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VANCOUVER AREA INTERGROUP

Primary Purpose

FOURTH EDITION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

PAGES 151-164

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/en_bigbook_chapt11.pdf

A Vision For You

For most normal folks, drinking means conviviality, companionship and colorful imagination. It means release from care, boredom and worry. It is joyous intimacy with friends and a feeling that life is good. But not so with us in those last days of heavy drinking. The old pleasures were gone. They were but memories. Never could we recapture the great moments of the past. There was an insistent yearning to enjoy life as we once did and a heartbreaking obsession that some new miracle of control would enable us to do it. There was always one more attempt—and one more failure.

The less people tolerated us, the more we withdrew from society, from life itself. As we became subjects of King Alcohol, shivering denizens of his mad realm, the chilling vapor that is loneliness settled down. It thickened, ever becoming blacker. Some of us sought out sordid places, hoping to find understanding companionship and approval. Momentarily we did—then would come oblivion and the awful awakening to face the hideous Four Horsemen—Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, Despair. Unhappy drinkers who read this page will understand!



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Monthly Business Mtgs.

- ◆ Steering Comm. Mtg. –
12/12/2022 @ 6:00 PM
- ◆ Archives Committee Mtg.-
12/14/2022 @ 5:30 PM
- ◆ District 27 Committee Mtg.
12/17/2022 @ 10 AM&12PM
- ◆ Intergroup Rep Mtg. –
12/19/2022 @ 6:30 PM
- ◆ District 7 GSR Mtg. –
12/22/2022 @ 7:00 PM
- ◆ District 37 GSR Mtg. -
12/27/2022 @ 7:00 PM

A Substitute for Alcohol

"A Vision for You" begins by discussing the world in which we lived during our drinking days. It was a dark world, full of isolation and despair. Even worse, this world appeared to grow darker with every drink we took. We tried desperately to control our drinking, yet fell short every time. "A Vision for You" describes the manner in which things grew exceedingly worse as our drinking intensified:

"The less people tolerated us, the more we withdrew from society, from life itself. As we became subjects of King Alcohol, shivering denizens of his mad realm, the chilling vapor that is loneliness settled down. It thickened, ever becoming blacker. Some of us sought out sordid places, hoping to find understanding companionship and approval. Momentarily we did—then would come oblivion and the awful awakening to face the hideous Four Horsemen—Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, Despair. Unhappy drinkers who read this page will understand!"

Despite the pain we associated with these Horsemen, however, we kept going back. We simply couldn't keep the cork in the bottle long enough to stay sober for more than a small stretch at a time. Drug users understand this poignant feeling with equally distressing clarity. At some point, the body becomes so wrecked that we simply cannot continue drinking or using drugs. But the moment we begin to feel better, the cravings return with a vengeance. "A Vision for You" notes that many look back on these feelings with bemused hilarity. As painful as they were, we almost find it laughable that we ever thought it acceptable to treat ourselves so horribly. Nonetheless, many in recovery seek some sort of substitute for the rare joy that alcohol brought them. "A Vision for You" tells them where to find it:

"Yes, there is a substitute and it is vastly more than that. It is a fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous. There you will find release from care, boredom and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus we find the fellowship, and so will you."

In case some might doubt the positive influence of this fellowship, "A Vision for You" provides an example of a man who discovered its power long ago. But this isn't just any story. This is the story of how AA co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob first met each other.

Growth of the Fellowship

The story begins in 1935. Bill, six months sober, came away from a failed business trip with little money and a desire to drink. He decided that the best way to handle his cravings was to call up a clergyman, asking to be put in touch with another alcoholic who needed help. This led him to Bob.

“A Vision for You” notes that Bob obsessed over anonymity during this first meeting. He feared that he might lose business if anyone found out about his drinking. It did not occur to him that most people could probably tell from his previous behaviors that he was a drunk. After another spree, however, Bob decided to come clean with his loved ones. Ages before the Twelve Steps existed, Bob’s first move was to make amends. This helped, but both of AA’s co-founders would experience difficulties in pursuing years. Eventually, Bill and Bob decided to seek a new prospect together. They called up a hospital, and the nurse put them in touch with a lawyer named Bill D. Little did they know they had just found AA’s third member.

Over the next three days, this new prospect unwittingly began working the Twelve Steps. He began with Step One, accepting that he couldn’t drink normally. The next day, he took Step Two by admitting that a Higher Power should be able to help him. On day three, the new member gave his life over to something greater than himself. All of this happened just one month after Bill W. first met Dr. Bob. Within thirty days, two desperate alcoholics forged the beginnings of a fellowship.

