

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

March/April 2019
Volume 15

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Primary Purpose

VANCOUVER INTERGROUP

A History of Your Local Intergroup As Remembered by Bill T.

HOW did The Intergroup in Vancouver start? It started back in the early 70's when Central Group members decided to put a phone booth in their meeting space for hotline calls. The phone number that they got was 694-3870 (same number we have today), and Central Group members would answer it and go on 12 step calls. The reason we call ourselves the Intergroup instead of the commonly used name of "Central Office" is because both entities had the same word "Central" in their name names, and so they changed the name to Intergroup.

Around 1976-77 they moved the phone and made a small book store in the basement of the Bowling Alley which was on 8 and C. They just had the phone and a chair where the office person sat, and the whole operation fit behind the piano.

In 1981 the Intergroup moved from the basement of the Bowling Alley to the Academy Room 217, and they were there for around 3 or 4 years. They then moved down stairs in the same building to a smaller room for less rent. After a few years they moved to 2202 Broadway to a still smaller place. They remained there for some time.

For a reason I can't remember they then moved off of Andresen above the old Chase College, which was across the street from K-Mart. In 1986, while still at this location, the Intergroup was close to going broke. So myself and others, with the help of most all the groups got it back on it's feet again. But we had to move again because of rent. So the Intergroup moved back to 2202 Broadway.

Article continued on next page...

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. -4/8 @6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. -4/15 @6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. -4/23 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 4/25 @7:00 PM

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

A History of the Vancouver Area Intergroup (Continued from Pg. 1)...

The office stayed at 2202 Broadway for quite awhile. However, it started to go very low on funds again. I believe the reason for this was that it didn't keep very many supplies on hand and kept running out.

In early 2003 I was called and asked if there was anything we could do to keep the doors open. I held a meeting for all interested to find out what the groups wanted. Should we close the doors or what? This meeting was very well attended and many things were brought up including the need to keep supplies of books and coins on hand, so as not to run out.

So, the office which had been open from 10 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday, changed the office hours so as to be open for only 4 hours a day. This allowed us to pay all bills that were past due as groups gave money. We then moved the office to where it's at now at 2203 Fairmount Avenue in 2003, hired an Office Manager, and opened the doors from 12 pm to 6 pm Monday through Friday. I might say that the groups as a whole really came through!

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Intergroup Office!

—Bill T.

Bookstore News

Your Vancouver Area Intergroup Office is staying in it's current location and updating the space we currently occupy! Stay tuned for exciting changes and thank you all for your patience as we move things about in an effort to use the space in more economical, efficient, and yes (even) fun ways!



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.

Congratulations!

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

HARRY — 39 YRS.

ADAM — 30 YRS.

WENDY — 2 YRS.

BRENDA — 10 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

***Never let what you have
been given become more
important than what
gave it you.***

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help....

12th Step List

Hotline phone answerers need 12th Step members to contact to refer to incoming calls from active alcoholics.

When a Twelfth Step call is received, we begin with the assumption that another human being's life is at stake — literally. This means that, without delay, this call is to be answered at once.

There are currently 12 men and 7 women in the Vancouver area available to take or go on a 12th Step call. Many more are needed.

If you have 6 months of sobriety and want to sign up for this vital service work, contact Wendy W at 971-235-5240 wwhite56@comcast.net

-or-

Go to the Vancouver AA website home page, www.vancouveraa.org,
Click on Contacts/Committees, scroll to the Twelve Step Committee (Hotline),
Click on [Volunteer for the 12-Step List](#), and fill out the form.

The life you save may be your own.

DISTRICT 7

An Excerpt from the Second Edition of *Our Stories Disclose...*

On September 1, 1992, District 7 was split and a new district, District 37, with about 30 groups, was formed. Fourth Plain Blvd. in Vancouver was the dividing line. District 7 took the south half and 37 the north half. South Vancouver is the major population base of District 7, with Camas, Washougal, Stevenson and Carson. Bingen and White Salmon are now part of the Hood River, Oregon, district.

