



PASS IT ON

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERGROUP SOCIETY OF NANAIMO

July & August 2017

“When I focus on what’s good today...

I have a good day. When I focus on what’s bad, I have a bad day. If I focus on the problem, the problem increases. If I focus on the answer, the answer increases.”

-Big Book page 419

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to get involved in service?

Intergroup needs individuals to fill the following positions:

- ❖ **Vice Chair**
- ❖ **Secretary**
- ❖ **Newsletter Chair**
- ❖ **Member at large**

Please contact Corinne at Central Office, or Theresa at 250.667.4782 or theresaodat@shaw.ca for more information, or attend the next Intergroup meeting on Sunday, September 10th at 1:30pm at St. Pauls Anglican church, 101 Chapel St.

Read the Pass it On Newsletter at NanaimoAA.org

EVENTS

CAMPBELL RIVER RALLY
AUGUST 4TH-6TH

SALTSPRING ISLAND RALLY
AUGUST 18TH-20TH

AREA 79 QUARTERLY
JULY 14TH-16TH
LANGLEY, BC

INTERGROUP MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
1:30PM 101 CHAPEL ST.

INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE NANAIMO

212—285 Prideaux St.
250.753.7513
Email: Nanaimoaa@shaw.ca

Monday to Friday:
9:00am-5:00pm

www.NanaimoAA.org

What is Intergroup?

Mid-Island Intergroup is a registered nonprofit organization and is responsible for the operation of the Intergroup/Central office located in Nanaimo.

An **Intergroup/Central office** is an AA service office committee that involves partnership among groups in a community—just as AA groups are partnerships of individuals.

The office exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Intergroup Meetings

Intergroup meets on the second Sunday of each month, with the exception of July and August.

If you are the **Intergroup Representative** for your home group, please ensure that you, or your alternate, attend the general meetings of the *Mid-Island Intergroup Society*.

Meetings are held 100 Chapel Street in downtown Nanaimo.

Pass It On is the newsletter of the *Mid-Island Intergroup Society*. The content of the newsletter is for information only and does not imply endorsement.

Service work

Our Intergroup has many service opportunities. You can find out more about them by attending Intergroup meetings, speaking with your home group's Intergroup Rep, or by contacting central office. Some of our service positions are posted in the Pass It On newsletter.



INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT

May & June 2017

We have been having some issues with keeping the parking lot entry door unlocked while we are in operation. So, there were several days where volunteers would get locked out when they went out for a quick puff or getting locked out of the washrooms. Members coming to purchase items from the office would not have access since the doors were being locked earlier by other tenants in the building to keep their area secure. As most know, the 7/10 club meets every day for breakfast and that can often times be chaotic and feel threatening to other tenants and users of the building. We did meet with 4 of the City staff, who manage the buildings, 2 officers, and 11 tenants. There was a great deal of discussion and we resolved most of the issues. The city and tenants come to an agreement of delegated responsibility for everyone. However, the door was locked again a few days after the meeting. **Please, call the office when you find the door locked so we can come out and let you in.** It's a work in progress. ☺

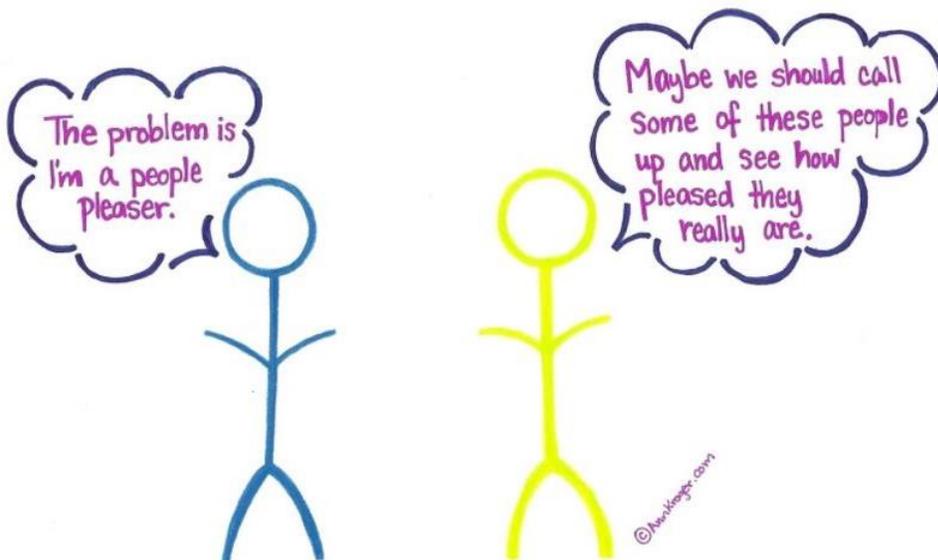
Love & Service, Corinne

Office numbers for May & June:

