

AUGUST 2019 Greater Vancouver Intergroup Monthly A.A. Newsletter

Pass it On . . .

Message from Finance Committee:

My name is Doug and I am an alcoholic. I have also been given the privilege of serving your Intergroup Society as this year's chair of Finance. I am so grateful that nearly 32 years ago, when I walked into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, AA was there to greet me.

In the lower mainland, we have an Intergroup Society that is highly regarded among Intergroups in North America. We provide services that you, the member groups, have asked us to provide.

When discussing finances, Bill Wilson said;

“Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill.”

Bill W., October 1967 Grapevine

AA's guidelines on finance state that **“It is each member's responsibility to support the services that have been requested by the A.A. Fellowship, to help facilitate A.A.'s vital Twelfth Step.”**

What are some of the **services that have been requested** by member groups of the Greater Vancouver Intergroup Society to help facilitate vital Twelfth Step work?

- Central Office – a small number of full and part-time staff maintain the services provided at Central Office. Employed by the Greater Vancouver Intergroup Society, these staff members do work to facilitate twelfth step work.

- Maintaining Central Office for telephones and literature sales. - Intergroup is responsible for the costs associated with leasing central office, from which many of our services are coordinated.

- Telephones – we are responsible for costs associated

with ensuring that our telephones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week either by live volunteers, or late at night by an answering service that ensures AA volunteers can follow-up with a potential newcomer

- Literature – Rather than every group having to order literature and other service materials directly through GSO, Central Office maintains a healthy inventory of some of our most requested material, ensuring that if your group needs pamphlets or books, you can probably find it in stock and priced reasonably, rather than having to purchase online in US Dollars and wait for the literature to ship to you. Staff spend much of their time ordering, inventorying, stocking and selling literature to groups and individual members.

- Telephones – Central office staff spend time ensuring that the phones at Central Office are staffed by AA member volunteers. Between the hours of 8 AM and 2 AM, our goal is to have AA members answering calls and responding to 12 step requests. It's not easy finding all those volunteers, and our staff spend a great deal of time working to find members to fill those positions.

- Staff at Central Office maintain the database of meetings listed in the lower mainland and produce the Vancouver Intergroup Meeting Directory. This ensures that either from our paper directory, or online through the web site or app, those looking for an AA meeting can find one close to them.

- In addition, Central Office coordinates the services offered through Intergroup's Subcommittees, which are the heart of AA services in the lower mainland. These include: Bridging the Gap; Treatment Facilities; Telephone; Public Information; Hospitals; Detox; Accessibility; Correction Facilities; and, Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC).

- Why am I telling you all of this? Well, “It is each member's responsibility to support the services that have been requested by the A.A. Fellowship, to help facilitate A.A.'s vital Twelfth Step.” The groups in the lower mainland (Intergroup) has asked that the Greater Vancouver

Central Office Hours:

- Mon.- Fri.: 8:00am to 6:30pm
- Sat.- Sun.: 9:30am to 1:00pm
3457 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC, V5R 5L5
- Phone Lines: 24/7

Office will be closed on statutory holidays.

Monday, September 2, 2019

Intergroup Meeting:

- Orientation for new Reps at 7:00pm .
- Intergroup meeting at 7:30pm.
3022 E 49th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5S 1K9
- **Next meeting: August 20, 2019**

All members are welcome!

Intergroup Page: Unity, Service, & Recovery

Finance message continued

Intergroup Society provide these services, but these services all come at a cost. Those costs are not being covered by the member groups.

•This month your Intergroup Representative should be reporting back to your group that Contributions from member groups are under budget for the month by \$4,721. Year to date group contributions are under budget by \$15,332. Six months into our fiscal year, groups are not stepping up to support the services they are asking us to provide. I feel it is important that the finance committee express to you our concern over this – we are responsible to ensure that the GVIS is paying its way, and providing the services required to continue vital Twelfth Step work.

•So what will happen if this contribution trend continues? We will be forced to cut services. We must be self-supporting. Whether that means shortened office hours (and therefore literature sales), or cuts to services, will be up to the fellowship. It is my hope that the fellowship will respond by increasing their contributions to Intergroup, allowing our services to continue uninterrupted.

Yours in service,

Doug G

GVIS Finance Chair 2019.

Tradition Eight:

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

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Traditions Discussion Questions:

1. “When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?”
2. “Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?”

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Phone Room Stats:

	JUN	MAY	APRIL
12 th Step Calls	70	58	28
Al-Anon	8	10	9
Answering Service	233	211	243
General	566	678	739
Total Calls	877	957	1019

Sub-Committees:

The purpose of every outreach subcommittee is to assist the Intergroup Committee in carrying out the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous as expressed in Tradition 5. Each outreach subcommittee is therefore assigned a particular area of responsibility.

Reprinted from Intergroup Operating Procedures and Guidelines 2018 with permission.

