



The High & Dry

JUNE 2020



JUNE IN OUR HISTORY

June 1

1949 – Anne S., Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June 4

2002- Caroline K., author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

June 5

1940 – Ebby T. took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6

1940 – The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

June 7

1939 – Bill and Lois W. had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

June 10

1935 – Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA.

June 11

1945 – Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 15

1940 – First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16

1938 – Jim B., "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 19

1942 – NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up.

June 21

1944 – The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24

1938 – Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

June 25

1939 – The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 30

1941 – Ruth Hock showed Bill W. the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.
2000 – More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.

FUTURE TRIPPING

JUNE

13 Greater Seattle Intergroup Inventory Greater Seattle Intergroup Office, 5507 6th Ave S Seattle, WA 98108

16 Greater Seattle Intergroup Spring Assembly Greater Seattle Intergroup Office, 5507 6th Ave S Seattle, WA 98108

JULY

2 2020 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention (Cancelled)

AUGUST

6-9 Step Ashore VII Ocean Shores Convention Center, 120 W Chance a La Mer NW Ocean Shores, WA 98569

14-16 Northwest Girlstock 4 Points Sheraton Hotel Bellingham Bellingham, WA

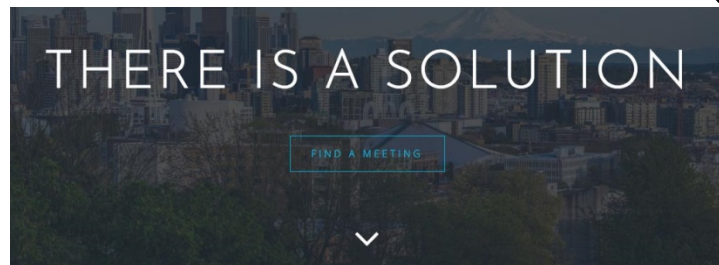
16 Greater Seattle Intergroup Picnic Lower Woodland Park 5900 W Green Lake Way N. Seattle, WA 98103

MEETING CHANGES

Many meetings are no longer being held at physical locations and have moved to online formats. Please visit the Seattle Intergroup of AA website to get updated information about finding your favorite meeting online.

Here is the web page address for the latest information online meetings:
<https://www.seattleaa.org/online-meetings/>

www.seattleaa.org



Thanks to Our Awesome Daytime Office Volunteers

MONDAY	Tommy H., Bill S., Carol Ann G.
TUESDAY	Susan, Dennis E.
WEDNESDAY	Joe M., Susan
THURSDAY	Vito M., Al C.
FRIDAY	Jon C, Freda
SATURDAY	Dan G, Clay

SOUTHEND BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEER MANAGER: Jim H.
VOLUNTEERS: : Danny D., Kelly P., Carolyn B.

SOUTHEND BOOKSTORE PHONE NUMBER: 253 288 2237 (Bookstore is temporarily closed.)

Main GSIG office hours

Until further notice, the GSIG main office will be open two days a week:
Wednesday 10 AM – 2PM Saturday 10 AM – 2PM

BIRTHDAY CLUB

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MAY CELEBRANTS IN THE "HOW DRY I AM CLUB"

Ingrid S.	Admiral AA	14 years (4-2006)
Chris W.	Mid-Day Mindfulness	37 years (5-1983)
Mike S.	Pass It On	31 years (5-1989)
Railroad Jack G.	Bambi	39 years (6-1981)
Davana G.	Bambi and Serenity Hall	31 years (5-1989)
Christy N.	Saturday Ladies Study	20 years (10-2000)
Colleen	Saturday Ladies Study	33 years (10-1986)

In Memoriam: Lucille Lundstrom, 98. She was a member of AA for more than 50 years.

Name	
Address	
City, Zip	
AA Anniversary and/or # of years	
Home Group	
Contribution enclosed	\$
Return this form to:	Greater Seattle Intergroup 5507 6 th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98108

We would love contributions from you. Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and comments with us by emailing us at high_and_dry@SeattleAA.org. We aren't promising that everything sent to us will be published, but we will be reading everything sent our way.

This month we are running three essays written by members on some of AA's foundational literature.

STEP SIX

by Freda T.

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. (Alcoholics Anonymous p. 59)

Considering how long it took me to write this, I was able to identify another character defect: procrastination (a.k.a: fear). It seems so many of my defects, self-centeredness, self-pity, exaggerating or omitting details, are the result of fear and the need to protect my ego.

That fear kept me from seeing myself clearly when I shared my Fifth Step with my first sponsor. When she called me after our all-day session and hearing my Fourth Step story of blame and sorrow, she asked me to make a list of my character defects.

I was stunned because I took no responsibility for my part in anything and believed I was free of defects. The "weaknesses" I fell into when full of fear kept me thinking I was just taking care of myself. Needless to say, I was sober, but still living in the fear that all the negative things I thought I was, would be true if I looked at them. It took many years and uncomfortable situations before I became restless, irritable, and discontent enough to become willing to ask for a new sponsor to take me through the steps.

This sponsor let me take the time to learn to trust in my Higher Power and truly make the decision to turn my will and life over to God's care as best I could. This meant looking at my "defenses" and learning to walk through my fears about myself with her help. She taught me to save my ass instead of my face!

Today I'm learning to be okay with myself, knowing that I have good qualities too, and feel relieved to know that I don't have to do this alone. Between the fellowship of AA and a loving God, I feel safe and protected, and that my HP will remove my shortcomings as long as I am willing to work on them myself. And I can't do that unless I'm willing to look at them.

CONCEPT SIX

By Erin E. (Alt. DCM District 40)

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The purpose of the Twelve Concepts for World Service is to establish principles of structure and accountability to manage and operate AA , this is exemplified in Concept VI. Our organization is "spiritual in principle," however, it became necessary to create a "large business" type operation for it to function effectively. The Groups and their members have "Final Responsibility & Ultimate Authority" (Concept 1) in directing AA World Services' vision and achieving its goals. As stated, "it (the Conference) traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance," however, since individual Groups cannot effectively participate in the daily operations, a system of delegation of authority has been created.

The individual group members discuss and carry the 'group conscience' to the area elected Delegate who is trusted to participate in and vote at the General Service Conference. Likewise, the Conference Delegates must trust the General Service Board to act in their absence and implement their decisions. Giving the General Service Board liberal authority is crucial to get these jobs done. The Board has a legal responsibility to act when unforeseen matters come up from time to time and there needs to be confidence that we can rely on the General Service Board. While we give all this responsibility to and rely on the Board, it is important to recognize that ultimately the decision making comes from the AA Groups through the General Service Conference. While we do give the Board a lot of power to take care of the day to day business, the Board is virtually always-subject to the will of the General Service Conference. We Trust our Trusted Servants and we avoid micro-managing them so we can act effectively

TRADITION SIX

By Jeff O.

