesday above) 112 E. 8th St., Vancouver	THURSDAY 8:30 P. M. ROUND TABLE, Ward 23, Contact: Sara M., 694-1741, Barnes Hospital, Port Vancouver Way, Vancouver

SOURCES OF HELP ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - ALATEEN	
FRIDAY 8:30 P. M. CENTRAL GROUP (BLUE DOOR) (See Tuesday above) 112 E. 8th St., Vancouver	SATURDAY 8:30 P. M. CENTRAL GROUP (BLUE DOOR) (See Tuesday above) 112 E. 8th St., Vancouver
SATURDAY 7:30 P. M. HEIGHTS STUDY GROUP, 415 Pogo, Contact: St. Joseph Comm. Hospital, 600 N. E. 32nd Avenue, Vancouver	SUNDAY 11:00 A. M. CENTRAL GROUP (BLUE DOOR) Contact: (See Tuesday above), 112 E. 8th St., Vancouver
SATURDAY 8:30 P. M. ROUND TABLE, Ward 23, Contact: Sara M., 694-1741, Barnes Hospital, Port Vancouver Way, Vancouver	SUNDAY 7:30 P. M. SWAMP - Ward 20 Counselling on duty at all times. Telephone: 696-1633, Secord's Hospital, E. 4th Plain & O St., Vancouver
Pending SARAH'S ROOM SMOKE'S BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL A.A. GROUP, Contact: M. G., 693-3174 Vancouver office	SUNDAY 8:30 P. M. GAMES A.A. GROUP Contact: Andy M., 634-1741, Howard M., 639-3408, 194 City Apt. (downstairs), Contact: Washington

TUESDAY 8:30 P. M. PENDING LUNCH BUNCH, Group In Center, 410 Main, Vancouver - PENDING	WEDNESDAY 8:30 P. M. FIRST STEP GROUP Contact: Rita, 695-2594, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 13th & Franklin, Vancouver
FRIDAY 8:30 P. M. PENDING Contact: Wyllie, 695-3475, Group In Center, 410 Main, Vancouver	THURSDAY 8:30 P. M. BROWN BAGGERS Contact: Gertie W., 695-4092, Group In Center, 410 Main St., Vancouver
ALANON MEETINGS	
MONDAY 8:00 P. M. SERENITY GROUP Contact: Marie R., 695-5470, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 13th & Franklin, Vancouver	THURSDAY 8:00 P. M. GAMES ALANON GROUP, Contact: Jean, 1-634-9658, Old City Hall (down stairs), Central, Main
WEDNESDAY 1:00 P. M. NEW DAY GROUP (Blue Door) Contact: Jane T., 695-1883, 112 E. 8th St., Vancouver	SATURDAY 7:30 P. M. AWARENESS THRU ALANON GROUP Contact: Andrea L., 695-4148, St. Joseph Comm. Hospital, 600 N. E. 32nd Ave., Vancouver



ALATEEN MEETINGS	
MONDAY 8:00 P. M. VANCOUVER ALATEEN GROUP Contact: Bob Z., 695-2569, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 13th & Franklin, Vancouver	THURSDAY 8:00 P. M. AWARENESS THRU ALANON GROUP Contact: Andrea L., 695-4148, St. Joseph Comm. Hospital, 600 N. E. 32nd Ave., Vancouver

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

To place our common welfare first;
To keep our fellowship united.
For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
And the lives of those to come.

Sobriety... The Sky's The Limit

My name is Jeff I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is June 17, 1986. I am the youngest of three kids raised in a blue collar household by alcoholic parents. When I was 4 or 5 and being the youngest, I had to go to bed first and of course I thought I was getting robbed! I can still remember lying in bed devastated, crying, intently listening to every sound and if I heard laughter, I felt like now that I was finally out of the way they could enjoy themselves. Resentments of my own making came early for me.

I never really felt like I fit in. I felt awkward when I was around people, even my friends. My gym teachers were trying to recruit me for wrestling and track. But fear kept me from going out for organized sports. Fear of failure paralyzed me. I didn't want people laughing at me or talking about me being a loser because inside I felt like one. I secretly blamed everyone else for the way I felt.

I never lost the ability to control my drinking because I never had control. When I turned 13, I got drunk with my buddies and all the awkward feelings melted away. I instantly felt strong, confident, and most importantly cool! The only problem was that it didn't last.

