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VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

Primary Purpose



In AA's First Five Years

Lois W., wife of AA's co-founder, Bill W., recalls the time in AA when there were few members and no Big Book.

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In the early days of AA things were really different. For five years there was no Big Book. The only way to communicate with other people was to go and tell them, so that's what we did. Of course, all of the meetings were held in people's homes, the homes of those who were lucky enough to have them. Anybody who had one made it wide open to whomever the boys brought in. Our houses, Dr. Bob's in Akron and ours in Brooklyn, were just filled with drunks, either drinking, or stopped temporarily, or well on the way to real sobriety.

Yes, AA was quite different in those days for many reasons. One was that there were no people in AA except those who had gone to the very bottom. Only these would listen to the story that one drunk was telling another. When AA first started, before there was a book, it was more anonymous than it is now, because even the Fellowship was without a name. AA didn't have a name until the book was written. Before that it was just a bunch of drunks trying to help each other, a bunch of nameless drunks. They had to be worked with over and over; families and everybody did what they could to help.

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. –
07/12@6:00 PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. –
07/19@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. –07/27
5@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 07/22
@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 27 Committees Mtg.-
07/17@10am
- ◆ District 27 Business Mtg. -
07/27@12 PM

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

In AA's First Five Years continued...

There were many, many sad things that happened, many very humorous things, and inspirational things, too.

Several are coming to mind right now. Bill, as you know, came from Vermont and someone sent him some maple syrup from there. It came in a whiskey bottle. One of the boys saw this attractive container in the kitchen and he was so drunk at the time that he gulped the whole bottle of syrup, thinking it was whiskey.

We had a rule that no one could come into the house when he was drinking. One night one of the boys came home drunk. We wouldn't let him in so he pried open the coal chute and slid into the cellar. Since he was very fat it was surprising that he could slide down it, yet somehow he made it. But this same fat man did get stuck one night in the washtubs. He lived in the basement apartment. Old city houses used to have stationary tubs in the kitchen. He thought he'd try to take a bath in one. But after getting in he couldn't get out so one of us (and I think it was I) had to pull him out.

There were many other things...a man committed suicide in our house after having pawned our dress clothes, left over from more prosperous days. These included Bill's dress suit and my precious evening cape. We have never owned such articles again.

AA was always thrilling. The families were included in all of the meetings; wives and parents (there weren't many alcoholic women then), and the children came too. The children were vitally interested in everything that went on. They would inquire about all the members and want to know how they were. They'd learn the Twelve Steps and really try to live by them. I don't think youngsters can be too young to be thrilled by the AA program and be helped by it.

One of the first women who came in was the ex-wife of a friend of Bill's. She had been in Bellevue and had come from there to our house. At that time there was a wonderful man – I think he was the fourth or fifth AA – who was trying to start a group in Washington, D.C. This woman went down to help him and she stayed sober for quite a long time. Then she married a man they were trying to bring onto the program. He really didn't go along with the idea himself and used to say to her every once in a while, "Florence, you look so thirsty." And so she did something about that, Florence disappeared. Everybody looked for her everywhere and couldn't find her. After a couple of weeks they found her in the morgue.

At that time each group used to visit every other group. New York members would go to New Jersey or Greenwich, Philadelphia or Washington or even Cleveland or Akron. Those were the groups I recall were in existence in the first five years.

If anybody had a car a bunch of us would pile in and we'd go wherever we knew there was a meeting. Families were just as much a part of AA as the alcoholics and we did feel we belonged.

In AA's First Five Years continued...

But after a while the AA's thought that they should have an occasional meeting – at least one every week – of just alcoholics so that they could really get down to business. When this occurred the wives thought they'd meet together, too, at the same time. At first these little gatherings of wives didn't have any particular purpose. Sometimes we'd play bridge and sometimes we'd gossip about our husbands.

Then a few of us began to see that we really needed the AA program just as much as the alcoholics. The famous case of my throwing a shoe at Bill started me wondering about myself and realizing that I needed to live by the Twelve Steps just as much as he did. He was getting way ahead of me. I always thought of myself as being the moral mentor in the house, but Bill, who never was a mentor, was certainly growing spiritually while I was standing still. Or perhaps there is no standing still – if I wasn't going ahead, I must be going backwards.

I decided I'd better live by the Twelve Steps. Annie S. and a number of other people had come to the same conclusion. So, whenever we visited another group, we would tell the wives and families how we found that we, too, needed to live by the Twelve Steps of AA. Little groups of wives and families all over the country began to feel the same need for something to help overcome their frustrations and help them become integrated human beings again.