After acquiring a fourth member, Bill W. had to leave town for a while. But “A Vision for You” describes the miracle that occurred over the next few months. The three men he left behind found that when they helped others, they helped themselves. As a result of this approach to sobriety, their numbers grew. It took a year and a half to acquire seven more members. They held regular meetings, inviting any and all newcomers once per week. As this fellowship paved the way for AA as it exists today, spouses met in the adjoining rooms of these get-togethers, planting the first seeds of Al-Anon. By 1939, the first AA group numbered between sixty and eighty alcoholics per meeting. Today, estimated membership worldwide ranks at about two million. What began as a small fellowship grew into a movement.

Fulfilling AA's Vision for You

and hope for the best.

While the preceding story is remarkable, one might wonder how it applies to our personal recovery. "A Vision for You" explains just some of the ways in which the power of fellowship can change our lives:

"But life among Alcoholics Anonymous is more than attending gatherings and visiting hospitals. Cleaning up old scrapes, helping to settle family differences, explaining the disinherited son to his irate parents, lending money and securing jobs for each other, when justified—these are everyday occurrences. No one is too discredited or has sunk too low to be welcomed cordially—if he means business. Social distinctions, petty rivalries and jealousies—these are laughed out of countenance. Being wrecked in the same vessel, being restored and united under one God, with hearts and minds attuned to the welfare of others, the things which matter so much to some people no longer signify much to them."

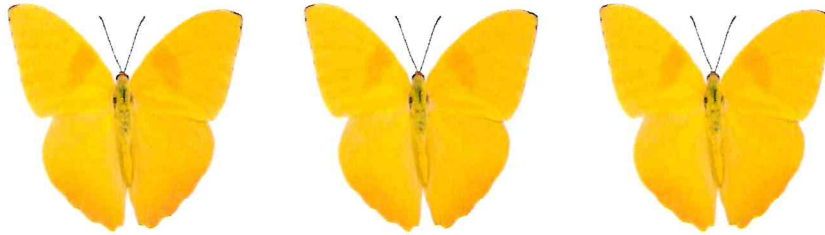
In other words, the unity of AA changes our entire outlook on others and our interactions with them. More importantly, the principles of recovery wield the potential to change our outlook on ourselves. We see ourselves as part of something greater, something beyond our control yet ever pervasive in our lives. As part of the fellowship, we are at once friends, family, patients and healers. We give what we receive, and then we give a little more. "A Vision for You" doesn't relate the story of Bill's encounter with Bob in order to make Bill sound like a hero. Instead, the Big Book tells us this story in order to remind us that it only takes one person to make a difference.

"A Vision for You" concludes by telling us how we may achieve AA's vision through a combination of prayer and good will:

"God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick. The answers will come, if your own house is in order. But obviously you cannot transmit something you haven't got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us.

Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."

To put this a little more simply, we must do three things if we wish to succeed in recovery. We must trust God (Steps 1-3), clean house (Steps 4-10) and help others (Steps 11-12). As long as we continue to practice these fundamentals, the spiritual lifestyle described in "A Vision for You" should be ours for the taking. If only we could all embrace these principles, we might one day forge a better vision for the world at large. For now, however, it will suffice to focus on our own spiritual growth. As human beings, the best we can do is to act righteously. Do this, and Bill's vision for AA just might become your personal reality.



AA GRAPEVINE TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

Tradition Twelve:

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust or agree with AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, do I imply that membership requirements go beyond the desire to stay sober?
4. Have I a personal responsibility to help an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
5. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially?
6. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA attractive so that other drunks might want it?
7. What does anonymity mean to me?
8. In light of increased awareness of alcoholism and AA's program of recovery among the general public, why is the principle of anonymity still important?
9. Am I mindful to respect the anonymity of other AA members who may work in my place of employment or my industry? How about AA members who live in my area or neighborhood?
10. What does "principles before personalities" mean to me?

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Group Treasurer Workshop
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Steering Committee 6:00 pm	13	14 ARCHIVES 5:30 PM	15	16	17 #27 District Meeting
18	19 Intergroup Rep Meeting 6:30 pm	20	21	22 #7 District Meeting	23	24
25	26	27 #37 District Meeting	28	29	30	31

ARCHIVES CORNER



Wolfe Street Center, Little Rock, Arkansas

The National Alcoholics Anonymous Workshop (NAAAW) was held September 21-25, 2022 in Little Rock, Arkansas. WE were there! Workshops are one of the many ways we share our experience, strength and hope with each other to carry the message to future generations. Help us protect OUR records and OUR precious history!

