

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

January/February 2020
Volume 25

2203 Fairmount Avenue, Ste. A
Vancouver, WA
98661

Vancouveraa.org
vancaa@vanintgrp.com
(360) 694-3870



Primary Purpose

VANCOUVER AREA

In Memory of Jean M.

Jean M passed away last month with some 48 years sober. She was about 95 and a longtime friend of Vancouver AA.

I met Jean in 1995. We had just gotten approval to hold AA meetings in the Clark County jail. I was the meetings Coordinator and Jean was our most dependable meeting participant. Oldtimers will also remember the immense contributions of Ken M and Tommie S in assuring success for these meetings. Any time we needed someone to fill a meeting spot, Jean was always available.

Jean and our beloved Wiley R invited me to their home group, Over 55. I loved that meeting and learned a great deal there.

Soon Jean and I became friends. She was incredibly likeable and agreeable. We shared a special love of sports and politics. The two of us ventured to Seattle for Mariners and Seahawks games, plus Eugene to watch our heroes the Oregon Ducks. We worked together on many political campaigns. We used to take walks from her house down to the Columbia River. She even loved my psychotic little dog, Kodi. Jean and Phyllis F helped me find a dog psychiatrist who was in the Program!

Jean M lived our Declaration of Responsibility: "Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible." She helped countless alcoholics.

To honor Jean, I urge all Vancouver fellowship members to visit a meeting of her Home Group, Over 55. Unless it has changed, they meet at noon on Mon, Wed and Fri at a church on 39th St. Just check the schedule. Wiley, Ken M and Tommie S just might be there if you pop in.

Thank you, Jean M. You left the world and Vancouver AA a lot better.

In Fellowship,
Bob D
Las Vegas, NV.

Inside this issue

In Memory of Jean.....	1
AA Grapevine Article: Divine Wisdom?.....	2
Let's Ask Bill W.....	3
Bookstore News & Congrats!	4
RBR FLYER.....	5
Financial Reports.....	6,7
Steering Committee Mtg. Minutes.....	8
I.G. Rep Mtg. Minutes.....	9
AA Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	11

Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. -2/10 @6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. -2/17 @6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. -2/25 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 2/27 @7:00 PM

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

AA GRAPEVINE

From the April 2000 magazine.

Divine Wisdom?

Mention our Twelve Traditions, and I immediately think of the mistakes that early AA members made. That's where our Traditions came from, and part of each Tradition chapter in our "Twelve and Twelve" is a brief, often humorous account of problems encountered by early groups because of the character defects of sober alcoholics and the mistakes they made out of good, if misguided, intentions. The Traditions give us both a sweeping inventory of the problems that threatened early groups, and an analysis of how the problems were rooted in the alcoholic personality.

Examples: a founder considers taking AA into a hospital and charging for the service. Bleeding deacons fight to keep control of their group. Members compose "protective regulations" to keep out all but pure alcoholics. A group solicits community donations and opens a rehab. A founder stumbles on how to keep his message to newcomers focused on one thing: sobriety. Sober alcoholics dream of spreading the Twelve Steps into criminal law, labor relations, and government. Begging for funds, members learn the freedom in keeping AA poor but self-supporting. Disgruntled members grudgingly concede the necessity of paying some AA workers. Members are tempted to use the high public esteem of AA to support other worthy causes. Anonymity breaks in the press, radio, and films show early AAs how dangerous this is for the Fellowship. Fearful of being ostracized, our founders carefully guard their secret membership in AA, only to discover that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of their program.

These are the kinds of mistakes, fears, and misjudgments that many of us, when newly sober, have thought would be brilliant things for AA to do. The Traditions provide enlightened solutions to these problems, solutions that arose from a group of sober drunks--each of whom had had a spiritual awakening as a result of working the Twelve Steps. The account in the "Twelve and Twelve" saves us having to commit the same errors and reinvent the same solutions.

So the Twelve Traditions were not handed down whole from the mountain top, nor planted by God in the minds of early AA members. They are the result of trial and error, sometimes serious error. But the miracle remains. A group of alcoholics whose former lives were ruled by chaos, rage, and moral degeneration were able to see that some of the things they did out of good intentions actually threatened the Fellowship on which their lives and sanity depended. They took stock, made some changes, and tried something different.

