Into Action!

Westside Central Office

December 2016 - Volume 5 - Number 3

What's Happening at the WCO?

We wish you a joyful holiday season with lots of love, peace, and serenity in your life. We hope you all have been surviving the winter weather the last couple of weeks. We had some snow on December 5th, but it was mostly melted by the time our 7pm business meeting started. Our Saturday office hours, so far, have not been affected by the weather. If there's questionable weather outside, we suggest checking our website, www.westsidecentraloffice.com, first to make sure that we are open.

Our office will be closed Saturday, December 24th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. We will be open New Year's Eve, December 31st, from 12noon-4pm. Although our office may be closed from time to time, our hotline is always open. So, feel free to give us a call at 503-684-0415 if you need to talk to another alcoholic.

For those A.A.s looking to share their holiday with other people in recovery, there are a number of sober holiday events happening around the Portland metro area. Check out the *Upcoming Events* on page 3 of this newsletter for some suggestions. Also check out the *A.A. Related Announcements* section of our website for the latest event listings.

The big news at this month's business meeting is that we passed our budget for 2017. This budget includes a portion earmarked for the IRS federal tax exempt (i.e., 501(C)(3)) status application fee. Becoming a federal tax exempt corporation has been a goal since our beginning. This goal represents one of the last major milestones of our formation. Therefore, this is really exciting news for us. Some of you have expressed interest in deducting your WCO contributions from your taxes. You will soon be able to do it. Stay tuned to this newsletter for further details.

We also passed a motion at this month's business meeting to use a portion of the remaining CPC budget to run an A.A. Public Service Announcement (PSA) in some community newspapers the week after New Year's Day. The PSA will read:

If you want to stop drinking, Alcoholics Anonymous can help! Call 503-684-0415 or visit www.westsidecentraloffice.com.

The PSA will appear in the following newspapers: Beaverton Valley Times, Forest Grove News Times, Hillsboro Tribune, Lake Oswego Review, Tigard-Tualatin Times, West Linn Tidings, and Wilsonville Spokesman.

We are happy to report that our second Saturday office volunteer shift has once again been filled. All of our Saturday shifts are now filled with at least one volunteer. That does not mean that we do not need more volunteers. We can always use alternate volunteers that can fill-in when our regular volunteers are not available. Two or more years of sobriety is suggested. Interested individuals can contact us at info@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information or to apply.

To view all of our volunteer opportunities, click on the *Help Wanted* link on our website.

Want this newsletter emailed to you each month? Then subscribe today by sending an email with the subject "subscribe" to news@westsidecentraloffice.com

"A.A." and "Alcoholics Anonymous" are registered trademarks of A.A. World Services, Inc., used by permission.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from WCO!

We wish you all joy and serenity this holiday season! Celebrations outside the rooms of A.A. go hand in hand with the holidays. Of course many of these celebrations include alcohol. As the Big Book reminds us, we need not avoid places where there is drinking provided that we have a legitimate reason for being there (Chapter 7, *Working with Others*, page 101).

That still does not mean an urge to drink will not come up in these social gatherings. To help arm you with some tips on what to do in these situations, take a moment to review Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous (available at www.westsidecentraloffice.com). And remember, you're not alone this holiday season. If you need to talk, give us a call at 503-684-0415.

Need A.A. Literature?

The Westside Central Office sells A.A. Conference Approved Literature at cost! Visit www.westsidecentraloffice.com/literature or call 503-684-0415 (extension 2) to order literature.

Making a Seventh Tradition Contribution

Besides contributing time and energy to the Westside Central Office (WCO), A.A. members and groups may also make a financial contribution. The WCO is funded exclusively by the voluntary contributions of A.A. groups and members. No contribution is too small. Please make checks payable to Westside Central Office, P.O. Box 19911, Portland, OR 97280-0911.

This Month in A.A. History

- **December 1934:** Bill has his spiritual experience in Towns Hospital.
- **December 1934**: Bill works with other alcoholics, but none of them stay sober.
- **December 1937**: Bill, Dr. Bob, Dr. Silkworth, and some group members from Akron and New York meet with John D. Rockefeller Jr. Their hopes for financial backing from the philanthropist were squashed when it was pointed out that money could spoil the movement's purpose. The meeting reaps welcome enthusiasm and moral support, but no funds. This experience would later form the basis of A.A.'s Seventh Tradition.
- **December 1938:** Twelve Steps are written.
- **December 1939:** The first A.A. group in a mental institution is established at New York's Rockland State Hospital.
- **December 5, 1943:** Bill and Lois arrive in Portland Oregon as part of their Pacific Northwest tour.
- **December 6, 1943:** Bill and Lois attend a meeting arranged by early Portland A.A. pioneers, Dr. Clarence W.H. and Dan G. The meeting attracts over 100 people thanks to advertisements placed in The Oregonian and The Oregon Journal newspapers. Bill would speak on his experience, strength, and hope for one hour. After hearing Bill's story, twenty-two men register their phone numbers and express a desire to attend another meeting.
- **December 1943:** A week after the meeting with Bill and Lois, interested individuals begin meeting at the YMCA in Downtown Portland. By January 1944, these informal meetings would grow into the first A.A. Group in Portland, as well as Oregon.
- **December 1948:** Dr. Bob gives his last major talk before a crowd of A.A.s in Detroit, Michigan.
- **December 22, 1995**: The General Service Office in New York launches the website www.aa.org