The Standing Committees are shared with District 37 and they are all handled through the two districts. Vancouver Intergroup does the phone service and Twelfth Step calls.

Both treatment and corrections committees are very active with six outpatient treatment centers, a new work release center and meetings in the Clark County Jail.

Public Information is busy with the normal work, and also works with Portland P.I. to get P.S.A's on TV and radio since most of the stations are in Portland.

*To Pre-order your copy of the 3rd Edition of **Our Stories Disclose**, fill out the form on the following page and send it in (see page 6 for details)!*

A NEW MORNING GROUP

An Excerpt from the Second Edition of *Our Stories Disclose...*

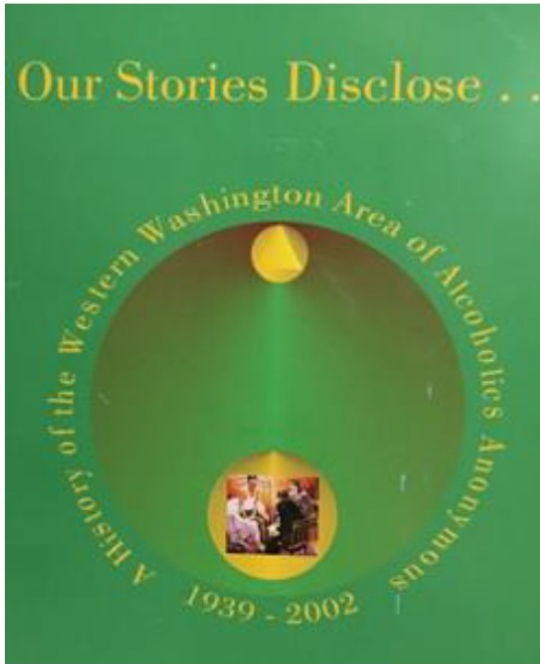
The first meeting of **A New Morning** was at 6:45 a.m. July 9, 1990 at the Columbia Arts Center, Evergreen and Daniels, in Vancouver. The meeting moved to the Catholic Community Services building in the fall of 1990, then to the First Presbyterian Church at 4300 Main in Vancouver in the spring of 1999. Group founders were Veta N., Earlyn T., Mike C., Dick L., Jack L., and Darlene F.

The initial meetings of **A New Morning** were in an unheated building with storage of the group's supplies two floors below. Big Book study was a feature of the original meeting. They added Conference approved literature study a day later. Both continue today. The name came from the original flier, which simply announced, "A New Morning Meeting."

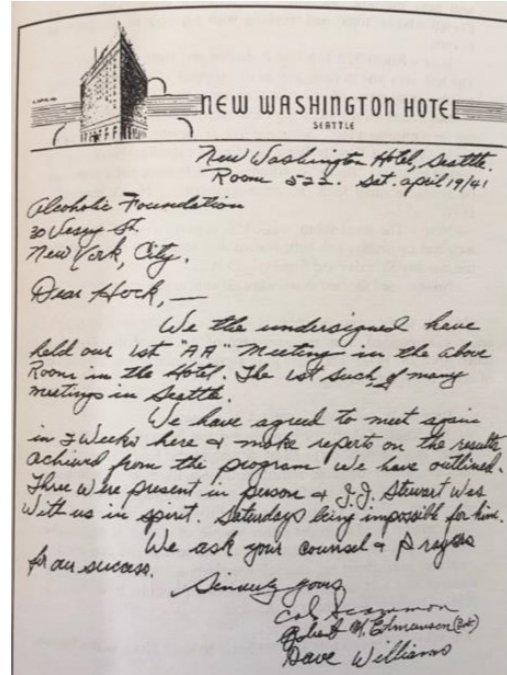
In 1991, the group began celebrating birthdays Saturday mornings. The group was intrigued by Jim P.'s description of California-style "cake meetings" for birthday celebrations, but cake didn't go over well first thing in the morning. Linda F. found a birthday cake-shaped hat with battery operated candles as an alternative to having cake for breakfast. Those taking birthday coins wore the hat while the group sang "Happy Birthday." The hat finally gave up the ghost in early 2002, so Matt E. bought a felt hat that looks like a birthday cake with candles. The quality of singing has deteriorated over the years. There is now an unspoken rule that no one is allowed to sing in tune. Weekend meetings often approach 50 in attendance.

