

PRIMARY PURPOSE

MARCH 2016 Issue III Volume III vancaa@vanintgrp.com
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This story is taken from the Grapevine book, "No Matter What"

FIRE IN THE HOLLER Oct 1987

So often we hear things in meetings that help us through we don't even realize it until much later. A very dramatic example of that happened to me recently.

The first weekend in May I drove to Lexington, Kentucky, from my former home in Millstone, a little town in the Appalachian mountains, to attend some meetings. It's about a three-and-a-half hour drive, so I spent Saturday night there with a friend in the program.

Sunday morning I went to a speaker's meeting. The speaker told a very moving story. He said when he'd had about eighteen months of sobriety he'd come home from a meeting one night to discover that his house had burned down, and all four of his children had tragically been killed in the fire. His message was simple—he said it was God as he understood God that kept him sober through that terrible time. He said he'd learned that nothing was forever, and that nothing, absolutely nothing, was so bad it could be used as an excuse to drink. He talked about the fire for quite some time, and even remarked on that fact, saying,

"I don't usually talk about this so long but for some reason today I feel moved to share it." I spent a few more hours in Lexington, eating lunch, shopping. I bought a box of baseball cards to add to my collection. Then I drove home.

We call the spaces between the mountains "hollers" here in Kentucky. Often you can't see the end of a holler from the start of it. I lived eight miles out of town, 300 yards up a holler. I saw the haze and smoke from the moment I made the turn, but it wasn't until the last corner, about thirty yards from the house, that I could really see what was wrong.

The house was gone, just flat gone. There was a pile of ashes two feet deep, a few cinder blocks, and nothing else. All I had left was a shirt, a dirty pair of socks, a few boxes of books stored at a friend's house in Minnesota, and the baseball cards I'd bought in Lexington. I'd lived too far from town to be able to get insurance, so there'd be no chance to recoup anything financially. I don't know how long I sat there sideways in the driver's seat of my pickup, my feet dangling and my mouth hanging open, thinking, it's gone, everything is just gone...

When I found someone in town who could tell me what had happened I learned the house had burned late the night before. It had already been a smoking ruin when I sat in that meeting Sunday morning and heard that man say, "Nothing, absolutely nothing is bad enough to drink over."

In the Big Book it says sometimes we, alone, have no defense against that first drink. I know that day I didn't—in fact, the first person I found, unaware that I'm an alcoholic, offered me a beer ("You need a drink," she said).

But I kept thinking about that man. I kept thinking, if he could stay sober, I can too, and that is what got me through until I could reach my own friends in AA.

I don't even know his name. I had no reason to make a point of remembering it at the time I heard it. I think he was from Cincinnati, but I'm not really sure. In a way it's not important—we don't have to know each other to help each other. I will always be grateful for his experience, strength, and hope, for it became my own.

L. O. MN

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MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

2nd Monday Steering Comm. Mtg 5:30 pm	3/14
Intergroup Meeting 3rd Monday	3/21
District 37 Meeting 4th Tuesday Standing Comm. 6:30 pm GSR Mtg. 7:00 pm	2/23
District 7 4th Thursday Standing Comm. 6:30 pm GSR Mtg. 7:00 pm	2/25

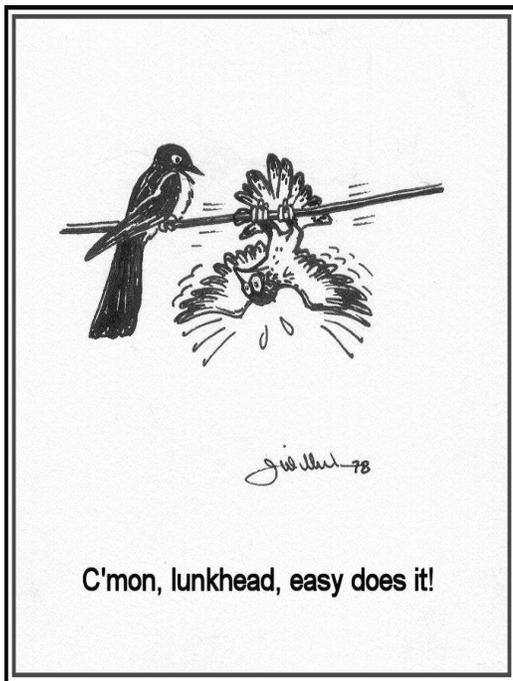
Vancouver Intergroup has the position open of Alternate on the Steering Committee.