Instead of doing the same thing over and over, and expecting a different result, instead of acting out of self-will, instead of throwing their hands up in despair when AA was floundering, our founders learned from their mistakes and left a record for us to learn from too.

-- Ernest

York Harbor, Maine

Thanks to Jim B. of Canada who put together this presentation of text and articles on the Washingtonian Temperance Society. Jim originally had these articles on the web site of historyofaa.com which is no longer online and placed here for historical & research purposes. <http://silkworth.net/>

How can A.A. best assure its continued existence?

Answer

Since the beginning of recorded time, many societies and nations of civilizations have passed in review. In those great ones that have left their mark for good, in contrast with those who have left their mark for evil, there has always been a sense of history, a true and high constant purpose, and there has always been a sense of destiny.

In the societies which failed to leave a bright mark in the annals of the world, there was always a false or boastful sense of history, always a mistaken or inadequate purpose and always the presumption of an infinite, a glorious and an exclusive destiny.

In the societies that left their mark of goodness on time, the sense of history was not a matter for pride or for glory; it was the substance of the learning of the experience of the past. In the purpose of such a society there was always truth and constancy, but never a supposition that the society had apprehended all of the truth - or the superior truth. And in the sense of destiny there was no conceit, no supposition that a society or nation or culture would last forever and go on to greater glories. But there was always a sense of duty to be fulfilled, whatever destiny the society might be assigned by providence for the betterment of the world.

This is the crossroads at which we in A.A. stand. This is a good time to re-examine how well we have looked upon our A.A. history and how much we have profited by it, what false insights or false glories we may have been extracting from history - to our future detriment. It is a moment to examine the purpose of this Society. Indeed, we are very lucky to be able to state as the nucleus of that purpose a single word: sobriety.

Quite early we saw, however, that sobriety in abstinence from alcohol could never be attained unless there was sobriety and more quietude in the false motivation that underlay our drinking.

When the Twelve Steps were cast up - without any real experience and therefore under some Guidance, surely - we were given keys to sobriety in its wider implications. We have been blessed with a concrete definition of purpose but, for all its concreteness, we could still abuse it and misuse it in a very natural way.

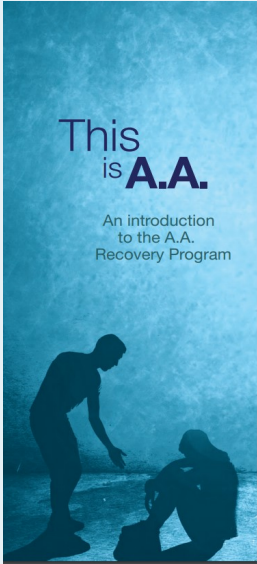
Some times we begin to think that perhaps, according to Scriptural promise, the first shall be last and the last - meaning us - shall really be first. That would indeed be a very dangerous presumption and never should we indulge it. If we do, we shall compete in history with other societies who have been ill-advised enough to suppose that they had a monopoly on truth or were in some way superior to other attempts of men to think and to associate in love and in harmony.

We may look out upon our destiny with no violation of our principle that we are to live one day at a time. We mean that, emotionally, each in his personal life is never to repine upon the past glory too much, in the present, or presume upon the future. We shall attend to the day's business but we shall try to apprehend ever more truth from the lessons of our history, not the lessons of our successes but the lessons of our defections, failures and the awful emotions that can set us loose upon us. For these, indeed, are the raw materials that God has used to forge this still rather little instrument called Alcoholics Anonymous. So we may look at destiny and we may ask ourselves about it and speculate upon it a little - if we do not presume to play God.

(G.S.C., 1961)

Pamphlet of the Month

This is AA: An Introduction to the A.A. Recovery Program



problems behind them and now lead “normal” lives of constructive, day-by-day sobriety.