Month Totals	Drop ins	Calls for info	Emails	12-step calls	Referrals
Totals May	129	65	152	6	10
Totals June	124	49	189	2	6

Office numbers for May 2016-May 2017

May 2016-2017	Drop ins	Calls for info	Emails	12-step calls	Referrals
Totals	1213	630	729	50	12



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE AGNOSTICS

New Meeting: Monday 7pm-8pm
285 Prideaux; open, wheelchair accessible,
no prayers

AUGUST 25-27, 2017
MUSQUEAM 1ST
INTERTRIBAL A.A. ROUND-UP

**MUSQUEAM COMMUNITY
CENTER**

6777 Salish Drive
Vancouver, BC

Contacts:

Andrea (778) 683-6182

John (604) 499-4276

FOR NANAIMO EVENT INFORMATION VISIT: www.NanaimoAA.org/events

**FOR BC EVENT INFORMATION, INCLUDING RALLYS, QUARTERLIES &
SPECIAL EVENTS VISIT: www.bcyukonaa.org**



**RALLYS & CAMPOUTS THIS SUMMER INCLUDE:
CHILLIWACK, KELOWNA, SALT SPRING ISLAND, CAMPBELL RIVER,
POWELL RIVER, BUTTLE LAKE, SMITHERS, & BLACK CREEK**

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

AA is Kind of Like the Mafia...But Not Really

By: Graeme O.

Growing up I got excited when my dad rented gangster movies like Goodfellas, Mean Streets, Casino, or the Godfather. I loved all of them. Apart from the initial appeal of the sex, drugs and rock n' roll in Scorsese's work, I felt envious of the camaraderie and exclusivity of the fictional communities on screen. I appreciated how their outlaw lifestyles created familial bonds and loyalty like I had never experienced apart from the bond I had with my immediate family. However, in the third act of all those types of films they inevitably start killing one another off, which for a kid like me, was where the fun would end.

Having been around AA for over 7 years now I've come to see the fellowship as something very much like the elaborate crime syndicates I grew up watching in the movies with a few important distinctions. First of all, you don't have to be of a certain ethnicity or some sort of outlaw to join AA. All you have to do is have a troubled past, show up at meetings, and become a member. In AA, you're not shown the door with a double-tap gunshot wound to the head in a secluded area, you leave the gang in a couple of different ways.

- 1) You choose to drink and you don't make it back.
- 2) You decide you don't need to come anymore.

For an alcoholic like me both of those decisions are the equivalent to that dreadful long ride in the trunk of a luxury sedan I saw so many times in those movies.

The most important similarity I feel between the wise guys of the movies and the fellowship of AA is that we take care of each other. All you have to do in AA is join and participate in a home group and suddenly, you're a Made Guy (or girl). What AA has given me over the past few years trying (and sometimes failing) to stop drinking, has been a community of people who care about one another. It has given me real friends that bring meaning to my life.

When I really started to embrace the fellowship of AA, I found that the rooms were filled with people that really wanted to be helpful to me as a newcomer and a fellow alcoholic. People of all ages and backgrounds wanted to be my friend. I found that all I needed to do was ask for help and once I overcame that fear, things miraculously happened for me. I find it miraculous, because I really needed a lot of help. I was destitute with no home, job, friends, or nearby family. People in AA were more than happy to help me with these things. When I confided in them, program friends helped me find jobs, places to live that were safe, and they were always there to pick me up when I stumbled. More importantly, the fellowship was there to help me with the stuff that can't be quantified practically - my feelings and my fears. I have survived because my friends in recovery have listened to my feelings, shared their fears with me, empathized with me, and given me suggestions based on their own experiences. I have had the opportunity to do the same for others. This has happened in step groups, watching ball games, enjoying dinners out, on the golf course, smoking cigarettes outside a meeting, or over the phone. There is nowhere that I don't talk about recovery and the challenges of life with my friends. That friendship, honesty, and trust has kept me alive and coming out of my first year of sobriety, it helps me to grow as a person. I wouldn't give up the friendships I have gained in AA for anything and I will never stop passing along the message that the fellowship not only saved my life, but made it more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined.