The next day all the negative feelings came back. The solution was to stay drunk. Booze was hard to get at 13 but pot was easy, so if I couldn't get alcohol pot was my second choice. I was either stoned or drunk daily for the next 17 years.

At 18 I got into the Ironworkers trade and started working on projects throughout the Northwest. And I started getting served in taverns. That started my era as a bar room brawler. To be clear I was not undefeated. I've been knocked out two times and choked unconscious twice. If it hadn't been for bystanders I could have easily been killed. I just never considered the consequences before or when I drank. Bottom line: once I took the first drink I had no idea what the outcome would be.

Between ages 21 – 27 I got four drunk driving tickets. Two of which were "Daily Doubles": drunk driving with a suspended license. During this same time period I totaled out four cars. Fortunately they were single car accidents and I didn't get injured. I just walked away and never got caught (none of this was planned)!

Sobriety... The Sky's The Limit

I met a woman at 24. She had a 2 year old boy and we moved in together. So, suddenly, I had responsibilities, but I was irresponsible. My behavior didn't change. I couldn't take care of myself let alone a girlfriend and kid. So, two years in we had another son and got married. Still, my behavior didn't change. I was still drinking daily, going to taverns, and sometimes not coming home and not knowing where I had been.

Now looking back, the progression of my alcoholism is clear. I knew I was doing wrong by my family and would make promises that were generally not kept. Guilt was constantly gnawing at my brain and the pit of my stomach. The only relief was drinking but then I would wake up to guilt even stronger than before. This went on over and over, and over again. I don't know when but at some point, drinking quit working too. I was miserable sober and drunk.

I fell into that Incomprehensible demoralization our book talks about. A sense of dread followed me everywhere. I would be sitting in my living room with my wife and two kids thinking about robbing a bank, so I would end up in prison and my family would have a shot at a better life. I never did rob a bank, but I did go to treatment.

Eugene, Or. After 28 days in treatment I returned home to Corvallis. I got a home group, (the Underground Group), and became coffee maker. I had no social skills whatsoever. Once I got passed the weather I was screwed for conversation. I just didn't know what to say. But service was an enormous help because I was not the only one setting up. So, in talking to other members in service I got passed the weather. It did take practice, but it was so much worth it.

I started getting involved with my two boys; scouting, assistant baseball coach, wheel man at food drives, etc. Normal stuff parents do. I was like a fish out of water though, but I hung in there and eventually started to enjoy the activities.

I was kicked out of two High Schools and dropped out of a community college. All the time I was drinking I dreamed about getting my GED but never investigated it. Fear of failure!

I was sober for two months and traveled to NYC to work iron. I was seriously injured off the job. It took over a year to recover. After three weeks in the NYC hospital I came home to rehab. I attended meetings on crutches for 2-1/2 months. Once I was able to walk, I went to the local Community College, took classes in preparation, and finally got my GED. Afterward, I took a semester of reading, writing, and math. My grades came in the mail and I got a 4.00 GPA and made the Dean's list. I realized the Sky's the limit.

Continued on next page...

Sobriety... The Sky's The Limit

The next three years I went to four meetings a week. Of course, God was a favorite topic amongst old timers and it was clear a relationship with Him was necessary to stay sober. Reality, I wasn't feeling it. Sometime during my first year I was commuting to Portland every day and the radio did not work in my car. So, I would hit I-5 around 5:30 am. I really didn't know how to pray but I started talking to God; please don't let me get drunk today, don't let me be argumentative, rude, or arrogant. I asked Him to Please give me calm, patience, and tolerance.

During the work day if I felt someone was in my space or said something I felt was a knock on me, I would say the serenity prayer to myself, sometimes more than once. It got me through the moment with no issues and I would share those experiences at meetings. At night when heading to bed I would thank God for keeping me sober that day.

In 1989 we moved to Washougal and I got a new home group, the Camas Group, and a sponsor. I can't express the importance of a sponsor. After 29 years, I still have the same sponsor today. I worked out of town quite a bit, and in the 90's I was in Seattle for a year and half. So I wasn't able to do much service work, but I did arrive at meetings early and helped to set up. Helping to set up at meetings is always appreciated.

1996 I was offered a job as a union representative for the union of which I am a member. This was really a big deal for a guy like me. It comes with a high degree of responsibility. Having a higher power and my background in AA gave me the confidence to accept the position. I experienced fear but learned that any fear I had would never live up to the hype I created in my own head. Fear can no longer paralyze me like in my drinking days.