That's the way Al-Anon started. We followed the AA program in every principle. I want to thank AA's so very much for showing us the way. Without your leading us we would still be the unhappy folks we were.

In our meetings we tell our own experiences just as AA's do. We tell how we came to find that we needed Al-Anon and what Al-Anon has done for us. And we seek to help other families that were, or are, having the same sort of experience.

In 1950 Bill traveled all over Canada and the United States to see how AA's would react to the idea of a general conference for Alcoholics Anonymous, and in doing so he discovered quite a few types of groups of the family of alcoholics. He thought that they should have a Central Office here in New York, just as AA did, so that they could be unified in their use of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions – a place where inquiries could be received, literature prepared and the public informed so that those in need would know where to turn.

A good friend and I started a small office in Bedford Hills. By then AA had had eighty-seven inquiries from wives or groups who wished to register. As AA was not equipped to handle the families of alcoholics it handed over this list to us and we wrote to them. Fifty groups responded and were registered with us. That was in '51. Today (1967) there are over 3,000 Al-Anon groups.

The numerical potential of Al-Anon is greater than AA's because it is composed not only of mates of alcoholics, but children, parents and other relatives and friends. It is estimated that five people are seriously affected by one alcoholic.

Though we have barely scratched the surface, the future is bright, thanks to you AA's for your wonderful example and inspiration.



AA GRAPEVINE TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Why is it important that we not get involved in outside enterprises?
2. Is it ever wise for a group to lease a small building or endorse an outside event?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local clubhouse familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs," which is available free from GSO?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Our group's landlord is raising money to pay for a new roof on the building. Should the group make a contribution? What if the landlord specifically asks the group to make a contribution?

Financial Statements

	January	February	March	April	May	Total	Ytd Forecast	Variance
Income								
Sales	\$ 2,860	\$ 2,004	\$ 3,094	\$ 2,593	\$ 1,916	\$ 12,466	\$ 12,500	\$ (34)
Group Contributions	\$ 1,824	\$ 1,955	\$ 1,617	\$ 1,992	\$ 1,792	\$ 9,180	\$ 12,500	\$ (3,320)
Individual Contributions	\$ 326	\$ 485	\$ 925	\$ 1,447	\$ 470	\$ 3,653	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,153
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 61		\$	\$ 76	\$ 238	\$ 375	\$ 250	\$ 125
Fundraising	\$ -				\$	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 5,070	\$ 4,444	\$ 5,636	\$ 6,108	\$ 4,416	\$ 25,674	\$ 27,750	\$ (2,076)
Expenses								
COGS	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,025	\$ 2,217	\$ 1,525	\$ 1,095	\$ 7,561	\$ 7,500	\$ 61
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CC & Paypal Fees	\$ 38	\$ 65	\$ 57	\$ 66	\$ 61	\$ 287	\$ 525	\$ (238)
Office Supplies	\$ 190	\$ 254	\$ 257	\$ 131	\$ 57	\$ 889	\$ 250	\$ 639
Insurance	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ 244	\$ 250	\$ (6)
Licenses & Fees	\$ 221	\$ 77	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 195	\$ 623	\$ 125	\$ 498
Contract Services	\$ 620	\$ 720	\$ 828	\$ 174	\$ -	\$ 2,342	\$ 3,375	\$ (1,033)
Wages	\$ 2,040	\$ 1,373	\$ 929	\$ 2,639	\$ 1,912	\$ 8,893	\$ 9,375	\$ (482)
Taxes	\$ 920	\$ 370	\$ 286	\$ 738	\$ 435	\$ 2,749	\$ 3,250	\$ (501)
Copy Machine	\$ 337	\$ 260	\$ 237	\$ 237	\$ 252	\$ 1,323	\$ 1,250	\$ 73
Rent	\$ 962	\$ 962	\$ 962	\$ 975	\$ 975	\$ 4,837	\$ 5,000	\$ (163)
Utilities	\$ 361	\$ 778	\$ 412	\$ 511	\$ 247	\$ 2,309	\$ 1,500	\$ 809
Total Expenses	\$ 7,438	\$ 5,933	\$ 6,300	\$ 7,110	\$ 5,276	\$ 32,057	\$ 32,400	\$ (343)
Net Income	\$ (2,368)	\$ (1,489)	\$ (664)	\$ (1,002)	\$ (860)	\$ (6,383)	\$ (4,650)	\$ (1,733)

May 31, 2021 Cash Balances		
Main Checking		\$ 5,955
Event Account		\$ 7,164
Prudent Reserve		\$ 12,870
Till Cash		\$ 100
Total Cash Balance		\$ 26,089