Please call the office between noon and 6pm Monday through Friday if you would like to check it out. (360)694-3870



philipmartin.info

FEBRUARY DONATION	Group Contributions Y. T. Date	PROFIT & LOSS	FEBRUARY 2016	YEAR TO DATE 2016
	A New Beginning 400.00	Ordinary Income/Expense		
	A New Life 21.00	Income:		
497.22	A New Morning 1,277.59	AA 1,412.90		2,724.05
	Amboy Renegades 53.00	Non AA 2,545.29		4,615.48
	As We Recovered 35.00	Total Income: 3,958.19		7,339.52
	Camas Group 10.03	Cost of Goods Sold:		
	Chapter Nine 120.42	AA 1,039.59		2,033.33
	Cherry Grove Gr. 280.00	Non AA 1,291.06		1,824.42
10.00	Coffee Break 10.00	Total COGS: 2,330.65		3,857.75
4.00	Dry Tribe 8.00	Gross Profit: 1,627.54		3,481.77
	E. Co. Women's Gr. 140.00	Expense:		
	Easier Softer Way 15.00	Misc. Expenses:		
	ESBB 230.00	Card Merchant Services: 68.11		114.91
	Fireside 121.03	Office Supplies: 4.09		19.74
111.14	First Shot 204.41	Bad Debts: 73.20		73.20
	Forged from Adversity 60.00	Bank Charges 23.19		28.19*
185.46	Fresh Start 515.46	Licenses (State) 10.00		10.00
	Lewis River AA 73.20	Total Misc. Expense: 95.39		246.04
30.00	Lighthouse 30.00	Payroll Expenses:		
	McGillivray Study Gr. 160.00	L&I 53.90		53.90
325.00	Miracles 645.00	Emp. Security 11.37		11.37
153.50	OB's Speaker's Mtg 153.50	IRS: 619.56		1,114.60
	Ready & Willing 16.80	Taxes Total: 619.56		1,179.87
	Round Table 228.90	Net Wages:		
	Saturday Night BBSG 100.00	Total net wages: 1,482.27		2,984.01
	She Who Remembers 68.00	Total Payroll Exp: 2,101.83		4,163.88
225.00	Step Sisters 225.00	Rents:		
	There is a Solution 10.00	Building 675.00		1,350.00
	Tightrope walkers 63.95	Copier 172.22		334.99
	Wayfarer's 36.00	Total Rents: 847.22		1,684.99
30.36	W. Vancouver Group 30.36	Total Utilities: 532.07		776.03
	Women's Emotional S. 151.62	Total Expense: 3,576.51		6,870.94
1,571.68	Sub Total 5,493.27	Net Ordinary Income (1,948.97)		(3,389.17)
52.69	Misc. Cont. 52.69	Other Income/Expense:		
1,624.37	Total 5,545.96	Other Income:		
		Cont.—Group 1,571.68		5,493.27
		Cont.—Misc. 52.69		52.69
		Total Contributions: 1,624.37		5,545.96
		Fundraising Activities		
		Picnic:		(100.00)
		Total Fundraising Activities		(100.00)
		Miscellaneous Income:		
		Total Misc. Income: 331.18		472.96
		Total Other Income 1,955.55		5,918.92
		Net Income 6.58		2,529.75
				Bank charge for:
				1) ISF Check
				2) Ordered Checks
				3) Chg for excess cash



C'mon, lunkhead, easy does it!

Employee Reserve Account

Feb Beg Bal: 3,419.48
Open Account: 100.00
Balance: 3,519.48

Event Account:

Balance: 1,400.00

Checking: Feb. 2016

Beginning balance: 1,547.84
Deposits: 6,269.53
Expenses: (5,923.10)
Sub Total: 1,894.27
5% Trans to P.R: (78.58)
Trans. Sales Tax: (344.15)
Ending Balance: 1,471.54

Prudent Reserve:

Beginning bal: 11,682.65
Transfer 5%: 78.58
Interest: .65
Ending Balance: 11,761.88

Sales Tax Account: 2/29/16:

Beg. bal: 297.66
Checks: (22.70)
Tx from Ckg: 344.15
Total: 619.11

**STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8TH, 2016**

The meeting opened at 5:43pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson	Richard R.	Vice-Chairperson	Jeff H.
Position #1	David C.	Position #2	Laurie H.
Position #3	Darcy S.	Alternate	<i>Open</i>
Rec. Secretary	Beci S	Office Mgr/Treas.	Earlyn T.

The minutes for January 11th, 2016 Steering Committee meeting were read and passed.
The January 18th, 2016 Intergroup Meeting minutes were read.