Upcoming Events

December 25, 2016 – Christmas Potluck Dinner, 1:30pm, Westside Service Center (12945 SW Beaverdam RD, Beaverton, OR 97005). More information is available at http://westsidecentraloffice.com/events/aa-announcements/

December 25, 2016 – Holiday Dinner, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Portland Alano Club Basement (909 NW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97210). More information is available at http://www.portlandalano.org/event/holiday-dinner/.

December 31, 2016 – Frog Pond CARE Group Annual New Year's Eve Party, 7:00pm-Midnight, Meridian United Church of Christ (6750 Boeckman Rd, Wilsonville, OR 97070). More information is available at http://westsidecentraloffice.com/events/aa-announcements/

January 2, 2016 – Westside Central Office Business Meeting, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Westside Central Office (12705 SW Beaverdam RD Suite E, Beaverton, OR 97005).

To list A.A. related announcements in this section, email the announcement to: newsletter@westsidecentraloffice.com

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours! Call 503-684-0415

Does your Home Group have a WCO Rep?

A Central Office Rep (CO Rep) serves as the liaison between the A.A. Group and the Westside Central Office (WCO). Co Reps attend the WCO business meeting and vote their group's conscience on Central Office matters. By electing a CO Rep, your group not only helps the Central Office help the alcoholic who still suffers, but your group also creates another service position for a home group member. Our business meeting is held on the first Monday of the month, 7pm-8pm, at the Westside Central Office, 12705 SW Beaverdam RD Suite E, Beaverton, OR 97005. We look forward to seeing your group's Co Rep there!

Is There an Alcoholic Looking for Your Meeting?

Each day, we are contacted by A.A. newcomers and visitors from out-of-town in search of a meeting. You can help us find a meeting for these individuals by listing your home group's meeting(s) in our meeting directory. To list your group, complete the online form at: www.westsidecentraloffice.com/meetings

"When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it."

(Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 106, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Get Involved!

The Westside Central Office has the following 12th Step opportunities:

12th Step Calls – Interested in going on a 12th Step Call? A.A. members are needed for the 12th Step Call Committee. We suggest that volunteers have at least 1 year of sobriety, a sponsor, a home group, and have worked all twelve steps at least once. Visit the 12th Step Call webpage at westsidecentraloffice.com/service/twelfth-step-calls or email the 12th Step Call Committee Chair at 12stepchair@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information.

A.A. Hotline - Do you like talking on the phone and helping people? Volunteers are needed to answer the Westside Central Office phone, day and night. Phone shifts last about 2 hours and calls can be forwarded to any cell phone or landline. To learn how you can help, visit the Hotline webpage at westsidecentraloffice.com/service/a-a-hotline/ or email the A.A. Hotline Chair at hotlinechair@westsidecentraloffice.com.

Public Information – Volunteers are needed to help inform the public on what A.A. is and what A.A. is not. Activities include putting on presentations at area schools, dropping off meeting schedules at hotels/motels, donating Big Books to public libraries, taking out ads with the A.A. hotline phone number in local newspapers, etc. The Public Information committee carries the message to the alcoholic who may not yet know about A.A. Email pi@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information.

Activities – Interested in putting on social or service oriented events? Then join the activities committee. Email activities@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information.

Treatment Facilities – Volunteers are needed to help contact treatment centers and offer assistance in coordinating A.A. meetings and presentations at their facility. The type of organizations this committee works with includes inpatient/outpatient treatment centers; detox centers, hospitals, institutions, nursing homes, etc. Email tf@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information or to get involved with the Treatment Facilities Committee.

Professionals – Volunteers are needed to help carry the A.A. message to professionals, such as health care workers, counselors, law enforcement, etc. who come into contact with active alcoholics. Email cpc@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information or to get involved with the Cooperation with Professionals Committee.

Corrections – Volunteers are needed to help carry the A.A. message to those behind bars. Email corrections@westsidecentraloffice.com for more information or to get involved.

Into Action! is published monthly by the Westside Central Office. The Westside Central Office is an Intergroup/Central Office serving the A.A. community in the Western Portland Oregon metropolitan area. Our primary purpose is to serve our A.A. groups and members by helping them carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. More information is available at www.westsidecentraloffice.com. Direct all correspondence to: email: info@westsidecentraloffce.com phone: 503-684-0415 (extension 0) mail: Westside Central Office, P.O. Box 19911, Portland, OR 97280-0911.