Accessibility:

We need members to help us meet our Twelve Step work responsibilities - please join us the first Thursday of the month at Central Office at 6:45pm.

accessibilities@vancouveraa.ca

Co-operation with Professional Community:

Needs a chairperson. Please contact Central Office.

cpc@vancouveraa.ca

Corrections:

We have moved our meeting to the First Friday of every month and we now meet at 2813 Glen Drive, Coquitlam. Please join us to do our Twelve Step work.

corrections@vancouveraa.ca

Detox:

If you attend a panel or want to become involved in one - please come to our workshop and meeting held every month on the second Saturday at Central Office.

detox@vancouveraa.ca

Hospitals:

The Hospital committee meets every third Thursday of the month, 7pm at Central Office and has plenty of opportunity with no sobriety requirements and no AA service experience required. The Hospital Committee is responsible to ensure the A.A. message is carried in the form of meetings and/or panel discussions in those hospitals wishing to have such meetings.

The Hospital committee is presently working diligently on Phase 3, Operation Patty Cakes, of their master project: Silver Thunder! They are attending all hospital meetings from North Vancouver to the South Surrey/White Rock region providing various means of support such as chairing meetings and conducting patients to meetings. If you or someone you know would like to help carry the message of recovery into a hospital setting, AKA Silver Thunder.

Contact Sean at: hospitals@vancouveraa.ca

Public Information:

Needs a chairperson. Please contact Central Office.

public.info@vancouveraa.ca

Telephone:

Needs a chairperson. Please contact Central Office.

telephones@vancouveraa.ca

Treatment:

We need members!

treatment@vancouveraa.ca

Need more information about service positions?

Call 604-434-3933, email: staff@vancouveraa.ca

Directory Updates August 2019

For a complete listing, check: www.vancouveraa.ca under meetings

New Meetings:

Sunday: “Gay Men’s Sex and Intimacy Meeting” 1110 Comox St., Vancouver—7pm — Closed.

Sunday: “Truth or Consequences”, EDI Club, 7277 King George Blvd, Surrey — 3:00pm

Monday and Friday: “Alano Noon Meditation Mtg”, 12:15 pm to 1:15pm, Alano Club, 1525 W. 7th Ave., Van

Thursday: “ABC Beginners Meeting” 7:30pm doors open - meeting starts at 8:00pm. 7277 King George Blvd., Surrey in the common room. - 8:00pm.

“The River Group Beginners Meeting”, starting July 4, 2019, 3900 Arthur Dr., Ladner, 6pm

Friday: “Land of the Moss” 8pm, Katzie Community & Health Cen 19700a Salish Rd, Pitt Meadows, open mtg

Meeting Changes:

Sunday: “Come Out & Sober Up” 7:00pm “7638—6th Street Burnaby fellowship Centre. New name “Come Out & Sober Up”—lgbtq

Monday: Sherbrooke RCH Meeting, 6:30 pm, Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster. Correction—this meeting has not been cancelled!!

Wednesday: “AAQueer+Trans” Step11 - Meditation Mtg 8pm doesn’t meet 1st Wed of the month. The regular mtg. at 6:30 pm meets every week. Mtg info corrected

Thursday: “Strathcona Men’s” 3874 Trafalgar Street @ W 23rd Ave Vancouver. May 23, 2019 new time-9pm

Thursday: “The River Group Beginners Meeting”, starting July 4, 2019, 3900 Arthur Dr., Ladner, 6pm. Format changed

Friday: “Candies and Candlelight”, 7:15pm Snug Café, 445 Trunk Rd., Bowen Island. Address corrected

Discontinued Meetings:

Sunday — Tumben Kuxtal—Spanish, 11am, 7727 King George Hwy, Surrey. Discontinued

Monday: “Strathcona Men’s Step Meeting” 3874 Trafalgar Street @ W 23rd Ave Vancouver. Discontinued

Saturday: “There are Those Too”, 10 am, Peace Arch Hospital, 15521 Russell Ave., White Rock. Discontinued

Group Corner:

WANTED

Group stories. This section of the Newsletter is reserved for group stories. If you think your homegroup is awesome—tell everyone about it. When do you meet? What is your format like? Pass your experience on!

Simply type, hand write or come by and we will transcribe it as you tell us!

REWARD

Groups to volunteer one calendar day a month for a four hour phone shift. The fellowship is down a group and there are none on the waiting list. Experience has shown it will be rewarding for your group members.

MISSING

Central Office may be missing or may need to update some of your group or group members information. Please make sure we have an up-to-date 12 *Step/ Bridging the Gap/ Accessibility Volunteer Sheet* for your group. They are available at CO, Intergroup monthly meetings, and at vancouveraa.ca.

Birthday Plan:

Central Office Birthday Plan!! Members customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety. Others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety.

Happy 2 years Violet of the King Albert Serenity!



BREAKFAST WITH YOUR SPONSOR

What is it: It's about seeing sponsorship in action.