"An A.A group not ever endorse finance, or lend the A.A name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems, of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

The primary purpose of any AA groups is to carry the message of hope to an alcoholic who still suffers. That was me one day. I was the suffering alcoholic. I walked down the 12 steps into the basement of the Old Renton group 10 years ago and felt the hope for the first time in a long time in that room.

I had noticed before I had walked into the meeting there wasn't anyone at the door asking me for my credit card number, bank statement, or even verifying I had a drinking problem. I was welcomed and I am an alcoholic if I said I was. That impressed me from the start.

Today I am still impressed with the way AA functions. It would be easy for AA groups to grab the mantel of having a cure for alcoholism. We could partner with a well known hospital for treatment. We could plaster group name on the outfield walls at our favorite baseball stadium. The announcers could say something about the AA group being a charitable sponsor of the 7th inning. We could tout how many people have recovered using the 12 Step methods. We could do all the things other organizations do to 'promote' their product.

But once we do that, we change what AA is about and that is when one alcoholic talks with another. AA would forever no longer be about the trenches and getting down with the steps and traditions it would be about meeting the demands of so called corporate life. Then the moment something fails within the AA group and the structure comes down someone like me who was suffering is left out to die alone because I would believe AA doesn't work.

Greater Seattle Intergroup Board Meeting Minutes May 19, 2020

Submitted by Aaron C. (Recording Secretary)

Opening

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM.

AA birthdays

May:

Dan B. – 12

Dave T. – 22

Marilyn – 25

Quorum Count

10 of 13 zones present

4 Board Officers

14 total voting board members

Vote Intergroup Government Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness

The PPP loan topic was discussed at the April Board meeting and the following background and PRO and CON statement was distributed to the Board roster prior to the May Board meeting vote.

Intergroup Government Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Pros and Cons

Overview of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

To incentivize employers to maintain payroll during the crisis, the SBA is providing 100% federally-backed loans for certain payroll expenses through June 30, with up to eight weeks of forgiveness for small businesses and nonprofits that employ less than 500 employees. The loans are forgivable if employers retain employees at comparable salary levels prior to the crisis. In addition, 25% of the loan may be used and forgiven if it is paid for landlord rent and/or utilities. If the loan is not forgiven it must be repaid within 2 years and accrues interest of 1% annually and there is no prepayment penalty.

Background

As a result of COVID 19 and restrictions imposed by the government, GSIG was forced to reduce its hours of operation and this resulted in the reduction of paid hours for both part time staff. Lara R, Assistant Office Manager normally works 24 hours per week and is now working about 10 hours per week. Dennis E, Office Manager normally works 28 hours per week and is working about 15 hours per week from home.

In April the Office Committee elected to apply for the loan and at the April Board meeting, we notified the Board that the Office Committee had applied for the loan to get this process started, so as to not miss this possible opportunity. We let people know that we did not intend to use the loan proceeds without giving the Board a chance to decide about whether GSIG would be paying back the loan or instead seeking loan-forgiveness.

Since the last Board meeting the government payroll loan was approved and we received the proceeds of \$18,179 on May 7, 2020. Per the PPP loan application, the loan amount of \$18,179 was based on 2.5 months of actual 2019 average payroll of \$7,272 per month. If the loan is forgiven the amount is estimated to be \$18,179 (100%). This is equal to \$14,544 (2 months payroll at \$7,272 plus \$4,545 (25% X \$18,179 for rent and utilities).

We contacted GSO and they provide various information including the following

General Service Board of Trustees policy regarding subsidies and discounts:

Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, i.e., convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined.

Per GSO while this policy was not adopted by the General Service Conference, in 1999, the Conference did pass an Advisory Action in support of the policy. The origin of the policy related to bidding from cities for International Conventions, but it can also be applied, for example, to securing the best price on the bulk purchase of paper for A.A. publications, negotiating hotel prices on accommodations for delegates and trustees when they come to New York for their meetings, on insurance rates for employees, office space rental, updating computer equipment and the hundreds of other business details related to A.A. World Service and Grapevine operations. It confirms the trustees' responsibility to see that the A.A. dollar is spent in as prudent a manner as possible.

We now have to discuss and vote on which of the following options GSIG should move forward with:

- A. use the money to pay employees and landlord and apply for loan forgiveness
- B. not use the loan and pay it back now to the government
- C. use the money and pay the loan back in full

Recommendation of the Office Committee

GSIG should move forward with **Option A**) and apply for loan forgiveness.

Pros and Cons for Option A Loan Forgiveness

PROS:

- These loans are being offered to all businesses and nonprofits under 500 employees, GSIG is not being treated differently than anyone else.
- GSIG is really a pass-through entity for the government to funnel the money into the hands of those in need the employees and landlord. It is the intention and purpose of these funds to keep people employed and not reduce payroll.
- We were forced to reduce office hours and thus reduce employee hours and pay due mandates by the government in response to Covid this loan and forgiveness helps make the employees whole, so they don't suffer financially.
- The staff will get paid their full amount of salary instead of just being paid for their reduced hours, i.e. the staff will not suffer nor will the landlord. Not in doing this the staff will be paid for hours not worked.
- 100% of the forgiven amount is not retained by or for the benefit of GSIG but instead is paid entirely to those the government is trying to prevent from suffering financially as a result of the Covid pandemic and the government forced stay at home laws

- We are already in effect getting support from the federal government as a 501(c)(3) we don't pay taxes whereas other for profit business pay taxes.
- GSIG is not an AA group and although we try to follow the traditions, as a non-profit business we are not completely governed or restricted by them like an AA group

CONS:

- This is a breach Tradition 6 as it creates the appearance of affiliation

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

- This is a breach of Tradition 7 as GSIG would not be fully self supporting

The A.A. 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 A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

- We may not need the money based on a significant increase in April contributions from Groups and Individual members that totaled about \$40k and compared to an average historical of about \$11k per month. In addition, as of April 30, 2020 we had about \$55k (excluding Pink and Blue can funds) which is about \$9k of over our prudent reserve of \$46k
- By applying for loan forgiveness we are trusting less in God, the members and Groups that they will take care of GSIG
- By applying for loan forgiveness the GSIG staff would be paid for hours they did not work
- Some Groups or members might find this such an egregious breach of traditions that they stop supporting GSIG both in terms of money and service volunteering

There was over an 1-hour discussion on the topic during which all attendees were able to share their groups/districts and individual opinions and thoughts on which of the following three options Intergroup should move forward with respect to the PPP loan.