Grant Payroll Allocation		
	Amount	Balance
Beginning	\$ 12,204	\$ 12,204
December	\$ (2,000)	\$ 10,204
January	\$ (2,286)	\$ 7,918
February	\$ (2,093)	\$ 5,825
March	\$ (2,040)	\$ 3,785
April	\$ (3,591)	\$ 194
May	\$ (194)	\$ 0
Total Dispersed	\$ 12,204	\$ 0
Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Steering Committee meeting of May 10, 2021

Attendance: Dusty, Leeann, Bruce, Dee, Laurie, Cassia, Cindy (archives Dist 7), Marc, Patrick, Phil

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from the April 2021 SC meeting were accepted. Minutes from the April 2021 IG meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: A written report was submitted. There currently are volunteer opportunities for Friday 6pm-9pm, Saturday 6pm-9pm and Sunday 12pm-3pm.

Treasury: Please see attached financial report. Laurie reported that we are now beginning to see a clearer financial picture for the year and that the forecast needs adjustments.

Office: Leeann discussed additional duties that she has been taking on and said that customer traffic is beginning to increase.

Activities: No new information to report.

Old Business/Audit: Laurie reported that the outside auditors may be able to begin the audit process in the beginning of June. It is not expected to be a lengthy process.

New Business/Archives: Cindy reported that she has been scanning documents and is looking for technical assistance for a more efficient manner to transfer the scanned documents to the district's computer. She was provided contact information to the webmaster. There was a discussion regarding District's insurance on the storage facility that holds the archive material. At this time this is a District issue however options are being looked into and in the future it might have ties to Intergroup.

New Business/Census: The question was asked should Intergroup conduct a census by sobriety time to better see how they can serve. The question will be put to the IG reps.

New Business/Service: In the past the IG reps have been told that Intergroup needs a certain amount of money to continue operations in the usual manner. The question was asked should the IG reps be asked how is it you want to be served and do you want to mandate a budget. The question will be put to the IG reps.

New Business/Activities: It was pointed out that people is Intergroup's greatest asset and how do we get people involved, i.e., gratitude dinners, bingo, etc. The question will be put to the IG reps.

Closing: The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:01pm.

Yours in Service,
Phil B.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

Vancouver Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Representatives meeting of May 17, 2021

Attendance: Alene, PDAC ... Brent, PDAC ... Marlene, deaf interpreter ... Leeanne, office Michael, Welcome Home ... Dusty*, Corner Stone ... Joanne, Women in Action ... Bruce*, B&P Carey, Hockinson ... Lori, Womens Daily Supplement ... Manasseh, Rock Bottom Recovery Patrick*, McGillivray Study Group ... Kerry, New Morning ... Teresa, Women in Action Phil*, R360very ... Robin, Fireside ... Marc*, Miracles at Noon ... Heidi, Minnehaha Michelle, Ladies by the Lavender ... Laurie*, Sober Uppers ... Connie, SLTS & Dist 27
Attendance at meeting opening. Others may have joined after roll-call was taken.
*Notes also a Steering Committee member

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:31pm with the Serenity Prayer. Dusty gave a brief talk that there is feedback concerning how Intergroup is run and that this will be addressed during new business. Minutes from the April IG meeting were accepted. Minutes from the April SC meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: A written report as submitted. There currently are volunteer opportunities for Friday, 6:00-9:00pm, Saturday, 6:00-9:00pm and Sunday, 12:00-3:00pm.

Treasury: Please see attached report for detailed information. Laurie reported that Intergroup is currently down approximately \$6000 and that the forecast needs to be changed to a budget. Group donations are down. Intergroup needs to adjust how they do business. The subject of the treasury was a lengthy discussion. The financial report was accepted.

Deaf Access: Alene reported that the deaf access (PDAC) is active and has 12-step volunteers. They are in need of a secretary. They can be reached at pdacca.org

Office: Leeanne reported that she has been seeing an increase in support and customer traffic. She is looking into activities to include Bingo.

Webmaster: Dusty reported that he contacted the Webmaster who said should Intergroup decide to allow e-commerce she can install the necessary plug-ins.

Old Business/Audit: Laurie reported that the outside auditor should be able to begin the audit process in June.

Old Business/E-Commerce: There was discussion asking should Intergroup allow on-line shopping. The majority of opinions expressed was that Intergroup cannot afford this due to shipping costs. No motions were made.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued...

New Business/Guidelines: Laurie reported in conversation with the outside auditor it was found that our guidelines regarding an auditor are vague. (For example: What is to be audited and for what period of time.) The auditor will assist in writing guidelines and also end of month procedures.