HOTLINE REPORT: Doing well.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Event Account:	Prudent Reserve:	Checking Account:	Employee Res.:
Balance: 1,400.00	Beg bal: 11,285.88	Beg bal: 1,409.98	Jan. Bal 3,419.48
	Tx from Ckg: 396.07*	Deposits: 7,942.48	
	Interest: <u>.70</u>	Expenses: <u>(7,408.47)</u>	Tax Acct:
	EOM bal: 11,682.65	Tx to P. R.: <u>(396.07)</u>	Jan. bal: 293.04
		Ending bal: 1,547.92	

- *A moderate amount was transferred from checking into the Prudent Reserve (\$200.00) after purchasing literature. The rest, \$196.07 is the 5% of group contributions that is transferred monthly when the Prudent Reserve is below the set limit.

INTERGROUP REPORT:

- The 2016 Western Washington Area Assembly planning committee is renting the meeting room for eight months; they have paid in advance.
- After the last Intergroup meeting, we had a problem with the toilet plugging up. Please be careful not to flush foreign objects or paper towels down the toilet. This is the second time this has happened.

WEBSITE REPORT:

- We haven't been able to get a hold of the person who volunteered to take care of our website.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Beci moved, Darcy seconded to take Scott off all website accounts. Passed. Earlyn will set up a new password.
- We looked at the resumes that have been brought to the office; we have four applicants so far. Questions for the interview process being formulated.
- We will be interviewing these four applicants on February 22nd, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. As other applications come in a time will be set up to interview them.

NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.
In service, Beci S. Recording Secretary



VANCOUVER INTERGROUP MEETING February 15th, 2016

The meeting opened at 6:35 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The Intergroup meeting minutes for 1/18/16 were read and approved.
The Steering Committee minutes for 1/11/16 were read.

ATTENDANCE: There were 12 representatives present

Chairperson	Richard R.	Vice-Chairperson	Jeff H. <i>excused</i>
Position #1	David C.	Position #2	Laurie H.
Position #3	Darcy S.	Alternate	<i>Open</i>
Recording Secretary	Beci S.	Off Mgr/Treasurer	Earlyn T.
Representatives:			
Dry Tribe	Jim P.	Lighthouse	David C
B & P	Bill T.	ESBB	Sandy Q.
Cornerstone	Shane R.	Central Group	Jennifer D.
Camas	Elizabeth K.	Miracles	Chris R.
Fresh Startt	Chris R.	W Vancouver Group	Jenn S
Sober Sisters	Laurie H.	Early Birds	Darcy S.

HOTLINE REPORT:

There is one potential opening; the Hotline Chairperson is in the process of filling that position.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Event Account:	Prudent Reserve:	Checking Account:	Employee Res.:
Balance: 1,400.00	Beg bal: 11,285.88	Beg bal: 1,409.98	Jan. Bal 3,419.48
	Tx from Ckg: 396.07*	Deposits: 7,942.48	
	Interest: .70	Expenses: (7,408.47)	Tax Acct:
	EOM bal: 11,682.65	Tx to P. R.: 396.07	Jan. bal: 293.04a
		Ending bal: 1,547.92	

- A moderate amount was transferred from checking into the Prudent Reserve (\$200.00) after purchasing literature.
- The rest \$196.07 is the 5% of group contributions that is transferred monthly when the Prudent Reserve is below the set limit.

INTERGROUP REPORT:

- The reseller's permit from the department of Revenue has been sent out to our suppliers.
- All suppliers' information has been updated on our vendor's list in QuickBooks.
- Our new business permit (registration) is now displayed where it can be seen.
- POA sent a repairman over to check the copier, the main screen wasn't responding. The office also replenished its copier ink cartridges.
- Problems with the toilet plugging up

WEBSITE REPORT:

- We need to find a new web person that is willing to volunteer their time to maintain our website.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on applications/process for Office Manager:
 1. We have five resumes, four of which Richard was able to get hold of.
 2. The Steering Committee will be interviewing the four applicants next Monday (2/22) starting at 5:30 pm.
- The cut-off date for getting resumes in is March 11th, 2016.
Jennifer, who volunteered last year for the 2016 picnic, does plan on chairing this year.

New Business: None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm with the Lord's Prayer
In Service, Beci S., Recording Secretary

LOCAL EVENTS

WAYFARER'S SPEAKER'S MEETING

March 12th, 2016
at 7:30 pm
Memorial Lutheran Church,
2700 E. 28th Street, Vancouver

Will be featuring:
AA speaker: Erica W.
Al-Anon Speaker: Jamy B.