In 1999 my boss asked if I was interested in representing the Union at the State Capitol. So, I became a registered lobbyist and worked at the Oregon State Capitol for three sessions. The guy that had nothing to say after the weather was now educating legislators about issues important to labor. So again, the sky's the limit.

After 36 years at the trade I retired at 54 years old on March 1st, 2009. 6 months later I started Dialysis because my kidneys failed. I knew the day was coming for ten years. I felt lucky because I lost two cousins to cancer. We were all diagnosed within 6 months of each other.

Then I was retired and on dialysis 3 times a week for four hours each time, and I got more involved in service at my home group. Secretary for 2 ½ years, two full terms as GSR, and just making sure the door was open on meeting nights. In addition, we take meetings to Clark Co. Jail once a month.

Continued on page 8...

Group Contributions and Financial Statements

December	Donations	Year to Date
	A New Beginning	300.00
471.19	A New Morning	4,341.33
	As Bill Sees It	480.00
	B & P	2,035.74
9.61	Camas Group	60.43
	Cascade Group	160.00
	Chapter Nine	269.45
	Cornerstone	75.89
	District 7	1,379.20
26.00	Dry Tribe	52.00
	Early Birds	118.84
	Early Light	125.00
275.00	Eastside Brown Baggers	705.00
	Eastside Women's Book Study	100.00
150.00	East County Women's Group	200.00
43.76	First Shot	468.88
	Forged from Adversity	33.00
62.12	Fresh Start	1,021.26
	Friday Night Happy Hour	5.00
	Gorge Gals	50.00
	Ground Zero	0.23
	Hokinson	312.19
	How it Works	5.00
20.40	La Center Group	40.30
	Ladies by the Lavender	100.00
	Lewis River AA	98.42
30.00	Lighthouse	330.00
	McGuilivray Study Group	482.00
200.00	Men's Eastside	700.00
80.00	Men's Fireside	320.00
	Minnehaha	127.00
325.00	Miracles at Noon	3,712.28
	OB's Speaker's Meeting	197.96
	Primary Purpose	155.75
17.30	Ready and Willing	64.46
	Reconciled	241.55
	Renegades	105.00
	Ridgefield AA	446.41
	Round Table	460.28
	Russian Pacific Group	5.00
	Saturday Night Big Book Study	723.00
	Sober Uppers	78.24
	She Who Remembers	120.00
	Step Sisters	228.20
	Stevenson AA	700.00
	Sunday Night Alternatives	250.00
442.50	Sunday Solutions	1,643.00
	There Is A Solution	286.75
	United Sober Group	293.84
11.00	Wayfarer's	234.27
	Wednesday Night Recovery	328.81
	Welcome Home	141.15
	West Vancouver Group	49.46
	Women's Fireside	200.00
	Women in Sobriety	60.00
140.38	Wine to Water	140.38
2,304.26	SUBTOTAL	25,361.95
177.83	Miscellaneous/Individual	2,251.55
2,482.09	TOTAL	27,613.50

Financial Statements

	December (\$)	YTD (\$)
Revenue		
Sales	5,707	52,317
Contributions	2,482	27,614
Fundraising/Picnic	2,574	3,856
Misc. Income	210	1,860
Total Revenue	10,973	85,647
Expenses		
Cost of goods sold	3,923	31,627
Fundraising Expenses	518	1,616
Merchant Services	80	1,204
Office supplies	151	1,720
Equipment rent	126	2,255
Building rent	875	10,500
Utilities	229	5,968
Net Wages	1,881	22,316
Payroll taxes	421	6,289
Insurance	0	500
Licenses	0	111
Total Expenses	8,205	84,107
Net Income / Loss	2,769	1,540

December, 2018 Cash Balances

Main Checking	\$	4,993
Event Account	\$	3,710
Prudent Reserve	\$	17,042
Petty Cash	\$	94
Total Cash Balance	\$	25,839



Sobriety... The Sky's The Limit

A friend asked me one time if I prayed for a kidney. Because no family members or friends could donate, I was put on the deceased donor list. So, no I never prayed for a kidney, but I did pray for acceptance of the outcome.

