

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

June/July 2019
Volume 18

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Primary Purpose

VANCOUVER INTERGROUP

On This Day: June 10, 1935
Alcoholics Anonymous Founded



by Cara McDonough (June 10, 2011)

On June 10, 1935, Bill Wilson and his friend Dr. Robert Smith set out to find the best way to reform alcoholics, and Alcoholics Anonymous was born.

For the full article...turn the page!

This information was found on the following web link :
<https://foundersday.org/>

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Finance/Steering Comm. Mtg. - 7/8 @ 5:30 PM/6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. - 7/15 @ 6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. - 7/23 @ 7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 7/25 @ 7:00 PM

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

On This Day Continued...

The Roots of Alcoholics Anonymous:

Bill Wilson, a stockbroker from New York, had success battling his alcoholism with the help of the Oxford Group, a national organization founded by Lutheran minister Dr. Frank Buchman that promoted waiting for divine guidance in every aspect of life. He attempted to help other alcoholics, but none of them were able to become sober.

In June 1935, during a business trip in Akron, Ohio, Wilson felt the temptation to drink. Using a church directory, [he was able to reach a local Oxford Group member, Henrietta Buckler Seiberling](#), who put Wilson in contact with Dr. Bob Smith, an alcoholic who had recently joined the Oxford Group.

Wilson explained how he was able to become sober, which had a profound impression on Smith. They developed an approach to remaining sober through the personal support of other alcoholics. Seiberling insisted on emphasizing religion, even if it made certain alcoholics less likely to join.

"Well, we're not out to please the alcoholics," she reasoned. "They have been pleasing themselves all these years. We are out to please God. ... God is your only source of Power."

On June 10, outside an Akron hospital, Smith drank a beer to steady his hands for surgery; it would be the last drink he ever had.

Both men began [devoting their free time to reforming other alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital](#), and were able to help one man achieve sobriety. "Though the name Alcoholics Anonymous had not yet been coined, these three men actually made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group," according to the Alcoholics Anonymous Web site.

In 1935, a second group of alcoholics formed in New York followed by a third group in Cleveland in 1939. Through the group, Wilson "emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions and body," according to A.A.

In 1939, the group published its textbook, "[Alcoholics Anonymous](#)." Written by Wilson, the book explained the group's philosophy, including the now well-known 12 steps of recovery.

Alcoholics Anonymous continued to grow, spreading across the United States and Canada. According to the A.A. Web site, by 1950, there were 100,000 recovered alcoholics worldwide. Also in 1950, A.A. held its first international convention in Cleveland.

Article continued on next page...

History of Founders' Day

Founders' Day has been an important part of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our current celebration has its roots from our humble beginnings. Here are a few events which have helped shape our annual Founders' Day.

- 1941- Bill W. and Dr. Bob were the featured speakers.
- 1942- Dr. Bob traced the early history of our movement, introduced early members, followed by a buffet supper served by wives of Akron Group #1.
- 1945- Dr. Bob and Bill W. spoke at a dinner at the Mayflower Ballroom.
- 1945- A modest celebration was held at the M. O'Neil Auditorium with the co-founders present.
- 1947- Dr. Bob and A.A. #3 Bill D. were the speakers.
- 1948- The Akron Armory was used and talks were given by Dr. Walter Tunks, Bill W. and Dr. Bob.
- 1951- Dr. Bob had died, an open house was held at 855 Ardmore. (Dr. Bob's Home) Bill spoke at the Goodyear Theater.
- 1953- Bill W. attended an open house at St. Thomas Hospital.
- 1957- The first "Play" was introduced and a Sunday morning breakfast was held at The University of Akron's Memorial Hall.
- 1958- Bill W., his wife Lois W., and Ethel M. were speakers at The University of Akron's Memorial Hall.
- 1961- This was the start of the memorial for Dr. Bob at 9:00 am.
- 1965- The "Modern" Era of Founders' Day begins with the first Friday-Sunday Weekend. Founders' Day is an integral piece of the legacy our co-founders have left for us. Founders' Day has grown to where 10,000 visitors from around the world come each year.

