

The Willamette Valley Intergroup's **The Eye Opener**

November 2006

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.
Telephone: 503.399.0599
E-mail: aasalem@open.org
www.open.org/aasalem

Where you can find AA Literature, coins, and recovery items

A Thankful Heart



Thanksgiving, November, gratitude; they just seem to go together. So I'll take this opportunity to write about one of my favorite essays in the *Reflections* book. It's called "A Thankful Heart" (2/24), and the author makes an interesting comment I'd like to expand upon.

She/He writes, "I start every morning on my knees, thanking God for three things: I'm alive, I'm sober, and I'm a member of AA." As I read these words I was reminded of something my sponsor shared with me. "Always remember what you are and where you come from." You see, sometimes I get swept away in the world. My mind gets busy, my life is full, and I forget to make time for a quality relationship with a God of my understanding. I even forget that the blessings this program has given me are gifts, not entitlements. The essence of the AA program has temporarily slipped away from me; I'm alive, that I'm sober, and I'm a member of AA.

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~ The Eleventh Month ~ Step Eleven

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

Tradition Eleven

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

Willamette Valley Intergroup Board

Chair
Don E.

Co-Chair
Bill B.

AI - Anon

Phone Line Coordinator
Diana W.

Bridging the Gap Chair
Vacant

Eye Opener Editor
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Anita

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Treasurer
Vacant

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Vacant

12 Step Committee Chair
Trevor M.

Willamette Valley Intergroup (WVI) is made up of elected representatives from local A.A. groups. (Representatives are usually elected at your group's business meeting). WVI serves the greater Salem area with a 24-hour phone line, sales of A.A. literature, books and coins, production and distribution of meeting lists, the Eye Opener newsletter, coordination of local Twelve Step calls, and furnishing public information speakers for

**Willamette Valley Intergroup
September Minutes
(September 18, 2006)**

In Attendance: Bill B., Co-Chair, Laura F., Office Manager, Bill B., Pioneer Group, Andy K., Conscious Contact group, Fred D, Living Sober Group, Dave S., Website and Computers, Cori P., Living Sober, Peggy E., Living Sober group, Lisa A., Good to be here Group, Gary H., Way Home Group, Patty P., Capitol Discussion Group, Anita C., Conscious Contact Group.

The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer and the 12 Traditions.

Minutes were reviewed from the last meeting. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Vacant. (Laura) A new ad has been put out for the treasurers position. All bills are up to date. The price increase for coins purchased by Central Office is now in effect. Due to inconveniences at Central Offices' current bank, it was suggested to look for a different bank with the possibility of a better interest rate, less congestion. Laura will look at options. In light of some large personal donations, which Central Office is grateful for, it is being researched to find out exactly what the total amounts acceptable are so that we stay within the guidelines of GSO. Patty will follow up on this. Laura paid the whole years insurance of \$350.00 last month to avoid additional monthly fees. The years internet service (\$144.00) was also paid leaving Intergroup in the black \$192.78 for the month. Accepted.

Office Manager Report: (Laura) Central office had 278 contacts for the month of August and has had 2454 contacts YTD. Central Office is cleaning up some unnecessary items to try and make room to store some other groups items. The answering machine message, which was not working properly, has been updated. More after hour calls have been able to be helped due to having the Phone

Coordinator in place. Sallee, group rep from Al-Anon has resigned as group rep. A meeting schedule is now posted in the window at Central Office for after hours inquiries. Volunteer shifts are available at Central Office on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Grapevine calendars are now available at a cost of \$4.50 for pocket size and \$9.00 for wall size. Accepted.

H&I Committee, (Andy K.) H&I has given a copy of their budget to the 7a.m. group for spending clarification. Questions were raised as to why the interpreters cost is so high. They are generally booked through their own agencies. It was suggested that perhaps we could find students, etc. who are doing sign language to offset costs. Aileen has been looking into this. It was also brought up that they may ask Central Office and/or District 4 for contributions. Trevor will be forwarding monthly budgets to GSR's. Accepted.

Website and Computer report: (Dave)
There were ___ hits for August and 3,300 YTD. Dave is creating a page for District 4 on the website due to the large size of their content. Dave changed the titles on some website pages to entice other search engines to do a more broad search. Accepted.

Intergroup Liaison: (Anita C) CPC and PI will be working together to recruit for their committees. The post-conference report is out in a condensed version. The next Unity through Service meeting is September 21 @ 7p.m.. It was suggested that District 4 meetings be taken to other locations so that people don't always have to travel so far. Accepted.

