

Sobriety in Stumptown

www.pdxaa.com
newsletter@pdxaa.com

Portland Area Intergroup
1212 SE Division, Portland, OR
503-223-8569

February, 2008
Volume 1 Number 2

Monthly Business
Meetings

My Education of Service

Portland Area Intergroup: 2nd
Monday, 7:00 PM, 1212 SE
Division St, Portland
PAI CPC: 1st Saturday, 11 AM,
1212 SE Division, Portland
PAI Public Information: ?
PAI Treatment Facilities: ?
PAI Bridging the Gap: ?
PAI Corrections: ?
PAI Outreach: ?
PAC: 1st Saturday, 6:00 PM, 47
N State St, Lake Oswego
Dist 9: 1st Wednesday, 6:30 PM,
24th and Kearney, Portland
Dist 10: last Monday, 7:00 PM,
5th and Hall, Beaverton
Dist 11: last Thursday, 6:00 PM,
186th and Division, Portland
Dist 12: 1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM,
235 SE 80th, Portland
Dist 15: 1st Wednesday, 6:45
PM, 710 6th St, Oregon City
Dist 18: 1st Saturday, 9:30 AM,
215 N 6th St, St. Helens
Dist 23: 1st Tuesday, 6:00 PM,
Lake Grove Fire House
Dist 24: 1st Thursday, 6:00 PM,
SE 16th and Division, Portland
Dist 26: 2nd Thursday, 7:00 PM,
8926-A N Lombard, Portland
Dist 27: 1st Monday, 6:30 PM,
1212 SE Division St, Portland
Dist 31: 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM,
937 NE Jackson School Rd,
Hillsboro
Dist 34: 3rd Saturday, 5:00 PM,
485 Portland Ave, Gladstone
Dist 35: 2nd and 4th Saturday,
7:00 PM, 18926 SW Shaw St,
Suite A, Beaverton
Dist 36: 2nd Thursday, 6:00 PM,
2025 SW Vermont St, Portland
Dist 37: 2nd Tuesday, 29775 SW
Town Center Loop East,
Wilsonville
DCM Portland Area: 3rd
Monday, 6:30 PM, 1212 SE
Division St, Portland

When I got sober 10 years ago I had no concept of the word "service," except what I thought people owed me. I had such a sense of entitlement. The treatment center had outside sober members of AA come in and talk with us about their experience, strength, and hope. These people did this for fun and for free (later I realized it also kept them sober). When I left the treatment center I continued some outpatient classes for a few months and really embraced this idea of recovery. It was only by witnessing these sober members (I would rather see a sermon than hear one) of AA giving of their time that made me want to give something back that was so freely given to me. They also let me realize that I had something to give back at this early stage of my recovery. The treatment center wanted their speakers to have six months of sobriety before allowing them to speak at the center. When I could, I signed up to speak and got my first opportunity to share my experience strength and hope in this manner. When I showed up there were about thirteen inpatients in the lunchroom in various states of detox. Some were pacing nervously others were so medicated they could barely hold their heads up yet others were making sandwiches and eating like they were eating their first meal in weeks. After settling everyone in (which was like herding cats) I started telling them my story. I also told them of identifying with the rubber sheets on the beds, the mystery meat in some of the meals and the stipulations of no caffeine, no smoking, no sugar, and no salt that everyone seemed to complain about. Before I knew it a third of the inpatients were eagerly listening and I was in heaven. I had a captive audience and