This information was found on the following web link :

<https://foundersday.org/>

Experience, Strength, and Hope

I always felt different as a child, the oldest of five children. My mother was very cruel to me and thank god my father loved me so much...actually he loved us all but really tried his hardest to protect me. Not sure why my mother had such a hard time showing any affection or love, but I believe she suffered from mental illness as well as alcoholism. My father was an alcoholic of the fun nature until my mom set him off with her tirades. It was scary at first, but it was our 'normal' for fighting and drinking in our home.

My first experience with alcohol was when I was 5 yrs. old. My parents partied every Friday and Saturday and Sundays were for recouping. I was roaming around sipping from everyone's beers and mixed drinks, next thing I know I'm in a hospital getting my stomach pumped. I almost went into an alcoholic coma! Wow blackout drunk from the gate!

My childhood was traumatic always, but my disease kicked into full gear by the time I hit 6th grade and, boy, I had arrived. Not only was I always the life of the parties, but I was funny, cute, and available. I began to make friends like me, outcasts and kids who didn't fit in with their families. We were the "sneak out club"...cutting school, not coming home, and just hanging out where parents were not around. I had a new family that I trusted and they understood me.

Skiping past the years of dysfunction and despair along with 5 failed marriages and 3 beautiful children who didn't really have a mother that was ever fully present. Until one day, after my last son was born, my family took a stand and gave me an ultimatum. They said, "Get help or we take Gabriel" (my baby). OMG that was the turning point, and I went to my first rehab with him at my side. My oldest kids were already farmed out to family or the system, and it wasn't going to happen to my baby. I was able to learn about my disease and AA/NA.

I stuck through this for almost 14 years until my son whom I got sober for died of cancer along with his father 6 months later. You see, I no longer had a program or was involved in AA because I didn't drink or use anything anymore. I was cured, so I thought. Well to make a long story short I got drunk and then for many years stayed that way. I could manage short term sobriety but would fall off each time because I was unwilling to do the work and follow the 12 steps in the order they were written. I never kept a sponsor once I hit my 4th step, so I was still sick.

When I found out my oldest son had cancer we moved here to Washington. Some old friends I used to party with hard and heavy had gotten clean and sober here in Vancouver, and I was willing to go to any length to not be messed up and be available to care for my son. Upon arriving here, I jumped right in and got a sponsor and began working the steps. I now know how important it is to be willing, open-minded, and especially honest, in order to have a quality life beyond my wildest dreams. I am now fully involved in service work, helping others, going to meetings daily, reading my book, and most of all, working my steps thoroughly and honestly with my sponsor. Lastly, I didn't believe in God because no God could have been that cruel to me my whole childhood and not saved me. Today I have a God of my understanding that I pray to every night and am so grateful that my inner self is becoming more loving and responsible. If I can come around from the hell I had been in, anyone can. Just keep coming back and be willing to do the work. It's a miracle that only you can experience by being present and taking action on a daily basis.

—Anna F.

Congratulations!

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

DWAYNE S. — 32 YRS.

RONNIE C.— 43 YRS.

JEFF C. — 33 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



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.

Hotline Chairperson Position Opening June 17th, 2019!

“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 spread sheets. 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

May	Donations	Year to Date
	159th Street Women's Group	150.00
254.81	A New Morning	1,543.94
	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
	Camas Group	147.28
20.00	Cornerstone Group	20.00
	Early Light	52.00
	Eastside Brown Baggers	380.00
	Fireside	605.00
31.17	First Shot	294.21
107.15	Fresh Start	325.71
	Gorge Gals-North Bonneville	50.00
	Hokinson	192.01
15.08	La Center Group	15.08
	Lewis River AA	125.96
50.00	Lighthouse	230.00
	McGuilivray Study Group	639.00
100.00	Men's Fireside	200.00
350.00	Miracles at Noon	1,699.60
	Ready and Willing	26.66
	Reconciled	281.71
35.00	Renegades	35.00
	Ridgefield AA	30.00
	Rock Bottom Recovery	115.00
	Saturday Night Big Book Study	304.00
80.00	She Who Remembers	140.00
	Sober Uppers	25.00
	Step Sisters	222.00
	Stevenson AA	150.00
	Sunday Night Alternative	40.00
	Sunday Solutions	808.75
64.00	There is a Solution	94.15
	Wayfarer's	50.36
57.44	Wednesday Night Recovery	258.67
	Welcome Home	50.95
	West Vancouver Group	62.36
200.00	Women's Fireside	200.00
30.00	Women in Sobriety	155.00
1,394.65	SUBTOTAL	10,532.65
265.47	Miscellaneous/Individual	1,513.50
1,660.12	TOTAL	12,046.15