Only you can decide If you seem to be having trouble with your drinking, or if your drinking has reached the point where it worries you a bit, you may be interested in knowing something about Alcoholics Anonymous and the A.A. program of recovery from alcoholism. After reading this brief outline, you may decide that A.A. has nothing to offer you. Should this be the case, we suggest only that you keep an open mind on the subject. Consider your drinking carefully in the light of what you may learn from these pages. Determine, for yourself, whether or not alcohol has truly become a problem for you. And remember that you will always be most welcome to join the thousands of men and women in A.A. who have put their drinking problems behind them and now lead “normal” lives of constructive, day-by-day sobriety.

Bookstore News

Vancouver Intergroup is now open every Saturday from 10am-2pm! Stop in and meet your Saturday volunteers!

Congratulations!

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

JIM P. — 30 YRS.

ROY Y. — 26 YRS.

BRENDA LOU — 48 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!



Rock Bottom Recovery

SPEAKERS MEETING

Location: Peoples Church

6801 E Mill Plain BLVD #1134

Vancouver WA 98664

Date: March 21st 2020

6-9PM ASL Interpreted

Speakers: **Bob D. Las Vegas NV**

Dave T. Vancouver WA

Raffles 50/50 Raffle

For raffle prize donations contact Adam

(360)852-0874



2019 Year End Financial Summary

The Vancouver Area Intergroup finished the year with a deficit of \$6,665 dollars. This is primarily due to a reduction in Group Donations and the move/remodel project which was forecasted inaccurately. See explanation below for more details.

Income:

Group contributions were \$1,600 below planned contributions. Individual contributions were \$2500 above expected. Thank you, individuals! This is a relatively new category and the 2019 results are exceptional. Group donations are the primary source of income that sustains Intergroup. In addition to the deficit of group donations, the Gratitude Dinner brought in \$750 less than planned.

Note: Retail sales have a relatively small impact on income. Mark-ups are minimal, in service to Washington AA groups. They are not part of this analysis.

*We can't compete with Amazon and other online stores that sell millions of units to our one and do not have storefronts. When we say our mark-up is minimal that is based on the fact that our prices on AA literature barely cover the costs of shipping and to have them here on our shelves, and prices on other items are comparable to the online store retail prices of the vendors from which we purchased them.

Expenses:

Move/Remodel

Although this category was forecasted incorrectly, the outcome was better than expected. We were lucky to find the solution we did. New owners of the building doubled the rent, however rather than moving, we were able to cut our space in half and remain in the same location. This came with a bonus of fresh paint, new floors and much more. The remodel was the largest part of the \$6,665 shortage; however, research found that moving to a new location would be two or three times more expensive and rent price per foot would double. Our research also found that available locations were not conducive to our services. Matters fell into place. All related expenses were necessary and made with vigilant frugality.

Rent:

The building rent appears less than expected, but the way it is billed and the common areas that we now pay a portion of make our actual rent a bit higher. The \$2,100 overage in utilities is primarily due to the new rent structure. \$2,100 divided by 12 and added to the rent comes out to Exactly \$1,000 a month for rent, unheard of in Vancouver.

Office Supplies:

The office supplies are high as some remodel expenses were added to this category, because they were items we are using, such as organizational supplies, folding tables, etc. Office supplies were \$1,000 over forecast for the year (\$83 per month).

Payroll and Taxes:

Wages were brought closer to market standards. This was necessary and overdue.

Conclusion:

The \$1,500 deficit of Group Donation plus the \$750 deficit for Fundraising equals \$2,250 less income than expected.

The remodel/move project category of \$2,300, plus \$2,100 remodel expenses from utilities plus \$1,000 from office supplies, minus the \$1,000 we planned for this project adds up to a total of total \$4,400 in Move/Remodel expenses that we did not plan for. This amount plus the restructuring of wages and taxes comes to \$7,000.

Combining the \$2,250 Income deficiency with the \$7,000 expense overage is negative \$9,250.

Adding individual donations which exceeded planned donations by \$2,448 brings the total of 2019 to a loss of \$6,800.