- A. use the money to pay employees and landlord and apply for loan forgiveness**
- B. not use the loan and pay it back now to the government**
- C. use the money and pay the loan back in full**

Vote Results:

Of the below options

8 voted for A.
4 voted for B.
0 voted for C.
2 abstentions

Vote to change Bylaws will happen at the assembly rescheduled for June 16th at 7pm

To insure we receive as many groups votes as possible on the below motion Intergroup District and Zone reps should collect a poll of the votes from each group present at their respective District and Zone Meetings and provide these votes at the June meeting, unless the groups representative is in attendance. In this case the group will submit their vote.

Motion for consideration by groups

PRESENTED BY:

Group - Sunday Morning Magic

Vote to Proceed forward presenting to the Groups – YES

(Fall Assembly Dec 2019 vote 14 approved and 10 opposed)

GREATER SEATTLE INTERGROUP (“Intergroup”) MOTION:

“We move that all groups may send an Intergroup Representative directly to the Board meeting with complete voting privileges at all Board meetings.”

PROS:

1. More fair representation of the fellowship. Wide, diverse representation ensures a healthy Intergroup.
2. Increase participation at Intergroup.
3. Increase donations to Intergroup.
4. Increase and improve communication between the groups and Intergroup.
5. Voting by all groups more than just twice a year allows greater input to/from the groups.
6. GSO has suggested that 50% of group contributions go to your local Intergroup. Each group should be heard regarding Intergroup business and how it functions.

CONS:

1. Board room not big enough to hold all Intergroup Representatives. Where will we meet if the Board Room is not big enough?
2. Small groups may not be able to send an Intergroup Representative.
3. Assemblies will still allow GSR's to have a vote in lieu of an Intergroup Representative
4. Closer groups may have more of a sway with voting because it's easier for them to attend.

IF PASSED:

Currently Intergroup holds monthly Board meetings and for two of these generally May and December the Board meeting are replaced with an “Intergroup Assembly”. At Intergroup Board meetings each district/zone has the right to vote but not each group within the district/zone. However at an Intergroup Assembly each group has the right to vote in addition to the district representative.

If passed the voting under this motion would be based on one (1) representative from each group. It does not matter what the group or meeting calls the representative (Intergroup Representative, GSR etc). In addition the District/zone will still continue to have one vote each Intergroup meeting they attend. In other words each Intergroup Board meeting will function just as the Intergroup Assemblies function now.

HISTORY

Seattle Intergroup’s earliest records come from a ledger book containing the meeting minutes of the Central Committee (the future Greater Seattle Intergroup) from 1946 to 1950.

The purpose of the Central Committee is to act for the combined and associated groups, that their work is to plan constructively toward the betterment of AA and to unify the groups so that they could be more efficient in presenting AA to the public and to those who need help.

The basic decisions made in those early meetings have proven to be the foundation of the present Intergroup structure and policies.

In the March, 1950 meeting minutes it was stated that “Constructive suggestions and constructive criticisms are the order of business at the meetings. Is YOUR group conscience being properly represented at these meetings?”

By 1978 it was no longer possible to hold monthly meetings to which each group sent a representative. The groups decided to form zones and trust the operations to Zone Representatives who form the Intergroup Board.

By the end of 1985 there were 860 meetings listed with 70% of the meetings making regular contributions to Seattle Intergroup. By the early 2000’s growth had leveled at 1,350 meetings with only 36% making regular contributions. Group contributions steadily decline, literature sales steadily decline – trends tell us that contributions and sales are not going to increase on their own. It makes sense that getting more AA’s involved in Intergroup can only produce positive effects. Increased participation can only benefit Intergroup. Self-support means more than money, it also means that we do the work. The only way to not increase participation at Intergroup is to not try.

With the gradual breakdown of the Zone System over the last 5 years, inviting each group to send an Intergroup Representative directly to the monthly board meeting seems to be the obvious next step in order to ensure that Greater Seattle Intergroup is indeed representing the groups. Not just a select few AA's who already hold service positions at Intergroup.

INTERGROUP BYLAWS

Because Intergroup is a 501(c)(3) non profit in Washington State and with the IRS, Intergroup is required to have Bylaws, i.e. rules which it must follow.

As can be seen below in order to change Intergroup Bylaws, as this motion would do by changing the voting structure, Intergroup must present the motion to all the groups it serves and only if 2/3 of the votes that are received approve the motion will it pass.

Note this 2/3 is only for the groups that choose to vote and not 2/3 of all groups Intergroup serves (about 700 groups/meetings).

Italicized sections are excerpts from current GSIG Bylaws on changing a Bylaw. Note this change to the voting structure/process would be considered a change in the GSIG Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII – INTERGROUP BOARD MEETINGS

On issues involving “Right of Decision” all officers and each Zone representative shall have one vote. Right of Decision motions shall pass with a simple majority.

The following matters are automatically to be sent to the groups as a Group Conscience Question:

- *Amendments to the Bylaws*

Any other motions or matters of concern presented to the Board shall pass by a simple majority, unless one-third of the Zones represented and the officers voting deem it necessary to refer the motion to the groups as a Group Conscience Question.

Matters for group conscience will be finalized into a clear and concise Group Conscience Question:

- 1) After a Group Conscience Question is finalized, the Chairperson shall select two AA members to write a brief pro and con statement.*
- 2) The pro and con statements shall be presented at the next Board meeting for the Board approval.*
- 3) The finalized Group Conscience Question shall be printed in the following newsletter with the approved pro and con statements.*

A motion may be tabled only once and must be acted on within the next two Board meetings.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

Any AA member may propose an amendment to the Bylaws by the following process:

- 1) Take the proposed amendment to a group for a group conscience.*
- 2) If approved by the group it shall be presented to the Zone by that Group's representative.*
- 3) It must be submitted in writing by the Zone Representative at a regular monthly Board meeting.*

Upon approval of two-thirds of the Zone representatives present, the amendment will be referred to the groups for approval. A two-thirds majority of the groups casting votes is necessary to amend.

The amendment shall go into effect immediately upon its adoption unless the motion to adopt specifies a time otherwise.

Reports

Chair (Mike M.):

Mike here grateful to be serving AA as the Chair for your Greater Seattle Intergroup. My last quarterly report for WWA 72 included forecast financial results for Intergroup that was based upon certain assumptions including a) almost no literature sales, b) a 50% decrease in office staff payroll and c) a 50% reduction in Group contributions. Items a) and b) have occurred however the phenomenal news is contributions from Groups and individuals have increased dramatically.

