

Vancouver Area Intergroup of
Alcoholics Anonymous

Feb./March 2021
Volume 33

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VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

Primary Purpose

Who Is a Member of Alcoholics Anonymous?

by Bill W.

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The first edition of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" makes this brief statement about membership: "The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. We are not allied with any particular faith, sect, or denomination nor do we oppose anyone. We simply wish to be helpful to those who are afflicted." This expressed our feelings as of 1939, the year our book was published.

Since that day all kinds of experiments with membership have been tried. The number of membership rules which have been made (and mostly broken!) are legion. Two or three years ago the General Office asked the groups to list their membership rules and send them in. After they arrived we set them all down. They took a great many sheets of paper. A little reflection upon these many rules brought us to an astonishing conclusion. If all of these edicts had been in force everywhere at once it would have been practically impossible for any alcoholic to have ever joined Alcoholics Anonymous. About nine-tenths of our oldest and best members could never have got by!

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. – 03/08@6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. – 03/15@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. –03/23 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 03/25 @7:00 PM
- ◆ District 27 Business Mtg. - 03/20 @ 12 PM

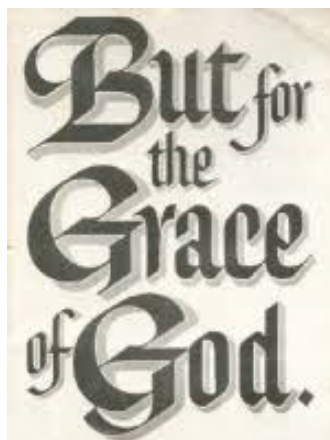
(All monthly business mtgs. are held currently on Zoom).

Who is a Member of AA? Continued...

In some cases we would have been too discouraged by the demands made upon us. Most of the early members of A.A. would have been thrown out because they slipped too much, because their morals were too bad, because they had mental as well as alcoholic difficulties. Or, believe it or not, because they did not come from the so-called better classes of society. We oldsters could have been excluded for our failure to read the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" or the refusal of our sponsor to vouch for us as a candidate. And so on ad infinitum. The way our "worthy" alcoholics have sometimes tried to judge the "less worthy" is, as we look back on it, rather comical. Imagine, if you can, one alcoholic judging another!

At one time or another most A.A. groups go on rule-making benders. Naturally enough, too, as a group commences to grow rapidly it is confronted with many alarming problems. Panhandlers begin to panhandle. Members get drunk and sometimes get others drunk with them. Those with mental difficulties throw depressions or break out into paranoid denunciations of fellow members. Gossips gossip and righteously denounce the local Wolves and Red Riding Hoods. Newcomers argue that they aren't alcoholics at all, but keep coming around anyway. "Slippees" trade on the fair name of A.A. in order to get themselves jobs. Others refuse to accept all the Twelve Steps of the recovery program. Some go still further, saying that the "God business" is bunk and quite unnecessary. Under these conditions our conservative program abiding members get scared. These appalling conditions must be controlled, they think, else A.A. will surely go to rack and ruin. They view with alarm for the good of the movement!

At this point the group enters the rule and regulation phase. Charters, bylaws and membership rules are excitedly passed and authority is granted committees to filter out undesirables and discipline the evildoers. Then the Group Elders, now clothed with authority, commence to get busy. Recalcitrants are cast into the outer darkness; respectable busy bodies throw stones at the sinners. As for the so-called sinners, they either insist on staying around, or else they form a new group of their own. Or maybe they join a more congenial and less intolerant crowd in their neighborhood. The elders soon discover that the rules and regulations aren't working very well. Most attempts at enforcement generate such waves of dissension and intolerance in the group that this condition is presently recognized to be worse for the group life than the very worst that the worst ever did.



Who is a Member of AA? Continued...

After a time fear and intolerance subside. The group survives unscathed. Everybody has learned a great deal. So it is that few of us are any longer afraid of what any newcomer can do to our A.A. reputation or effectiveness. Those who slip, those who pan-handle, those who scandalize, those with mental twists, those who rebel at the program, those who trade on the A.A. reputation—all such persons seldom harm an A.A. group for long. Some of these have become our most respected and best loved. Some have remained to try our patience, sober nevertheless. Others have drifted away. We have begun to regard these not as menaces, but rather as our teachers. They oblige us to cultivate patience, tolerance, and humility. We finally see that they are only people sicker than the rest of us, that we who condemn them are the Pharisees whose false righteousness does our group the deeper spiritual damage.

Every older A.A. shudders when he remembers the names of persons he once condemned; people he confidently predicted would never sober up; persons he was sure ought to be thrown out of A.A. for the good of the movement. Now that some of these very persons have been sober for years, and may be numbered among his best friends, the old-timer thinks to himself, "What if everybody had judged these people as I once did? What if A.A. had slammed its door in their faces? Where would they be now?"