Both my parents have passed. Mom died in 1984 and Dad died in 1995. July 29, 2013 I was sitting in my dialyses chair at the clinic and after 4 years and 10 days, I received a call from the transplant hospital, they had a kidney for me! I immediately said a prayer for the grieving family. It was a bitter sweet moment.

I checked into the hospital the following afternoon on July 30th, (My mom's birthday). They started the six hour surgery at 1:30 am on the 31st. My dad's birthday is August 1st, so I got my kidney transplant on the 31st right between their birthdays. For me that was nothing short of a spiritual experience. It's like my parents are protecting me. It's been over 5 years and all is well with the new Kidney. The most difficult part of getting a transplant is staying healthy enough to receive the new organ. Because I learned how to follow directions in A.A., I maintained my health and still do today. Sky's the limit.

I get to sponsor men in the program and find it exhilarating to watch as they find their higher power and gain the same confidence and growth that I found long ago. There is nothing like witnessing families reunite and thrive.

I get to do service work! It is a privilege and I enjoy it. I learned how to work within a group of people and not only hear my point of view. Service is a commitment, and it takes up some time, but in comparison with time dedicated to drinking I can do a year worth of service in less time spent on just one three day runner. Always had time for drinking. It is no coincidence that A.A. members with long term sobriety have a long history of service. My sponsor is coming up on 44 years and is still involved.

If you are new or relatively new or have been around awhile, January 1st started a new two-year service rotation and I get to represent District 7 as District Committee Member (DCM). I look forward to the opportunity to help groups in our district. Come check us out at the GSR/committee meeting. We are listed on the front of the meeting schedule. You never know what can happen. The sky's the limit!

—Jeff C.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee meeting for December 10th, 2018

Attendance:

Ronnie, SC Chair

Cassia, Office Manager +

Phil, SC Member

Wendy

Glenn, SC member

Marc, SC Vice Chair

Chris, SC Member

Nicole, SC Secretary

The Meeting was opened at 6:00pm with the Serenity Prayer. The November Steering Committee meeting minutes were accepted. November Intergroup meeting minutes were reviewed.

Hotline: Wendy appointed Hotline Chair. Still need phone volunteers starting Jan, 5th for Sat + Sun 6-9:00pm. 12step call volunteers always welcomed.

Office: Decision to open intergroup Saturday afternoons still tabled pending rep responses.

Website: See attached.

OLD BUSINESS

Finance: 2019 forecast prepared and presented to reps .

Meeting Guide: Web Master Scott retrieving info from world services to present to reps concerning updating information on app.

American Express: Decision to switch pending more info

.

Costco: Decision pending more info.

Hotline: Wendy appointed Hotline Chair.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

Rent Increase: Still facing 400.00 rent increase with 1 year lease if unable to relocate.

Outreach Committee: Wendy to head.

Activities/Fundraising: Committee needed.

The meeting was closed at 7:30pm with the Lords Prayer,

Your Secretary,

Nicole



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

VANCOUVER AREA INTEROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

INTERGROUP MEETING FOR DECEMBER 17th, 2018

ATEENDANCE:

Mark Q – Reconciled

Connie F - Lighthouse

Nicole – Rock Bottom Recovery (non voting)

Chris H – MSG

Dee R – Welcome Home

Richard R – Lighthouse

Rebecca C – Rock Bottom Recovery

Laurie H – Sober Uppers

Ronnie C – Chair

Darcy S – Friday Night Happy Hour

Brian M- First Shot

Phil B – Central Group

Glenn H – Early Birds

Robin M – Fireside

Tom S – Men's Fireside

Richard – SNA

Wendy W- MSG

John B- A New Morning

Meeting was opened at 6:30pm with the Serenity Prayer. Wendy gave a presentation on the 12th Tradition. Minutes from the November Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Minutes from the November Intergroup Representatives meeting were accepted with corrections.

Hotline: Hotline Chair Wendy. There will be openings December 2nd for Sundays 9:00pm-midnight. There will be an opening January 5th for Saturday 6:00pm-9:00pm. 12-Step volunteers are needed.

Financial: Laurie gave Treasurers report including 2019 Forecast. See attached report.

Intergroup: Cassia discussed opening the office on Saturdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm staffed by volunteers. The matter was handed off to the representatives to bring to their groups.

Website: Cassia reports changes are going smoothly and progress continues to be made. See attached report.

OLD BUSINESS

World App: Webmaster Scott looking into info concerning frequency of info updates pertaining to meeting schedules.

