

Pass It On...

The monthly voice of District 21 and its Standing Committees

Subscription cost: just \$10/year
(What did we used to spend in a night for drinks??!)

MAY, 2011

Special points of interest:

• **FOUNDER'S DAY 2011**
June 11th at the Aberdeen VFW - see page 6 for info!!

• Area Assembly in Oct '11
Host Committee needs help to make it happen!!
11:30am, May 28th at the AAC to learn more!

• Standing Committees always need support -
Show up at the District meeting to find out more!

• The Newsletter NEEDS YOUR STORIES - go ahead...Write something!!

• District Business meeting minutes available by request!
E-mail newsletter@aa21.org for a copy.

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Schedule Updates...

REMINDER - A Current, PRINTABLE Meeting Schedule is always available on the Website, at: www.aa21.org

FYI - There's an awesome NEW "old-school" meeting that just started in Hoquiam - called "Vigorous Course of Action". They're at the Hoquiam Library on Friday nights at 7pm (1-hr meeting). It's not in the schedule yet, because they are talking about moving to Sunday nights. I'll keep you informed - but for now, they're still at the Library and worth checking out!!

Group Schedule info changed? Get that info to the District!!
Please E-mail changes to newsletter@aa21.org, or bring them (and yourself) to the monthly business meeting!

Things are tough all over! (...but how's the health of our Fellowship??)

During these hard economic times, keeping an extra buck or two handy for dropping in the basket at our meetings can be difficult for many of us. But with Alcoholics Anonymous being a strictly donation-supported organization - this oversight by us as individuals, can be hazardous for AA as a whole. This story is a result of discussions held during the last District meeting.

Just a few years ago at an Area Assembly, I listened to Phyllis H. (from Olympia - past Regional Trustee, and our current General Service Office manager) give a report to the Area after serving on a Finance Committee during the General Service Conference in New York. She spoke very clearly about the current financial condition of Alcoholics Anonymous - and how the groups all fit in with it.

As I listened to her report, the most startling thing I remember hearing her say was that (at the time) only 43% of the REGISTERED Groups in AA contributed to GSO!

(Cont'd on page 5)

Contributions wanted...

Please mail Group Contributions to the District Treasurer:
District 21 - PO Box 244 Cosmopolis WA 98537

You can get material to me by e-mail (preferred) at: Newsletter@aa21.org or catch me at the EyeOpener Group (my homegroup)!
Deadline is the District business meeting each month.

What's Happening ...

DCM Report - Coleen C.

Due to the size of the DCM report - it's been included as a separate page this month. See Page 3!

Upcoming Service Functions & Events...

REMINDER: I can't report anything, if I don't know about it... so let me know if your group is doing anything!!!

June 25th - Saturday Area Assembly Host Committee Meeting

11:30 am at the Aberdeen Alano Club

June 11th - Saturday Founder's Day Celebration

Doors open by 10 am for setup (come'on down and help!)

Fellowship: 11 am, Potluck: 12 Noon, Speaker meeting at 2, followed by "Old-timer Ask-it-Basket" & Sobriety Countdown. **Fun for all!!!** Aberdeen VFW Hall (Corner of Heron & Broadway)

June 12th - Sunday Area 72 Webpage Committee Meeting

Greater Seattle Intergroup Office - 5507 6th Avenue South (at Lucile Street) Seattle

12 o'clock Noon in the Back Room - all interested parties are welcome.

June 19th - Sunday DELEGATE's REPORT & District 21 Monthly Business Meeting

5:30 - 6:30 pm Aberdeen Alano Club - All Group Reps are encouraged to attend (Our Delegate will report on what happened in New York!!)

July 16th - Saturday Treatment Committee Quarterly

Fellowship: 9 AM - 10 AM Business: 10 AM- 3:00 PM Lunch Provided Fellowship Christian Church 860 East 38th St Tacoma, WA

July 23rd - Saturday Accessibility Committee Quarterly

Hospitality: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Business: 10:00 AM Potluck Lunch w/ Entree Provided 12:00 PM

Redeemer Lutheran Church - 1001 Princeton ST Fircrest WA 98466

MAY SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS (...the ones reported at the District meeting, that is!!)