Disclaimer: Some numbers have been rounded for efficiency and clarity

Group Contributions and Financial Statements —

December 2019

Contributions for December	Group Name	Contributions Year to Date
	12X12	146.00
	159th Street Women's Group	325.00
	AA Rainbow Miracles	20.00
135.38	A New Morning	3,613.36
35.00	Amboy Renegades	70.00
	As Bill Sees It	900.25
	As We Recovered	150.00
	Battleground AA	500.00
	Birds of a Feather	100.00
267.69	B & P	514.11
	Cascade Group	100.00
	Cascade Locks Spiritual Brkfst.	75.00
	Chapter Nine	238.12
	Camas Group	226.91
	Coffee Break Washougal Group	10.00
	Cornerstone Group	60.00
	District 7	10.00
	Doing Right on Thursday Night	53.00
	Early Birds	792.20
	Early Light	52.00
100.00	East County Women's Group	250.00
	Eastside Brown Baggers	1,010.00
	Easier Softer Way	55.00
	Fireside	605.00
77.76	First Shot	761.21
70.24	Fresh Start	919.23
	From the Book	146.75
	Gorge Gals-North Bonneville	50.00
	Hokinson	192.01
	La Center Group	31.58
	Ladies Big Book Study	60.00
	Ladies by the Lavender	200.00
	Lewis River AA	125.96
	Lighthouse	380.00
	McGuilivray Study Group	1,269.81
	Men's Eastside	300.00
100.00	Men's Fireside	500.00
	Minnihaha	350.00
250.00	Miracles at Noon	3,959.70
	OB's Speaker Meeting	276.79
	Real Alcoholic Men	50.00
	Ready and Willing	67.86
	Reconciled	281.71
	Renegades	35.00
	Ridgefield AA	148.98
	Rock Bottom Recovery	115.00
	Round Table Group	334.40
200.00	Saturday Night Big Book Study	854.00
40.00	She Who Remembers	260.00
	Sober Uppers	70.00
	Step Sisters	392.71
	Stevenson AA	700.00
	Sunday Night Alternative	40.00
	Sunday Solutions	2,004.85
60.00	There is a Solution	343.15
	Truth and Purpose	12.00
	Wayfarer's	158.28
	Wednesday Night Recovery	632.94
	Welcome Home	118.33
	West Vancouver Group	62.36
	Wine to Water	40.60
	Women's Fireside	300.00
	Women in Sobriety	240.00
1,336.07	SUBTOTAL	26,661.16
410.00	Miscellaneous/Individual	3,048.21
1,746.07	TOTAL	29,709.37

Financial Statements

	December (\$)	YTD (\$)
Revenue		
Sales	4,608	50,386
Group Contributions	1,336	26,661
Fundraising/Picnic	20	4,760
Misc. Income	119	1,422
Individual Contributions	410	3,048
Total Revenue	6,494	86,277
Expenses		
Cost of goods sold	2,845	28,655
Fundraising Expenses	0	1,512
Merchant Services	79	1,005
Office supplies	176	2,339
Equipment rent	195	2,312
Building rent	1,437	11,374
Utilities	595	5,147
Net Wages	2,431	28,740
Payroll taxes	805	8,066
Insurance	281	1,140
Licenses	0	266
Travel and Meetings	0	79
Remodel Project	0	2,306
Total Expenses	8,846	92,942
Net Income /(Loss)	(2,352)	(6,665)

December 2019 Cash Balances

Main Checking	\$	2,799
Event Account	\$	5,158
Prudent Reserve	\$	9,051
Petty Cash	\$	100
Total Cash Balance	\$	17,107

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee Meeting of December 9, 2019

Attendance: Marc, Chris, Dee, Cassia, Anna, Phil, Laurie

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:02pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the November SC meeting were accepted. Minutes from the November IG meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: There is a hotline opening for Fridays, 6:00am-9:00am and Spanish speaking 12-step volunteers. A committee meeting was held last month. See attached report for more information.

Treasury: Projecting to be about \$5000 below projection for the year due in part from an increase in payroll, utilities and the remodel. Gratitude dinner accounting is not yet completed as there are still outstanding bills but is projected to net approximately \$3600. See attached report for more information.

