Into Action!

Westside Central Office

February 2014

What's Happening at the WCO?

The Westside Central Office hosted this month's meeting on Monday, February 3rd, 7pm, at the Beaverton First United Methodist Church (12555 4th ST, Beaverton, OR 97005). Below are some of the meeting's highlights:

The Literature Committee Chair, Joe S, announced that they are taking preorders for the *75th Anniversary Big Book*. This is a limited edition first edition reproduction that will be made available in April. To preorder, send an email (preferably by February 28, 2014) to lit@westsidecentraloffice.com.

Our Public Information (PI) Committee Chair, Derek T, reported that he gave a presentation at Beaverton Schools' *Insight Class* in January. Students that violate Beaverton Schools' drug and alcohol policy are required to attend the Insight Class. Derek also contacted Beaverton Schools' Deer Park Academy to see if they would like a presentation on A.A. The majority of the students that attend Deer Park have been expelled from other schools within the Beaverton School District. Young people in A.A. that would like to help out with high school presentations are encouraged to email Derek at pi@westsidecentraloffice.com.

The 12th Step Call Committee Chair, Ben P, reported that the committee has some new volunteers. 12th Step Call Volunteers talk to newcomers about A.A. and recovery from alcoholism. A.A.s interested in volunteering on the 12th Step Call Committee can sign up on the committee's web page (http://westsidecentraloffice.com/service/twelfth-step-calls/) or by emailing 12stepchair@westsidecentraloffice.com.

The A.A. Hotline Committee Chair, Andrew W, reported that the committee has grown by one more volunteer. We can still use more volunteers, especially those that can handle late night and/or early morning shifts. A.A.s that are available to answer the hotline can sign up on the committee's web page (http://westsidecentraloffice.com/service/a-a-hotline/) or by emailing hotlinechair@westsidecentraloffice.com.

The Corrections Committee Chair, Josh S, announced that they are in the process of bringing A.A. into the South Fork Forest Camp. South Fork Forest Camp is a state run, 200 bed, minimum security work camp located approximately 28 miles East of Tillamook. To get involved with Corrections 12th Step Work, email Josh at corrections@westsidecentraloffice.com.

In Old Business, we elected Krista to Treatment Facilities Committee Chair as well as Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Chair.

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.

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

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Are you looking for a meeting?

Or would you like to read today's *Daily Reflection*, the *Big Book,* or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* book online? These are just a few of the A.A. resources available on our website. Visit today by pointing your browser to www.westsidecentraloffice.com.

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.

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

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

This Month in A.A. History

- **February 1938** – Frank Amos, friend of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. assess the Akron Group and explores the possibility of opening a small hospital for alcoholics. Amos recommends that Rockefeller donate $50,000 for the hospital, but Rockefeller refuses stating that the fellowship should be self-supporting. The philanthropist does donate $5,000 toward Bill and Dr. Bob's basic needs.
- **February 1940** – First A.A. World Service Office opens on Vesey Street in New York City.
- **February 1940** – First A.A. Clubhouse opens at 334 ½ West 24th Street in New York City.
- **February 8, 1940** – The A.A. Co-founders and some early members attend a dinner party put on by John D. Rockefeller Jr. It's at this meeting that Rockefeller informs Bill, Bob, and the early members that he feels A.A. should be self-supporting as far as money is concerned. This stance by Rockefeller would later form the basis of A.A.'s 7th Tradition.
- **February 14, 1971** – A.A. groups around the world hold memorial meetings honoring Bill's work as Co-founder of A.A. Bill died on January 24, 1971.
- **February 1993** – In a textbook example of country-to-country sponsorship, A.A. Mexico succeeds in getting Cuba's first group going. The Cuban Government had previously outlawed A.A. But after A.A. Mexico informed the Cuban Government of how A.A.'s program of recovery works, the government changed its mind and welcomed the Fellowship. By the end of 2004, some 200 groups have formed in Cuba.

Upcoming Events

March 3, 2014 – Westside Central Office Business Meeting, 7pm-8pm, First United Church of Beaverton (12555 SW 4th ST, Beaverton, OR 97005).

March 6, 2014 – Westside Central Office Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting, 6:30pm-7:30pm, St. Barnabas Church (2201 SW Vermont ST, Portland, OR 97219).

March 6-9, 2014 – 31st Annual Oregon Woman to Woman Conference, Newport Shilo Inn (536 SW Elizabeth St, Newport, OR 97365). More information is available at http://westsidecentraloffice.com/events/aa-announcements/.

March 15, 2014 – A.A. District 36 presents a Chili Cook Off and A.A. *Hot Topics* Discussion, 10am – 2pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3405 SW Alice ST, Portland, OR 97219. More information is available at http://westsidecentraloffice.com/events/aa-announcements/.

March 20, 2014 – Westside Central Office Corrections Committee Meeting, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Starbucks Coffee (10010 SW Barbur Blvd, Portland, OR 97219).

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

Where Should We Locate Our Office?

The Westside Central Office is now in the process of looking for a physical office space. You can help us decide where to open our office by voting for your favorite location. To vote, visit our website, www.westsidecentraloffice.com, and click on the *Office Location Survey*.

Also if you have any suggestions for an office space or would like to get involved in the search, email us at info@westsidecentraloffice.com.

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 .

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 Beaverton First United Methodist Church, 12555 4th ST, Beaverton, OR 97005. We look forward to seeing your group's Co Rep there!

75th Anniversary of the Big Book

The Westside Central Office is taking reservations for the *75th Anniversary Big Book*. This is a limited edition first edition reproduction that will be issued by A.A.W.S. in April of this year. Because it is a limited edition, we believe that these will go fast.