If anyone is still reading this I do concede that the mafia is a really bad analogy for AA, yeah. But, AA has helped me find the sense of community and belonging that I looked for in all the wrong places since I was a kid and passing that along is our culture with just as much stubborn ferocity as movie wise guys pass along the pyramid scheme of protection-racketeering, corruption and violence.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP / INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	May 2017	June 2017	2017 Fiscal YTD
7 AM Pass It On	\$ 243.66		\$ 243.66
Anonymous Contributions	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Friday Freedom Found		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Grapevine Trail	\$ 81.00		\$ 81.00
Keep It Simple Meeting	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Ladysmith Men's Discussion Group	\$ 240.00		\$ 240.00
Let It Begin With Me	\$ 514.23	\$ 794.40	\$ 1,308.63
Mustard Seed Group		\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
Nanaimo Young Peeps	\$ 385.00		\$ 385.00
Noon Group-Port Alberni	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Saturday Night Discussion-Ladysmith.		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Solace by the Sea	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Step Sisters 1,2,3		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Sunday Morning Breakfast Group	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00
Sunday Serenity	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Sunlight of the Spirit	\$ 375.00		\$ 375.00
The Way Out		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Wednesday Women's Noon		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Monthly Totals:	\$ 3,188.89	\$ 1,407.40	\$ 4,596.29

Please note Intergroup/Central Office's fiscal year-end was April 2017; therefore, the 2017 Fiscal YTD amounts do not include January to April contributions.

MAY 2016 - May 2017 OFFICE REPORT

Well, it's been a very challenging year managing the office. There have been lots of changes. The most time consuming was the installation of the new desk & office furniture. It put my daily tasks and updates back a few months. Thanks to the membership for being so patient and understanding. There were also several changes in procedures that have extended the time for me to complete some tasks. But everything is caught up and operating more proficiently. It's constantly busy and there is always something to do or get done. There is still much to do in terms of getting the office in order and getting rid of much clutter but that is something to do when time permits. I am absolutely grateful for our awesome volunteers who have served faithfully and committed to keeping the office open and operating smoothly. I would like to celebrate these wonderful and dedicated members; who volunteer after me for afternoons keeping the office open – Michael McV., Leslie T., Ann M., Neil, Ken W., Carolyn M., Bonnie, Krissi, Preban, Nate, Wilf, Lyla M., Debbi Z., and Joanne, anyone I may have missed my apologies. The incredibly dedicated home phone volunteers for evenings and weekends, some who have been doing it for years: Debbie D., Faye B., Alex R., Theresa H., Laura B., Kali M., Ryan, Vickie P., Patricia B., Gerry P., and our newest TAS chair Tracy P., who is nothing short of miraculous! Our outstanding 12 Step volunteers who are far too numerous to post here, some who are available consistently, and are our representatives who carry the message to those who know little or nothing of AA and this life giving program. Without all of these people there would be no Intergroup/Central AA Office. There really is no reward greater than knowing you have contributed to helping someone in desperate need from the debilitating disease of Alcoholism and in doing so insuring a daily reprieve from it. Although, the office would gladly accept any donations of treats, cookies, and the like.

Love & Service, Corinne

BIRTHDAYS/MILESTONES/CAKES

Judy D.	8	July 6 th	Women's Noon Meeting
Judy W.	8	July 9th	Women's Noon Meeting
Jacqui B.	28	July 10 th	Women's Noon Meeting
Josh S.	1	July 13th	Back to Basics
Donna A.	7	July 19 th	Grapevine Trail
Robert	38	July 19th	Grapevine Trail
Niko T.	3	July 20 th	Back to Basics
Kai H.	4	August 4th	Back to Basics
Rae	2	August 14 th	Back to Basics
Ross C.	3	August 22nd	Back to Basics



Operating Committee Executive

Chairperson	Theresa H.
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Darren H.
Secretary	Vacant
Members at Large:	Donna A.
	Vacant
	Vacant

Central Office Manager	Corinne D.
Central Office Auxiliary	Debby B.

Districts 5 & 7

DCM District 5	Cathi N.
Alternate DCM D5	Donna A.
CPC Chair	Vacant
Corrections Chair	Bev C.
Corrections Co-Chair	Vacant
DCM District 7	Fiona S.
Alternate DCM D7	Lorelei L.
Remote Communities Chair	Lyla M.
TFC (Detox) Co-Chair	Vanessa L.
TFC (Detox) Co-Chair	Ashley S.
Treatment Facilities Chair	Leslie T.

Committee Chairs

Website Chair:	Patricia B.
Public Information Chair:	Candice H.
T.A.S. Chair:	Tracy P.
Literature Chair:	Claudette H.
Archives Chair:	Michael
Newsletter Chair:	Vacant

Next **Intergroup** Meeting: Sunday, September 10th

Next **District 5** Meeting: Monday, August 21st

Next **District 7** Meeting: Tuesday, July 18th



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