That is why we all judge the newcomer less and less. If alcohol is an uncontrollable problem to him and he wishes to do something about it, that is enough for us. We care not whether his case is severe or light, whether his morals are good or bad, whether he has other complications or not. Our A.A. door stands wide open, and if he passes through it and commences to do anything at all about his problem, he is considered a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. He signs nothing, agrees to nothing, promises nothing. We demand nothing. He joins us on his own say-so. Nowadays, in most groups, he doesn't even have to admit he is an alcoholic. He can join A.A. on the mere suspicion that he may be one, that he may already show the fatal symptoms of our malady.

Of course this is not the universal state of affairs throughout A.A. Membership rules still exist. If a member persists in coming to meetings drunk he may be led outside; we may ask someone to take him away. But in most groups he can come back next day, if sober. Though he may be thrown out of a club, nobody thinks of throwing him out of A.A. He is a member as long as he says he is. While this broad concept of A.A. membership is not yet unanimous, it does represent the main current of A.A. thought today. We do not wish to deny anyone his chance to recover from alcoholism. We wish to be just as inclusive as we can, never exclusive.

Perhaps this trend signifies something much deeper than a mere change of attitude on the question of membership. Perhaps it means that we are losing all fear of those violent emotional storms which sometimes cross our alcoholic world; perhaps it bespeaks our confidence that every storm will be followed by a calm; a calm which is more understanding, more compassionate, more tolerant than any we ever knew before.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF RECOVERY ON THE RIVER!

VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 21 • 9:30am to 11:30am

Please join us for virtual breakfast with great speakers, fun raffle prizes and fellowship. Friends and family welcome!

WHEN: Sunday, February 21, 2021

9:30am to 11:30am • Room opens at 9:00am

ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID: 891 8445 7551

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$5.00

RAFFLE: \$5 for 6 • \$20 for 30 (Also \$10 for 12 or \$15 for 18)

PAY IN ADVANCE OR SAME DAY: If paying by Venmo, be sure to note your donation amount AND the amount of raffle tickets you want in the "What's this for" section. You will be automatically entered for all raffle prizes!

PAYMENT: Venmo @SWWashingtonJamboree or, mail a check to SW Washington Jamboree
PO Box 61897 • Vancouver, WA 98666

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS

Rob S. (Vancouver)

Mary P. (Vancouver)

Nate Y. (Chehalis)

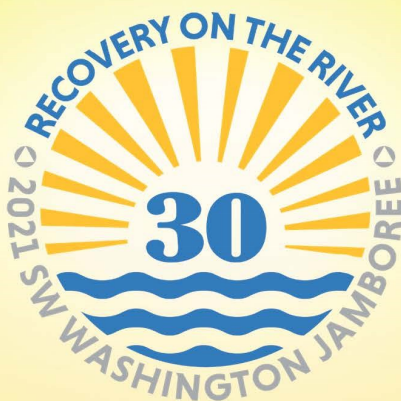
All proceeds benefit the 2021 SW Washington Jamboree.

Please contact Mary P. (360) 600-6607 if you have raffle or auction items you wish to donate.


SAVE THE DATE

30th Jamboree Celebration • Fall 2021

We hope to add in our other events as state safety guidelines permit.



www.swwashingtonjamboree.org
swwashingtonjamboree@gmail.com

 SW Washington Jamboree

Financial Statements

	January	Total	Ytd Forecast	Variance
Income				
Sales	\$ 2,860	\$ 2,860	\$ 2,500	\$ 360
Group Contributions	\$ 1,702	\$ 1,702	\$ 2,500	\$ (798)
Individual Contributions	\$ 397	\$ 397	\$ 500	\$ (103)
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 61	\$ 61	\$ 50	\$ 11
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 5,020	\$ 5,020	\$ 5,550	\$ (530)
Expenses				
COGS	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,100	\$ 600
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CC & Paypal Fees		\$ -	\$ 105	\$ (105)
Office Supplies	\$ 190	\$ 190	\$ 50	\$ 140
Insurance	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 50	\$ (2)
Licenses & Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ (25)
Payroll/Contract Svcs	\$ 3,576	\$ 3,576	\$ 3,200	\$ 376
Copy Machine	\$ 237	\$ 237	\$ 250	\$ (13)
Rent	\$ 962	\$ 962	\$ 1,000	\$ (38)
Utilities	\$ 361	\$ 361	\$ 300	\$ 61
Total Expenses	\$ 7,075	\$ 7,075	\$ 6,080	\$ 995
Net Income	\$ (2,055)	\$ (2,055)	\$ (530)	\$ (1,525)

January 31, 2021 Cash Balances	
Main Checking	\$ 5,390
Event Account	\$ 11,544
Prudent Reserve	\$ 12,875
Till Cash	\$ 100
Total Cash Balance	\$ 29,909