Group members have started other meetings, including Spanish language, **Un Nuevo Dia** and **Outside Freedom** for parolees.

Western Washington Area History Book Presales Form



Note: Image is of the 2002 edition of *Our Stories Disclose...* The title and cover design of the 2021 edition has not yet been chosen.



A restored copy of the letter which Dave W. and the fledgling group sent to the Alcoholic Foundation announcing their first meeting.

Name: _____, Number of Books Ordered: _____

Presales Order Form

X

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Nearest Intergroup: _____ District Number: _____ Email: _____

Payment method (Please select one): Cash ____ (If purchasing in person), Check ____, Money order ____, Credit Card ____

Number of copies ____ Total enclosed (number of copies x \$15.00) _____

DO NOT SEND CASH!

All orders postmarked before July 1, 2021 will contain a specially designed commemorative book plate.

Make check or Money Order payable to:

Western Washington Area of AA
702 Kentucky St #535
Bellingham, WA 98225-4200

Please: Annotate that this is for OSD 3!

Group Contributions and Financial Statements

February	Donations	Year to Date
150.00	159th Street Women's Group	150.00
384.30	A New Morning	874.23
	Amboy Renegades	35.00
	As Bill Sees It	197.75
	As We Recovered	50.00
	Chapter Nine	118.00
102.05	Camas Group	102.05
220.00	Eastside Brown Baggers	220.00
605.00	Fireside	605.00
45.71	First Shot	131.77
111.94	Fresh Start	111.94
	Hokinson	79.22
	Lewis River AA	63.96
50.00	Lighthouse	80.00
	McGuilivray Study Group	346.00
	Men's Fireside	100.00
324.60	Miracles at Noon	649.60
	Reconciled	100.00
40.00	Rock Bottom Recovery	40.00
	Saturday Night Big Book Study	164.00
	She Who Remembers	60.00
	Step Sisters	108.00
	Stevenson AA	150.00
	Sunday Solutions	409.25
35.00	Wayfarer's	50.36
19.78	Wednesday Night Recovery	96.53
	West Vancouver Group	62.36
	Women in Sobriety	125.00
2,118.53	SUBTOTAL	5,310.17
175.00	Miscellaneous/Individual	370.00
2,293.53	TOTAL	5,680.17

Financial Statements

	February (\$)	YTD (\$)
Revenue		
Sales	4,377	8,853
Group Contributions	2,119	5,310
Fundraising/Picnic	0	0
Misc. Income	163	275
Individual Contributions	175	370
Total Revenue	6,833	14,808
Expenses		
Cost of goods sold	2,464	5,038
Fundraising Expenses	0	0
Merchant Services	86	165
Office supplies	76	471
Equipment rent	126	375
Building rent	875	1,750
Utilities	67	455
Net Wages	870	3,556
Payroll taxes	586	1,174
Insurance	0	0
Licenses	0	0
Total Expenses	5,149	12,983
Net Income /(Loss)	1,684	1,825

February, 2019 Cash Balances

Main Checking	\$	9,087
Event Account	\$	3,710
Prudent Reserve	\$	17,044
Petty Cash	\$	97
Total Cash Balance	\$	29,938

February Bottom Line

- Total Revenue – Total Expenses = \$1,684
- For the month of February we did \$1,885 better than forecasted

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee Meeting for February 13th, 2019

Attendance:

Ronnie, SC Chair	Ronnie's Bride
Cassia, Office Manager +	Marc, SC vice Chair
Phil, SC Member	Chris, SC Member
Connie, SC Member	Nicole, SC Secretary
Nicole B, Interior Design	Dee, SC Member

The Meeting was opened at 6:08pm with the Serenity Prayer. The January Steering Committee meeting minutes were accepted. December Intergroup meeting minutes were reviewed.