American Express: decision pending more info

Costco: Decision pending more info

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Forecast: Laurie presented 2019 forecast to the groups. Groups were told of pending 1yr rent increased lease decision to be made in Feb 2019 if unable to relocate. Was given a real estate number to pursue alternate leasing arrangements. Forecast report attached.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued...

Steering Committee Elections: Elections overseen by Wendy, results:

Chair – Ronnie C

Vice Chair – Marc T

Treasurer - Laurie T

Secretary – Nicole W

SC Member Positions;

1) Chris H

2) Phil S

3) Dee R

4) Connie F

The meeting was closed at 8:00pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,

Nicole W.

Recording Secretary



AA GRAPEVINE

From the May 1945 Magazine
**Jack Alexander of Saturday Evening Post Fame Thought
A.A.s were Pulling His Leg**

Ordinarily, diabetes isn't rated as one of the hazards of reporting, but the Alcoholics Anonymous article in the *Saturday Evening Post* came close to costing me my liver, and maybe A.A. neophytes ought to be told this when they are handed copies of the article to read. It might impress them. In the course of my fact gathering, I drank enough Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, ginger ale, Moxie and Sweetie to float the Saratoga. Then there was the thickly frosted cake so beloved of A.A. gatherings, and the heavily sweetened coffee, and the candy. Nobody can tell me that alcoholism isn't due solely to an abnormal craving for sugar, not even a learned psychiatrist. Otherwise the A.A. assignment was a pleasure.

It began when the *Post* asked me to look into A.A. as a possible article subject. All I knew of alcoholism at the time was that, like most other non-alcoholics, I had had my hand bitten (and my nose punched) on numerous occasions by alcoholic pals to whom I had extended a hand — unwisely, it always seemed afterward. Anyway, I had an understandable skepticism about the whole business.

My first contact with actual A.A.s came when a group of four of them called at my apartment one afternoon. This session was pleasant, but it didn't help my skepticism any. Each one introduced himself as an alcoholic who had gone "dry," as the official expression has it. They were good-looking and well-dressed and, as we sat around drinking Coca-Cola (which was all they would take), they spun yarns about their horrendous drinking misadventures. The stories sounded spurious, and after the visitors had left, I had a strong suspicion that my leg was being pulled. They had behaved like a bunch of actors sent out by some Broadway casting agency.

Next morning I took the subway to the headquarters of Alcoholics Anonymous in downtown Manhattan, where I met Bill W. This Bill W. is a very disarming guy and an expert at indoctrinating the stranger into the psychology, psychiatry, physiology, pharmacology and folklore of alcoholism. He spent the good part of a couple of days telling me what it was all about. It was an interesting experience, but at the end of it my fingers were still crossed. He knew it, of course, without my saying it, and in the days that followed he took me to the homes of some of the A.A.s, where I got a chance to talk to the wives, too. My skepticism suffered a few minor scratches, but not enough to hurt. Then Bill shepherded me to a few A.A. meetings at a clubhouse somewhere in the West Twenties. Here were all manner of alcoholics, many of them, the nibblers at the fringe of the movement, still fragrant of liquor and needing a shave. Now I know I was among a few genuine alcoholics anyway. The bearded, fume-breathing lads were A.A. skeptics, too, and now I had some company.

Continued on next page...

AA GRAPEVINE CONT. FROM PG. 11...

The week spent with Bill W. was a success from one standpoint. I knew I had the makings of a readable report but, unfortunately, I didn't quite believe in it and told Bill so. He asked why I didn't look in on the A.A.s in other cities and see what went on there. I agreed to do this, and we mapped out an itinerary. I went to Philadelphia first, and some of the local A.A.s took me to the psychopathic ward of Philadelphia General Hospital and showed me how they work on the alcoholic inmates. In that gloomy place, it was an impressive thing to see men who had bounced in and out of the ward themselves patiently jawing a man who was still haggard and shaking from a binge that wound up in the gutter.

Akron was the next stop. Bill met me there and promptly introduced me to Doc. S., who is another hard man to disbelieve. There were more hospital visits, an A.A. meeting, and interviews with people who a year or two before were undergoing varying forms of the blind staggers. Now they seemed calm, well-spoken, steady-handed and prosperous, at least mildly prosperous.

