

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

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VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

Primary Purpose

UNITY IN VANCOUVER

The responsibility statement of Alcoholics Anonymous was written for the 1965 AA International convention in Toronto. The responsibility statement reads: I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Vancouver Area Intergroup has been responsible since it began in 1977. The recent pandemic has demonstrated the Intergroup and A.A. members being responsible in keeping the hand of A.A. out. Quickly the Intergroup, with the assistance of more volunteers than can be identified, established and maintained a virtual meeting list so individuals via phone or computers could participate daily in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers involved with this, especially Scott and Marc for assisting with a smooth and very quick transition of meeting schedules on our website. And Patrick, our hotline chairperson, and all the hotline volunteers (too many to list here), that stepped up so that our hotline could continue to be answered 24-7 even though the office was closed on very short notice. They did this without missing a single beat.

Hundreds of local Alcoholic Anonymous members who believed themselves tech beginners or illiterates are enjoying their engagement with virtual meetings. Newcomers and old-timers are meeting in the virtual rooms and sharing the message daily. Alcoholics Anonymous members from around the country and world have access to local meetings as a result of the Intergroup virtual meeting list.

The action and service by local members to create meetings and manage them on a daily basis so thousands of Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship members can participate is a demonstrated showing of responsibility.

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. – 10/12@6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. – 10/19@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. –10/27 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 10/22 @7:00 PM

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

UNITY IN VANCOUVER Continued...

Newcomers are continuing to come on a daily basis to our program searching for hope, solutions and fellowship. We as Vancouver Area Intergroup and members of A.A. are providing essential life-giving service to others and to ourselves as we carry the message and keep the doors open even in times of virtuality and transition.

A.A. declaration of unity states: this we owe to AA's future: to place the common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come. On June 10th we celebrated the 85th year of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our fellowship has experienced many historical events, and during this worldwide pandemic, our message of unity is being demonstrated thousands of times worldwide through members and service organizations. General service offices worldwide and Intergroups have continued to help carry the message as one alcoholic after another takes the action of helping others.

Thank you to the members and groups that continue to financially support Intergroup. Some of our expenses continued during the period of time that we were not selling A.A. literature or other items which generally contributes 47% on average to our monthly income.

A VERY special "Thank you!" to our anonymous individual donor that donated \$1100.00 during the month of July 2020.

A member once wrote that the declaration of responsibility is another spiritual tool, when used, reinforces the beauty and value of sobriety. He described it as a labor of love that positively impacts himself and hopefully those he interacts with. Thank you to all the members who have created meetings, hosted meetings, chaired meetings and otherwise contributed to the safe virtual meeting experience and the transition between this and meeting in person again.

On page 164 of the big book (Alcoholics Anonymous) it is written:

We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.... and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the road of happy destiny.

When those words were written, could it have been imagined that many of us would be meeting through a virtual communication system? Well we are meeting virtually, and some are now meeting virtually and in-person, and one day at a time may we all continue to trudge the road of happy destiny.

—Terry L.

If you would like to acknowledge someone celebrating a monthly or annual birthday, please email us at vancaa@vanintgrp.com to let us know 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

GRAPEVINE

Daily Quote

June 30, 2020

“The foundation stone of freedom from fear is that of faith: a faith that, despite all worldly appearances to the contrary, causes me to believe that I live in a universe that makes sense.”

"AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1962, "This Matter of Fear", Best of Bill



AA Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine

Tradition Nine: AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program, even if no one makes me do so, with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully, and profit thereby, when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Pamphlet of the Month

Young People and A.A.

Too young?

Coming into A.A. as young people, we found that there were common challenges to face. In the beginning, we often felt we were too young to be alcoholics. Some of us didn't drink for a long time; others didn't drink hard liquor, stumble around, or forget what we did or said when drunk. Being young in the everyday world we face peer pressure, stressful relationships with our parents, and parties being a way of life. In A.A., we often feel different because we may be the youngest person in our group, and some have even had an uninformed older member discourage us by saying things like "I spilled more booze than you drank."

These are hard realities for young people in A.A. On the other hand though, by sticking with it and finding younger and older members to help us, we've found a solution to our drinking problems. In A.A. we've found a way of life that helps us deal with everyday stress and peer pressure, and that life is better and more fun without alcohol. We've also seen that we develop closer relationships the longer we stay sober. To us, it doesn't matter how old you are, how much, where, or what you drink. What matters is how alcohol affects you. You are the best judge of whether or not you have a problem. And you know this from your gut — whether you feel guilty, lonely, ashamed, or whether alcohol is interfering in your life. (The questions at the end of this pamphlet may also help you decide.)



