

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

November/December 2019
Volume 23

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Primary Purpose

VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

“The Story of Dave B., one of the founders of A.A. in
Canada in 1944.”

Gratitude in Action - Dave B., Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
(P. 193, 4th edition.)

Pioneers of A.A.

Dave’s date of sobriety was April 7, 1944. He was born on
June 25, 1908, in Toronto, Canada, and spent his youth in
Knowlton, Quebec. He married Dorothy Ford on September
1, 1929. They had three children and thirteen grandchildren.

In Montreal, just before World War II, a young physician in-
terested in alcoholism, Dr. Travis Dancey, had tried to get
Dave to read the Big Book while he was incarcerated in a men-
tal institution. Dave, angry and rebellious, literally threw the
Big Book at his would-be benefactor. Dr. Dancey was taken
into the military service and when he returned in late 1944
and saw Dave, the latter was newly sober in A.A.

Keep reading this article...turn the page!

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. –
12/9@6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. –
12/16@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. –12/24
@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 12/26
@7:00 PM

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

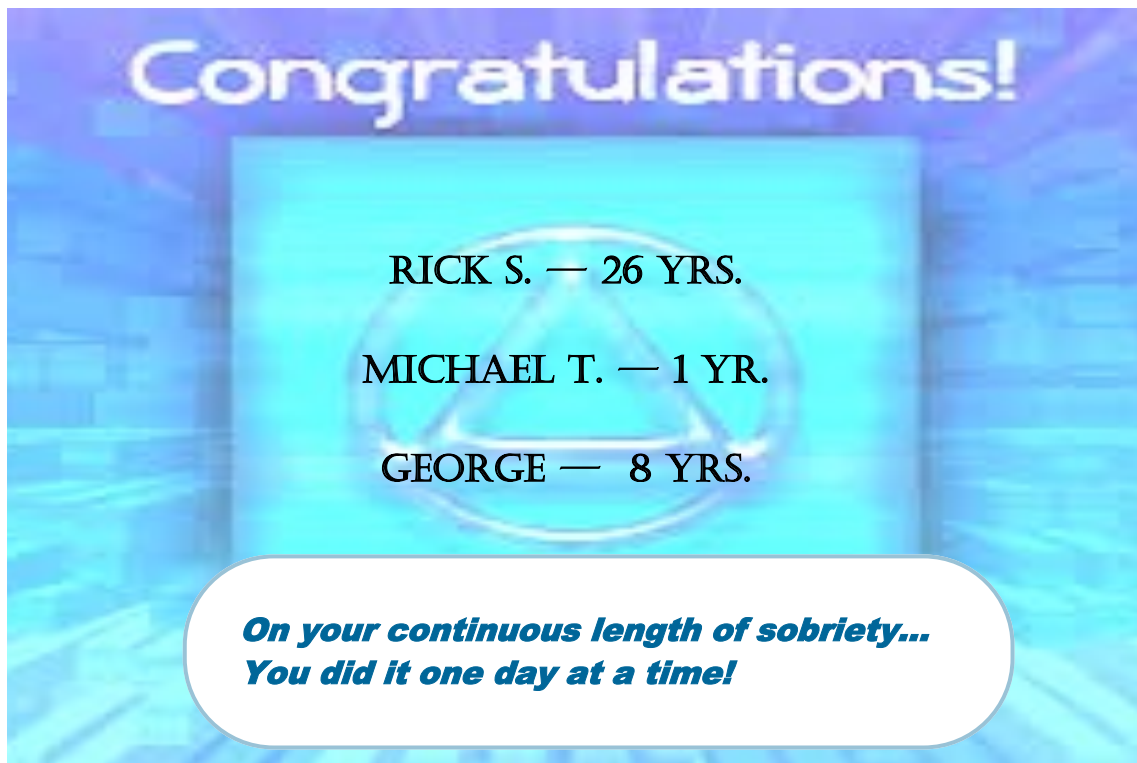
The Story of Dave B. Continued...

Dr. Dancey recalled that when he returned, Dave not only dragged him around to A.A. meetings, “but he had the effrontery to explain the spiritual principles of the program to me!” Dr. Dancey went on to become the first Class A. (nonalcoholic) trustee from Canada, serving from 1965-1974.

Dave was a tireless twelfth-stepper, who founded the first A.A. group in the Province of Quebec. He served as a Class B (alcoholic) Trustee from 1962 to 1964.

