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VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

Primary Purpose



News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A.

“A.A. at Its Best”

New Approaches to the Seventh Tradition

In mid-March of this year, at the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, the lights went dark at the General Service Office as G.S.O.’s workforce dispersed to their homes to continue helping members carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. As the days went on, A.A.’s many central offices strove to remain open to fulfill their essential function, and A.A. groups turned to virtual platforms to ensure that alcoholics everywhere could meet and stay sober-

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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. – 08/09@6:00 PM
- ◆ Archives Committee Mtg.- 08/11@ 6:00pm
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. – 08/16@6:30 PM
- ◆ District 27 Committee Mtg- 08/21@10am
- ◆ District 27 Business Mtg.- 08/21@12pm
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. – 08/24@7:00 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. - 08/26@7:00 PM

Over the last number of months, a situation without precedent in the lifetime of A.A. has been faced with fortitude, hard work and creativity. “The amazing thing,” says Leslie Backus, Class A (nonalcoholic) treasurer of the General Service Board, “is that whether at the local, the area or the intergroup level, A.A.s have found a way to continue carrying the message. Our primary purpose is going strong. It is an awesome and humbling thing to watch.” Suffering alcoholics have been turning to A.A. for 85 years, and the need for Alcoholics Anonymous has never been greater. Despite the physical separation of its employees, G.S.O. General Manager Greg T. wrote in a June letter to the Fellowship, “G.S.O. in New York is continuing to support all levels of service. Literature still needs to be published and distributed, calls need to be answered, online platforms still need to be updated, and support operations sustained.” At the same time, according to G.S.O. acting Chief Financial Officer Bob W., there were challenges: “In the immediate aftermath of COVID-19, G.S.O. experienced a sharp decline in contributions and literature sales.”

The precipitous fall in both of these funding levels — because people could neither contribute in the same way at meetings nor buy books from the group’s literature table or at their local intergroup office — forced A.A. to take a \$3 million drawdown from its Reserve Fund at the end of April. Fortunately, since then, there has been a dramatic increase in contributions from A.A. groups and members, culminating in \$1.1 million for the month of July — an extraordinary response. Leslie Backus, who reported on A.A.’s financial situation at A.A.’s virtual 70th General Service Conference and who was also featured in a video released to the Fellowship entitled “COVID-19 & the Seventh Tradition” (<https://vimeo.com/430834698>), says of the response from the Fellowship, “It was the spiritual nature of the Seventh Tradition in practice, one person stepping up to help other members over and over.” Bob W. adds, “More than the actual dollars themselves, it is about participation, and that is what gets me emotional. That principle of participation is rooted in our Fourth Concept and the Seventh Tradition. Money and spirituality mix in the basket.” Literature sales, meanwhile, have risen only slightly from April, according to Bob, and are nowhere near their average monthly sales levels pre-pandemic. And while some of the \$1.1 million in contributions came from groups, many others were made by individuals via [aa.org](https://contribution.aa.org) (<https://contribution.aa.org>). Greg T. considers this a sign of these unprecedented times, when “individuals perhaps feel a level of responsibility in a different way, under the circumstances.”

” As many in A.A. know, however, even in the best of times, only 40 percent of groups send a portion of their Seventh Tradition basket to help support the General Service Office. This is nothing new. Bill W. made note of it in a 1966 letter to the Fellowship in which he stated, “We cannot depend on A.A. book and pamphlet income year after year to make up for lack of Group contributions.” But the situation we are currently in is new — a global pandemic, an age of transformative technology — and finding solutions to the lack of group contributions that Bill refers to is a conversation that presents itself.

https://aa.org/newsletters/en_US/en_box459_fall20.pdf



AA GRAPEVINE TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

Tradition Seven: “ Every group ought to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can’t afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn’t it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer’s report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