For the month of April, we received about \$16k from Groups (a normal pre-Covid month was about \$10k) and from individuals we received about \$24k (a normal pre-Covid month was about \$1k). Our cash is now about \$9k over our prudent reserve. Although we believe that April contributions were more a onetime event, currently the projections for May appear that Groups contributions will exceed the normal monthly run rate of \$10k per month. Intergroup and I can't thank everyone enough for you continued financial support especially during these tough times.

In addition, we have continued to get support from volunteers, all phone shifts (24/7) are being answered and we even have a waiting list of people willing to step up and volunteer. The Intergroup office continues to be open for limited hours Wed and Sat from 10 am to 2 pm. In addition, we are now offering virtual office hours via Zoom on Wed 10 am to 2 pm, please dial and say hi.

Zoom AA meetings are still growing, I believe there are currently about 350 to 400 meetings being held each week and most of them are accessible via the Zoom updates on the Intergroup website. See our website for more information including security, online 7th tradition donations and other useful Zoom information.

In April, the Office Committee made the decision to have Intergroup apply for a government payroll protection loan and our application was accepted and the funds were received on May 7th. This was done in the essence of time to provide Intergroup options. At our May 19th Board meeting the Board will discuss and vote on whether we should keep and use the loan or just

repay it in full. We will also vote on whether to apply for loan forgiveness under government program. Regardless, none of the funds will be retained by Intergroup they will be paid to employees for payroll, the landlord for rent or repaid to the government. We will be holding our Intergroup Assembly on Jun 16 at 7 pm and one of the items to vote on will be a motion proposed by a group that

“All groups may send an Intergroup Representative directly to the Board meeting with complete voting privileges at all Board meetings.”.

As a reminder at Intergroup bi-annual Assemblies each Group is already allowed to vote under our current Bylaws so please come the more the merrier.

I have also started to reach out to all the other Intergroup and Central Service Offices in western WA to try to better coordinate our efforts which I believe is even more important now during the pandemic.

Our current Office Manager, Dennis E, has turned in his resignation as he will be moving out of state. His final date is likely at the end of May, he is helping to make the transition smooth. The Office Committee is still in the process of assessing next steps.

Thanks again for all of your support
Yours in service,
Mike M, Seattle Intergroup Chair

Vice Chair (Astri T.):

Hello all, and thank you for your continued service during this challenging time.

Since our last Board meeting I have been attending meetings via Zoom to maintain my recovery and social contact, much the same as most of you, I imagine. The Service Manual Study, which used to meet at GSIG on the first Sunday of every month at 11:00AM, is continuing the study via Zoom as well. We start Concept 1 on June 6th. There have not been a lot of invitations to attend groups or districts lately, but I did get to share and answer questions about Intergroup at Dawn Patrol on May 9th, also via Zoom. I appreciated the opportunity and enjoyed spending time with the group (even though they meet at 7:00AM!). I've also been attending GSIG Office Committee weekly, 20/20 Committee monthly and fulfilling my monthly Nightwatch phone shift commitment. GSIG Special Events Committee has scheduled to begin regular meetings, I look forward to participating there as well.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Yours
Astri

Chair Emeritus (Dawna H.):

Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Allison B.):

Quick look at April financials (rounded to thousands):

Group Contributions: \$16K (up \$6K to budget!)

Other Contributions: \$24K (up \$23K budget!!!!)

Retail Sales: \$1K (\$9K under budget)

Expenses: \$14K (\$1K under budget)

Net Income: \$27K

Cash and CDs: \$61K

Earmarked Funds: \$6K

Corrections: \$5K

Accessibility: \$1K

Non-restricted cash: \$55K (GSIG prudent reserve: \$46K)

Summary

-Again, of course literature sales are way down do to COVID. Our cost of goods sold is also down, though, since we haven't ordered new literature to speak of from AAWS.

-During April, the groups and individuals showed up to support GSIG. Because of you, we are able to continue to keep phones open, hold virtual office hours, and keep our office ready for when we are able to get back to a more normal schedule there.

-GSIG continues to be supported during May. So far in May, the groups have already contributed \$10K (already at budget!), and individuals have contributed \$4K.

-During a normal month, we need about \$15K of income to cover fixed costs. This is budgeted to come from groups (\$10+K), individuals (\$1+K), and literature sales (\$3K). So although we aren't selling very much literature right now, the groups and individuals are still overcoming that deficit in their contributions, which can allow intergroup to cover fixed costs.

GSIG APRIL 2020 CONDENSED FINANCIAL REPORT

CONDENSED PROFIT & LOSS

Ordinary Income/Expense	APRIL 30, 2020	APRIL - Budget	YTD APRIL - 2020	YTD Budget	Jan-Dec 2019
Income					
Total Retail Sales	918	10,224	24,538	40,897	111,268
Total COGS	769	6,928	20,129	27,712	78,625
Gross Profit from Retail Sales	149	3,296	4,409	13,185	32,643
Gross Profit %	16.2%	32.2%	18.0%	32.2%	29.3%
 Group Contributions	 15,912	 9,868	 47,168	 39,474	 106,652
Personal and Other Contributions	23,839	948	32,531	3,793	12,523
Meeting Room Rent; Birthday Club	741	649	2,834	2,597	6,748
Special Events Income	3	464	153	1,854	4,580
Total Items to Cover Fixed Expenses	40,644	15,226	87,095	60,903	163,145
 Expense s					
Expenses--Other	1,842	459	4,874	1,835	15,942
Paid Staff	3,930	7,343	25,126	29,374	95,570
Rent and Office	8,193	6,451	29,359	25,804	81,572
Standing Committees		795	451	3,180	6,611
Travel and Meetings					
Total Fixed Expenses	13,965	15,048	59,810	60,192	199,695
 Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	 26,679	 178	 27,285	 711	 (36,550)
Net Other Income, Chiefly Interest Income		33	(131)	133	256

Net Income (Loss)	26,679	211	27,007	845	(36,294)
	(0)	(0)	-	(0)	