Doc S. drove us both from Akron to Cleveland one night and the same pattern was repeated. The universality of alcoholism was more apparent here. In Akron it had been mostly factory workers. In Cleveland there were lawyers, accountants and other professional men, in addition to laborers. And again the same stories. The pattern was repeated also in Chicago, the only variation there being the presence at the meetings of a number of newspapermen. I had spent most of my working life on newspapers and I could really talk to these men. The real clincher, though, came in St. Louis, which is my hometown. Here I met a number of my own friends who were A.A.s, and the last remnants of skepticism vanished. Once rollicking rumpots, they were now sober. It didn't seem possible, but there it was.

When the article was published, the reader-mail was astonishing. Most of it came from desperate drinkers or their wives, or from mothers, fathers or interested friends. The letters were forwarded to the A.A. office in New York and from there were sent on to A.A. groups nearest the writers of the letters. I don't know exactly how many letters came in, all told, but the last time I checked, a year or so ago, it was around 6,000. They still trickle in from time to time, from people who have carried the article in their pockets all this time, or kept it in the bureau drawer under the handkerchief case intending to do something about it.

I guess the letters will keep coming in for years, and I hope they do, because now I know that every one of them springs from a mind, either of an alcoholic or of someone close to him, which is undergoing a type of hell that Dante would have gagged at. And I know, too, that this victim is on the way to recovery, if he really wants to recover. There is something very heartening about this, particularly in a world which has been struggling toward peace for centuries without ever achieving it for very long periods of time.

—Jack Alexander
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Upcoming Events

February 2019

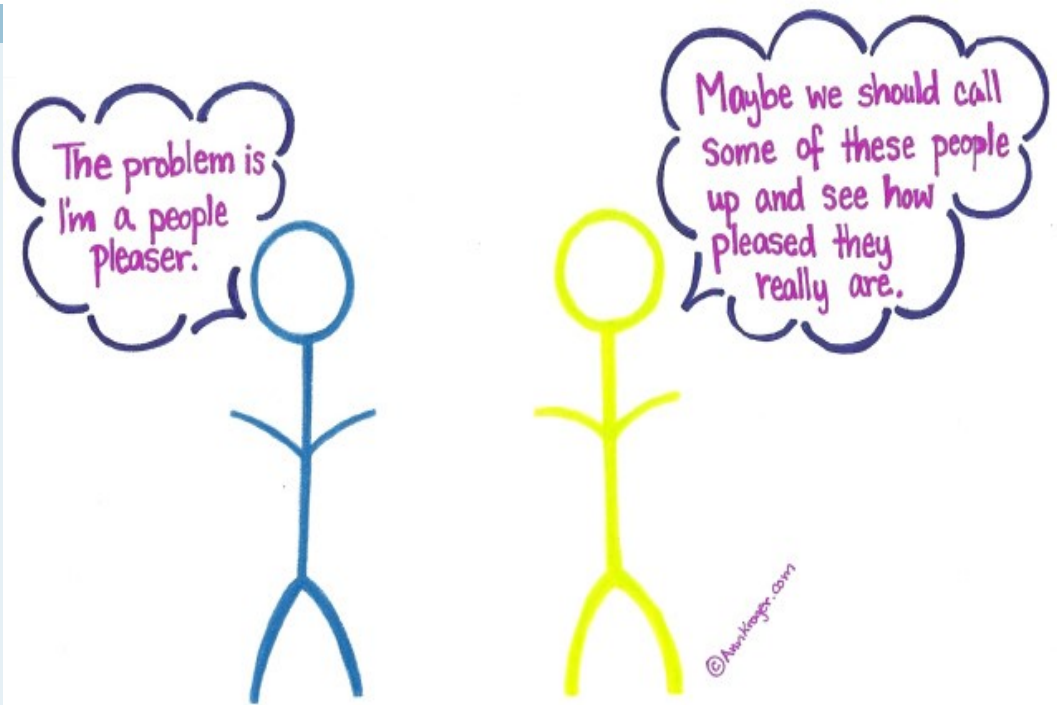
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Friday Night Happy Hour Speaker Mtg.: 7:30 pm	2 OB's Speaker Mtg.: 7:30 PM
3	4	5	6	7	8 Kleen Street Speaker Mtg.: 7:30 pm	9 Wayfarer's Speaker Mtg.: 7:00 pm
10	11 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	12	13	14	15	16 Rule 62 Speaker Mtg.: 7 :00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

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

www.vancouveraa.org



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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