

# Sobriety in Stumptown

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Portland Area Intergroup  
825 NE 20th Ave., Portland, OR 97232  
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## Monthly Business Meetings

**Portland Area Intergroup:** 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM, 3123 NE 24th Ave., Portland  
**PAI CPC:** 1st Saturday, 11:00 AM, 825 NE 20th Ave., Portland  
**PAI Public Information:** 1st Saturday, 11:00 AM, 825 NE 20th Ave., Portland  
**PAI Treatment Facilities:** 1st Friday, 6:00 PM, ?  
**PAI Bridging the Gap:** ?  
**PAI Corrections:** ?  
**PAI Outreach:** ?  
**PAC:** 1st Saturday, 6:00 PM, 1111 SW Country Club, L. O.  
**Dist. 9:** 1st Wednesday, 6:30 PM, 24th and Kearney, Portland  
**Dist. 10:** Last Monday, 7:00 PM, 12555 SW 4th St., 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, 7:00 PM, 14100 SE Sunnyside Rd., Clackamas  
**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 Saturdays, 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, 825 NE 20th Ave., Suite 200, Portland

## Led to AA

Sometimes, as AA members, we have discussions about what our “defining moment” was, when we really first realized that we had a problem with alcohol. I don’t recall having a single moment of enlightenment regarding my alcoholism. Instead, I had several “defining moments” which culminated in a gradual realization that I was in a downward spiral of uncontrollable alcohol addiction. On more than one occasion in the years before I came to AA, friends spoke to me about their concerns over my excessive drinking. I quickly dismissed their comments, rationalizing that they wanted to blame their own bad behavior during our drinking misadventures on my bad influence rather than taking responsibility for their own part in our escapades.

Then there was Dan, a classmate at college I met in my early 30’s. As we were both business majors, we got to know each other over the course of several semesters, during conversations at class breaks, and while working in study groups. My classmate was a former Catholic priest, now married and six years sober. He knew I left our evening classes early whenever possible so I could go straight to the bar across the street from the college. Those three hours between the drinks I had after work, en route to school and the time we were dismissed and I could leave for the bar, were interminable to me.

Dan was a great listener and seemed so serene. Being raised a Catholic myself and having relatives who had given their lives to the church, I realize what a monumental emotional decision it would

have been for Dan to give up the priesthood and leave the church. Yet he always seemed so serene and so content with his life. Dan was unfailingly kind and patient to the diverse group of classmates we worked on projects with at the college, although I found most of them aggravating. After all, if they could just be smarter and work faster, I could leave class early and get to the bar. Their endless discussions drove me crazy.

Frequently, I would lament to Dan about things that weren’t going right in my life. In retrospect, I realize what a selfish relationship this was, as the focus was always me, me, me. But my friend tolerated it and always had the same response, quietly reminding me that he would be happy to take me to AA whenever I was ready. And finally, one day when I was feeling really rough, I took Dan up on his offer. He picked me up from school and took me to my first AA meeting. The meeting took place in an Alano Club and when it was over, I didn’t want to leave. But Dan was my ride and he wanted to get home.

Dan told me to meet him at the Alano Club for the noon meeting the next day. When I got there, he was nowhere to be seen. I stayed for the meeting, all the while watching the door for Dan. A couple of minutes after the meeting, the club’s phone rang and the person behind the counter paged my name, asking for Chris W. When no other Chris W. went for the phone, I cautiously picked it up and heard Dan’s voice on the other end. Yes, the call was for me. Dan said, “I kept my word and showed you the way to AA. Now you know where it is. If you want it,

**Led to A.A., *continued***

*"I kept my word and showed you the way to AA. Now you know where it is. If you want it, it's up to you."*



it's up to you."

I never went to another meeting with Dan or ran into him at another meeting. We lived on opposite sides of a large city and the meeting he took me to was only a few blocks from my house. I practically lived at that Alano Club for the remainder of the time I lived in that city. I attended two to four meetings a day for my first two years of sobriety. Why not? I spent that many hours and more drinking every day. And if there was a defining moment, maybe it was the moment I realized how very lucky I am that a man named Dan found AA and was there to lead me to it.

- Chris W., *Saturday Morning Live*

**Big Book Facts and Trivia**

- The original cost of the Big Book in 1939 was \$3.50. That is over \$40 in today's dollars adjusted for inflation.
- The first edition was published by Works Publishing, a company started by Bill W. and Hank P. solely for the publication of the Big Book.
- Ann Smith suggested the name, "Works Publishing" from the line in the New Testament, "Faith without works is dead."
- The one millionth Big Book was given to President Richard M. Nixon in a White House ceremony in 1973.
- It took 16 years to sell the whole run of the first edition, 300,000 copies.
- There are over 20 million copies of the Big Book in print.
- Over one million copies of the Big Book are sold yearly.
- Chapter 8, "To Wives," was written entirely by Bill W. (to the great disapproval of his wife Lois).
- Loans from friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. helped fund the early printing of the Big Book.
- The first paperback edition of the Big Book was published in 1986.
- Bill W. and Dr. Bob each received 10 percent of all the Big Book sales as royalties.
- Titles considered for the Big Book included One Hundred Men, The Empty Glass, and The Way Out.
- The total distribution of the first edition of the Big Book was approximately 300,426 copies.
- The distribution of the third edition of the Big Book was approximately 19,843,221 copies.

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**Notes From My Desk****CONTROVERSY!**

Wow wee! Controversy and more controversy; what to do about all the controversy?