CARSON AA SPIRIT OF THE GORGE

Carson Hot Springs,
Sunday, March 28th, 2016
Potluck 6:30 pm
Speaker 7:00 pm

Speaker: TBA

Questions?
(509) 427-4970 or
(503) 701-6574

CPC/PI WORKSHOP

“How to speak to non-AA meetings”

March 19th, 2016
9:00 am - 11:00 am.

First Presbyterian Church
4300 Main Street
Vancouver WA

Coffee and snacks provided.
Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Contact: dist37cpcpi@gmail.com

R360VERY

Is now located at:
811 NE 88th Circle
at the
Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church
(Just south across the pavement
from WalMart)

Meeting time is 7:00m,
Sunday through Wednesday

**LANGUAGE OF THE HEART:
Walking the Steps and Traditions 2016**

A Day Retreat for Women in Recovery

Date: Saturday, March 5th, 2016
Time: 9:30 am—3:00 pm
Registration begins at 9am

Location: St. Joseph Catholic Church
Marian Hall
400 S. Andresen Road
Vancouver WA

Topics: Step 6 and Tradition 6

Main Speaker: Deena C—12 years

Cost: \$10.00 person

Questions? Carol M @ ((360)896-8057

OB'S Speaker's Meeting

Saturday, March 5th 2016 7:30 pm

Eastridge Church,
14100 SE Sunnyside Road,
Clackamas, OR 97015
(SE 142nd and Sunnyside
[2.5 miles east of I-205])

Speaker: Tony Mac. Oklahoma City OK

No childcare provided

DISTRICT AND AREA EVENTS

Corrections Quarterly, Saturday, March 19th, 2016,

Salvation Army, 3001 “R” Avenue, #100, Anacortes, WA Fellowship 9am, business meeting 10 am. Lunch 12:00 pm to 12:45 pm. Speaker Andy A 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm. Main dish provided, please bring a side or dessert.

Contact: Rick M (360 914-0798
corrections@area72aa.org

Treatment Quarterly, April 16th, 2016, Saturday.

Highlands Community Church, 3031 NE 10th Street, Renton, WA Fellowship 9am, business meeting 10 am. Please bring a breakfast item to share. 10 am—2pm business meeting. Lunch will be provided.

Access Quarterly, Saturday, April 16th 2016,

shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, 14724 1st Ave NE, Seattle WA Soup potluck will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish or beverage to share.

Contacts: accessibility@area72aa.org
interpreters@area72aa.org

Area72Web Committee Quarterly, Saturday, April 23th, 2016,

Tacoma Central Office, 3640 S. Cedar St., Tacoma WA Fellowship 9am, business from 10am to 2pm. Snacks will be provided(253)474-8897 websrvant@aadistrict43.org

**RULE 62
Speaker's Meeting**

Central Bible Church
8815 ne Glisan Street, Portland OR

7pm Saturday, March 19th 2016

AA Speaker: Marty J.
from Richmond, BC

All-Anon Speaker: Bob M. Dallas, OR

Join us for a no host dinner at 5pm
prior to the meeting

At the

Portland Seafood Company,
9722 SE Washington St., Portland OR



The cartoons are created by a local artist
from Stevenson WA, Jim W.

MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				3	4 HAPPY HOUR SPEAKER'S MTG 7:30 PM CAMAS	5 OB's SPEAKER'S MEETING
6	7			10	11	12 WAYFARER'S SPKR'S MTG 7:30 PM
13	14 STEERING COMM MTG 5:30 PM	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 RULE 62 SPEAKER'S MTG 7 PM
20	21 INTEGROU COMM MTG 6:30 PM	22 DISTRICT 37 GSR MTG 7 PM	23	24 DISTRICT 7 STANDG COMM 6:30 PM GSR MTG 7 PM	25	26
27 CARSON AA SPKR MTG 6:30PM EASTER	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HAPPY HOUR SPEAKER'S MTG 7:30 PM CAMAS	2 OB's SPEAKER'S MEETING
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 WAYFARER'S SPKR'S MTG 7:30 PM
10	11 STEERING COMM MTG 5:30 PM	12	13	14	15	16 RULE 62 SPEAKER'S MTG 7 PM
17	18 INTEGROU COMM MTG 6:30 PM	19	20	21	22	23
24 CARSON AA SPKR MTG 6:30PM	25	26 DISTRICT 37 GSR MTG 7 PM	27	28 DISTRICT 7 STANDG COMM 6:30 PM GSR MTG 7 PM	29	30