



The Willamette Valley Intergroup

Eye Opener

July 2009

Willamette Valley Central Office

687 Cottage Street NE

Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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July, the 7th Month

Step 7

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition 7

**Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting,
declining outside contributions.**

Humbly Asked Him

*In taking Step Seven do we leave it
all to a Higher Power?*

"I AM the same person I was when I came into AA." This statement, made recently at a meeting by a member with over three years' sobriety, yielded a vigorous and quite unexpected reaction. "Whadya mean, you're the same person?" most of the comments went. "You couldn't possibly be the same person if you've been working the program, and besides, you wouldn't stay sober very long."

After things quieted down a bit, the bombshell thrower had a chance to explain what he meant. Sure, he could measure some growth, and he had learned to recognize and correct dangerous thinking. But he was basically

still the *same person*. No startling personality changes had taken place, and he was still conscious of the same old shortcomings. He was able to stay sober because of a change in attitudes plus constant activity in AA. There is some evidence from this and other experiences, that our shortcomings are never removed completely or permanently. Does this mean that Step Seven (*Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings*) doesn't work? Certainly not, but if we stay sober a day at a time, can we expect the Steps to work for more than a day at a time? I believe it sufficient to ask Him to remove our shortcomings *for today*, and what's more, fully expect that He will. But we may also expect to be handicapped by these same shortcomings another day, at which time the Step may be renewed. Another fairly common observation in AA is that we have a tendency to rely too heavily, and perhaps blame everything, on God's will. There are the if-you-want-potatoes-grab-a-hoe philosophers, who maintain that if things go badly, there is a tendency to say, "Oh, well, it's God's will," and do nothing about it. Likewise, they say, if we ask God to remove our shortcomings and just sit back, nothing will happen. I believe there is much validity in this approach, and I do not see in it a denial of Step Seven. We have already established a reliance on a Higher Power in Steps Two and Three, and Step Seven is merely a further expression of our faith. But the words are not enough--the intent must also be there. We are willing to do something about our shortcomings, but we cannot do it alone, and we humbly ask Him for help.

What about the agnostics? Is this Step out for them? I don't think so. If you have trouble with "God," try adding an "o." I believe it is possible, and even desirable, to rely on the good in other people as a Higher Power. Certainly the spirit of love which pervades the Fellowship is sufficient to help me remove my shortcomings for today, and I am a Christian.

Finally, I do not see any "spiritual side" to this program. The whole thing is spiritual--the Steps, the Traditions, the meetings, the Twelfth Step calls, the literature--everything. There need not be a search for spirituality only in the Steps including the word "God." If a member enters into the Fellowship whole-heartedly, he is apt to find that the familiar shortcomings aren't popping up quite as often, even though he may not be conscious of having asked God to remove them recently. In *my* book, this is Step Seven at work.

J. S. C. New Hartford, New York

Jan 1966 Vol 22 Num 8

We Pay Our Own Way

Seventh Tradition - Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions

Over the years, I've been privileged to hear a number of AAs tell why the Traditions were drafted and why adherence to them is of continuing importance to the AA Fellowship. Early in my AA life, I was told that everything in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is there for a reason and could be used in developing and practicing a personal "program." And that included the Traditions, both the short form, which is read at many meetings, and the long form, which is read at very few meetings. Consequently, in time I came to accept the long form as *the* way to study and apply the Traditions as an integral part of my program. As I understand it, after Bill W. introduced the Traditions in the long form in a 1946 Grapevine article, some AAs, including Dr. Bob, argued that their length might lead some to think they are to be considered more important than the Steps. It was also suggested that some members were so damaged by boozing that they'd have difficulty comprehending the long form.

So, the very simplified short form was drafted in 1947, refined over the next year or so, and adopted at the first International AA Convention in 1950. But, just so there'd be a ready reference to what the Traditions are *really* all about, it was decided to print the long form as well as the short form in the Big Book. As far as I can tell, nowhere is the variance between short and long forms more pronounced than in Tradition Seven. The short form is nothing if not succinct: "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." The long form provides, with in-depth clarity, *precisely* what Tradition Seven encompasses and is meant to accomplish: "The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority." The long form leaves little room for wonder as to what Tradition Seven is all about. Too, it gives added emphasis to some things found elsewhere in the Traditions. For example, public solicitation of funds using the AA name affects other groups and AA as a whole, and implies affiliation or endorsement, so it violates Traditions Four and Six, as well as Tradition Seven. There are also close ties between all of these and Concept XI and Warranties 1 and 2 of Concept XII of the Twelve Concepts for World Service in *The AA Service Manual*.