Financial Statements

	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total	Ytd Forecast	Variance
Income									
Sales	\$ 2,860	\$ 2,004	\$ 3,094	\$ 2,593	\$ 1,916	\$ 2,381	\$ 14,848	\$ 12,500	\$ 2,348
Group Contributions	\$ 1,824	\$ 1,955	\$ 1,617	\$ 1,992	\$ 1,792	\$ 1,570	\$ 10,750	\$ 12,500	\$ (1,750)
Individual Contributions	\$ 326	\$ 485	\$ 925	\$ 1,447	\$ 470	\$ 400	\$ 3,653	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,153
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 61			\$ 76	\$ 238	\$ 258	\$ 632	\$ 250	\$ 382
Fundraising	\$ -						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 5,070	\$ 4,444	\$ 5,636	\$ 6,108	\$ 4,416	\$ 4,609	\$ 29,883	\$ 27,750	\$ 2,133
Expenses									
COGS	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,025	\$ 2,217	\$ 1,525	\$ 1,095	\$ 1,551	\$ 9,112	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,612
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CC & Paypal Fees	\$ 38	\$ 65	\$ 57	\$ 66	\$ 61	\$ 59	\$ 347	\$ 525	\$ (178)
Office Supplies	\$ 190	\$ 254	\$ 257	\$ 131	\$ 57	\$ 3	\$ 889	\$ 250	\$ 639
Insurance	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ 293	\$ 250	\$ 43
Licenses & Fees	\$ 221	\$ 77	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 195	\$ 65	\$ 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	\$ 888	\$ 8,893	\$ 9,375	\$ (482)
Taxes	\$ 920	\$ 370	\$ 286	\$ 738	\$ 435	\$ 388	\$ 3,137	\$ 3,250	\$ (113)
Copy Machine	\$ 337	\$ 260	\$ 237	\$ 237	\$ 252	\$ 138	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,250	\$ 212
Rent	\$ 962	\$ 962	\$ 962	\$ 975	\$ 975	\$ 975	\$ 5,812	\$ 5,000	\$ 812
Utilities	\$ 361	\$ 778	\$ 412	\$ 511	\$ 247	\$ 288	\$ 2,597	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,097
Total Expenses	\$ 7,438	\$ 5,933	\$ 6,300	\$ 7,110	\$ 5,276	\$ 4,406	\$ 35,506	\$ 32,400	\$ 3,106
Net Income	\$ (2,368)	\$ (1,489)	\$ (664)	\$ (1,002)	\$ (860)	\$ 204	\$ (5,623)	\$ (4,650)	\$ (973)

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	
Balance	\$ 0	

Group Contributions Year- To- Date 2021

12&12 Study Group 100.00

A New Morning 1730.98

Around Town 100.00

As Bill Sees It 459.00

Camas Group 181.00

Came To Believe 125.00

Cascade Locks Spiritual Breakfast 65.00

Cornerstone 125.00

District 7 50.00

District 37 699.31

Dry Tribe 50.00

Early Birds 610.00

East County Women's Group 200.00

Eastside Brown Baggers 558.00

First Shot 2007.88

Friday Night Happy Hour 356.00

Hockinson Group 569.47

Keep Coming Back 115.79

LaCenter Group 100.37

Ladies By the Lavender 230.00

Lewis River AA 110.00

Lighthouse 21.00

McGillivray Study Group 352.72

Men's Eastside 500.00

Men's Fireside 200.00

Minnehaha 320.00

Miracles at Noon 300.00

Name in the Hat 518.33

Over 55 408.00

Prince of Peace 50.00

Ready and Willing 300.00

Rock Bottom Recovery 25.00

Round Table Group 100.00

She Who Remembers 80.00

Steps to Freedom 365.31

Sunday Night Alternative 100.00

Sunday Solutions 182.00

Tightrope Walkers 100.00

Westside Group 159.00

Women's Daily Supplement 80.00

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bruce, SC Member ... Leanne, on-site office ... Phil, SC Member ... Cindy, Dist 7 archives Dusty, SC Chair ... Marrisa, Women in Action ... Teresa, Women in Action ... Julie, Women in Action Joanne, Women in Action ... Cassia, off site office ... Marc, SC Vice Chair ... Laurie, SC Member/Treasurer Patrick, SC Member ... Connie, Dist 27

Opening: Minutes from the May SC meeting were accepted. Minutes from the May IG meeting were reviewed. Attendees introduced themselves.

Hotline: There 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. Laurie reports that the grant money has been exhausted.

Office: Leanne reports that there has been an increase in office visits and calls.

Activities: No report. There is a volunteer opportunity to chair activities.

Old Business/Archives: Cindy reported that the storage facility of archives materials has \$10,000 insurance coverage which is adequate with a monthly premium of \$10.41. (Information only as this is not an IG issue) Cindy said the archives committee wants to start holding their meetings in-person and asked for use of the IG office which was approved. Their next meeting will be 7/14/21, 6:00pm.

Old Business/Census: Dusty reported that New York was unable to conduct a census and it was often perceived as a negative issue. **New Business/Meeting Structure:** Dusty requested that Patrick act as a “proceduralist” as meetings in order to assist in keeping discussions brief (non-repetitious) and on topic. No formal motion made; just a request for assistance.

New Business/Comparable Office Space: We currently pay rent of \$12 per square foot with four years remaining on a five year lease. Comparable locations were found to range from \$18 to \$24 per square foot with leases ranging from two to five years. There was extensive discussion of what if the office closed and if it did close can we still be an intergroup?