Elma Group:	Ken N - 1 yr
EyeOpener Group:	Charla & George C - 1 yr, Tim - 11 yrs, Joel P - 4 yrs, Bill Z - 9 yrs
Happy Hour:	Dave D - 3 yrs, Brian B - 4 yrs, Lynn B - 20 yrs
Humptulips Group:	Allison C - 1 yr
McCleary Group:	Orville - 20 yrs
Montesano Group:	Mark L - 25 yrs
NewNoon Group:	Robin - 10 yrs
South Bend Group:	John L - 6 mo's
Top OfThe Hill:	Nancy G - 26 yrs, Sylvia B - 6 yrs

“What’s Happening” DCM Report - May, 2011

Greetings District 21!

It seems that I just got done with the last little ditty and I was informed that I keep missing the deadline. I know, “keep comin’ back.” Since the last submission we have decided on a date for the District Inventory!! I know, you’re excited too, right? Well it’s going to be a good day of fellowship, food, fun and some good old-fashioned look at what’s working and what’s not as far as our collective efforts to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to our District. We will begin around 1:30pm so the noon meeting has a chance to wrap up. We can start with coffee and fellowship and we’re hoping for a picnic atmosphere, with sunshine and the works!

Here are the details:



District Inventory - Aberdeen Alano Club - July 21st 2011
Facilitated by: Geene F. from District 8 - current Area 72 Secretary



Show up at 1:30pm and enjoy some coffee & goodies while our volunteers get the food lined up for a good ‘ol Summer feast! We’ll begin our Inventory at 3:00pm and work on this up until our regular monthly District meeting @5:30pm & may take a Group Conscience to continue with the Inventory past 5:30 if the need is present.

This event is open to all Members of Alcoholics Anonymous

On another note for the District, we experienced a significant change in donations over the last couple of years and at one time, the District set the prudent reserve set at \$3500.00. With the increase in fuel and just doing normal monthly and quarterly business the Districts funds have been slowly diminishing. We are currently sitting at around \$900.00 dollars in the checking account and are need of funds to keep the District supporting the Homegroups (and it’s service responsibilities) in Grays Harbor and North Pacific County.

When making your donations to the District, Area and GSO - we are asking if you would reconsider your Homegroups conscience as far as how much your group is sending to each AA Service arm. District 21 is in need of funds to continue to carry the message at the District level. If you are unsure of what all of this means please feel free to ask one of the District trusted servants or perhaps this could be a point of discussion at our Inventory on August 21, 2011.

One of the things the District has in abundance is literature, i.e. Big Books, 12 & 12’s, pamphlets, Daily Reflections, etc. The District purchases and sells them at cost, and you save on the shipping. Please consider the District as your place to purchase AA approved literature.

If your group needs some delivered we can arrange that. Call our Grapevine & Literature Chair, Floyd at (360) 533-4560 he can get you a quote put together, then get with me and I will come to your group with the books in hand and you have the funds written out to District 21 or the cash in an envelope and we’ll make the exchange and enjoy a meeting together! This is one of the ways we help support the District by purchasing the literature for our groups.

Don’t forget to check the What’s Happening section of the Newsletter, there are some fun AA things happening this summer around our Community and in other areas! Thank you District 21 for allowing me to serve in this District, my home, where I came to and literally came home for the first time.

Love in the Fellowship~
Coleen C.

Corrections Committee Report

May, 2011

May has not seen a great change in what is happening in the corrections arena in the Aberdeen area. I have heard through the grapevine that Dean M was unable to take a meeting into the Men's side of the jail on Wednesday because the elevator was out. The Tuesday evening meeting at Stafford Creek is beginning a study session of the 12X12 and the Sunday afternoon meeting continues as an open discussion meeting. The Junction City meeting averages 9-15 kids each Saturday. They have a need for some Big Books which will be met.

There HAS been movement in the Pacific County arena though. I will be meeting with two administrative people with the Pacific County Sheriffs dept on Monday, May 16 to discuss possibility of having an AA meeting within the jail. Lynn and Dean's experience within the Grays Harbor county jail has been very useful in conversations thus far. I have one volunteer from Long Beach willing to start the meeting with me.