District 4: No Report.

Al-Anon: No Report.

Office Volunteer Coordinator: Vacant.

Outreach Coordinator: No Report.

Soberfest: No Report.

Phone Coordinator: No Report.

Old Business: Intergroup will have a panel at the District 4 workshop for questions on service. The time will be from 10:40 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. District 4 will have their own people on their panel. The event will be held at the United Methodist Church on 12th just south of Madrona. Hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be provided. The rest will be pot luck. It was suggested that we have visual aids to show how volunteering works at intergroup. District 4 has asked Intergroup for financial support for the event. Intergroup will donate \$100.00, plus some extra materials. People interested in being on the panel can meet on 10-16-2006 at 6 P.M. at the Marco Polo Restaurant.

New Business: There was a flyer for the International Women's Conference that wanted to be posted on the website. Due to the issue that there was a fee to attend, there was a concern with a possible conflict with the 3rd Tradition. In retrospect, it was discussed that Soberfest also charges for parts of their event. Some suggestions were keeping postings for district events only or limiting the posting to event, date and contact name/number. It was decided that we take it to our home groups for discussion. Tabled. Approved.

Meeting adjourned

Central Office Carries

What you Need!

Did you know that Central Office carries **LARGE PRINT** Big Books? They also carry many other AA books, literature, and coins. If you don't see what you want in the lobby, it can be special-ordered for you (payment upon order, please).

There is also a large selection of speaker CD's - these not only make great gifts but are a great way to get a meeting in your home or car.

And did you know there are some videos at Central Office as well? Christmas is just around the corner; consider shopping at Central Office!

WVI September Treasurer's Report

CASH FLOW	9/1 - 9/31/06	% of Total
INFLOWS		
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		
"It's Live" Saturday Night	100.00	2.76%
7AM Downtown Group	521.00	14.46%
Capitol Discussion	144.00	4.00%
Conscious Contact	20.00	0.56%
Larry P. Group	20.90	0.58%
Pioneer Group	61.78	1.71%
Recovery at Noon	137.81	3.83%
TOTAL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	572.54	22.50%
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS		
Anonymous	1,225.50	34.02%
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	1,225.50	34.02%
INTEREST INCOME	0.24	0.01%
OTHER INCOME		
Copier Use	15.00	0.42%
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	15.00	0.42%
SALES		
Al-anon	27.00	0.75%
Book Cover	12.00	0.33%
Literature	859.15	23.85%
Medallions	294.50	8.18%
Misc.	22.50	0.62%
Soberfest	24.00	0.67%
Special Orders	66.00	1.83%
Stickers-Decals	4.00	0.11%
Tape&CD Sale T-Mar Consignment	47.00	1.30%
TOTAL SALES	1,356.15	37.65%
TOTAL INFLOWS	3,602.38	100%
OUTFLOWS		
Copier	281.88	12.42%
Education	100.00	4.41%
INVENTORY PURCHASE		
Literature	411.90	18.15%
Special Order Medallions	47.75	2.10%
Special Orders	16.00	0.71%
Other INVENTORY PURCHASE	296.10	13.05%
TOTAL INVENTORY PURCHASE	771.75	34.01%
Office Supplies		
PAYROLL		
Other PAYROLL	555.45	24.48%
TOTAL PAYROLL	555.45	24.48%
RENT	456.00	20.10%

TELEPHONE	72.62	3.20%
Other TELEPHONE	72.62	3.20%
TOTAL TELEPHONE		
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,268.88	100%
OVERALL TOTAL	1,333.50	100%
ACCOUNT BALANCES - As of 8/31/2006		
Bank Accounts		
Checking	6,547.61	
Money Market	1,907.92	
TOTAL Bank Accounts	8,445.53	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Bill B.
November 1, 1982

Bill S.
November 14, 2002

David H.
November 21, 2005

Casey
November 1, 1999

Barb H.
November 15, 2002

Bill E.
November 22, 1996

Tyler S.
November 1, 2002

John G.
November 18, 1981

Roger T.
November 22, 2003

Ann F.
November 3, 1997

Dave S.
November 19, 1999

Russ
November 26, 2000

Robin K.
November 4, 2003

Peter M.
November 19, 2001

Jeff H.
November 26, 2005

Bruce R.
November 9, 2002

Bill K.
November 20, 1985

Michael P.
November 10, 2001

Jean M.
November 20, 2001

Angela N.
November 12, 2004

Simone H.
November 20, 2005

Have your sobriety birthday printed here. Send name/ sobriety birthday date to Eye Opener Editor, c/o WVI Central Office, 687 Cottage Street NE, Salem OR 97301.