There has been much to do in A.A. revolving around controversy. I think it would be safe to say that A.A. has "cut its teeth" on controversy. The fact that AA's are talking about A.A. in a fashion that provokes inquiry and serious discussion is in fact a very good and healthy part of our fellowship. You may ask, "How can that be; aren't we supposed to get along in A.A.?" The plain and simple answer is, we get along much more than we don't! If in A.A. we did not talk about the process, that is, the process of recovery from alcoholism as well as the process of the business of A.A., we would become stagnant. Our founders and the early members of A.A. who shaped our program discovered that A.A. members will certainly rip the program apart and shred it to pieces if they don't get some sort of healthy practice developed that could be made "Tradition," so we will always have this program of recovery.

Of course, the rest is literally history! We now know that without our 12 Traditions we would be a much-fragmented society. As A.A. grew and developed, we soon had 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts (certainly not discounting our warranties and other documents that serve us well). We know the steps are our program of recovery. As days of sobriety turn into weeks, months and years, if we have applied these steps to our lives, we learn the tremendous value they bring to each of us as sober A.A. members. We were given 12 Steps. They work best when **ALL 12** of them are used! Sponsors know this better than anyone. The same goes for our 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts. They work best when all 12 of each are applied. When we use Step 1 and Step 12 only, we call that 2 stepping. It never works out well for the 2-stepper. Why on earth would you want to chance it on the rest of our collective experience?

If nothing else, controversy in A.A. literally causes growth and stability of A.A.; it forces the folks who are stirred up to look deeper into the facts and find suitable qualified A.A. experience of record to aid in the answer to the problem. Rarely a week goes by that one thing or another doesn't come to my attention about a group or something in AA that has stirred up controversy. The answers are always found in our literature! I believe that controversy increases our collective A.A. I.Q. Of course by more reading!

When we decide to recover from alcoholism and we find A.A., we have found a way of life that teaches us how to live sober and resolve problems that relate to the disease. Sometimes these are referred to as "living" problems. When we begin to practice the principles of A.A. in our life, we experience the solutions of A.A. When we learn about our traditions and concepts, we discover how A.A. survives controversy. If I can suggest anything it would be to learn about our traditions as they stand without looking for a specific answer to a specific question.

When read to prove a point, it is impossible to grasp the true value and meaning of our trusted experience. We usually misinterpret and then misrepresent what has been taught by our founders.

Gratefully,  
Garry B.

### **Meeting Updates:**

The Old-Timers meeting is Sunday, Oct 11th, 1-4 PM at the Milwaukie Senior Center. Please come and enjoy alcoholics speaking with 20 or more years of sobriety. It will be full of laughter, fun, and great raffle prizes! Contact Stephanie L. at [district15oldtimers@yahoo.com](mailto:district15oldtimers@yahoo.com), or call at 503-867-1452.

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](http://www.pdxaa.com).

### **Coming Events:**

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

### **Rebuilding Our Prudent Reserve**

As of the end of August, we are \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the way toward rebuilding our prudent reserve with \_\_\_\_\_ toward the goal of \$30,000.

### **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 and Public Information:** The two committees are working together to bring the message of recovery to the public and to the professional community—healthcare, clergy, legal, educators, social workers and others.

**Bridging the Gap:** BTG is a one-time temporary contact for people transitioning from a treatment center to meetings. Bridging the Gap will be forming a Committee meeting for all those interested on Monday, Oct. 19th, at 6:30 PM at the Daily Reprieve Center, located at 16641 SE 82nd Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015 (in the old Tombstone building). "We Bridge the Gap so alcoholics leaving treatment don't have to walk alone across that scary gap between the beginning of recovery in treatment and the continued recovery in AA." Please contact Stephanie L at [pdxbtg@yahoo.com](mailto:pdxbtg@yahoo.com) or call at 503-867-1452 if you are interested.

**Corrections:** Currently our focus is to carry the AA message to youths in the Multnomah County Detention Center (JDH). We need many volunteers to help bring AA meetings to the facility on a regular basis. Call the Intergroup office if you are interested.

**Portland Deaf Access Committee:** The Portland Deaf Access Committee meets on the first Saturday of every month at the United Church of Christ, 1111 SW Country Club Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97034. The meeting starts at 6pm (ish) and usually lasts one-and-a-half hours. We welcome people just interested in finding out more about what we do. You don't need to know sign language to help. E-mail us at [pdxaccess@gmail.com](mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com) with questions.

## **August 2009 Financial Summary**

***Beginning Cash on Hand:***

***Income:***

***Expenses:***

***Ending Cash on Hand:***

### **Become a Published Writer**

The deadline for articles in *Sobriety in Stumptown* is the 20th of each month. Please keep stories to 500 words maximum. Submit to Erica W. at [newsletter@pdxaa.com](mailto:newsletter@pdxaa.com).

Portland Area Intergroup, 825 NE 20th Avenue, Suite 200 is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

### **A Word from the Editor**

In this, my first edition of *Sobriety in Stumptown*, I would like to sincerely thank Don H. for doing such a fantastic job with the newsletter for the past two-and-a-half years, and for offering the service position to me. Thank you for your help and service, Don, and for this opportunity! I am thrilled to be working on the Portland Area Intergroup newsletter. I hope that we can work to reach a continually wider readership, and pass on the message of recovery to more and more individuals. Please consider submitting your stories to *Sobriety in Stumptown*; it is through sharing our experience, strength, and hope that we strengthen our sobriety and serenity. Thank you for letting me be of service!

-Erica W.