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET

	APRIL 30, 2020	MARCH, 2020	DEC 31, 2019
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking	30,862	21,700	8,183
CD's--Prudent Reserve *	30,351	30,351	40,482
Accounts Receivable	774	1,806	
Inventory and Other	36,780	37,531	32,989
Total Current Assets	98,768	91,389	81,654
Total Fixed Assets	2,484	2,484	2,484
TOTAL ASSETS	101,252	93,873	84,138
* Per bylaws, prudent reserve is calculated to be 3x average monthly expenses, approx. \$46,000.			
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	2,564	19,508	11,235
Payroll & Sales Tax Liabilities	2,951	3,231	1,905
Committee Earmarked Funds Total	6,171	8,247	8,439
Total Liabilities	11,686	30,986	21,579
Equity			
3001 · Opening Bal Equity	694	694	694
3101 · Retained Earnings	61,865	61,865	98,158
Net Income	27,007	328	(36,293)
Total Equity	89,566	62,887	62,559
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	101,252	93,873	84,138

Standing Committee Earmarked Funds (Pink Can, Blue Can, etc.)					
YTD APRIL 30, 2020					
Committee	Corrections	Hospital & Treatment	Accessibility	PI / CPC	Total Earmarked Funds
Beginning Balance 1/1/20	\$4,508	\$0	\$3,931	\$0	\$8,439
YTD Contributions	\$1,454	\$0	\$642	\$0	\$2,096
YTD Use of Funds	(\$923)	\$0	(\$3,440)		(\$4,364)
Ending Balance	\$5,038	\$0	\$1,133	\$0	\$6,171
Check	\$0 -		\$0 -		\$0
Greater Seattle Intergroup					
Standing Committee Expenditures Against Budgets					
YTD APRIL 30, 2020					
Committee	Corrections	Hospital & Treatment	Accessibility	PI / CPC	Total Expenses
Expenses to Date	\$54	\$0	\$60	\$151	\$265
Budget to Date	\$120	\$600	\$500	\$600	\$1,820
Budget -- Full Year	\$360	\$1,800	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$5,460

Recording Secretary (Aaron C.):

We will vote to approve minutes at the next board meeting

Please use the below to submit your reports. Alternatively send them directly to secretary@seattleaa.org.

<https://www.seattleaa.org/intergroup/intergroup-board/intergroup-board-report-form>



With love and gratitude,
Aaron C.

Accessibility (Laurel W.)

I'm representing the Accessibility committee, I'm the Interpreter coordinator for scheduling interpreters for AA meetings in Seattle Area. Last week, Lara, our Assistant manager informed me that the ASL funds for costs of interpreters was depleted. I contacted District 41 and attended District 17. I also contacted Portland Deaf Access Committee AA and in a few days, Higher Powered donations were pledged. Thanks to the two Districts and PDAC. IF you are unfamiliar with PDAC, this is an ASL resource for AA, and not an outside donation. Google Portland Deaf Access Committee and see what wonderful service they provide AA in carrying the message. pdacaa.org My hope is that someday we can have a standing committee just like Portland has!

Donations:

Portland Deaf Access committee recently voted to send in \$2400.00 to Seattle Intergroup Accessibility (ASL blue can). For information and resources, you can visit their website.

District 17 motioned to contribute \$490.00; District 41 contributed \$500.00. Currently our monthly interpreter expenses average \$1500 a month.

With Zoom meetings, we've had Deaf alcoholics join our meetings, from all over the country. Through a private Deaf Alcoholics Anonymous FB group, we've been able to share our Zoom meetings. Many say they're able to do "90 meetings in 90 days" for the first time ever, (including myself and I've been in AA for 33 years). Most report that they don't have interpreted ASL meetings in their home town, or if they do, it might be a speaker meeting once a month. It's great that Seattle is carrying the message to Deaf alcoholics all over the USA!

We will continue to need donations on a steady basis. Please contact groups, Districts that a small monthly contribution to the (blue can" online or a check with ASL In memo. When we return to our meeting rooms, some of our groups will not be able to pay for interpreters. This is where ASL from Accessibility committee can help.

Gratefully yours, Laurel W.
Interpreter coordinator, GSIG Accessibility Committee

Archives Committee (Teresa S.):

Attended May Area 72 Archives Quarterly on Zoom. Presenter gave Power Point presentation of AA history and spoke of an interesting book entitled Writing the Big Book (copyright 2019) which I was able to acquire for personal perusal on Kindle. Working from home, removing staples from surplus "old" Grapevines and replacing with cotton thread.

Corrections Committee (Tammi B.)

Nothing to report.

CPC/PI Committee (Jennifer S.)

I hope our report finds you safe and well! The PI/CPC Committee had their monthly meeting last Saturday, May 16th via Zoom. We are in the early planning stages of a panel for clergy in the Greater Seattle area. Some of our members will be participating in a clergy panel this week in District 11 to see how it is done on Zoom. One of our committee members is also a member of the clergy and they have offered to assist in contacting clergy with information once we have a date set. If you are interested in getting involved with a panel please contact me for more information at outreach@seattleaa.org . We discussed possible panels for Healthcare and Mental Health professionals as well. We also discussed an idea from Area regarding running bus ads. Suggested to reach out to District 41 and Eastside Intergroup regarding their experience with this in the past.

David D (D15/Empire Way) gave a report to the committee on the Area 72 Quarterly which was held on Saturday, May 9th via Zoom:

Our Area Webmaster Eddy M gave a presentation regarding using Zoom and other online platforms for meetings for PI/CPC work.

General Service Conference Agenda Items:

CPC Agenda Items:

- A) Consider a request to discontinue the pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community."
- D) Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

PI Agenda Items:

- I) Discuss a request "to create a new form of communication" to address anonymity on social media.
- L) Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

Upcoming PI/CPC Area Quarterlies

- Saturday, August 8 – Federal Way
- November 14th - Pierce County

I would like to invite you all to our monthly meeting the 3rd Saturday of every month at 10:00am. All are welcome! Please email outreach@seattleaa.org for information and a Zoom invite. Feel free to share that information in your Home Groups or with any AA who is interested in Public Information or Cooperation With the Professional Community.

Thank you,

Jennifer

Newsletter (John P.):

Nothing to report.

Hospitals & Treatment Committee (Erin G.):

Nothing to report.

Office Committee (Richard I.):

Topics discussed during the meeting:

1. Financial status- There were an unusual large amount of contributions from individuals and groups. The office is largely closed due to the Covid 19 shutdown so people really stepped up to offset revenue declines.

2. the govt payroll loan program was discussed. Timing of the application for funding resulted in receipt of loan proceeds during May. We will discuss whether or not to keep the funds and whether or not to repay them at the Board meeting.

3. We got an update from Mike on how the search is going for an outsourced bookkeeping service is going. We have 2 good possibilities in mind. Mike and Lara will do some further research and pick one of the two.

4. We will be continuing the planning for transition of staff as Dennis makes arrangements to leave his current employment.

Office Manager (Dennis E.):

Office Manager Report to
The Board of Directors
APRIL 21, 2020

I am pleased to submit this Office Manager Report for March – 2020.