The following are the people representing us at the Dist. 21 facilities:

1. John W, Sunday Stafford Creek Sunday
2. Jon M, Tuesday Stafford Creek Tuesday
3. Lynn B, Grays Harbor County Jail Women's side Wednesday
4. Dean M., Grays Harbor County Jail Men's side Wednesday
5. Sylvia, Junction City Saturday

As you may have noticed in the proceeding there is one person at each facility and for the most part they are also the only contact within the facility. We need more volunteers! They should have a minimum of one year sobriety and have a sponsor. Throughout my sobriety it has consistently been emphasized that this is a program of action, however I see little of it in the area of corrections with the glaring exemption of those currently involved. They need help the help that your groups are capable of providing.

I would encourage the GSR's present to take this message to their individual groups. I would like to encourage you to ask at your meetings if they would like me, as the Corrections Chair, to visit and give a short talk on the service possibilities available in the corrections area.

Jail meeting Wednesday 7 PM 360.532.0234

Junction City Saturday 6PM 360.580.7359

Stafford Creek Sunday 2 PM contact 360.875.5289

Stafford Creek Tuesday 6PM contact 360.875.5289

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis L.

5/15/2011

Things are tough all over!

(...but how's the health of our Fellowship??)

(Cont'd from pg 1)

On the local front (in District 21) finances are so low, that our prudent reserve is less than a THIRD of what it is supposed to be maintained at. I'm not trying to rant - but in my experience, this all comes back to PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY as an AA member. What are we TEACHING the newcomers in AA? Are we DEMONSTRATING how to be good citizens? Are we LEADING BY EXAMPLE in our groups???

All I know (in my experience) - is that when I got sober, my sponsor started my schooling on "fiscal responsibility" by suggesting that I BUDGET \$30 a month for AA (simple, and it works!). He reinforced that concept by constantly reminding me that because I was sober, I had actually gotten a HUGE pay-raise (I was no longer drinking & drugging half my paycheck away!). And when I looked at it like that - there was really no excuse for my not having a buck to put in the basket every day - unless I forgot to have some money in my pocket before I got to the meeting (which happens some times - but then I make sure to put in \$2 the next day!).

In day-to-day life, it's so easy to forget about the details that don't directly impact my own existence. But when the basket comes around, I have to remember that *It takes money* to print the meeting schedules that groups currently get for free. *It takes money* to buy the literature our committees give away to professionals, hospitals, libraries and the public. *It takes money* each month to pay for our District's telephone messaging service. *It takes money* to run an ONGOING ad in the Newspaper, so that the general public can find AA. *It takes money* to print and mail the Newsletters to all the Groups in the District, *when there aren't enough paid subscription to pay for it* (...we only have 8 paid subscriptions!). *And it also takes money* to send our trusted servants to the REQUIRED functions they need to be at, to better serve and keep our District & Fellowship informed. Our traditions state that "no one should have to be so (financially) situated, as to be able to serve in Alcoholics Anonymous" (which means that you can serve in AA, even if you don't have a job - but that also means that we as a group, are *obligated* to reimburse our "trusted servants" for their authorized expenses!!)

Another sensitive topic around here, is Groups donating money DIRECTLY to activities that are not part of the Service Structure (ie: fellowship events, Conferences, etc). *The problem with this* is when Groups donate 7th Tradition funds outside of the service structure, *they are in fact spending money that individual members have entrusted to the Group (in the basket), for supporting the Service Structure* - and this is cautioned against both in AA's 7th Tradition, and in GSO's Financial Guidelines (ie: the YellowPapers).

Please don't get me wrong - It's important to have 'fellowship' events in AA - but our traditions suggest that they should be paid for by passing the basket at the event - or by passing a SEPARATE basket in our meetings, and specifying that those monies are to fund an event - rather than going to the Service Structure. (In other words - give 'em the choice!) The problem is - these things get "allowed" by the inaction or apathy of old-timers (who SHOULD be the staunchest defenders of our Traditions), and people begin to think that this is "normal" in AA. But I can tell you, it's not!