GSO in NY Alive and Well

On July 20th, this recovering alcoholic visited A.A.'s General Service Office in New York at 475 Riverside Drive. What an amazing experience. The office was much larger than I expected – a whole floor (the 11th) of a big church overlooking the Hudson River. The floor had many offices, each of which housed an officer of the organization who had a specific job to do. For example, one person's job is to field all questions that come in from all over the world.

I was given a tour of the whole place – 45 minutes it took – by the newly hired receptionist who was not recovering but thought A.A. was a wonderful program. Whenever she took me into an office, if the staff member was there, he or she immediately jumped up to warmly greet me and explain what they specifically did. One woman just retired after 30-plus years of work there, she was still involved in the running of the organization, however. It was her service work to do that.

Many of the “nuts and bolts” people who work at GSO – all are paid who work there – are not recovering alcoholics, but all of the 11 staff members and board members are. There are 85 people working there!

Another highlight was going into the archives room and seeing all the pictures of Bill W., Dr. Bob, their wives and families, their circle of friends. I didn't have time to give more than a quick glance around the place as I had a bus to catch, but I did sit down on the leather couch that once was in Bill W's office. As for the many books that are in the library; well, that will have to wait for the next time. And there will be a next time – I will go on a Friday so I can attend the AA meeting they hold every Friday at 11:00 a.m.!

This recovering alcoholic had tears in her eyes as she entered and left GSO; tears of pride and joy at our wonderful organization that exists solely on contributions from its members, and that has served its members so faithfully for so long. GSO is alive and well, growing and stronger than ever (see www.aa.org)!

Submitted by: Patty P.

Check Out the Web Site!

Www.openorg/aasalem is your source for all things related to Willamette Valley A.A. News, events, meeting lists and more can be found at our site. Don't forget to send in your own news to aasalem@yahoo.com.

Email Eye Opener Submissions!

Share information, experience, hope, and strength! Email articles, etc. to the Eye Opener: wvi_eyepener@yahoo.com.

A Grateful Heart , Continued from Page 1

That's why it's essential for me to commit myself every day to seeking and doing God's will by using twelve steps, the twelve traditions, the Serenity Prayer, and the principles described in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. If I practice these disciplines daily, and fully give myself to the AA program, there can be only one result, a thankful heart. Thank God for AA and thank AA for God.

-JQ-

Heard 'Round These Rooms

The person with the most sobriety is the one who got up earliest this morning

We suffer from alcohol-ISM, not alcohol-WASM



We came, we came to, we came to believe

My worst day sober was better than my best day drunk

We have a disease that tells us we don't have a disease

There are no elevators in AA, only steps



We have a thinking problem, not a drinking problem

Try it for 90 days, and if you don't like it, we'll gladly refund your misery

You have to give it away in order to keep it

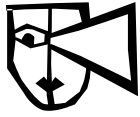
EGO: Edging God Out!



GOD: Good, Orderly Direction

GrapeVine Speakers Meetings

On the first Saturday of every month, you may now attend the new GrapeVine Speaker's Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to create interest in A.A.'s publication, *GrapeVine*, while also encouraging folks to consider being a GrapeVine representative for a local group. The meetings are held at the First Congregational Church, 700 Marion Street NE. Fellowship, refreshments, and coffee start at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will start at 7:30.



November Calendar

MONDAY 6
KISS Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY 9
District 4 Committee Meeting
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1444 Liberty SE, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 11
TTCO (Take the Cotton Out) Speaker's
Meeting
Faith Lutheran Church
4505 River Road N, Keizer, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY 13
H & I Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY 20
WVI Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 24
Soberfest Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 25
KIS-S (Keep it Simple Speaker's
Meeting)
Morningside Methodist Church
3674 12th Street SE, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 25
Corvallis Speaker's Meeting
Good Samaritan Hospital, Corvallis
8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 29
TTCO Committee Meeting
Central Office
687 Cottage St. NE, 7:00 p.m.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meetings posted at:
<http://www.dhh12s.commeetingschedule/htm>

For links to other Intergroup websites visit
www.aa-oregon.org/aameetings.htm

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