With regard to the COVID-19 Virus situation, we have continued to make every effort to keep the office open for the fellowship. Based on the progression of developments regarding the status of the virus and with an abundance of caution, we have limited the office hours to: 10 AM to 2 PM Wednesday and Saturday, and have been allowing a limited number of volunteers to help out during these open hours (while adhering to the most current governmental social distancing criteria). Please check with Lara for service work availability.

Regarding Service Work and Night Watch Phone Shifts:

Night Watch, Pete K. Chair, continues to be very well organized and an extremely valuable lifeline for new comers and the fellowship. Night Watch service position availability can change daily, please contact Lara or Pete below and they can help you with positions that are currently available for service work:

1. For phone shifts from 10 am to 6 pm, “Monday through Friday only”, please contact Lara 206.587.2838 to arrange to have the office phones transferred to your cell until we can again open the office.

2. For phone shifts from 6 pm to 10 am 7 days a week please contact Pete K. at 360.477.8045 direct or at nightwatch@seattleaa.org, if you are interested in signing up for a four hour shift. Please let your GSR's and Intergroup Reps know that there are “phone service opportunities” currently available.

We are very grateful to the generous individuals and groups that have continued to make contributions during these troubled times; they are really helping Intergroup to continue to provide needed services. Also, we have implemented several cost cutting

changes such as, putting a hold on additional literature purchases, reducing salaries, reducing the hours that the office is open, as well as other prudent monetary adjustments to conserve funds.

Thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to getting back to normal here in the near term.

Sincerely,
Dennis E.

Assistant Office Manager (Lara R.):

Assistant Office Manager report April 2020

Wow. This is truly an amazing time that we are experiencing. I am absolutely amazed and humbled with gratitude at the awesomeness of our fellowship. Beginning with our Web and Tech Committee, which, until recently, was a dedicated Committee of One. A huge thank you goes out to Lee R who has worked tirelessly on our website to keep the meetings updated and stay ahead of the various and incessant group requests. I helped where I could but Lee has taken the bulk of this work and I am forever grateful to him.

The financial outlook was fairly bleak just a month ago. After the Chairman's report at our Area Business Quarterly, and even before then, our groups and individual members have really stepped up to show their support for Greater Seattle Intergroup. I have been brought to tears almost every day when I come into work and find a pile of envelopes on my desk with contributions. From the individual giving \$5.00 to the groups and individuals that have given larger sums. GSIG is forever grateful for your generosity.

We are grateful for our weekly volunteers and our monthly groups that have offered to have the phones forwarded to their homes during this crisis.

The limited Office Hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10-2, have proven to be a real place for grounding and to remember that we have no idea how many people we are helping through our work at Greater Seattle Intergroup. Our web reaches far and wide and often beyond our service area as we frequently receive calls from areas where the local areas do not offer 24 hour phone help. Thank you Nightwatch for everything you do all of the time, but especially during this time. There have been frequent times when our volunteers would experience 30 calls per 4 hour shift. Unprecedented, to be sure. Things seem to have calmed down somewhat, however the calls we are now getting are not about zoom related issues, they are of the more serious calls, calls of people truly desperate for help. Here, again, we have an amazing fellowship. Our people do not hesitate to step up to be of service to the still suffering alcoholic. You all are truly the greatest people in the world. We know that if we do not give it away we surely cannot keep it. A precedent that gave birth to our amazing program. That

principle is still keeping our life line flowing. That, truly, is the most important service that Greater Seattle Intergroup provides. Thank you.

Beginning Wednesday April 22nd, I will be offering virtual office hours from 10am to 12pm. I will have a zoom room open for folks to “drop by” and just say hello, make contributions, and order literature either for curbside pick up or for delivery. The zoom information is here:

<https://zoom.us/j/99310489822?pwd=ck00UHFuR0lYTUpENnQxSkVKYjhlZz09>

For manual entry the information is: Meeting ID 993-1048-9822 Password 690253

I would love to “see” you all.

If you have any questions and/or concerns please email me. I will always do my best to address any issues that you might have.

Yours in service,
Lara R

Night Watch Coordinator (Pete K.):

Nothing to report.

Special Events Committee (Allan C.):

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee (Jeff U.):

GSIG Finance Committee Minutes – May 17, 2020, 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Attending: Committee Chair Jeff U, GSIG Treasurer Allison B, Carl G and Pete K

- Continued discussion of ways to get GSIG Sustainer's program information out to the membership. Continuing to work with Web and Tech to create a dedicated Sustainer's program page, and promote from the front page of the GSIG site. Asked GSIG Committee Members, and Board members, to individually speak other fellowship members about the Sustainer's Program through phone calls or other contacts. Once the Sustainer program information is on the website we'll ask GSIG group representatives to make announcements in Zoom meetings

- Discussed April financials with note that groups gave 15k and individuals responded to GSIG need by providing 23k.

- Discussion about physical inventory at the end of June Carl will put our draft procedure for how to do the count. Jeff will – explore – with Lara particulars of should we do this.

Web & Technology Committee (Open):

Nothing to report.

Third Legacy (James R.):

Nothing to report.

District 32 (Matt H.)

D15 Operating above prudent reserve. DCM has 3 missed obligations and has been removed from position. Alt DCM Nic was elected to presided over remaining term. Reported by Zone 132 rep Matt H. GSIG Liaison

District 41 (Laura C.)

Group voted to contract monthly with zoom
Seth G. was elected alternate DCM
Hollis elected Secretary
Dan G has accepted a web/technology position
Open positions for Corrections, Treasurer, Literature, Accessibility, Archives
Discussed ideas to facilitate group and Intergroup contributions with virtual meetings and ideas to increase Intergroup support.

District 42 (Mikey C.)

Greetings from District 42

I am proud to submit my report from area 42 yes north of Seattle zone 142 Shoreline.

We have our district meeting every 2nd Thursday and was a very successful. Our DCM Julie A. has been guiding us in a positive direction and keeping the groups on track. It is difficult to pass on all information coming from both directions of the chain but we remain positive and still eager to improve ways on getting the message to the

next suffering alcoholic. It also seems a lot of events, pre-planned activities have stalled and moving conferences to zoom is the way to go. Many groups have been able to utilize the "zoom" platform and devise ways to continue to support the area, district and even the GSIG intergroup. With that being said we had Richard I "GSIG" treasurer, speak on behalf of the intergroup and discuss the state of intergroup and a little about the motion coming up. Unfortunately we were unable to discuss the acceptance of funding (PPP) because that would taken us into the next day.