January Bottom Line

- Total Revenue – Total Expenses = (2,055)
- Group contributions were only 1,702
- Labor cost were high due to tax payments this month

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee meeting of January 11, 2021

Attendance: Dusty, Patrick, Marc, Cassia, Laurie, LeeAnn, Phil, DeeAnna, Connie, Bruce

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:01pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the 12/14/2020 Steering Committee meeting and the 12/28/2020 Steering Committee non-regular meeting were accepted. Minutes from the 12/21/2020 Intergroup Representative meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: Emily emailed minutes from the committee's December meeting which can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WGdym2iOp5X3pnXLIP5nRbZEX7ifi7QAv5LuW0InQg8/edit?usp=sharing>

Treasury: Please see attached financial report. Laurie also discussed the 2021 forecast. Please see attached. Please note the forecast is a draft only.

Office: Cassia is working with LeeAnn to provide training and additional responsibilities.

Activities: Due to Covid-19 restrictions the previously discussed bingo fundraiser is on a wait and see basis.

Website: Scott has been in contact with Noah however as of this time he has not assumed responsibilities as the webmaster.

Old Business/Customer Traffic: LeeAnn has been asked to track customer visits and phone calls. In the past week there has only been two contacts after 5:00pm. The question will be put to the IG reps if they want us to alter office hours.

District News: Dusty reported that he was confronted at one of the district meetings where disapproval was expressed how Intergroup handled an item of business. He invited them to attend this business meeting. They were not in attendance.

Closing: The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:41pm.

Yours in Service,

Phil B.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Representatives meeting of January 18, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:30pm with the Serenity Prayer and reading of the purpose of the Vancouver Area Intergroup. Attendance was not taken however it was noted that a quorum exists and that there were at least 15 Intergroup (IG) representatives in attendance.

Minutes from the January 11, 2021 Steering Committee (SC) were read. Minutes from the December 21, 2020 IG meeting were accepted with the added notation to the section marked New Business/Saturday Hours that it was noted there were issues in training volunteers.

Hotline: Emily reported that she is now chairing the hotline committee, that all shifts are covered however there are volunteer opportunities as there are eight persons ready to rotate out. The hotline committee is holding a meeting on January 19, 2021 at 6:30pm. Zoom link information was posted on the chat box of this meeting. REPORT ACCEPTED

Treasury: Laurie reported that without the recently received grant the office would be approximately <\$6000>. Laurie also discussed the 2021 forecast report and asks that any input be forwarded to her by emailing the IG office. REPORT ACCEPTED

Office: Marc reported that schedule changes are being updated within 24 hours of being received. Training with LeeAnn continues. REPORT ACCEPTED

ACTIVITIES: Jenn reported that due to Covid-19 scheduling the previously discussed bingo event is on a wait and see status. Groups/meetings that might have an event are asked to share the information with the IG office so that the event may be publicized. REPORT ACCEPTED

OLD BUSINESS/WEBMASTER: Marc reported there is no new information. REPORT ACCEPTED

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued...

NEW BUSINESS/SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY MOTION: The following motion was made by Patrick for McGillivray Study Group:

MSG moves to amend the Intergroup Guidelines to require “substantial unanimity – defined as a two-thirds majority” (A.A. Service Manual, S57) for motions to pass. In that spirit, we ask that this motion itself require substantial unanimity to pass. The current practice is to act upon a simple majority. Intergroup committee: “In the event of a tie vote the issue will be referred back to the groups for discussion and a vote re-taken at the next Intergroup meeting.” Steering committee: “All Steering Committee members are allowed to vote except the chair who only votes in case of a tie.”

The motion received a second and was discussed. IG reps to bring the motion to their group/meeting. TABLED TO FEBRUARY

NEW BUSINESS/HOTLINE VOLUNTEER QUALIFICATIONS: The hotline committee asked that the SC define the qualifications needed to be a hotline volunteer. It was noted that this is an IG rep responsibility. A motion was made, seconded and discussed that hotline volunteers should be allowed when they have six months continuous sobriety. IG reps to bring the motion to their group/meeting. TABLED TO FEBRUARY

GROUP NEWS: Prior to business meetings information is distributed electronically. Those not receiving the information who wish to receive it are asked to contact the IG office to be added to the distribution list. Email: vancaa@vanintgrp.com

DISTRICT NEWS: District 27 reported that they are beginning to prepare for the area preconference. The publication 2020 A Clear Vision for You which is the 70th annual meeting of the General Service Conference is available at the IG office at no charge.

The meeting was closed at 7:53pm with the Serenity Prayer.
Yours in Service,
Phillip B.

For a full description of 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)!

All Newsletter submissions are due on the 1st of the month for which you want them published.

Upcoming Events

March 2021

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



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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