He died on December 9, 1984.

This Article was found at www.silkworth.net



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!

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia

For Sister Ignatia:

our everlasting gratitude

SISTER MARY IGNATIA, one of the finest friends that we of AA shall ever know, went to her reward Friday morning, April first, nineteen hundred sixty-six. Next day, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine opened their Mother House to visitors. More than one thousand of them signed the guest book in the first two hours. These were the first of many who during the two days following came to pay their respects to Sister.

On Monday at high noon the Cathedral at Cleveland could barely seat its congregation. Friends in the city and from afar attended the service. The Sisters of Charity themselves were seen to be seated in a body, radiant in their faith. Together with families and friends, we of AA had come there in expression of our gratitude for the life and works of our well-loved Sister. It was not really a time for mourning, it was instead a time to thank God for His great goodness to us all.

In its affirmation of the faith, the Mass was of singular beauty; the more so to many, since it was spoken in English. The eulogy, written and read by a close friend of Sister's, was a graphic and stirring portrayal of her character, and of her deeds. There was a most special emphasis upon the merits of AA, and upon the part co-founder Dr. Bob had played in Sister's great adventure among us. We were assured as seldom before that those who dwell in the fellowship of the Spirit need never be concerned with barriers, or with boundaries.

For those thousands of men, women and children whose lives had been directly touched and illumined by Sister, it would perhaps not be needful to write this account of her. Of Sister, and of the Grace she brought to all these, they already know better than anyone else. But to the many others who have never felt her presence and her love, it is hoped this narrative may be something for their special inspiration.

Born in 1889 of devout and liberty-loving parents, Sister entered into this world at Shanvilly, County Mayo, of the Emerald Isle. The famed poet Yeats, born nearby, once remarked that the strange beauty of County Mayo had been specially designed to raise up poets, artists, heroes and saints. We can little doubt that even when Ignatia was aged six, and her parents had emigrated from Ireland to Cleveland, she was already beginning to manifest many a sterling virtue.

Keep reading this article...turn the page!

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia Continued...

Soon the child began to reveal unusual musical talents, both of piano and voice. A few years later she was seen giving lessons at the home of her parents. During 1914, she became possessed of a great desire to become a religious. In this year she joined the Community that many of us AAs know so well - the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. There she continued her musical education and her teaching.

But even then, as ever since, Sister was frail, exceeding frail. By 1933 the rigors of her music teaching had become too great. She had a really serious physical breakdown. Her doctor put to her this choice: "You will have to take it easy. You can either be a dead music teacher or a live Sister. Which is it going to be?"

With great good cheer, so her Community says, Mary Ignatia accepted a much quieter and less distinguished assignment. She became the registrar at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio - an institution administered by her Order. At the time it was wondered if she could manage even this much. That she would live to the age of seventy-seven was not believable; that she was destined to minister to 15,000 alcoholics and their families in the years to come was known only to God.

For a considerable time Sister serenely carried on at the admissions desk in St. Thomas. It was not then certain she had ever heard of AA. Though Group One at Akron, and Group Two in New York had been in slow and fitful growth since 1935, neither had come to public notice.

AA's sudden growth

However in 1939 the scene changed abruptly. In the spring of that year the AA book was first printed, and Liberty magazine came up with an article about our society in the early fall. This was quickly followed by a whole series of remarkable pieces which were carried by The Cleveland Plain Dealer on its editorial page. The newspaper and the mere two dozen AAs then in town were swamped by frantic pleas for help. Despite this rather chaotic situation, the Cleveland membership burgeoned into several hundreds in a few months.

Nevertheless the implications of this AA population explosion were in some ways disturbing, especially the lack of proper hospital facilities. Though the Cleveland hospitals had rallied gallantly to this one emergency, their interest naturally waned when bills often went unpaid, and when ex-drunks trooped through the corridors to do what they called "Twelfth Step" work on sometimes noisy victims just arrived. Even the City Hospital at Akron, where Dr. Bob had attended numerous cases, was showing signs of weariness.

In New York we had temporarily got off to a better start. There we had dear old Dr. Silkworth and, after awhile, his wonderful AA nurse "Teddy." This pair were to "process" some 12,000 New York area drunks in the years ahead, and so they became, as it were, the "opposite numbers" to the partnership of co-founder Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia at Akron.