You can either preorder through the General Service Office (an order form is available at http://www.aa.org/en_pdfs/f-180_BigBook75th_orderform.pdf) or through us. Each book is $12. By ordering through us, you do not have to pay until you receive your book. However, we're ordering a limited quantity, so we recommend that interested A.A.s place their order soon (preferably before February 28, 2014). To order, send an email to lit@westsidecentraloffice.com.

More information on the 75th Anniversary Big Book is available at http://www.aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=495

7th Tradition Has Never Been So Square
By, Nick F.

This all started with a group wanting to reach more drunks and fulfill the 7th tradition at all levels of AA. My home group, like many during the great recession, had trouble being fully self-supporting at all levels of our service structure. Don't get me wrong, we've been able to keep the lights on, support an active GSR and keep our literature table full. However, with a deep desire to support our local intergroup, district, area, and GSO we decided to investigate how we might take in additional 7th tradition. What we found is that our group needed to get Square to become fully self-supporting.

I've had one home group since I got sober eleven years ago and I wouldn't have it any other way. Tuesday Night Lake Grove meets every Tuesday at 8 pm in Lake Oswego, OR, about 15 minutes from Portland, OR. We are a group of alcoholics anonymous and have been supporting all levels of the AA service structure since before I got sober. When I showed up, the group was in the middle of an evolution. Young people where flocking to the meeting, attracted by the large group of lively elder statesmen, including the soon to be Oregon Area 58 delegate. The average age of our members has fallen dramatically over the past eleven years from 40 to 25, as many of our elder statesmen have went elsewhere with the influx of incoming youth. This transition has caused a handful of growing pains, one of which included how to stay fully self-supporting as our group grew and shrank from year to year.

Lucky for our group, I wasn't the only one concerned about our 7th tradition issues. At one of our monthly business meetings we decided to investigate other ways to increase our 7th tradition. The main discussion was increasing the amount of funds from our home group members, as $1 doesn't go as far as it did in 1960's, which was when the $1 in the basket was instituted. Our ad hoc committee found that the problem in general with AA members and even more with the younger crowd is a reduction in carrying cash. Yes, we could get into the selfishness of not grabbing a couple of bucks to drop in the hat, but we're going to stick to our own inventory.

The ad hoc committee returned with the recommendation to investigate alterative ways to accept 7th tradition donations via Square, PayPal, or Intuit GoPayment, which passed with little concern in November 2012. In December, we called the General Service Office, Oregon Area 58 and our local intergroups to see if anyone else was using payment gateways to accept 7th tradition at a meeting level. We were met with many no's, some be carful's, but no "you shouldn't". In fact, many trusted servants we talked to asked us to keep records of what we're doing in case it worked, partly leading me to sharing this article, because it has.

There were some concerns at our next business meeting, mainly surrounding anonymity, affiliating our group with an outside enterprise, and costs. Our ad hoc committee went back to work, talking with payment gateways, trusted servants and reporting back to the group our findings, which were all positive. Payment gateway companies are extremely concerned about security and well regulated, which crossed off our members' issues with anonymity. Next came the affiliation with an outside enterprise, but our group decided that using a payment gateway company was no more affiliating than with the coffee brand, firehouse we lease from, or coins we buy for AA

anniversaries. The final roadblock was the 2.75% processing fee Square or others charge per transaction. We calculated if our entire group decided to use the payment gateway we would need to get an additional $.55 a meeting to cover potential loss to the group. A few group members agreed to take on that additional financial responsibly and off we went.

Without some success, I'm sure that our group would have turned our credit card reader back in, as there are no fees associated with cancelation and no costs for the reader itself. It's been just over a year since our first Square swipe and we can say it has been a success. We've averaged $12.15 a meeting in our Square 7th tradition and increased our overall donations by 43%. That may or may not sound like a lot of money, but for a group that hadn't disbursed funds in almost two years it was. We have been able to distribute funds on three separate occasions and send the General Service Office almost double their yearly need to become fully self supporting themselves.

Alcoholics anonymous drastically changed my way of life eleven years ago by connecting me with a power greater than myself that has solved all my problems. This is a debt that I will never truly repay. Guys like me don't get to live out their wildest dreams with people who truly love them. Guys like me don't graduate, buy homes, get jobs, make best friends or stay married. Fulfillment of the 7th tradition at all levels of AA is very personal to me as it is a weekly reminder of the life you gave me. It is one tangible way that I can attempt to give back what was given to me "for free and for fun" as my first sponsor told me.

When I came in, I kept my eye on the cool kids, if there are cool kids in AA, and they all were putting a dollar in the basket. So did I. It was a bad habit that I broke when my sponsor sketched out the numbers it takes a group and our organization to be fully self-supporting. When we looked at the numbers, I needed to give at least $5 at my home group and $2 at any road meetings I attended. This sounded like a lot as I was used to scrapping together maybe a buck for the basket, but like any good sponsor he made the "suggestion" I practice the spiritual principal outlined by the 7th tradition. At the time, I was a college student and on a limited budget, so this meant I had to cut two Starbucks each week. I hate to admit it and I can't explain it, but those two days my coffee tasted better, stayed hotter and put an extra bounce in my step. I believe it was because it was "where money and spirituality mix" in the hat and it was an action I was taking to lessen the buildup of selfishness that feeds my alcoholic ego.

My hope is that I've made you just a little bit uncomfortable about your group's and personal application of the 7th tradition. Maybe your group isn't ready for electronic payments, but at a minimum are you ready to practice this spiritual principal of unselfishness in your life? Are you willing to stop being a cool kid and get Square?

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.