Into Action!

Westside Central Office

March 2021 - Volume 9 - Number 6

What's Happening at the WCO?

This month is the one-year anniversary of the first Oregon statewide shutdown due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. About 75% of our A.A. Groups suspended their meetings in March 2020. The other 25% were able to host their meetings through online video conferencing. Our bookstore would also close too.

The number of Groups hosting meetings through video conferencing grew steadily until June 2020. Last June is when the state permitted some counties to allow limited in-person social gatherings. Some Groups began to resume face-to-face meetings as the state lifted some restrictions on social gatherings. Also, a new term, "Hybrid Meeting", was born when some Groups began offering an online simulcast of their face-to-face meetings.

The "Hybrid Meeting" is certainly a silver lining to come out of this pandemic. It allows us to reach alcoholics that may not otherwise be able to attend a meeting.

June 2020 also marked the partial reopening of our bookstore. Since June, we are open by appointment only. There is still no decision when we will resume regular office hours. Demand for literature is currently low as many Groups still do not sell literature because they are either still an online meeting or they choose not to put out literature for social distancing reasons. We probably will resume some regular office hours when the demand for literature dictates it.

Oregon would see another surge of COVID-19 cases in late Fall of 2020. This meant that some Groups that were meeting in-person had to go back to online only meetings. Now, thanks to available vaccines and perhaps herd immunity, Oregon is reopening again. So, let us know if we need to make any updates to your Group's meeting information in our online schedule.

Most Groups still meet online today; 55% of our meetings are held online, 23% of our meetings are held in-person, and 22% of our meetings are still suspended. Most of the meetings that are suspended today, have been suspended since March 2020. It is unclear if they will ever resume. Therefore, we may have fewer meetings to choose from in the foreseeable future.

There might be a reduction in the number of available meetings, but there is not a reduction in the number of ways to practice our 12th Step. Check out our service opportunities on our website or on page 4 of this newsletter. You can also become your home group's Central Office Representative. See page 3, "Does your Group have a WCO Rep?" for more information.

At our business meeting this month, we elected Scott C to our CPC Chair position. Scott brings previous CPC experience from Districts 23 and 36. So, we are sure there will soon be some exciting service opportunities with his committee. As we mentioned last month, we are in the process of creating a peer visitation program at St. Vincent's Hospital. This program is designed to

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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.

Need A.A. Literature?

The Westside Central Office sells A.A. Conference Approved Literature at cost! You can purchase A.A. Literature at our office located at 10220 SW Park Way Portland, OR 97225. Our office is currently open by appointment only. Visit https://westsidecentraloffice.com/literature to make an appointment.

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.

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

- **March 1940:** Works Publishing moves from Newark to a small office at 30 Vesey Street in lower Manhattan. Though something of a financial gamble, the move means that for the first time the Fellowship has a headquarters of its own.
- **March 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article on A.A. causes great national expansion and recognition of the fellowship. Membership in 1941 jumps from 2,000 to 8,000 at year's end.
- **March 18, 1944**: The first reported women's prison group meets at Clinton Farms in Clinton, NJ.
- **March 30, 1945:** Three A.A.s from Portland, Oregon visit a Salem minister, Dudley Strain, for the first time. After receiving A.A. literature from the Portland members, Dudley helps bring meetings into local prisons.
- **March 10, 1948:** Freck G, the father of Group Number 1 in Albany, Oregon, is admitted to the Oregon State Hospital for alcoholism. After getting sober at the hospital, Freck and his wife would attend meetings in Salem for the next 10 months before starting the first meeting in Albany on January 3, 1949.
- **March 1950:** Portland, Oregon radio station, KWJJ, runs a series of 15-minute broadcasts on A.A.
- **March 6, 1960:** Oregon Area secretary, Ed D, suggests that the secretary send out periodical updates to all Oregon groups. This practice would lead to the publication of the Oregon Area A.A. newsletter beginning in April, 1960.
- **March 1966:** First A.A. group in Ecuador founded.
- **March 18, 1974:** First known meeting in Uruguay is held in Montevideo.
- **March 1978:** The A.A. Grapevine's circulation reaches 100,000.
- **March 1992:** G.S.O. moves their offices to 475 Riverside Drive in Uptown Manhattan. G.S.O. occupies the entire 11th floor and Grapevine occupies the 12th floor. Interestingly, this building was built by the Rockefeller Family who played an important role in A.A.'s early history.
- **March 3, 2012:** At the March 2012 Westside Central Office (WCO) business meeting, group representatives and trusted servants approve the creation of WCO service committees such as Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Treatment Facilities, etc.
- **March 4, 2014:** Westside Central Office leases its first physical office space.

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provide visitors who are members of A.A. to alcoholic patients who are new or returning to A.A. This is very much like the early days of A.A. when Bill and Bob would visit hospitals and ask if they have any alcoholic patients that they can talk to. If you are interested in getting involved with this program, then contact our CPC Chair, Scott, at cpc@westsidecentraloffice.com.

As we reported in our January 2021 newsletter, WCO and A.A. Districts 9, 12, 15, 27, 31, and 37 chipped in to run an A.A. ad that appeared in Pamplin Media's electronic newsletter that gets sent to their subscribers. The ad ran from January 20th through February. Our Area 58 PI North Chair, Bonnie R reported that the ad received 220 clicks that were equally split between the east side, which carried Portland Area Intergroup's contact information, and the west side, which carried WCO's contact information. So, many thanks to our supporting Groups at WCO and the above Districts for making this happen! Also, thanks to Theron B for creating the ad!

Upcoming Events

April 5, 2020 – Westside Central Office Online Business Meeting, 7:00pm-8:00pm. Email info@westsidecentraloffice.com for an invitation.

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

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, 10220 SW Park Way Portland, OR 97225~~ online. Email info@westsidecentraloffice.com for an invitation to our business meeting! 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

Step Three "… was only a beginning, though if honestly and humbly made, an effect, sometimes a very great one, was felt at once."

(Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, page 63, 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.