Much concerned that, hospital-wise, his area might be caught quite unprepared to cope with a great new flood of publicity about AA, Dr. Bob in 1940 decided to visit St. Thomas and explain the great need for a hospital connection that could prove permanently effective. Since St. Thomas was a church institution, he thought the people there might vision a fine opportunity for service where the others had not. And how right he was!

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia

Continued...

Sister Ignatia learns of AA

But Bob knew no one in authority at the hospital. So he simply betook himself to "Admissions" and told the diminutive nun in charge the story of AA, including that of his own recovery. As this tale unfolded, the little sister glowed. Her compassion was deeply touched and perhaps her amazing intuition had already begun to say, "This is it." Of course Sister would try to help, but what could one small nun do? After all, there were certain attitudes and regulations. Alcoholism had not been reckoned as an illness; it was just a dire form of gluttony!

Dr. Bob then told Sister about an alcoholic who then was in a most serious condition. A bed would simply have to be found for him. Said Mary Ignatia, "I'm sure your friend must be very sick. You know, Doctor, this sounds to me like a terrible case of indigestion." Trying to keep a straight face, Dr. Bob replied, "How right you are - his indigestion is most terrible." Twinkling, Sister immediately said, "Why don't you bring him in right away?"

The two benign conspirators were soon faced with yet another dilemma. The victim proved to be distressingly intoxicated. It would soon be clear to all and sundry that his "indigestion" was quite incidental. Obviously a ward wouldn't do. There would have to be a private room. But all the single ones were filled. What on earth could they do? Sister pursed her lips, and then broke into a broad smile. Forthwith he declared, "I'll have a bed moved into our flower room. In there he can't disturb anyone." This was hurriedly done, and the "indigestion" sufferer was already on his way to sobriety and health.

Of course the conspirators were conscience-stricken by their subterfuge of the flower room. And anyhow, the "indigestion" pretense simply couldn't last. Somebody in authority would have to be told, and that somebody was the hospital's Superior. With great trepidation Sister and Dr. Bob waited upon this good lady, and explained themselves. To their immense delight she went along, and a little later, she boldly unfolded the new project before the St. Thomas trustees. To their everlasting credit they went along too - so much so that it was not a great while before Dr. Bob himself was invited to become a staff physician at St. Thomas, a bright example indeed of the ecumenical spirit.

Presently a whole ward was devoted to the rehabilitation of alcoholics, and Sister Ignatia was of course placed in immediate charge. Dr. Bob sponsored the new cases into the hospital and medically treated each, never sending a bill to any. The hospital fees were very moderate and Sister often insisted on taking in patients on a "pay later" basis, sometimes to the mild consternation of the trustees.

Together Ignatia and Dr. Bob indoctrinated all who cared to listen to the AA approach as portrayed by the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, lately come off the press. The ward was open to visiting AAs from surrounding groups who, morning to night, told their stories of drinking and of recovery. There were never any barriers of race or creed; neither was AA nor Church teaching pressed upon any.

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia Continued...

With infinite tenderness

Since nearly all her strenuous hours were spent there, Sister became a central figure on the ward. She would alternately listen and talk, with infinite tenderness and understanding. The alcoholic's family and friends received the very same treatment. It was this most compassionate caring that was a chief ingredient of her unique Grace; it magnetically drew everyone to her, even the most rough and obstinate. Yet she would not always stand still for arrant nonsense. When the occasion required, she could really put her foot down. Then to ease the hurt, she would turn on her delightful humor. Once, when a recalcitrant drunk boasted he'd never again be seen at the hospital, Sister shot back, "Well, let's hope not. But just in case you do show up, please remember that we already have your size of pajamas. They will be ready and waiting for you!"

As the fame of St. Thomas grew, alcoholics flocked in from distant places. After their hospitalization they often remained for a time in Akron to get more first-hand AA from Dr. Bob, and from Akron's Group Number One. On their return home, Sister would carry on an ever mounting correspondence with them.

We AAs are often heard to say that our Fellowship is founded upon resources that we have drawn from medicine, from religion and from our own experience of drinking and of recovery. Never before nor since those Akron early days have we witnessed a more perfect synthesis of all these healing forces. Dr. Bob exemplified both medicine and AA; Ignatia and the Sisters of St. Augustine also practiced applied medicine, and their practice was supremely well animated by the wonderful spirit of their Community. A more perfect blending of Grace and talent cannot be imagined.