I got to talk about my favorite subject, "Me." There were also a third of the inpatients that were so medicated they probably didn't hear a word and yet the other third that just didn't want to be there and didn't want to hear anything from the likes of me. When I left there that evening I felt as if I was walking three feet off the ground. I knew that I reached some of these people and that even if I had reached just one I would have considered it a success. I continued to speak at this treatment center once a week for years to follow. During those years I had times when the whole room was eagerly listening and times when no one in the room wanted anything to do with me. When it seemed as though no one cared or paid attention to me the realization that Lois Wilson shared with Bill Wilson after his long hours of trying to get drunks sober was that at the end of the day I was sober. During my first year of sobriety I lived in a 30-year-old condo development. I had always complained about the all-volunteer condo board and their lack of experience in making decisions with the owner's funds. Since there were many upgrades and improvements needed to this old a facility and my career is in construction, one of the owners asked if I would get involved and join the board. My first reaction was "Me... join' something???" Then the message of AA was loud and clear and I threw my hat into the pool only to be voted in as vice president of the board. The pleasure that I experienced over the following months was indescribable. I had something to give and people appreciated my efforts. Now I get to do service in all my affairs for fun and for free. And that was my education of service. John S, Saturday Morning Live, Beaverton

Portland Area Intergroup meeting is the second Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, 1212 SE Division. The meeting is open to everyone.

Notes From My Desk

Central office is thought of as many things. The most obvious is it's where groups and individuals go to purchase AA literature. This is certainly true! Central office is indeed the "AA Book Store." We stock virtually all publications put out by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services and The Grapevine. AAWS is the publishing arm of our society and they publish literature that is developed for the purpose of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are primarily three categories of literature; Recovery, Service, and Unity.

Eventually most of us are exposed to AA literature in various forms but far too many AA's go years without the benefit of this wonderful source of AA experience. Very few meetings stock the full supply of AA pamphlets or all of the AA books that are available to us. Many meetings will never have the ability to supply these items simply because of the economic factor. However, if you are interested in a broader view of our fellowship, I invite you to stop in to central office and pick up a few pamphlets or books that are published by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services.

As a bonus, we have a large collection of books that are published by another extension of AA. These are the collected writings of hundreds of sober AA members put into various volumes by The Grapevine. This is AA's monthly meeting in print. The Grapevine publications give us a look into the lives of decades of AA members' experiences. These are invaluable stories that help improve our viewpoint and understanding of our gift of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I look forward to your visit,

Garry B., Office Manager

Meeting Updates:

To find information about new meetings or meetings that have changed since the last meeting schedule was printed, click on [Updates](#) on the Intergroup website, www.pdxaa.com.

Coming Events:

To find information about coming events, click on [Events](#) on the Intergroup website.

Reaching Our Goal for Prudent Reserve

As of the end of the month, we are 15% of the way toward rebuilding our prudent reserve with \$4,654.39 toward the goal of \$30,000. Celebrate your birthday by contributing one dollar for each year of sobriety.

Committee News

Intergroup committees carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Please help with this Twelfth Step work. Sign up by clicking on [Service](#) on the Intergroup website.

Hotline: openings for Hotline shifts and for 12th Step volunteers. 12th Step Volunteers talk to newcomers who have questions.

Cooperating with the Professional Community: carry the message to health care professionals, clergy, legal professionals, probation officers, educators, social workers, employee assistance professionals, and others who work with alcoholics.

Corrections: openings for members to take meetings into jails and prisons: MCDC/Justice Center and MCIJ/Inverness.

Bridging the Gap: BTG is a one-time temporary contact for people transitioning from a treatment center to meetings.

With service work, the worst that will happen is that your program will get better.

Portland Access Committee

The Portland Access Committee meets on the first Saturday of every month at the Starbucks in Lake Oswego, 47 N. State St. Lake Oswego, OR 97034. The meeting starts at 6 pm (ish) and usually lasts 1.5 hours. We welcome people just interested in finding out more about what we do. You don't need to know sign language to help. Email us at pdxaccess@gmail.com with questions.

December 2007 Financial Summary

Beginning Cash on Hand: \$3,083.72

Income: \$25,797.15

Expenses: \$22,006.59

Ending Cash on Hand: \$6,763.78

Become a Published Writer

Deadline for articles in Stumptown Sobriety is the 20th of each month.

Portland Area Intergroup, 1212 SE Division, is open Monday through Friday, 9 to 5.