What a way to get the message out and had a great discussion about how the zone reps were evolved. (for me)

It was also noted that Fremont Fellowship has decided to close it doors and move on. All of the contents have been put in storage and they are actively looking for a new location when all this blows over.
Remember Fremont is the ER of AA and will return!!!

All of the north-end meetings are awaiting the go ahead from king county to hold live meetings. But we are holding because of the rules that have been implemented.

Next GSIG Board meeting: June 16th, 2020 at 7 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 918 5437 5402
Password: 035194

Did Intergroup Violate AA's 7th Tradition? A member's walk through contempt prior to investigation

By Shannon R

My reason for writing today is to tell you about my journey through contempt prior to investigation as that principle applies to the Greater Seattle Intergroup (GSIG) board's recent decision to accept the US Government's [PPP](#) loan and to accept forgiveness rather than committing to pay it back, should that option be available.

I've been a sober member of this fellowship since 1984. I've lived in the Seattle area since 1990. I have a home group where I have a service commitment. I have a sponsor who has a sponsor and I sponsor others.

When I first heard about this situation, I immediately thought, "this is a violation of AA's 7th Tradition and we should stay away from it."

I've learned a lot since then.

The rest of this document talks about what I have learned, the different Traditions that have factored into my current thinking, and the conflicts and concerns that I continue to struggle with. First I'll share about what I've learned.

According to the Small Business Administration, the division of the United States federal government that is implementing the [Paycheck Protection Plan](#), or PPP is described as:

"The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities."

What did GSIG decide?

The GSIG board decided to accept \$18,179 and apply that money to the lost wages of GSIG's two employees who have experienced reduced hours since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, in compliance with the PPP's guidelines.

How are PPP funds used?

PPP funds are passed through from the federal government to GSIG employees. The breakdown of funds, in accordance with PPP guidelines is estimated to be \$18,179 (100%) which is equal to \$14,544 (2 months payroll at \$7,272 plus \$4,545 (25% X \$18,179 for rent and utilities). If it weren't for the PPP program, GSIG would have only paid employees the reduced wages described elsewhere in this document - approximately 30% of their normal wages.

Why does GSIG need this money? Didn't they have the biggest monthly contributions in history in April?

April 2020 contributions from groups and individuals resulted in the largest single contribution in GSIG's history. I don't know what the exact amount was. But according to the [May High & Dry](#), as of March 31, GSIG's net loss was **-\$36,293** for the year and GSIG has already pulled \$3,000 out of their prudent reserve. Additionally, while it may be possible, I have a hard time imagining that area groups would approve a vote to pay hourly GSIG employees above and beyond the hours they work. In these unprecedented times, I admire GSIG's commitment to their employees and pursuing this loan in the face of what I expect will be a lot of anger.

How many "special workers" does Intergroup employ?

GSIG has 2 part-time employees - one had been working 30 hours per week and one at 24. Since COVID-19, those employees have been reduced to about 15 and 10 hrs/wk respectively. To those of us who work at paying jobs, we can either imagine or we know first hand what that kind of drop in income means. If it weren't for PPP, GSIG had no plans to pay employees beyond these reduced hours.

How is a group's conscience represented at Intergroup?

It is more complicated than I wish it was. I'll try to explain. The [GSIG board](#) leadership (chair, assistant chair, secretary, treasurer) is made up of trusted servants who are elected by Intergroup Zone Representatives (aka Zone Reps) who are voting members of the GSIG board and are elected by Intergroup Reps of the individual AA groups in the greater Seattle area (those groups that participate in this level of service, at least). In some cases, the role of Intergroup Rep is combined with an AA group's General Service Rep (GSR). These representatives attend monthly [Zone meetings](#) where Intergroup Reps discuss topics that are of interest to individual groups. Zone Reps take the outcome of those

decisions (the collective group conscience of the individual groups) and represent those perspectives at Intergroup board meetings. In short: Group Conscience > Intergroup Rep / GSR > Zone Rep = 1 GSIG Board vote. To learn more about Western Washington GSO, also known as Area 72, click [here](#).

How are decisions made at Intergroup?

Normally, in short: Group Conscience > Intergroup Rep / GSR > Zone Rep = 1 GSIG Board vote. Ultimately, the [GSIG board](#) is bound to uphold GSIG's bylaws. Decisions that require a vote are usually handled during the spring and fall quarterly meetings where attendance by Intergroup Reps and any AA members is especially encouraged. The board will hold special votes when timely decisions are needed. The case of the PPP loan is one of those.

Who do Intergroup employees report to?

Intergroup employees report to the GSIG Board. As an employer, the Board has an obligation to be a good employer. In the case of the PPP loan forgiveness program, the Board acted in the best interest of GSIG employees in an effort to reduce the impact of the reduction in pay caused by COVID-19.

What about unemployment? Couldn't GSIG employees file for unemployment?

GSIG employees did not qualify for unemployment because they were not laid off or furloughed. Instead, they were kept on the payroll at reduced hours.

What about the importance of Unity?

The GSIG board needed to act quickly. There were time limits for applying for the PPP loan and, once approved, for deciding to keep it. While I wish there had been more time to get input from groups, I realize there were time limits and, in this case, the board was acting as an employer, which is part of their responsibility. We elected them to make those decisions.

What now?

GSIG needs to comply with the requirements of the PPP. I'm looking to the finance and office committees and the board chair to ensure the money is used in line with program requirements and that funds are properly accounted for. I believe the right structures are in place to

cover this and we have some talented people in the positions needed to see this through. GSIG's monthly financial reports are published in the [High & Dry](#).

What can we do as individual members?

Share this story. Verify it first to your own satisfaction. Once you are satisfied, share at the meetings you attend about what is going on and invite discussion. If new questions come up that aren't answered here, take them to Intergroup either directly or through your group's Intergroup Rep. If your group doesn't have an Intergroup Rep, elect one, be one. GSIG is stronger when more groups are represented. If you don't already subscribe to the High & Dry, sign up. Every month, the High & Dry contains the latest Intergroup-related news and budget status. You can see past issues and [subscribe here](#).

What about Tradition One?

I first applied the 1st Tradition in this situation to the GSIG Board as an expectation that they should have voted in the spirit of unity for the groups of greater Seattle. Today I'm thinking, especially since the Board is made up of trusted servants who are the employer of GSIG employees, that Seattle area groups need to stand unified behind the Board who collectively made a courageous decision to stand by their employees. While I wish more time had been available to discuss and handle through normal processes, I am grateful for their commitment to their (our) employees. Going forward, I expect they will continue to do right by area groups by properly accounting for and complying with PPP requirements.