It should never be necessary to dwell, one by one, upon the virtues of these magnificent friends of AA's early time - Sister Ignatia and co-founder Dr. Bob. We need only recollect that "by their fruits we shall always know them."

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia

Continued...

Passing of Dr. Bob

Standing before the Cleveland International Convention of 1950, Dr. Bob looked upon us of AA for the last time. His good wife Anne had passed on before, and his own rendezvous with the new life to come was not many months away.

Ten years had slipped by since the day when he and Sister had bedded down that first sufferer in the St. Thomas flower room. In this marvelous decade Sister and Dr. Bob had medically treated, and had spiritually infused, five thousand alcoholics. The greater part of these had found their freedom under God.

In thankful recollection of this great work, we of AA presented to the Sisters of Charity -of St. Augustine and to the Staff of the St. Thomas Hospital a bronze plaque, ever since to be seen in the ward where Sister and Dr. Bob had wrought their wonders. The plaque reads as follows:

IN GRATITUDE
THE FRIENDS OF DR. BOB AND ANNE S.
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATE THIS MEMORIAL
TO THE SISTERS AND STAFF OF
ST. THOMAS HOSPITAL
AT AKRON. BIRTHPLACE OF ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS. ST. THOMAS HOSPITAL BECAME
THE FIRST RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION EVER
TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO OUR SOCIETY.
MAY THE LOVING DEVOTION OF THOSE WHO
LABORED HERE IN OUR PIONEERING TIME
BE A BRIGHT AND WONDROUS EXAMPLE
OF GOD'S GRACE EVERLASTINGLY SET
BEFORE US ALL.

Visitors at St. Thomas today often wonder why this inscription says not a word about Sister Ignatia. Well, the fact was, she wouldn't allow her name to be used. She had flatly refused; it was one of those times when she had put her foot down! This was of course a glowing example of her innate and absolutely genuine humility. Sister truly believed that she deserved no particular notice; that such Grace as she might have could only be credited to God and to the community of her sisters.

This was indeed the ultimate spirit of anonymity. We who had then seen this quality in her were deeply affected, especially Dr. Bob and myself. Hers came to be the influence that persuaded us both never to accept public honors of any sort. Sister's example taught that a mere observance of the form of AA anonymity should never become the slightest excuse for ignoring its spiritual substance.

Following Dr. Bob's death, there was great concern lest Sister might not be allowed to continue her work. As in other orders of the church, service assignments among the Sisters of Charity were rather frequently rotated. This was the ancient custom. However, nothing happened for a time. Assisted by surrounding AA groups, Sister continued to carry on at St. Thomas. Then suddenly in 1952, she was transferred to St. Vincent Charity Hospital at Cleveland, where, to the delight of us all, she was placed in charge of its alcoholic ward. At Akron a fine successor was named to succeed her; the work there would continue.

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia Continued...

The ward at "Charity" occupied part of a dilapidated wing, and it was in great need of repair and rejuvenation. To those who knew and loved Sister, this opportunity proved a most stimulating challenge. The Charity trustees also agreed that something should be done. Substantial contributions flowed in. In their spare hours, AA carpenters, plumbers and electricians set about redoing the old wing - no charge for their services. The beautiful result of these labors of love is now known as Rosary Hall.

Again the miracles of recovery from alcoholism commenced to multiply. During the following fourteen years, an astonishing 10,000 alcoholics passed through the portals of "Rosary Hall" there to fall under the spell of Mary Ignatia, and of AA. More than two-thirds of all these recovered from their dire malady, and again became citizens of the world. From dawn to dark Sister offered her unique Grace to that endless procession of stricken sufferers. Moreover, she still found time to minister widely to their families and this very fruitful part of her work became a prime inspiration to the Al-Anon Family Groups of the whole region.

Notwithstanding her wonderful workers within the hospital, and help from AAs without, this must have been a most exacting and exhausting vocation for the increasingly frail Sister. That she was providentially enabled to be with us for so many years is something for our great wonder. To hundreds of friends it became worth a day's journey to witness her supreme and constant demonstration.

Toward the close of her long stewardship there were brushes with death. Sometimes I came to Cleveland and was allowed to sit by her bedside. Then I saw her at her best. Her perfect faith, and her complete acceptance of whatever God might will was somehow implicit in all she said, be our conversation gay, or serious. Fear and uncertainty seemed entire strangers to her. On my leave-taking, there was always that smiling radiance; always her prayerful hope that God might still allow her a bit more time at Rosary Hall. Then a few days later I would learn that she was back at her desk. This superb drama would be re-enacted time after time. She was quite unconscious that there was anything at all unusual about it.