Hours of Operation: At the May IG meeting the reps were told that at the June IG meeting they would be presented with scenarios that would assist in a budget. The scenarios were reviewed and will be provided to the IG reps to decide. They are four scenarios: 1. A 12 hour per week decrease, 2. A 6 hour per week decrease, 3. Close the office, 4. Make no changes. If one of the first two scenarios are approved by the IG reps it would be recommended it be for two months and then reevaluated to see if it should be continued.

Open Positions: SC Member #2 and Activities chair positions are vacant.

Close: The meeting was closed at 7:39pm.

Yours in Service, Phil B

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bruce*, B&P ... Leeanne**, office ... Chuck, Early Birds ... Laurie*, Sober Uppers Robin, Fireside ... Phil*, R360very ... Julie, Women in Action ... Teresa **, Women in Action Dusty*, Cornerstone ... Joanne, Tight-rope Walkers ... Todd, 1st Shot ... Marc*, Miracles at Noon Patrick*, McGillivray Book Study ... Kerry, New Morning ... Elizabeth, How it Works Linc, Friday Night Happy Hour ... Chris ... Came to Believe ... Heidi, Minnehaha ... Carey, Hockinson ... Michael, Welcome Home ... Leana, East County Womens Tom, Men's Fireside ... Marissa**, Women in Action ... Lori, Women's Daily Supplement *Steering Committee member **Non-voting attendee

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:33pm with the Serenity Prayer. Attendees introduced themselves. The chair acknowledged those who have stepped up participation.

Minutes from the 5/17/21 IG meeting were accepted. Minutes from the 6/14/21 SC meeting were reviewed.

Hotline: Dusty reported that there is an immediate need for a volunteer for the Sunday noon to 3:00pm time slot.

Treasury: See attached report. There was a question about transparency of bank accounts. It was noted that there were finance committee meeting for over a year and there has never been a single attendee. It was further noted that IG has an open book policy and any information one might want to view can be done so. The report was accepted

. **Office:** Leeanne reported that she is seeing an increase in office traffic.

Activities: No report. IG does not have an activities chair. No one made themselves available for this position.

Webmaster: Dusty reported that Rachel can install the necessary plug-ins should a decision be made to do on-line sales.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes Continued.....

Old Business/Presence of Intergroup: The possible scenarios presented to the IG reps was (1) a 12 hour per week decrease in the office being open, (2) a 6 hour per week decrease in the office being open, (3) closing the office, (4) no changes to be made. Should the first or second option be selected it would be on a two month trial basis and then to examine the impact. It was noted that closing the office will not eliminate financial obligations are there are leases. A motion was made and passed for IG reps to present these options to their groups and for the matter to be voted on next month.

Old Business/Steering Committee Residence Requirement: The motion made last month requiring SC members to reside within IG's service area (District 7, 27, 37) was voted on and passed: 9 yea, 7 nay

Old Business/Fundraising: Leeanne reported that she has found a venue that is interested in hosting activities for IG.

Old Business/Amended Guidelines: Laurie reported that the issue of the outside auditor who will help better define financial matters in the guidelines is pending.

Old Business/Intergroup Attorney: IG does not have an attorney on retainer or as a volunteer.

New Business/Steering Committee Member: Nominations were made, and accepted, for Julie to be SC member #2 and for Michael to be the Vice Chair. Additional nominations may be made next month at which time the positions will be voted on

New Business/Meeting Format: It was noted that the IG meeting is hybrid. It was further noted that with the Longview/Kelso area joining IG it is a considerable distance to attend and as Covid restrictions loosen Zoom availability will continue.

New Business/Shipping Costs: Todd will research shipping costs should IG adopt on-line sales.

Group News: Minnehaha's Friday meeting is now hybrid. The meeting was closed at 7:59pm.

Yours in Service, Phil B.

Upcoming Events

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Steering Committee Mtg.: 6:00 pm	10	11 Archives Committee Mtg: 6:00 pm	12	13	14 District 27 Com- mittees Mtg.: 10am- 12 pm District 27 Business Mtg.: 12 pm-3 pm
15	16 Intergroup Rep. Mtg. 6:60 pm	17	18	19	20	21 District 27 Com- mittees Mtg.: 10am- 12 pm District 27 Business Mtg.: 12 pm-3 pm
22	23	24 District 37 Mtg.: 7:00 pm	25	26 District 7 GSR Mtg.: 7 pm	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.

KEYDATES in Alcoholics Anonymous

JULY 20th, 1941- First AA group formed in Seattle, WA

JULY 22nd, 1877- William Silkworth born Brooklyn NY

JULY 23rd, 1940 - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent.

JULY 28th-30th, 1950 - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland

AUGUST 8th, 1879 - Dr Bob born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

AUGUST 11th, 1938 - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book.

AUGUST 16th, 1939 - Dr Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

**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.

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