Tradition Seven, like others, can benefit individual growth as well as group strength, most notably via the tenet that we pay our own way. That's part of the conversion from the way we were to the way we are now, and an example of the heartening contradiction that dependence upon AA bolsters independence.

Sobriety can't be bought; there are no strings attached; no one is required to contribute money in AA. Yet, it is clear that self-support enhances self-respect. Here are some other Tradition Seven observations: The conversion from irresponsible spender while drinking to fiscal watchdog in sobriety seems to afflict some AAs with a dose of avariciousness. It didn't occur to me for some time, for example, that my dollar-in-the-kitty habit ignored inflation. So, I changed my ways in that regard, giving more to meetings that practiced the 60-30-10 plan endorsed by this area. Too, my AA wife and I became supporting members of our local central office--giving what we could when we could to that lifesaving operation. We've been involved with meetings where the job of treasurer is given to newcomers under the pretext, "It's good for 'em." Poppycock! That's usually a means of evading personal involvement. And as a rule, it is *not* good for newcomers, who often aren't yet able to balance their own checkbooks, to be given responsibility for a meeting's or a group's finances. That can create an unnecessary sink-or-swim situation for someone just learning to tread water. Some not-so-new members aren't good choices for treasurer, either. We've known some who've fouled up books something awful--and a few who absconded with funds. Most of them were "volunteered" for the job, by the way.

This matter of "futile disputes over. . .money"--have you been to a local central service or intergroup meeting lately? They get lively when money's the topic. It's been the experience in our neck of the woods that the central office is able to maintain a prudent reserve, and if finances get short, the groups respond with increased contributions. The key to this usually bright financial picture has been and always will be participation, by individuals through their groups, by groups through their central or intergroup representatives, and by constant attention by paid and volunteer staffers to the proper expenditures and controls of AA funds. In our area, the dangers of "public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous" are lessened by strict adherence to and consistent mention of the nonendorsement/nonaffiliation policy established in Tradition Six. Vigilance on this is particularly essential in a sector the size of the Los Angeles area of AA, wherein the Fellowship has become the main "aftercare" resource for an ever-growing number of treatment facilities. By the way, the central office here returns all contributions from sources that do not comply with the guidelines spelled out in "The AA Group" pamphlet. In other words, not a *true* AA meeting. We pay our own way!

Tradition Seven Checklist

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

SOBERFEST RAFFLE

BEACH HOUSE GET-AWAY

Three days and Two nights with Dinner and Lunch



Location of house is 7 miles north of Newport within walking distance of beach. \$500 value. Drawing set for July 31st.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Contact Chris H. for tickets at (503) 999-1758

Willamette Valley Intergroup Minutes

June 15, 2009

Chairs and Committee members attending: Co-Chair-Gene H., Secretary-Jane A., Treasurer-Kathleen K., Eye Opener Editor-Roger L., Office Manager-Laura F.; Outreach Cord- Candace R.; Computer Admin-Dave S.; Webmaster-Ron P., H&I Liaison-Christian

Group Representatives:

Kathleen K	Group I
Jane A	Tuesday Nite Chapel
Roger L	Friday Nite LSN
Fred D	Mill Creek Group @ OSP
Kaydee M	SAYPAA
Bill B	Pioneer Group
Karen B	Deaf Community
Candace R	7am Downtown
Terese F	Way Home Group
Peggy	We Are Not Saints
Ron P	Silverton Group
Greg M	Happy Hour
Bob M	Dallas Tues/Thurs 12x12
Patty P	Capitol Discussion

Opening: Meeting started with Serenity Prayer lead by Fred , Peggy read Preamble and Greg M. read the 12 Traditions.

Minutes reviewed. Approved with corrections: Candace L to Candace R. and adding Bob M. as attending last month's meeting.

Reports:

Access Committee: (Gene H.) No new items. He wrote article and submitted to Eyeopener as promised.

Al-Anon Liaison: (Barbara S.) Not present, submitted report [see attached].

Computer Administrator: (Dave S.) He has tightened down the restrictions to reduce SPAM. Needs people to check and give feedback as to whether there are any improvements or not.

Eye Opener: (Roger L.) All is going well. He has put in the minutes and finances in the June issue and will be waiting for vote tonight concerning whether this will continue. He feels that the "draft" minutes could be put in and just like any newspaper, if there are corrections; they are put in the following months' newsletter.

H&I Committee: (Christian) He submitted draft copy of their mission statement. Would like the committee to review and submit suggestions. [See attached]. Jane stated that a meeting has now been created for men and women at the work center. The Marion county jail is going well also.