Realizing there would come the day which would be her last, it seemed right that we of AA should privately present Sister with some tangible token that could, even a little, communicate to her the depth of our love. Remembering her insistence, in respect of the Akron plaque, that she would not really like any public attention, I simply sent word that I'd like to come to Cleveland for a visit, and casually added that should her health permit, we might take supper together in the company of a few of her stalwart AA friends and co-workers. Besides, it was her fiftieth year of service in her community.

A Tribute to Sister Ignatia Continued...

On the appointed evening, we foregathered in one of the small dining rooms at Charity Hospital. Plainly delighted, Sister arrived. She was barely able to walk. Being old-timers all, the dinner hour was spent in telling tales of other days. For, her part, Sister regaled us with stories of St. Thomas and with cherished recollections of Anne and co-founder Dr. Bob. It was unforgettable.

Before Sister became too tired we addressed ourselves to our main project. >From New York, I had brought an illuminated scroll. Its wording was in the form of a letter addressed by me to Sister, and it was written on behalf of our AA Fellowship worldwide. I stood up, read the scroll aloud, and then held the parchment for her to see. She was taken by complete surprise and could scarcely speak for a time. In a low voice she finally said, "Oh, but this is too much - this is too good for me."

Our richest reward of the evening was of course Ignatia's delight; a joy unbounded the moment we assured her that our gift need not be publicized; that if she wished to stow it away in her trunk we would quite understand.

It then seemed that this most memorable and moving evening was over. But there was to be another inspiring experience. Making light of her great fatigue, Sister insisted that we all go up to Rosary Hall, there to make a late round of the AA ward. This we did, wondering if any of us would ever again see her at work in the divine vocation to which she had given her all. For each of us this was the end of an epoch; I could think only of her poignant and oft-repeated saying, "Eternity is now."

The scroll given to Sister may now be seen at Rosary Hall. This is the inscription:

IN GRATITUDE
FOR SISTER MARY IGNATIA
ON THE OCCASION OF HER GOLDEN
JUBILEE

Dear Sister,

We of Alcoholics Anonymous look upon you as the finest friend and the greatest spirit we may ever know.

We remember your tender ministrations to us in the days when AA was very young. Your partnership with Dr. Bob in that early time has created for us a spiritual heritage of incomparable worth.

In all the years since, we have watched you at the bedside of thousands. So watching, we have perceived ourselves to be the beneficiaries of that wondrous light which God has always sent through you to illumine our darkness. You have tirelessly tended our wounds; you have nourished us with your unique understanding and your matchless love. No greater gifts of Grace than these shall we ever have.

Speaking for AA members throughout the world, I say: "May God abundantly reward you according to your blessed works - now and forever!"

In devotion,

March 25, 1964, Bill W.

Group Contributions and Financial Statements



Due to unforeseen
circumstances, we will be
publishing this month's
financial statements along with
next month's. Thank you for
your patience!

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

Steering Committee meeting of October 14, 2019

Attendance:

Steering Committee members: Marc, Chris, Kasmir, Cassia, Phil

Guests: LeeAnn, Anna

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:30 with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the August Steering Committee meeting were accepted. Minutes from the August Intergroup meeting were corrected for grammar and typographical errors.

Hotline: All positions are filled however volunteers for the Hotline and 12-Step calls are always welcomed. To volunteer contact Patrick at 415-297-8028.

Treasury: Please see attached financial report. The office is ahead of the financial forecast.

Office: No new business.