Office: No new information to report.

Old Business/Saturday Hours: There have been set-backs and opening on Saturdays beginning the first Saturday of January probably will not happen. Anna continues to train and there is a new volunteer.

Old Business/Gratitude Dinner: A document is being created identifying best practices that should continue and opportunities for improvement.

New Business/Charge Accounts: A group has inquired if they can have a charge account with the office. This is an issue that was addressed several years ago and it was decided then that groups cannot charge.

New Business/Year End Inventory: Volunteers are requested to assist in the year end inventory. It has not yet been scheduled but most likely will be on January 1st.

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

Yours in Service,
Phil B.



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Representatives meeting of December 16, 2019

<u>Attendance:</u>	Cassia*, Women's Fireside	Phil*, Central Group
Marc, Miracles	Kashmir, ESBB	Ryan, MSG
Kevin, Hockinson	David R, Welcome Home	Bruce, B&P
Warren, New Morning	Dusty, Cornerstone	Patti, Camas Friends
Laurie, Sober Uppers	Chris, Rock Bottom	David C, 1 st Shot
Robin, Fireside	Julie, Sunday Solutions	Patrick**, MSG
Richard, Lighthouse	Jennifer, DROTN	
*Not a voting rep	**Not a voting rep but holds voting rights as committee chair	

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:30pm with the Serenity Prayer. Kashmir gave a presentation of the 12th Tradition. Dee gave a presentation of the Self Supporting pamphlet. Minutes from the 11/11/19 and 12/9/19 Steering Committee meeting were provided to the IG reps. Minutes from the 11/18/19 IG meeting were accepted.

Hotline: Patrick advised there is a need for a Friday 6:00am-9:00am volunteer and that Spanish speaking volunteers, especially women, are needed. See attached report for more information.

Treasury: The office is under forecast due to issues of the remodel, utilities and the Gratitude dinner net income under forecast. Help is needed. See attached report for more information.

Office: The Saturday office, 10:00am-2:00pm, will begin on 1/18/20. More volunteers are needed. Flyers with an application are available at the office.

Outreach: Dusty has made contact with a majority of the meetings/groups on his list. He will soon start making contact from another list that will list meetings/groups that have not made contributions to Intergroup. He will be explaining Intergroup's purpose and letting them know that help is needed.

Old Business/Gratitude Dinner: Final financial numbers are not yet available as there are still outstanding bills from the event. A document is being created to help facilitate next year's dinner identifying best practices and improvement opportunities. The next dinner is tentatively scheduled for 11/7/20.

Old Business/Steering Committee Elections: Nominations and voting took place and the new positions beginning 1/1/20 for a two year term are: Position 2: Dee, Position 3: Dusty, Activities: Kevin, Recording: Phil, Treasurer: Laurie.

New Business/Year End Inventory: Volunteers were recruited for the year end inventory to be conducted 1/4/20, 1:00pm.

Group News: In mid-January A New Morning will be moving into the fireside room as they have outgrown their current room. Cornerstone, Rock Bottom and 360 Recovery will be holding the New Year's Eve event at the Saddle Club. Flyers will be brought to the office. Lighthouse will be holding Christmas and New Year's events. Flyers will be brought to the office.

Closing: The meeting was closed at 7:22pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,
Phil B.

The A.A. Guidelines below are compiled from the shared service experience of A.A. members throughout the U.S. and Canada. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference. In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an *informed* group conscience.

WHAT IS A CENTRAL OR INTERGROUP OFFICE?

A central or intergroup office is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community — just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central/intergroup office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups — functions which are best handled by a centralized office — and it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

STAFFING THE INTERGROUP

Most A.A. central/intergroup offices now employ at least one paid full-time secretary or manager, as well as A.A. volunteers — members who respond to Twelfth Step calls at the office, answer the telephone, and often carry out other service office duties. Large offices may also have paid clerical workers on the staff to assist the full-time person. Although the principles involving certain paid employees of A.A. service centers are now widely known in A.A., it is still helpful to review the appropriate A.A. Tradition at the time of opening a new service office. As it states in Tradition Eight: “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” It should be clear from this that the paid secretary functions as a paid employee of the central office — not as an A.A. member — during duty hours and is hired largely on the basis of professional skill.

