

SOBRIETY IN STUMPTOWN

www.pdxaa.com
newsletter@pdxaa.com

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

April, 2009
Volume 2 Number 4

Monthly Business Meetings

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: 1st Saturday, 11 AM, 1212 SE Division, Portland
PAI Treatment Facilities: 1st Friday, 6 PM, 1212 SE Division, Portland

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, 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

Application for Membership Alcoholics Anonymous

Having read the Twelve Steps and having taken Step One, I apply for membership in the Montreal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous.

When admitted to membership, it will be my desire to cooperate with the group as fully as possible and not to harm it, interfere with its work, or impede its progress in any way.

1. I agree not to attend any meeting on a day on which I have taken anything whatsoever of an alcoholic nature.
2. In the interests of complete honesty, if I do any drinking whatsoever at any time, I will make the fact known to my sponsor, or in his absence, to some other senior member of the group, and will not attempt to deliberately hide such drinking from the group.
3. Further, in the event that I continue drinking intermittently while ostensibly a member of this group, I agree to relinquish my membership if asked to do so by the group through my sponsor or the group secretary.
4. Understanding that although the aims and objectives of AA are well known, names and affairs of the group are definitely secret, I agree not to divulge names of members to outsiders or to discuss private affairs of the group with non-members.
5. I undertake to introduce new members to the group only after they have fulfilled whatever qualifications for membership the group may from time to time require.
6. I undertake to familiarize myself with the duties and obligations of a sponsor and when called upon to sponsor an applicant will make every effort to see that he becomes a good member.

Joe B.
Applicant

6/27/47
Date

Ed M.
Sponsor

The fellowship did not accept the Traditions until 1950 at the first International Convention in Cleveland. Thank goodness for Tradition 3, "The only requirement for A.A. Membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Notes From My Desk

AA'S SINGLENESSE of PURPOSE and PRIMARY PURPOSE

We have all heard it read in our AA preamble, "our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety." This is the last sentence in the AA preamble that is copy written by the AA Grapevine. I think most of would agree that the word "primary" does not mean "ONLY." But the word "singleness" does have a more absolute definition, as in "one only." We do "one" thing.

Where I am going with this is very simple. Alcoholics Anonymous has a very long successful track record in helping "alcoholics" recover from alcoholism. On the other hand, we have a lousy record helping "pathological liars" recover from lying or "compulsive over eaters" from over eating or from "control freaks" controlling!

Our experience has shown us that when we stick to the topic of alcoholism in an AA meeting we are certain to speak the language that a newcomer can understand. When we speak the language of the heart, and speak about what it used to be like, what happened, and what it's like now, we have the best chance of helping another fellow alcoholic find recovery. In so doing we are also helping in insure our own recovery. Intensive work with another alcoholic is how we are taught to stay sober ourselves!

Our program has been around long enough that we have been witness to a myriad of "12 step" organizations start up, and succeed to the point of becoming well known. One such group is Narcotics Anonymous and another is Overeaters Anonymous. (The most well known is Al-Anon which has its roots deep in AA's own history)

Our very survival as an independent society that effectively assures anyone with a desire to stop drinking, a place in AA, depends on our singleness of purpose; as well as many other factors we learn about in AA. Our three legacies that are, Recovery, Unity, and Service, explain in great detail just in their title, what it takes to have healthy AA in your own town! Without Recovery there can be no Unity, without Unity there is nothing to Serve. Our primary purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic is without a doubt the best acid test there is regarding issues you may question. I use this process regularly when problem solving with groups. I ask the question, "How is this serving the newcomer?" Or the opposite question, "Is this something that could hurt the newcomer?" Now we can go a little further and ask if a situation is harming or helping a still suffering alcoholic find their way to AA?

These are simple questions we can ask when feel doubtful about circumstances in our groups. I'll mention one last factor about dealing with "other" issues in AA. I can say that hardly a day goes by at central office that a person doesn't call asking for an AA meeting because they were told AA could help them by a well meaning friend or family member. After a short discussion it is soon revealed that their problem is not alcohol at all but some other "ism" that befalls us. We can still help guide these lost souls by directing them to an organization that has adopted our philosophy. All hotline volunteers are supplied a list of these "other" organizations and we can recommend they get in touch with the appropriate organization. We cannot be all things to all people but we can cooperate and refer just as they refer people to AA.

In closing, when we meet a new person in AA that seems like they may belong or have a better fit in another 12 Step program, we can very politely tell them about the other program while teaching AA etiquette. AA etiquette tells us that if we also qualify to be an AA member, we stick to AA language in AA meetings. This is a constant in AA and it will never change. We need to educate the new people and sometimes the old timer that forgets as well. I am a student of AA. As time goes on I learn and re-learn the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. I can't to afford to stop the learning process. I've seen how quickly we forget and what that can bring. But for the grace of God...

May you all have a long successful education in AA that never ends!

In Loving Service and Gratefully as a Special Worker,
Garry B.
PAI/Central 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.

Rebuilding Our Prudent Reserve

As of the end of the March, we are 23.1% of the way toward rebuilding our prudent reserve with \$6,927.61 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 put the message of recovery to the public and to the professional community—health care, 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.

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.

Portland Access Committee

The Portland 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 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.

March 2009 Financial Summary

Beginning Cash on Hand: \$4,072.05

Income: \$25,890.03

Expenses: \$24,718.68

Ending Cash on Hand: \$4,743.40

Become a Published Writer

Deadline for articles in Stumptown Sobriety is the 25th of each month.
Portland Area Intergroup, 1212 SE Division, is open Monday through Friday, 9 to 5.

Inner Peace

If you can:

Start the day without caffeine,
Always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
Resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
Eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
Understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
Take criticism and blame without resentment,
Conquer tension without medical help,
Relax without liquor,
Sleep without the aid of drugs,
... Then you are probably the family dog.