New Business/On-Line Only: Some have questioned should Intergroup be closed and be strictly an on-line office. It was noted that Intergroup is on a lease. No motions were made however IG reps are asked to discuss this with their groups for the June IG meeting.

New Business/Budget: Laurie and Bruce will create three budget scenarios to be presented to the IG reps at the June IG meeting.

New Business/Fundraising: Leeanne discussed holding virtual Bingo as a fundraiser. She has access to 30 free playing cards or 500 cards for \$30. A motion was made and approved for Leeanne to further explore the fundraising idea. The motion was amended with the amendment accepted to also explore the idea of in-person Bingo as allowed by pandemic restrictions.

New Business/Steering Committee Residency: A motion was made and approved to vote on next month on a requirement that in order to be a SC member you must reside within one of the three districts (7, 27, 37) that Intergroup serves.

New Business/Attorney: The question was asked does Intergroup have an attorney should we want to explore if we can break our lease and/or if we should want to file bankruptcy. Intergroup does not have an attorney. No motions were made.

Group News: Phil reported that R360very will have pizza one hour before the meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. New Morning is now a hybrid meeting. Hockinson meets in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All require Covid-19 safety guidelines be followed. As meetings change they are reminded to let Intergroup know so schedules can be updated.

District News: Dusty reported that there are District events being planned for 2022 to be held at the Heathman Lodge and the Red Lion Hotel. More information to follow.

The meeting was closed at 8:35pm.

Yours in Service,

Phil 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@yanintgrp.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.

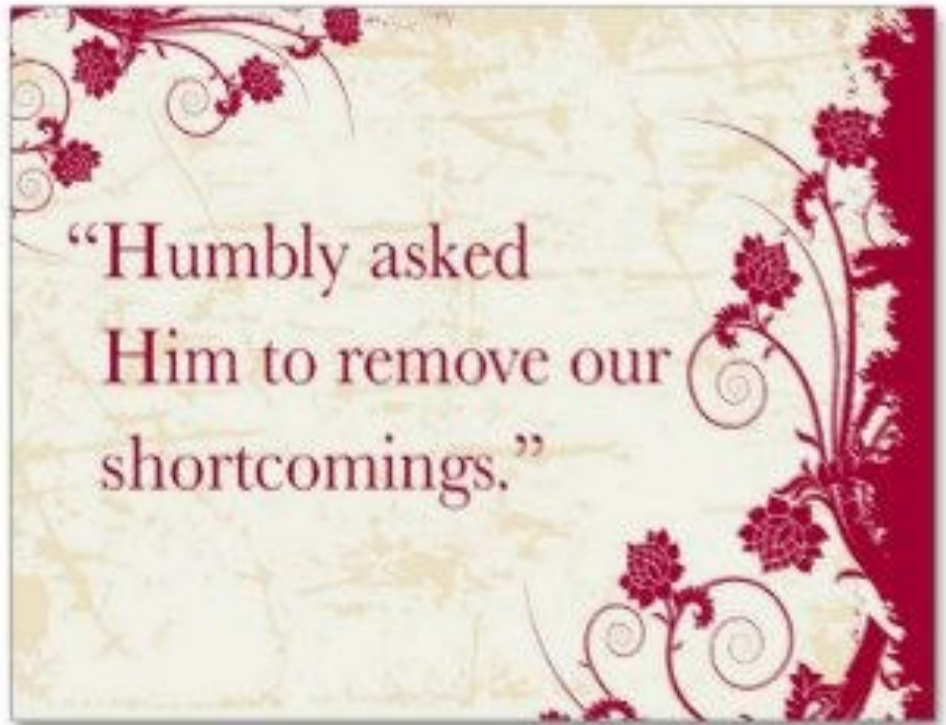
Upcoming Events

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Wayfarer's Speaker Mtg. on Zoom: 7:00 pm T.T.C.O. Speaker's Mtg.: 7:00 pm
11	12 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	13	14	15	16	17 District 27 Committees Mtg.: 10am-12 pm District 27 Business Mtg.: 12 pm-3 pm
18	19 Intergroup Rep. Mtg.: 6:30 pm	20	21	22 District 7 GSR Mtg.: 7 pm	23	24
		27 District 37 Mtg.: 7:00 pm	28 R360very Fellowship & Pizza: 6 pm before the 7pm mtg. Last Wednesday every month. (At the Recovery Resource Center: 9317 NE HWY 99 Vancouver, WA 98665)	29	30 District 27 Speaker Mtg.: 7:00 pm	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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