We are going to know
a new freedom and a
new happiness.

Big Book




Bill W. Speaks of Pearl Harbor

Lecture 29 -As Given at the Yale School of Alcohol Studies

June 1945 -By Bill W.

My first task is a joyous one; it is to voice the sincere gratitude that every member of Alcoholics Anonymous present feels tonight that we can stand in the midst of such an assembly. I know that in this assembly there are many different points of view, that we have social workers, ministers, doctors and others – people we once thought did not understand us, because we did not understand them. I think right away of one of our clergyman friends. He helped start our group in St. Louis, and when Pearl Harbor came he thought to himself, “Well this will be a hard day for the A.A.’s.” He expected to see us go off like firecrackers. Well, nothing much happened and the good man was rather joyously disappointed, you might say. But he was puzzled. And then he noticed with still more wonder that the A.A.s seemed rather less excited about Pearl Harbor than the normal people. In fact, quite a number of the so-called normal people seemed to be getting drunk and very distressed. So he went up to one of the A.A.’s and said, “Tell me, how is it that you folks hold up so well under this stress, I mean this Pearl Harbor?” The A.A. looked at him, smiled, but quite seriously said, “You know, each of us has had his own private Pearl Harbor, each of us has known the utmost of humiliation, of despair, and of defeat. So why should we, who have known the resurrection, fear another Pearl Harbor?”



The Intergroup Bookstore is now open!



Lets Ask Bill W.

Question & Answer # 37

What is AA's relationship with the community?

Answer

Now that our methods and results are better known we are receiving splendid cooperation everywhere from clergymen, doctors, employers, editors – in fact, from whole communities. While there is still a well-understood reluctance on the part of city and private hospitals to admit alcoholic patients, we are pleased to report a great improvement in this direction. But we are still very far, in most places, from having anything like adequate hospital accommodations.

Over and above this traditional activity, we may give some counsel to those who work upon various aspects of the total problem. It may be possible that our experience fits us for a special task. Writing of Alcoholics Anonymous, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick once said: "Gothic Cathedral windows are not the sole thing which can be seen from within. Alcoholism is another. All outside views are clouded and unsure." Thus, with our inside view – one best seen by those drinkers who have suffered from alcoholism – we would help those working on alcohol problems who have not had our first hand experience.

While we members of Alcoholics Anonymous are not scientists, our special insight may help science; while we are of all religions and sometimes none, we can assist clergymen; although not educators, we shall, perhaps, aid in clearing away unsure views; not penologists, we do help in prison work; not a business or organization, we nevertheless advise employers; not sociologists, we constantly serve families, friends and communities; not prosecutors or judges, we try to promote understanding and justice; emphatically not doctors, we do minister to the sick. Taking no side on controversial questions, we may sometimes mediate fruitless antagonism, which have so often blocked effective cooperation among those who would solve the riddle of the alcoholic.

These are the activities and aspirations of thousands of the members of Alcoholics Anonymous. While our organization as a whole has but one aim – to help the alcoholic who wishes to recover – there are a few of us, indeed, who as individuals do not wish to meet some of the broader responsibilities for which we may be especially fitted. (Quart. J. Stud. Alc., Vol.6, Sept., 1945). .

God, I offer myself to Thee-
To build with me
and to do with me as Thou wilt.
Relieve me of the bondage of self,
that I may better do Thy will.
Take away my difficulties,
that victory over them may bear witness
to those I would help of Thy Power,
Thy Love, and Thy Way of life.
May I do Thy will always!