The Vancouver Archives Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Intergroup and all are welcome!

Ongoing projects:

- Grapevine Project: We had a great work party at Intergroup on Saturday, October 15, 2022 and six attendees replaced spines of dozens of Grape Vine binders. We got to share lots of stories and had fun while accomplishing the further preservation of "Our Meeting in Print". We will have more work parties in the near future, so stay tuned...
- Digitization: We look forward to continuing the digitization of paper records, audio cassettes, cd's and group histories. This includes storage of "born" digital documents, such as electronic Minutes, Agendas, Financial Reports and event fliers. You can bring your items to the next Archives Committee Meeting, which meets OR we can meet you, and give you a receipt for your items, which can be digitized, where applicable, and permanently stored in the Vancouver Archives Repository, which is secure and climate controlled. You can also email your group's electronic records to us for electronic storage in the Vancouver Archives database.

Contact Cindy M. with any questions or comments at:

dist7archives@area72aa.org
or call/text: (702) 806-6466

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS NOVEMBER 2022

November 2022	Group Name	Contribution
11/07/2022	Women's Daily Supplemental	49.00
11/08/2022	First Shot	126.45
11/07/2022	Ready & Willing	50.00
11/08/2022	McGillivray Study Group	104.39
11/08/2022	The Lighthouse	50.00
11/08/2022	Over 55	83.00
11/08/2022	As We Recovered	50.00
11/10/2022	Hockinson AA	98.80
11/14/2022	Westside Group	101.00
11/14/2022	Wayfarers	124.98
11/15/2022	A New Morning	266.28
11/15/2022	Ridgefield Recovery	120.00
11/15/2022	She Who Remembers	80.00
11/15/2022	As Bill Sees It	100.00
11/28/2022	Early Birds	100.00
11/28/2022	Men's Eastside	320.00
11/29/30	Anchor Point Counseling	10.00
Individual Contributions		110.00

SHARED BY MEMBERS

Ebby's Gift To Us All

88 years ago on November 28, 1934 is when Ebby Thacher at 2 months sober brought his message of sobriety to his old friend Bill Wilson. Of course Bill would have none of it right then but about two weeks later on December 11th 1934 he checked him self into Charlie Towns Hospital for the fourth and final time.

Bills telling of this story on pages 8 thru 12 (in both the 3rd & 4th edition) are some of the most descriptive and profound words in our Big Book relating to the 1st & 2nd step. He writes in part "No words can tell of the loneliness and despair I found in that bitter morass of self-pity. Quicksand stretched around me in all directions. I had met my match. I had been overwhelmed. Alcohol was my master". If that's not a first step I don't know what is. We've all read them before but I'm so grateful for the willingness to invest the short 3 minutes it takes to re-read those pages.



Ebby Thacher

*Ebby's
Promise*



Bill Wilson

Vancouver Intergroup Graitude Dinner Report

BEGINNING		<u>\$0.00</u>
INCOME		
Type	Description	Amount
Main Tickets	272 at \$25 per	\$6,800.00
Raffle Tickets	50/50	\$772.00
	Baskets	\$1,220.00
Venue	1 Presbyterian Rental Refund	\$316.00
	Matson Bldg. Deposit Refund	\$300.00
	TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$9,408.00</u>
EXPENSES		
Type	Description	Amount
Venue	1 Presbyterian Rental	\$316.00
	Matson Bldg. Deposit	\$300.00
Speaker	Milage, etc.	\$215.00
Food	Prime Rib	\$1,689.03
	Veggies	\$202.20
	Costco	\$111.36
Rental	Grill	\$217.00
Decorations		\$325.00
Dishes		\$406.88
Flatware		\$398.40
Payroll		\$661.37
Various		\$244.32
	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$5,086.56</u>
ENDING		<u>\$4,321.44</u>



Vancouver Area Intergroup 2022 Newsletter will be distributed in the first week of each month instead of the middle of the month.

If you would like to share your :

- AA Birthday on the Calendar
- Experience Strength & Hope
- AA related content or topics
- AA Flyers

In the Upcoming Newsletters please feel free to email :

vanintgrp@gmail.com

You Are Wanted Needed & Loved!

****** The Primary Purpose will no longer include the Financial Reports or the Meeting Minutes from either the Steering Committee Meeting or the Intergroups Rep Meeting. Reports and Minutes can now be found on the website under the documents tab.******

[Documents | Vancouver Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous \(vancouveraa.org\)](http://vancouveraa.org)