When is it: **Saturday, September 28th, 2019**

Breakfast at 10:15am – Panel Meeting at 11:15am

Where is it: St. Mary's Ukrainian Church Hall, 3150 Ash St., Vancouver, B.C.

When are tickets available: Tickets are \$20.00 and will be available August 1st, 2019-September 14th, 2019

Where can you buy them: After the date posted tickets will be available at some meetings and are also available at Central Office

THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS! WE SELL OUT EVERY YEAR!

BRING YOUR SPONSOR TO BREAKFAST OR COME FIND A SPONSOR!!

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR AND WE WILL SEE YOU THERE!

Questions to consider: Do I have a Recovery Sponsor?

Do I have a Service Sponsor?

Do I want one?

IF YOU SAID YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS COME AND CHECK OUT WHAT THE ANSWERS ARE THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE!!!!

LET'S KICK OFF GRATITUDE MONTH WITH A BANG!

EXPERIENCE PASSING IT ON!!

Please notify Central Office of your meeting changes - so we can tell the Fellowship.

Upcoming Events

For a complete listing, check: www.vancouveraa.ca under events

Events:

Aug 2-4: Sober Riders Pig Roast & Campout

Ashnola Campground Keremeos, \$80 at Gate, \$20 Day Pass, Contact Shannon 778-255-5515.

Aug 2-4: **Campbell River's 45th A.A. Rally** Community Center 401-11th Ave. Full package \$45, at the door Early Bird full package \$40, Reg at the Door \$20. Contact Stuart 250-203-6880.

Aug 2-4: **Green Lake Campout, "Back to Basics"** Green Lake Provincial Park \$20, kids under 12 free. Park fee if camping. Contact Daniel R 250-457-3009, Brad 250-609-1199

Aug 16-17: **White Rock Round Up Pass It On** Star of the Sea 15262 Pacific Ave, Contact Darren 778-319-1441

Aug 16-18: **Salt Spring Island's 27th Annual AA Rally** Farmers' Institute 351 Rainbow Road, Contact 250-931-7688.

Aug 17-19: **Miracle Beach Round Up Sobriety Campout** Miracle Beach Prov Park, Contact John 250-616-3835

Aug 24: **District 42 Family & Friends Picnic**, Bear Creek Park, Surrey at the picnic area off 140th street. 10:00am—5:00pm Salads are Potluck. Bring your own Lawn chair

Sept 7: VANYPAA Forever Young Campout

Squamish, 12975 Squamish Valley Road, contact vany-paainfo@gmail.com

Sept 13-15: **31st Annual Men's Retreat** Sasamat Outdoor Centre 3302 Senkler Rd, Belcarra. More information Contact Dwayne 778-870-5354, Barry 604-209-3548 or mensfallretreat@gmail.com

Sept 20-22: **15th Annual Women's Retreat "A Weekend with the Steps"** Sasamat Outdoor Centre 3302 Senkler Rd., Belcarra Contact Halley 778-987-6981, Linda 604-518-5285

Sept 21: **Tri-Cities AA Women's Day Staying Connected** 821 Fairfax St., Coquitlam 9:30am—3:30pm \$20. includes lunch, bring your own mug & water bottle. More information contact tricitieswomensday@gmail.com

Sept 28: **Breakfast with your Sponsor** St. Mary's Ukrainian Church Hall, 3150 Ash St. Vancouver Tickets available at Central Office after Aug 1.

Oct 11-12: **Vancouver Roundup** 181 Roundhouse Mews Tickets \$30, more information www.vanroundup.com

Nov 8-9: **Blueprint for Recovery Conference** Rosedale Hotel, Vancouver \$25, more information Contact Mathew 604-720-0045 or blueprintforrecovery19@gmail.com

Nov 16: **Freedom from Bondage**, GVIS Corrections Roundup Operating Engineers Hall, 4333 Ledger Ave by,

Next Newsletter Deadlines:

Aug.15th for Sept 2019/ Sept 18th for Oct 2019

For your post to be mailed out, there is a \$20.00 fee. Photocopying of your posters will be done for a fee.

Want the Newsletter by Email?:

Sign up for our monthly E-newsletter.

Please visit www.vancouveraa.ca/newsletter/

Scroll to the bottom of page and sign up. The Newsletter will be emailed out to you.

Sub-Committees Meeting Dates:

2019	Aug	Sep
Accessibilities @ 6:45pm	1	5
**Corrections @ 7:00pm	2	6
C.P.C. @ 7:00pm	15	19
Detox @ 10:00am Workshop @ 11am	10	14
Hospitals @ 7:00pm	15	19
**Intergroup Meeting @ 7:00pm	20	17
Public Information @ 7:00pm	28	25
Telephone @11am Workshop 10am	17	21
Treatment @ 10:00am	10	14
**Meeting location is not Central Office		

In Memoriam Contributions:

Bequest in wills are acceptable only from A.A. members, with a maximum of \$5,000 from any one person, and only on a one-time basis—not in perpetuity.