Intergroup Liaison: (Gene H.) The attendance of GSR's at the district meeting has dropped and a discussion ensued on getting groups to elect GSR's and getting active participation of groups in the business of A.A. at the group level.

Meeting Schedule Coordinator: (Margaret B.) not present

Phone Coordinator: (Ben M.) Not present.

Office Manager: (Laura F.) 310 contacts in March for a total of 1727. They will be closed on July 4. The deadline for literature orders prior to her submitting is June 22. The price changes will be effective July 1. A literature rack was ordered and was not picked up, it is available if a group would like to purchase. Wanted to express a special thanks to Connell and Dave S., who have been long-time and faithful volunteers at Central Office. They are retiring from this service work... but will continue serving the A.A. community in many other ways.

Outreach Coordinator: (Candace.) She is continuing to go to meetings and encouraging groups to participate in Intergroup. She has suggested to some of the groups to have an IR and an Alternate IR.

Soberfest Committee: (Ron P.) A raffle is being done through the end of July. The winner will get a two nights- three days stay at the coast. Tickets are for sale at \$10 a ticket or 3 for \$25. Flyers were given out for distribution to the groups. The Webmaster and Eyeopener Editor have also been provided with the flyer.

Treasurer: (Kathleen K.) Distributed monthly report. Was reviewed and accepted. A question was asked about a prudent reserve. We do not have a reserve, as we have never gotten excess monies. It should be about 5 months if we ever get extra. She received a \$25 check with no group name, so the report did not include a group's name for accounting. Asked the IR's to remind their group treasurer to include a group's name otherwise it can't be acknowledged.

Webmaster: (Ron P.) All is going well.

Old Business:

Kaydee is the new IR for SAYPAA, replacing Dallas. Gene acknowledged several birthdays: Gene (15) Peggy (32) and Fred (23 = 70 years of recovery and they are still serving the A.A. community!

New Business:

Gene had asked the IR's to review the bylaws and get a group conscience on changes and updates to them. The Advisory board did some research and found that there were many changes that needed to be done and they recommend that these changes be made and the corrected/ updated copy of the bylaws be emailed to the IR's before taking to their groups. Many of the changes would be:

"A.A." to "Alcoholics Anonymous" consistently throughout document

"Bylaws" spelling throughout

The Propose Amendment document inserted throughout document instead of being a separate sheet.

The "Webmaster" and "Computer Administrator" positions split into two positions instead of being one position as the bylaws state

"A.A. Clubs" changed to Recovery Clubs that the Eyeopener Editor is to distribute to

Change "registered groups" to all groups listed in the meeting schedule

Add "Outgoing officer will participate in a training of the incoming officer".

Change the wording in the document that the officers do not have to maintain all their information on the Central Office computer, but that the Office Manager will be in contact with the different officers (Eyeopener, meeting schedule coordinator etc...) to obtain up-to-date formats periodically.

Remove "Office Volunteer Coordinator" position as it does exist. The Office Manager does this job.

Add "the Office Manager is allowed leeway in obtaining and selling merchandise other than A.A. approved." This coincides with the current practice of selling coins, book covers and recovery cards. We will want the purchases to remain A.A. focused.

Add "the Treasurer will keep a set of keys to the office as well as the Office Manager." The checking accounts will remain with 2 signatures.

Vote was taken and approved to make changes and mail out corrected copy to all IR's for review and **group vote at July meeting.**

Candace volunteered to take on the job of Intergroup Chair. The job requirements and duties were read. Vote taken and Candace was elected. Gene will remain Co-Chair till term expiration the end of this year. This creates an opening of Outreach Coordinator for this area.

Co-Chair position and Treasurer position will be up for new nominations in 2010.

Meeting adjourned

Humbly submitted, Jane A., Secretary

**Do you know someone who's "shut-in" and
unable to get to a meeting??"**

**There is a list of people willing to help!!
Just call Central Office @ 503 399 0599**

**11th Annual
AA Ladies Luncheon
"Sunlight of the Spirit"
Saturday, August 15, 2009**

**AA Speaker: Ann M., Portland, OR
Al-Anon Speaker: Desiree C., Beaverton, OR
The AA Angels will be performing**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1444 Liberty St SE,
Salem, OR**

**Doors Open: 11:30am Lunch & Raffle: 12:00pm
Speakers 1:15pm**

**Register Soon! Space is limited. Non-AA members welcome.
Handicapped Accessible.
Pre-Register no later than: July 31st, 2009 \$15.00
At the door \$20.00**