Hotline: Our Hotline Chair, Wendy has created a flyer highlighting service opportunities and updates, please see attached.

Office: Proposed 3 year lease circulated. Proposed amendments thus far to include itemized list of expected improvements. Option to enter into 5 year lease extended. Acceptance pending information regarding compounded yearly interest per square foot expected with 2 year lease extension.

Website: Cassia reports consistent progress towards completion of timely and tedious updates of district meeting schedule. All else, see attached.

Treasurers Report: Marc reported on Laurie's behalf that February was ahead of forecast prediction. See attached.

Intergroup Report: Cassia introduced Nicole B. an interior designer from the program of AA, willing to donate her services. Incorporating maximum utilization of our space while putting the FUN back in FUNCTIONALITY. Concerning future Saturday volunteers, Cassia will be creating a flyer outlining experience required, hours, and other pertinent information. It will be circulated closer to completion of construction when a training day can be set.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (Continued from pg. 8)...

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Service Work Outreach Network: Wendy, our Hotline Chair, has outlined 2 new motions concerning outreach to be presented at Intergroup Rep Meeting.

Traditions: Ronnie strongly suggested that steering committee and intergroup members read “How the traditions were formed,” paying particular attention to the 6th to get us more closely acquainted with our founding principles.

The meeting was closed at 7:10pm with the Lord’s Prayer.

Your Secretary,
Nicole



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

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

VANCOUVER AREA INTEROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS INTERGROUP REP MEETING FOR FEBUARY 18th, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Mark Q* – Reconciled	Darcy S – Friday Night Happy Hour
Connie F - Lighthouse	David C —First Shot
Nicole*/** – Rock Bottom Recovery	Phil B* — Central Group
Chris H*/** – MSG	Dusty G —Cornerstone
Dee R – Welcome Home	Robin M – Fireside
Richard R – Lighthouse	Tom S – Men’s Fireside
Richard —SNA	Marc T—Miracles
Laura H —Women in Action	Wendy W—MSG
Ronnie C*/** – Chair	Michelle C—Dry Tribe
Julie E —Sunday Solutions	Eric H—ANM

Meeting was opened at 6:35pm with the Serenity Prayer. Wendy gave a presentation on the 2nd Tradition. Minutes from the January Steering Committee meeting were reviewed and accepted. Minutes from the January Steering Committee meeting were included for review.

Hotline: Chair Wendy provided attached report. Current Hotline openings: Tues 9am-12pm & Sat 3pm-6pm. Still seeking 12 step callers as well. Contact Wendy 971-253-5240. Thanks!

Financial: Marc T. gave Treasurers report. \$139 in the positive, \$329 ahead of forecast. See attached.

Intergroup: Cassia reports that April is our estimated start for renovations. At that time she will be seeking volunteers to help relocate inventory. Nicole B introduced as our interior design coordinator.

Website: Cassia reports changes are going smoothly and progress continues to be made. Upon completion of meeting schedule data entry she will bring to intergroup reps for final review. See attached report.



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued...

OLD BUSINESS

Website Report Motion: Darcy's motion to omit reading of website report at intergroup meeting unless questions are posed or Cassia has pertinent points of interest regarding group, received a 2nd from Mark and was approved by committee.

Office Report: Marc T. updated reps about lease terms and length.

NEW BUSINESS

New Motion #1: Wendy, Hotline Chair, made a motion to form outreach committee chair position. Details see attached. Motion received 2nd and discussion. Wendy motioned for table on original motion until next month. 2nd, and passed. Info to go to groups for review.

New Motion #2: Wendy, Hotline Chair, made motion that intergroup hotline chair be an elected rotating position. Full details of motion outlined on attachment. Motion received 2nd and was discussed. Motion made to table until next month pending review by meetings represented. Received 2nd, passed.

Office Volunteers: Cassia reported that recruitment and training for these positions are now pending construction completion, updates as they become available.

Intergroup Picnic: NEED someone to head this event! Please contact office for more details if interested. Great appreciation for someone willing to head this fundraising event. You would have our support and assistance.