May Bottom Line

- Total Revenue – Total Expenses = (\$1,295)
- For the month of May we did \$1,150 worse than forecasted
- Group contributions were down for the month and remodel/moving expenses were incurred
- Year-to-date doing \$2,113 better than forecast

Financial Statements

	May (\$)	YTD (\$)
Revenue		
Sales	3,905	22,726
Group Contributions	1,395	10,533
Fundraising/Picnic	0	0
Misc. Income	136	673
Individual Contributions	265	1,514
Total Revenue	5,702	35,444
Expenses		
Cost of goods sold	2,277	13,020
Fundraising Expenses	0	0
Merchant Services	102	447
Office supplies	250	968
Equipment rent	225	984
Building rent	875	5,250
Utilities	287	1,851
Net Wages	1,952	8,849
Payroll taxes	479	2,597
Insurance	48	143
Licenses	0	0
Travel and Meetings	0	79
Remodel Project	503	1,715
Total Expenses	6,997	35,904
Net Income /(Loss)	(1,295)	(459)

May 2019 Cash Balances	
Main Checking	\$ 6,345
Event Account	\$ 1,400
Prudent Reserve	\$ 17,046
Petty Cash	\$ 100
Total Cash Balance	\$ 24,891

Vancouver Area Intergroup
EVENT CHAIRPERSON
Volunteer Position Open NOW!



We are looking to fill this position with a positive-minded, go-getting individual for upcoming and future events!

It would be helpful if they had the following traits/ abilities:

- ♦ At least 2 years of continuous sobriety
- ♦ Some experience with AA events
- ♦ Experience with the planning of events

The following are a list of duties:

- ♦ Planning Events (with assistance from Office Manager and Steering Committee)
- ♦ Making flyers/announcements
- ♦ Recruiting/assigning duties to volunteers
- ♦ Attending and coordinating at the events

If you are interested in this position, please call the Intergroup Office at:
(360) 694-3870 during business hours, or email us at
vancaa@vanintgrp.com

AA GRAPEVINE

From the June 1944 magazine.

Editorial:

The Shape of Things to Come

In the book Alcoholics Anonymous there is a chapter called "A Vision for You". Wandering through it recently, my eye was caught by this startling paragraph written a short five years ago. *"Someday we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination. To some extent this is already true. Some of us are salesmen and go about. Little clusters of twos and threes and fives of us have sprung up in other communities through contact with our two large centers-----"* Rubbing my eyes I looked again. A lump came into my throat. "Only five years," I thought. "Then but two large centers--little clusters of twos and threes--travelers who hoped one day to find us at every destination."

Could it be that only yesterday this was just a hope--those little clusters of twos and threes, those little beacons so anxiously watched as they flickered, but never went out.

And today--hundreds of centers shedding their warm illumination upon the lives of thousands, lighting the dark shoals where the stranded and hopeless lie breaking up--those fingers of light already stretching to our beach heads in other lands.

Now comes another lighted lamp--this little newspaper called *"The Grapevine"*. May its rays of hope and experience ever fall upon the current of our A.A. life and one day illumine every dark corner of this alcoholic world.

The aspirations of its editors, contributors and readers could well be voiced in the last words of *"A Vision for You"*. *"Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find, and join us. We shall be with you, in the Fellowship of The Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you--until then."*

-- Bill W.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: MAY 13, 2019

Attendance

Ronnie	Marc	Dee	Cassia, office manager
Phil	Laurie (by phone)		

The meeting was opened at 6:03pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the 4/8/19 Steering Committee meeting were accepted. Minutes from the 4/15/19 Intergroup Representatives meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: Wendi submitted a written report. All positions are filled however substitutes are needed. The 12-Step list is light and volunteers are needed.

Treasury: Expenses are up due to the remodel however the office is financially stable. Please see attached report.

Office: The remodel is still in progress. The office will be included on the street sign at no expense.

Old Business/Activities: The annual picnic is scheduled for 7/8/19. We do not have a chair person.

Old Business/Office: Staffing the office with volunteers on Saturdays is still an intended project but was put on hold due to the remodel. This is projected to start in July.