Regarding compensation for paid workers, Bill W. writes in “Twelve Concepts for World Service” as follows: “We believe that each paid executive, staff member, or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world.” Also, Social Security and certain insurance benefits are provided, as well as sick leave and vacations. It is suggested that the central/intergroup office full-time secretary also be accorded a vote as well as a voice on the steering committee. This policy is successfully followed by A.A. World Services, Inc.: The staff coordinator — a paid employee as well as an A.A. member — also serves as a director and thus has a vote on policy matters.

GROUP REPRESENTATION AT A CENTRAL/INTERGROUP OFFICE

Service centers usually have no authority on their own account; they derive it from the participating groups. Central/intergroup offices are essentially A.A. service entities, “directly responsible to those they serve,” as described in Tradition Nine. Local group representatives reflect the groups’ conscience in the service center operations. In most communities, a central/intergroup office committee or steering committee is set up to handle the administrative activities of the service office. The steering committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and deals with general policy and plans. Periodically, the steering committee reports to group representatives on central/intergroup office problems and accomplishments. It is extremely important to keep a two-way flow of information going between the central/intergroup office and groups.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the key to working together — Central or Intergroup Office and General Service Area Committee or the District Committee and the General Service Office of A.A. In 1990 the General Service Conference stressed the importance of communication and recommended that delegates establish and maintain contact with offices in their areas to share Conference information and assure that central/intergroup offices have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing service structure.

Try to find out what is going on by getting together from time to time with corresponding committees in your area. It is important to share ideas and discuss activities so as to avoid duplication of effort. It is not important who does the work (the General Service Committee or the Central/intergroup office Committee in your area) but that the work gets done — that help is there for the next alcoholic who needs us and our Fellowship.

Central/intergroup offices and general service area committees are complementary, rather than competitive, A.A. operations. Both exist to help insure A.A. unity and to fulfill A.A.’s primary purpose of carrying the message.

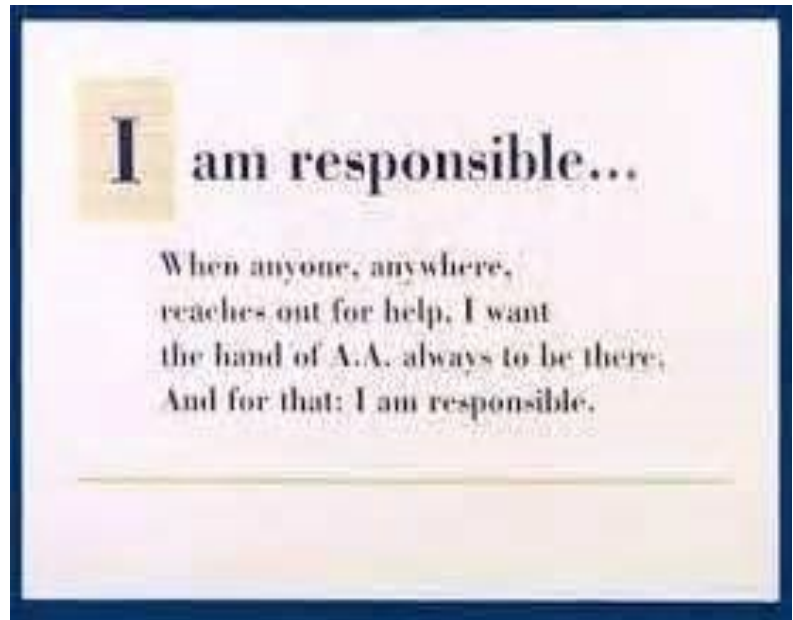
Upcoming Events

February 2020

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

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.



The Vancouver Area
Intergroup

2203 Fairmount Ave, Ste. A
Vancouver, WA
98661

Phone: 360-694-3870

Fax: 360-694-1032

E-mail:
vancaa@vanintgrp.com