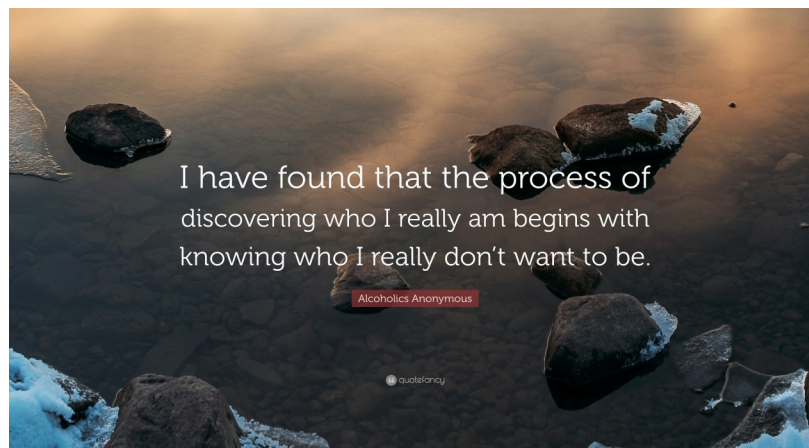
Old Business/Saturday Office Hours: The Steering Committee met with volunteers Anna and LeeAnn, interviewed, and accepted them for the Saturday project. They will train with Cassia with the beginning of the year as the target to open on Saturdays. One to two more volunteers are needed. Those interested in holding this position should contact Cassia at the office or at a Steering Committee or Intergroup meeting.

Old Business/Gratitude Dinner: Planning of the annual event is on track. Tickets and flyers will be available in time for the September Intergroup meeting.

New Business/Event: Shari will be stepping down as the Event Chair after the gratitude dinner. Those interested in holding this position should contact Cassia at the office or at a Steering Committee or Intergroup meeting.

Closing: The meeting was closed at 6:34pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,
Phil B.



Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Representatives meeting for October 21, 2019

Attendance:

David R., Welcome Home Phil B., Central Group Warren R., A New Morning David C., 1st Shot
*Cassia N., Office Mgr Tom S., Men's Fireside Dusty G., Cornerstone Mike T., B&P Kasmir Z., ESBB
Chris C., Rock Bottom Ryan S., MSG Patrick M., MSG (voting rights as 12-Step chair) Robin M., Fireside
Marc T., Miracles Mark O., Reconciled *Shawn C., Battle Ground Julie E., Sunday Solutions
Kevin P., Hockinson *LeeAnn A., Shore Light Shari W., Women's Sunday Lit Laurie H., Sober Uppers
Sarah B., Ladies by the Lavender Richard R., Lighthouse *Anna, Rock Bottom *Non-voting

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:30pm with the Serenity Prayer and reading of the purpose of the intergroup. Chris gave a presentation of the 10th Tradition. Steering Committee members introduced themselves. Minutes from the September Steering Committee meeting were reviewed. Minutes from the September Intergroup meeting were accepted with corrections.

Hotline: Patrick reported that all positions are full however he is always looking for volunteers. There will be a hotline workshop held at the Intergroup office on November 16th at 12:00pm.

Treasury: Please see attached financial report. Laurie reported that the office is ahead of forecast.

Office: Cassia introduced LeeAnn and Anna to the IG reps. They are training to staff the office on Saturdays. More volunteers are needed for Saturdays.

Outreach: Dusty reported that he has been in contact with a number of groups/meetings however there are daytime meetings he is not able to get to due to his work schedule. Kasmir advised he has a flexible work schedule and will coordinate visits with Dusty.

Gratitude Dinner: Shari had tickets and flyers were made available at the meeting and explained how the tickets tie in with the raffle. Additional volunteers are needed, especially someone to organize the raffle. Those available to set up should meet Warren at 4:30pm on the day of the event.

New Business: A motion was made, then withdrawn, that the IG meeting should be fragrance free. It is however requested that attendees avoid the use of heavy fragrances.

Closing: The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:20pm.

Yours in Service,
Phil B.



Upcoming Events

December 2019

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



North County Fellowship
Cordially Invites You to Our

**ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
POTLUCK**

**Saturday 12/14/19
3:00pm-7:00pm**

Woodland Presbyterian Church
756 Park St,
Woodland, WA 98674

Come enjoy Food, Fellowship and Fun
Karaoke 3pm-4pm
Speaker 4pm-4:45pm
Dinner 5pm-6:30pm
AA Meeting 7pm

Turkey, Ham, Potatoes, Coffee, Tea and Punch are provided.

Please bring your favorite salad, side dish, dessert or beverage to share.

Questions or to Volunteer Please contact
Lance S. (Chefschultz@gmail.com) 503-793-7280
Stan O. (Sokinaka@me.com) 808-225-4595



With Gratitude

Dear A. A.

I am grateful for this new life I have today.

I am grateful you help me to keep these fears at bay.

I am grateful that together we transformed my gift of desperation
Into hope, then faith, and now belief and inspiration.

A warm bed to sleep in, a car that gets me to work, and a daily reprieve.