New Business/Chair: Ronnie is looking to relocate and does not know exactly when he will be leaving the area as it is dependent on when his house sells. To insure a smooth transition he will vacate his position with a new chair assuming duties 7/1/19. Nomination will be taken at the May and June IG meeting and voting at the June IG meeting.

New Business/Treasury Workshop: There will be a treasury workshop on 6/1/19, 9:00am at the Clark County Fire & Rescue, 911 N 65th Ave, Ridgefield. Laurie "volunteered" to represent Intergroup.

The meeting was closed at 6:28pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,
Phil B



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES MEETING OF MAY 20, 2019

Attendance:

Ronnie*, chair	Marc T, Miracles	Dusty G, Cornerstone
David R, Welcome Home	Mark O, Reconciled	Phil B, Central Group
Tom S, Men's Fireside	Michelle C, Dry Tribe	Julie E, Sunday Solutions
Ryan S, MSG	Richard R, Lighthouse	Jordan S, Rock Bottom Recovery
Warren R, A New Morning	Laura H, Women in Action	David C, First Shot
Wendy W*, MSG	Robin M, Fireside	Cassia N*, Office Manager
Varena, ECWG	*Indicated not a voting IG representative	

Meeting Opened: Ronnie opened the meeting at 6:30pm reading the purpose of the Intergroup followed by the Serenity Prayer. Julie gave a presentation of the 5th Tradition. 19 were in attendance; 16 being IG reps with voting rights. Minutes from the 5/13/19 Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Minutes from the 4/15/19 IG rep meeting were accepted.

Hotline: Wendy reported that the hotline is fully staffed however substitutes are needed. The 12 Step call list is lightly staffed. Wendy resigned her position as Hotline chair effective July 1, 2019.

Treasury: Please see attached report. The small variance is due to costs associated with the remodel however the office is financially stable.

Office: No new business. The remodel is close to completion.

Old Business/Chair: As previously reported Ronnie is looking to relocate and is resigning as Chair effective July 1, 2019. Marc T was nominated for the position which he accepted. Additional nominations and voting is at the June IG meeting.

Old Business/Activities: Flyers for activities were distributed to the IG reps. The reservations for the picnic were never made.

Old Business/Website: The meeting/group information is ready to be launched to the plug-in.

New Business/Hotline Chair: No one volunteered to take this position.

New Business/Activities Chair: No one volunteered to take this position

New Business/Open House: Not having a venue for the annual picnic, a motion was approved to hold an open house of the remodeled office with a BBQ.

Group News: Julie from Sunday Solutions reported they are now giving out marbles in place of 30 day coins and coins that are given out are non-denominational. Mark O. from Reconciled reported due to financial reasons contributions are being suspended. Warren reported he is the new rep for A New Morning.

Closing: The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:13pm.

Yours in Service,
Phil B.

Upcoming Events

July 2019

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

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

INTO ACTION 12 STEPS WORKSHOP

September 6th & 7th, 2019

Battle Ground United Methodist Church
10300 NE 199th St.
Battle Ground, WA 98604

-Scott L., Nashville, TN-

☐ **Friday, Sept 6th- Doors Open at 6:30 PM / 7-9 PM**

o Mistakes I've Made and Lessons I've Learned

☐ **Saturday, Sept 7th- Doors Open at 8 AM / 8:30-5 PM**

o 8:30 AM- Love Meditation

o 12 Steps Workshop- *Step 4 The Easy Way*

o Skit- The Committee Inside Bob's Head

o Ask It Basket

Questions Contact-

Sonny W. 360-521-3349

Cindy R. 360-513-9138

To Volunteer Contact-

Lauren M. 360-713-2583

Matt A. 314-852-5848

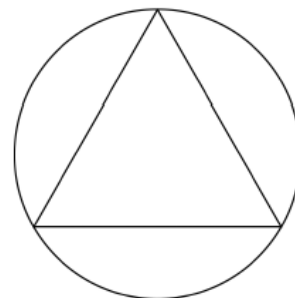
IntoActionD37@gmail.com

★ **Free Event** ★

Coffee & Tea

Friday Night Dessert

Saturday- Fruit, Snacks & Lunch



Hosted

by District 37

7th Tradition will be observed

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/>

The Vancouver Area Intergroup

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