Group Contributions and Financial Statements

Contributions for August	Group Name	Contributions Year to Date
144.20	A New Morning	1,938.35
	A New Pair of Glasses	25.00
	Amboy Renegades	35.00
284.00	As Bill Sees It	634.00
	B & P	449.71
106.98	Camas Group	249.84
	Carson AA Spirit of the Gorge	165.00
	Cascade Group	150.00
	Cascade Locks Spiritual Brkfst	75.00
	Chapter Nine (Couples)	150.00
	Cherry Grove Groups	100.00
	Cornerstone Group	120.00
	District 7	858.53
20.00	Dry Tribe	50.00
	Early Birds	800.00
	East County Women's Group	700.00
165.00	Eastside Brown Baggers	495.00
	Fireside	566.95
361.73	First Shot	1,453.78
	Fresh Start	282.97
150.00	Friday Night Happy Hour	150.00
630.80	Hockinson Group	1,095.50
	Keep Coming Back	317.98
	Kitsilano Group	75.00
20.93	La Center Group	61.59
	Ladies Big Book Study	105.00
	Lewis River AA	99.72
	Lighthouse	10.00
208.67	McGuilivray Study Group	808.09
	Men's Eastside	320.00
100.00	Men's Fireside	470.00
90.00	Minnihaha	215.00
	Miracles at Noon	716.00
259.00	Over 55	371.00
	Primary Purpose	46.10
	R360very Group	42.08
	Ready and Willing	38.48
	Real Alcoholic Men	250.00
	Ridgefield AA	100.00
	Rock Bottom Recovery	30.00
	Saturday Night BB Study	257.00
	She Who Remembers	40.00
	Simplicity Stag	40.00
	Step Sisters	43.51
	Stevenson AA	300.00
	Sunday Night Alternatives	250.00
6.40	Sunday Solutions	896.40
	The Easier Softer Way	100.00
20.00	There is a Solution	100.00
	AA Group	25.00
	Wayfarer's	108.68
	Wednesday Night Recovery	37.60
	Welcome Home	89.03
59.45	West Vancouver Group	59.45
	Wine to Water	22.87
	Women's Emotional Sobriety	254.71
	Women's Fireside	100.00
2,627.16	SUBTOTAL	17,344.92
107.29	Miscellaneous/Individual	8,745.92
2,734.45	TOTAL	26,090.84

Financial Statements

	Jul	Aug	Year Total	Variance
Income				
Sales	\$ 869	\$ 2,237	\$ 13,775	\$ (21,137)
Group Contributions	\$ 1,797	\$ 2,657	\$ 17,926	\$ (14,074)
Individual Contributions	\$ 1,539	\$ 590	\$ 9,631	\$ 8,831
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 369	\$ (831)
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 4,205	\$ 5,484	\$ 41,701	\$ (27,211)
			\$ -	
Expenses				
COGS	\$ 478	\$ 1,419	\$ 8,308	\$ (12,292)
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220	\$ 220
CC & Paypal Fees	\$ 87	\$ 65	\$ 698	\$ (142)
Office Supplies	\$ 98	\$ -	\$ 842	\$ (159)
Insurance	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 435	\$ 35
Licenses & Fees	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ 470	\$ 278
Payroll	\$ 2,477	\$ 3,512	\$ 19,085	\$ (15,315)
Copy Machine	\$ 212	\$ 315	\$ 1,627	\$ 27
Rent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,124	\$ (2,876)
Utilities	\$ 419	\$ 280	\$ 3,553	\$ 1,553
Total Expenses	\$ 3,819	\$ 5,674	\$ 40,362	\$ (28,670)
Net Income	\$ 386	\$ (190)	\$ 1,339	\$ 1,459
		Ytd PR Reimb (Forecast)		\$ 3,336
		Ytd with PR Reimb		\$ (1,877)

Aug 2020 Cash Balances

Main Checking	\$ 10,855
Event Account	\$ 1,400
Prudent Reserve	\$ 12,868
Till Cash	\$ 100
Total Cash Balance	\$ 25,222

August Bottom Line

- Total Revenue – Total Expenses = (\$190)
- Year-to-date \$74 in the black
- Group contributions \$2,657
- Individual contributions \$590
- Year-to-date (1,877) behind on prudent reserve reimbursement

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee meeting of August 10, 2020

Attendance: Dusty, Laurie, Cory, Phil, Patrick, Dee, Jennifer, Leanne, Monica, Mike, Scott

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:10pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from July's Steering Committee meeting and Intergroup Representatives meeting were distributed electronically. Steering Committee meeting minutes were accepted.

Hotline: Patrick reported that all positions are currently filled, however, there are always volunteer opportunities. A 12-step volunteer list from District 27 who recently joined Intergroup will be forwarded to Patrick. There are concerns about 12-step calls in District 27's area. They will be encouraged to attend Intergroup meetings to be made aware of the volunteer needs.

Treasury: See attached report. The forecast numbers are skewed due to COVID-19, group donations are concerning. Current estimate is we can operate for four months and need an additional \$4000 to remain open for the remainder of the year. This is normal, however, the annual Gratitude Dinner keeps the office operating and with COVID-19 it is unknown if we can have a Gratitude Dinner, or if we are able to have one, if it will need to be smaller.

Office: Leanne, Cory and Heather with Laurie supervising are keeping the office staffed. Cassia is assisting remotely. There was a question regarding volunteers. They are best directed to Patrick.