What about Tradition Two?

I believe that a loving God would want us to do right by GSIG employees. Taking action to reduce the financial impact of COVID-19 on employees is what I would hope our trusted servants, the Board, would do.

What about Tradition Seven?

In the case of PPP, I do not see a conflict. GSIG is not seeking outside contributions in ways that would later place AA in a position to be beholden to an outside organization or person. Intergroup, as an employer, is seeking to lessen the financial burden of a global pandemic on their employees.

What about Tradition Eight?

GSIG operates on two special workers, an office manager and an assistant manager - both part-time employees. The rest of the GSIG organization operates on voluntary efforts of AA members (trusted servants).

What about Tradition Nine?

The GSIG board remains directly responsible to those they serve. I view their role as serving no less than three different entities. They are responsible for the groups in greater Seattle. They serve the employees of GSIG. They serve the alcoholic in need who reaches out to AA in person, via the internet, over the phone, or by way of one of the many committees that GSIG supports. We, groups and members, empower the GSIG board to make decisions on our behalf. The PPP program is one of them.

What about Tradition Twelve?

It is easier to blame people for decisions I don't (think I) agree with than it is to look into the principles that play a part in the decision making process. I am grateful that the GSIG board chose to take on this challenging topic - the PPP program - out of a commitment to GSIG employees. I'm trusting in the loving group conscience of area groups to look more deeply into a topic that, on the surface may appear to be black and white, to consider the board's position of making the best decision in support of their employees knowing that they are likely to feel a lot of "blowback" from the groups they are entrusted to serve.

Who are you to talk about this topic?

First and most importantly, I'm a member of the fellowship. I also believe strongly in the value that GSIG brings to groups in the greater Seattle area. I have been involved in GSIG during a time that brought out the best of our fellowship and saw what happens when groups get involved. I also wanted to share the process I have gone through between the time I first heard about the PPP loan and formed my initial opinion that it conflicted with our 7th Tradition and how I think about the situation today, having applied some of the tools of our program. I am not an expert on this topic. I encourage you to do your own research, ask your own questions, and come to your own conclusions.

My first involvement with GSIG began around 2012 when I was asked by the incoming Intergroup board chair if I would lead a strategic

planning exercise. GSIG was facing deep financial challenges after multiple years of operating a negative budget. It was a crisis.

I was so impressed as we began the planning process by the dedicated members who dug deep into the problems of the day, searching for underlying causes and conditions, and putting plans in place that would do more than just get GSIG out of the current hole but would also set a foundation for ongoing health.

One of the downsides of our principle of rotation is that it only takes a few cycles before the people who had been involved during a crisis are no longer involved and the lessons that were learned are lost on the incoming trusted servants. But that is a story for another day.



**Chair Report to
The Board of Directors
May 2020**

Mike here grateful to be serving as your Chair for your Greater Seattle Intergroup (GSIG). The purpose of this report is to summarize in one place the procedures that were followed by GSIG with respect to the decision made by the Groups in voting to accept the government payroll protection program (PPP) loan.

To incentivize employers to maintain payroll during the Covid crisis, the SBA is providing 100% federally backed loans for certain payroll expenses with up to eight weeks of forgiveness for small businesses and nonprofits that employ less 500 employees. The loans are forgivable if employers retain employees at comparable salary levels prior to the crisis. In addition, 25% of the loan may be used and forgiven if it is paid for landlord rent and or utilities. If the loan is not forgiven it must be repaid within 2 years and accrues interest of 1% annually and there is no prepayment penalty.

In April 2020, the Office Committee (OC) began discussing the PPP loan. The OC made the decision to apply for the PPP loan in April in the essence of time so as not to lose the possibility of completing an application.

- We announced at April Board meeting that we had applied for a PPP loan and that we needed to make the decision at the May Board meeting about whether to return the funds if received or apply forgiveness.
- The reason a decision needs to be made so quickly is that to be eligible for forgiveness the funds must be used for payroll or landlord costs within 8 weeks (56 days) from receipt.
- The OC contacted GSO and another Intergroup office about the PPP loan concept and received guidance to consider during our evaluation
- We published an announcement in the OC report in the April Intergroup newsletter and in the WWA72 newsletter.
- Our application was accepted, and we received the PPP loan funds (\$18,179) on May 7, 2020
- Prior to the May 19, 2020, Board meeting the Office Committee voted to recommend applying for loan forgiveness
- A pros and cons statement along with additional background was prepared and distributed to the Board roster on May 11, 2020
- I expressed willingness to talk to anyone about this prior to Board meeting and attended a few Group business meetings
- At the May 19 Board meeting we explained the Intergroup voting procedure and reiterated why we needed to vote at the May Board meeting

- In addition, we discussed the April 2020 GSIG financials including the what May 2020 contributions looked like and were forecasted for the month
- As discussion was held prior to voting that lasted over 1 hour during which all parties that attended and wanted to share as members, groups or district representatives were allowed the time to share
- Voters were presented with 3 options
 - A. use the money to pay employees and landlord and apply for loan forgiveness
 - B. not use the loan and pay it back now to the government
 - C. use the money and pay the loan back in full

The following table summarizes the voting

	Voting Party	Vote
N/A	112 A New Beginning	Not present
1	14/114 District	Abstained
2	15/115 District	Option B
3	16/116 District	Option A
4	17/117 District	Option A
N/A	18/118 District	Not present
5	24/124 District	Option A
6	31/131 District	Option B
7	32/132 District	Abstained
8	40/140 District	Option A
9	41/141 District	Option A
10	42/142 District	Option A
11	Chair	Option A
12	Vice-Chair	Option A
13	Treasurer	Option B
14	Secretary	Option B

- Based on the above there were 14 eligible votes and 12 of these voted and 2 abstained. Based on the vote Option A applying for loan forgiveness was approved by approximately 67% of the voting parties.
- We then heard minority opinions and based on these no one changed their vote.

Yours in service, Mike M., Chair

The High & Dry

Editor: Peeps

Contributors: All of YOU

Mailing Team: Irreplaceable Volunteers

The High & Dry is published monthly by an all-volunteer staff at the Greater Seattle Intergroup Office, 5507 6th Avenue South, Seattle WA 98108 (Phone: 206-587-2838) www.seattleaa.org.

Do you have something you would like to submit to The High & Dry newsletter?

We would love to see your event flyers, letters, stories, photos, drawings, poetry, interviews, and whatever else you would like to share with other members in and around Seattle. Send to: high_and_dry@SeattleAA.org

H&D deadline is the 25th of each month.