If you have any questions call: Monica (503) 510-2162 or Sandy (503) 399-0232
Or you can Email: ladiesluncheon09@ymail.com



July 2009 Calendar

Car Wash SOS Club

July 4 8:30 to 1:30 1797 Center St Salem, OR
Soberfest Fundraiser

District 4 GSR's Meeting

When Thu July 9, 7pm – 8pm **Where** St Paul's Episcopal Church,
1444 Liberty St. SE, Salem, OR

TTCO Speakers Meeting

When Sat July 11, 7pm – 9pm **Where** St Paul's Episcopal Church,
1444 Liberty St. SE, Salem, OR

Description Take The Cotton Out Speakers Meeting.
AA, Al-Anon Speakers Meeting.

H&I Committee Meeting

When Mon, July 13, 7pm – 8pm **Where** Central Office,
687 Cottage NE, Salem, OR

KIS-S Committee Meeting

When Thurs, July 16, 5:30pm – 6:30pm **Where** Central Office,
687 Cottage NE, Salem, OR

WVI Committee Meeting

When Mon, July 20, 7pm – 8pm **Where** Central Office,
687 Cottage NE, Salem, OR, 97301

Soberfest Committee

When Fri, July 31, 7pm – 8pm **Where** St Paul's Episcopal Church,
1444 Liberty St. SE, Salem, OR

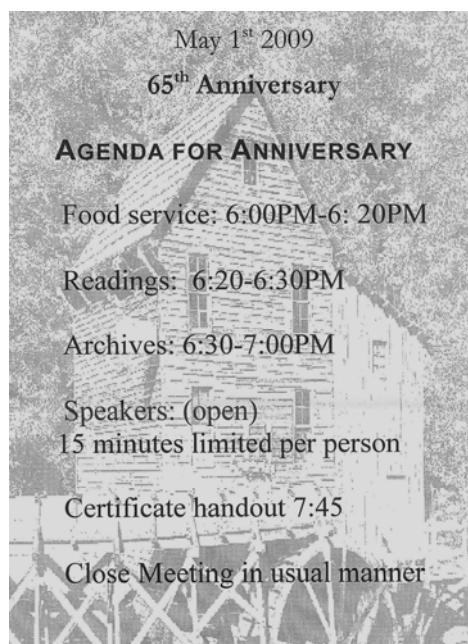
KIS-S Speakers Meeting

When Sat, July 25, 7:00pm – 9:30pm
Where Morningside Methodist Church, Salem, OR
Description Keep It Simple Speakers Meeting.
AA, Al-Anon Speakers Meeting.

TTCO Committee

When Tue, July 28, 7pm – 8pm **Where** Central Office,
687 Cottage NE, Salem, OR

HISTORIC 65TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING AT OSP



On a recent late spring evening on Thursday, May 7, 2009 in Salem, Oregon, thirty-five men and women gathered together in the parking lot at Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Oregon's only maximum security prison, located in Salem, Oregon. They were there to celebrate the 65th anniversary meeting of the Mill Creek Group of Alcoholics Anonymous at Oregon State Penitentiary. Eventually the group moved into a visitors' registration area where they had their identification verified and had to pass through a metal detector. Finally each attendee was issued a temporary prison pass and all were escorted into the visitors' center deep within the prison.

We were courteously met by a small group of inmates who saw to it that each visitor got a seat and some light refreshments. Shortly the visitors were joined by a larger group of inmates who mingled with the guests. It was just like the time before any other A.A. meeting with all the members, inmates and visitors, being engaged in casual conversation.

What happened next was quite normal to outsiders. An opening prayer was followed by some readings, and then the president of the inmates' A.A. club made some brief remarks. Sharing opened with a former inmate, a friend of several of the current inmates, who is now confined to a wheel chair. He gave an inspiring talk on his sobriety experiences on the outside. He was followed by several inmates and a couple of outsiders who shared their experience, strength, and hope. Then the president and vice-president (also the internal GSR) passed out personalized certificates to all the outsiders.

The inmates then closed the meeting with a short prayer. This was followed by a very ordinary thing--the inmates and outsiders stood around chit-chatting until the guards showed up and insisted that the inmates leave and return to their cells. Then the outsiders left the prison and drove off into the late dusk of this very warming evening.

This meeting commemorated the 65th anniversary of the first meeting, of the Mill Creek Group which had its first meeting on May 30, 1944.