1st Shot: David presenting short mission statement they created to group next month.

Sunday Solutions: Julie says come on down!

The meeting was closed at 7:30pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,

Nicole W.
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events

April 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 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	9	10	11	12 Kleen Street Speaker Mtg.: 7:30 pm	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	1	2	3	4

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

www.vancouveraa.org



Foreword

by Bill W. —1955*—

How shall we A.A.'s best preserve our unity? That is the subject of this booklet.

When an alcoholic applies the Twelve Steps of our recovery program to his personal life, his *disintegration* stops and his *unification* begins. The Power which now holds him together in one piece overcomes those forces which had rent him apart.

Exactly the same principle applies to each A.A. group and to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. So long as the ties which bind us together prove far stronger than those forces which would divide us if they could, all will be well. We shall be secure as a movement; our essential unity will remain a certainty.

If, as A.A. members, we can each refuse public prestige and renounce any desire for personal power; if, as a movement, we insist on remaining poor, so avoiding disputes about extensive property and its management; if we steadfastly decline all political, sectarian, or other alliances, we shall avoid internal division and public notoriety; if, as a movement, we remain a spiritual entity concerned only with carrying our message to fellow sufferers without charge or obligation; then only can we most effectively complete our mission. It is becoming ever so clear that we ought never accept even the most alluring temporary benefits if these should consist of considerable sums of money, or could involve us in controversial alliances and endorsements, or might tempt some of us to accept, as A.A. members, personal publicity by press or radio. Unity is so vital to us A.A.'s that we cannot risk those attitudes and practices which have sometimes demoralized other forms of human society. Thus far we have succeeded because we have been different. May we continue to be so!

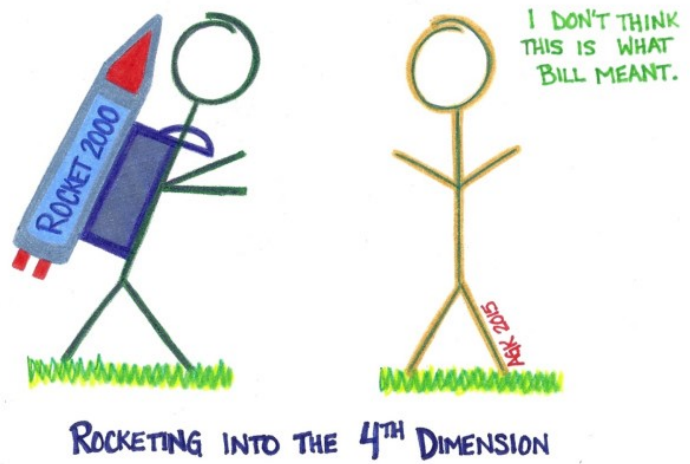
But A.A. unity cannot automatically preserve itself. Like personal recovery, we shall always have to work to maintain it. Here, too, we surely need honesty, humility, open-mindedness, unselfishness, and, above all—vigilance. So we who are older in A.A. beg you who are newer to ponder carefully the experience we have already had of trying to work and live together. We would like each A.A. to become just as much aware of those disturbing tendencies which endanger us as a whole as he is conscious of those personal defects which threaten his own sobriety and peace of mind. For whole movements have, before now, gone on benders, too!

The "Twelve Points of A.A. Tradition" reproduced herein is our first attempt to state sound principles of group conduct and public relations. As one of the originators of A.A., I was asked to publish these "Points," together with supporting articles, serially in our principal monthly journal, The A.A. Grapevine. Many A.A.'s already feel that these Twelve Traditions are sound enough to become the basic guide and protection for A.A. as a whole; that we ought to apply them as seriously to our group life as we do the Twelve Recovery Steps to ourselves individually. Of this, it will take time to tell. May we never forget that without permanent unity we can offer little lasting relief to those scores of thousands yet to join us in their quest for freedom...

For the full article, see pages 3-9 of this pamphlet (P-17).

*Originally published in The A.A. Grapevine.

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.



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