I am grateful for the Promises, which at first, I couldn't believe.

But now each one has arrived, and with joy I welcome my dream
Of love and support from my family, and this newfound self-esteem.

I am grateful for friends who answer when I call.

And a Higher Power who is always there, even when I fall.

In all I do, I allow my gratitude to shine through,
And now I hope that you ALL may feel it too.

-Cassia N.

AA GRAPEVINE

From the November 1950 magazine.

AA Is Not Big Business

In gratitude, Bill explains a plan to preserve AA. . .but not to rule it!

THANKSGIVING is coming. And with it, Tradition Week. I never felt happier.

Our traditions are set down on paper. But they were written first in our hearts. For each of us knows, instinctively I think, that AA is not ours to do with as we please. We are but caretakers to preserve the spiritual quality of our fellowship; keep it whole for those who will come after us and have need of what has so generously been given to us.

We learned our lesson about money early. We feared organization lest we solidify and destroy ourselves as a *movement!* At the same time we faced the moral and humane obligation to make our program instantly available to all who asked for it. And they came in ever increasing numbers.

Yes, we've had need of money and we've had to provide services. But we've resolved never to allow either money or the management of our necessary affairs to obscure our spiritual aims. The same loving God whose Divine Wisdom has shown us that one desperate and shaky drunk, fumbling for a nickel to call for help, looms larger than any 'organization' we shall ever have, or need!

At Cleveland, July last, 7000 AAs set their approval to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. We took our destiny by the hand. Alcoholics Anonymous had grown up.

Three of those Traditions define the "Services" of Alcoholics Anonymous and outline our collective responsibility for them--management responsibility and money responsibility. The Tradition also says that our trusted servants shall never govern; that they shall always be directly accountable to those they serve.

Last month I broadcast to you the members of Alcoholics Anonymous--an urgent appeal. It was a plea that you take full money responsibility for your AA Headquarters--the Alcoholic Foundation and its AA General Service Office at New York. We who work in your Headquarters are delighted with the result. Groups who never helped before have now done so. New groups, very small groups, institutional groups not really under any obligation, have made sacrifices. If this keeps up, our deficit at Headquarters will be a thing of the past. Never have I been so encouraged about the future of our Services. Your generous and responsible action makes a fitting setting for the news I am about to give you.

For twelve years, warmly aided by great friends, Dr. Bob and I have stood sentinel over your Headquarters. We have been holding these valuable assets in trust for you--your General Service Office, your book "Alcoholics Anonymous", your principal magazine *The A.A. Grapevine*, your public relations, your common funds. We have never asked you to take any direct responsibility for them. But times have changed. Alcoholics Anonymous is now grown. Its founders are perishable. We cannot be your guardians always.

So the hour is come when you must take these things into your own keeping. We ask that you guard them well for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous may much depend on how you maintain and support these life-giving Arms of Service.

Anticipating that you will happily accept this new responsibility, the Trustees, Dr. Bob and I propose *The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous*; a body of State and Provincial representatives who will

sit yearly with our Foundation Trustees as their traditional guide. We have long considered and will soon present a detailed plan designed to bring this great change about.

Alcoholics Anonymous *has* come of age. It's a great Thanksgiving!



VANCOUVER INTERGROUP
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Gratitude Dinner

November 23, 2019 5:30 pm-9:15 pm

*First Presbyterian Church
4300 Main St, Vancouver, WA 98663*

*Speaker ~ Kendra D.
from Los Angeles, CA*

*Dinner – main course will be prepared by Chef Jeff
(see reverse for menu) – potluck side dishes and dessert
contributions are welcome!*

- 5:30 pm – Social hour
- 6:00 pm – 6:15 Serenity Prayer & welcome guests
- 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm – 8:00 Raffle
- 8:00 pm – 9:00 Speaker
- 9:00 pm – 9:10 pm break
- 9:15 Close with the Lord's Prayer

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.



"Tell me again about how you intuitively handle situations that used to baffle you..."

*This joke can be found on page 65 of "Take Me to Your Sponsor"
AA Grapevine

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Gratitude Dinner

Dinner Menu

- Roasted Pork Loin with Shiitake Ginger Cream Sauce
- Orange Five Spice Chicken
 - Coconut Jasmine Rice
 - Seasonal Veggies

Potluck side dishes and desserts are welcome!

The Vancouver Area
Intergroup

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