Willamette Valley Intergroup H&I Committee

"The purpose of WVI H&I Committee is to support carrying the AA message to Alcoholics confined in hospitals, local jails, and treatment facilities, refer state institutions' business to District 4 and assist Inmates and Patients in release transition."

The Happy Hour Group at the Salem Elks Lodge on Turner Road by the Airport now has a large private room every Tuesday night 6-7 PM.
Please come and help support us!!

AL-ANON REPORT FOR JUNE TO WVI

The Sponsorship Workshop was a real success. Discovering Choices hasn't named a Group Representative yet, but since The hot & burning issues that popped up at the District meeting were:

- * Boots on the Ground is an Oregon Area public outreach challenge, and our district, which includes all the groups in Marion and Polk Counties, has chosen to sponsor the Oregon State Correctional Institute on Santiam Hwy 22 E. We decided to begin by funding this public outreach with a \$300 budget for literature to be distributed to interested inmates. Their staff has invited us to bring a meeting in to the institution, which is exciting but involves a lot of commitment on our part. Higher than 85% of the people who spend time in these places have a connection to the disease, and you know our 5th Tradition says we exist to reach out to these hurting families. Please start thinking about how you might be involved.

- * more discussion on reaching out to the deaf community here in our area. We've talked about this at the past 3 meetings, getting ideas but no real direction. If you have any interest or awareness of this population, please give me a shout out. We have funds to pay for translation, but how to do it is just very nebulous.

- * District, after the prudent reserve is set aside, has \$3593.62. These funds were donated by members with an intention to get the message out.

- * The Tues. Men's group provides outreach service for Serenity Lane in Salem once every 10 weeks on Weds or Thurs evenings for a couple of hours, along with an AA panel to share with Family members and the alcoholics. Could use a woman or another man to attend these. A one year commitment from a another group would be wonderful. If any interest please contact Rick or any one of from the Tues Men's group for more details.

Why We Call It The Big Book

A printer in Cornwall, NY, named Edward Blackwell, had been highly recommended to Bill Wilson. Blackwell was the President of Cornwall Press. So Bill and Hank Parkhurst (author of the personal story "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book) went to Cornwall to see Blackwell. There they were told that the book would probably be only about four hundred pages when printed. That seemed a bit skimpy. They wanted to sell the book for \$3.50 per copy. That was a very large sum in those days, probably the equivalent of about \$50 today, and people might not think they were getting their money's worth.

They picked the cheapest, thickest paper the printer had, and requested that each page be printed with unusually large margins surrounding the text. This made for an unusually large book. Thus, the book came to be nicknamed the "Big Book."

Blackwell had an excess of red material for the bindings, so he offered them a special deal. Eager to save costs, Bill and Hank agreed. They also thought, according to some reports, that the color red would make the book more attractive and marketable. A New York AA member named Ray Campbell, a recognized artist, was asked to design the dust jacket. His story, "An Artist's Concept", appears in the Big Book's first edition. He submitted various designs for consideration including one which was blue and in an Art Deco style. The one which was chosen was red, and yellow, with a little black, and a little white. The words *Alcoholics Anonymous* were printed across the top in large white script. It became known as the "Circus" jacket because of its loud circus colors. The unused blue jacket is today in the Archives at the Stepping Stones Foundation. The first printing was the only one on which a red binding and the red "Circus" dust jacket was used. All the other printings of the first edition, except for the fourth printing, were in various shades of blue. The fourth printing, due to another overstock of binding material and thus, lower cost, was bound in blue as well as in green. Bill Wilson, Hank Parkhurst, Dorothy Snyder (Clarence Snyder's Wife) and Ruth Hock, Bill's secretary, went to the little hamlet of Cornwall many times to oversee the printing and correct the galleys before the final galleys were approved as ready for printing. Despite all their efforts at proofreading, there was a typographical error in the first printing. On page 234, the second and third line from the bottom was printed twice. This was corrected in the second printing. Bill, and finally the Alcoholic Foundation, raised the necessary funds to cover the initial printing costs, as Ed Blackwell could not roll the presses until, and unless, they came up with at least enough money to cover the cost of the paper. A run of four thousand seven hundred and thirty copies rolled off the press in April 1939. Two-hundred seventy-nine books were distributed without charge. In rare book auctions today in 2001, a first printing Big Book will command well in excess of \$10,000. About 8 years ago a "virgin" first printing Big Book in the original sealed shipping box was bought at auction for well over \$10,000, and the buyer did not even open the box to verify the book was inside, as it is more valuable in the sealed box. Members today continue to hope that more copies of first edition printings will be found and brought to light, instead of collecting dust in some attic or basement.