Old Business/Website: Scott is updating meeting information. Groups are asked to check the website to insure information is accurate and report any corrections needed to the office. There also are a number of meetings not on the schedule. If they want to be included they should contact the office. Approval was given for a website upgrade that will prevent the site from being bogged down. The upgrade will cost \$130 for three years.

New Business/Federal Assistance: Federal financial assistance may be available to Intergroup. GSO will be contacted for an opinion regarding this matter, and how it relates to the 7th Tradition, and bring this matter to the IG reps.

New Business/Staffing: The Steering Committee was advised that it became necessary to terminate an office employee due to attendance issues. The person was a temporary, part time employee. Respecting employee right to confidentiality, no name was provided.

New Business/Fundraising: As previously mentioned, fundraising from the Gratitude Dinner has historically been necessary to keep the office financially fit. It's questionable if we can have the annual event, or if we can, but it would need to be downsized. Jennifer will see if she can come up with fund raising ideas to present to the IG Reps.

Closing: The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer at 7:11pm

Yours in Service,

Phil B.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Representatives meeting of August 17, 2020

Attendance (by Zoom): Dusty, Cornerstone ... Tom, Men's Fireside ... Dee, Welcome Home ... Phil, R360covery ... Greg, Dist. 7 observer ... Robin, Fireside ... Chris, Rock Bottom Recovery ... Patrick, McGillivray Book Study ... Michelle, Dry Tribe ... Todd, 1st Shot ... Jennifer, Doing Right on Thursday Night ... Laurie, Sober Uppers

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:31pm with the Serenity Prayer and reading of the purpose of Vancouver Intergroup. Minutes from the 8/10/20 Steering Committee meeting were read. Minutes from the 7/20/20 Intergroup meeting were read and accepted.

Hotline: Patrick reported that all shifts are covered, however there are volunteer opportunities.

Website: Cassia is working off-site with Scott to keep the website and meeting schedule current. An upgrade to the server was recently approved.

Treasury: Please see attached report. We are currently meeting our forecasted goals, however that is due to individual anonymous donations, a rent break from the landlord*, and a reduction in payroll costs. We are also dependent upon the November gratitude dinner to carry us financially into the following year. It is unknown if we can have the dinner.

*In accordance with 7th Tradition special privilege was not given to Intergroup. All tenants at this location were provided rent assistance.

Activities: Due to COVID-19, it is questionable if we can hold our annual gratitude dinner. Jennifer reported that she has a lead on a venue for the event, but it has not yet been confirmed. She reports that if she is not able to secure the location then she has other fundraising ideas to discuss at next month's meeting.

Office: While we normally had an office manager working 35 hours per week at a higher rate of pay, we are currently working with lower wage office workers and the office manager working about 10 hours per week.

Outreach: Dusty was in contact with AAWS discussing fundraising. Their view was that fundraising must have intent, and that fundraising is not just held for the sake of fundraising, however the ultimate decision is with the groups.

Old Business/Office Reopened: The office has reopened with its normal hours. It was pointed out that many are unaware it is open. Please announce at meetings.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued...

New Business/PPP: There was discussion regarding the Paycheck Protection Program. This program is a federal loan, and as long as the money loaned is used exclusively for payroll, it then converts to a grant. Dusty discussed PPP with AAWS and GSO and how it relates to the 7th Tradition. They had differing opinions, but both ultimately said it's up to the groups if they want to participate in this program. The program is time sensitive as once the allocated funds are distributed, the program is no longer available.

A motion was made to table this matter until the September IG meeting which did not pass. A motion was made to bring this matter back to the groups and vote yes or no to participate in the program with the vote by email, and the vote due by 8/31/20. This vote passed. This motion was then recalled. A motion was then made to table the matter until the September IG meeting.

Group News: Phil now represents R360covery. Michelle reported that Dry Tribe is meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesdays in the parking lot at United Methodist on McArthur Blvd.

Closing: The meeting was closed at 7:49pm with the Serenity Prayer.

Yours in Service,

Phil B.



Upcoming Events

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Wayfarer's Speaker Mtg.: 7:00 pm
11	12 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Intergroup Rep. Mtg.: 6:30 pm	20	21	22 District 7 GSR Mtg.: 7 pm	23	24
25	26	27 District 37 Mtg.: 7:00 pm	28	29	30	31

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

To add any events to future calendars, please email us your flier at vancaa@vanintgrp.com (even if it's a zoom event!)

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**

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