We all need to help keep AA going - we're in the same boat, and there's sharks in the water! The Traditions are there for a reason - they're not just "something that worked in the beginning, but no longer apply"! And as individuals, we can all do our best to practice the 7th Tradition AND the 7th STEP ("...I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows...") and contribute something when the basket goes by. And we should expect our Home Groups to support the Service Structure if they can (see the 'Pie Chart' in the "Self-Support" pamphlet). There's no such thing as "too small" of a contribution - I've seen checks for \$2 mailed to GSO - and GSO thanks you for them!

In our own Home Groups, we should be willing to ask those uncomfortable questions, like: "WHERE is the 7th Tradition going to?"; "ARE we supporting the Service Structure (after the group's needs are met)?"; "DO we have a balance in excess of our prudent reserve?"

BELIEVE ME - you won't be POPULAR if you ask these questions (...but my mentors did, and I learned it from them!) - but it's my sincere hope that people will TALK about these points - to raise discussions (*not arguments!*) in your Groups and become better-informed. There are several links on the NEW District website to GSO's literature for answers and shared experience on these and many, many other questions.

In the spirit of Love and Service,
Michael

“Fun & Fellowship”

(The listing of events here, does not in any way constitute approval of, or affiliation with, District 21 or Alcoholics Anonymous)

June 5th - Sunday 5th Annual “EyeOpener & Friends” Sober Golf Tourney

4-man Best Ball (meaning: every one hits from the “best” shot), arrive 7:30 am, 8 am scramble start. Pre-registration required - call Oaksridge Pro Shop, Cost \$35 Oaksridge Golf Course, Elma

June 11th - Saturday FOUNDER’s DAY Celebration

Fellowship: 11am - Noon, Potluck: 12-1pm Guest Speaker (Trisha C. - Past Area 72 Archivist), followed by an “Old-timer Ask-it-Basket” & Sobriety Countdown. Fun for all!! Aberdeen VFW Hall (Corner of Heron & Broadway)

June 24th & 25th Capitol Jamboree - Olympia

Olympia High School Performing Arts Center 1302 North Street., Olympia, WA

July 2nd, 3rd & 4th Ocean Shores 4th-of-July Alcathon

FAMILY EVENT - Free camping on-site, POT-LUCK meals and everything paid by 7th Tradition (which means give MORE THAN A BUCK if you can!). There will be Alcathon meetings all weekend, speaker meetings each night, and a DJ dance on Saturday night. Don’t forget your yard games, lawn chairs and sense of humor!!

July 16th - Saturday EyeOpener Group Family Picnic

Noon-5pm, Friends Landing - Montesano. Dogs & burgers provided - bring side-dishes, lawn chairs & YOU!

Help Wanted: (Contributed by a local old-timer)

I remember early on in my AA, several of us had long conversations as to just what God’s will was for us. What I was looking for, was God to make my decisions for me, and I felt that what I had to do, is get this communication thing down pat some way, and then all decisions would be God-given and right from then on. Well, the short answer is “Wrong”. My decision-making abilities have improved over time, but were scary in the beginning, trying to untie that Gordian knot that my life had become.

Number one was lots of communication with other members. That is very important, so that I could share the outcome. Next (and this is very important), when the answer wasn’t plain after speaking with my God and others, was to sit and be quiet for a short period of time. Then I would decide what to do, and do it.

That is one of the many ways in which I discovered God in my life. The decision wasn’t always right. In fact not very often in the beginning. But that Higher Power was with me in the fact that it was my responsibility to make the decision - and if wrong, it was God helping me to learn from the decision.

Still works today. Another way of putting it, is that when you reach the fork in the road... Take it.

...Take it with whatever power greater than you, that you have.

Anonymous

New meetings or schedule changes...

NEW:

“30 below” (Young-people’s) Monday, 4pm (1.5 hr)

United Meth. Ch. - 2nd & Broadway, Aberdeen

“Vigorous Course of Action” Friday, 7pm (1 hr)

Hoquiam Library, downstairs in back. “Old-school” style, topic discussion meeting.

(Note: meeting may soon change day & location - so this has not been added to the schedule yet)

CANCELLED:

SiS (Seniors In Sobriety)

Committee Reports:

(From the District Business meeting)

District Treasurer: You can now mail group contributions to District 21: **PO Box 244 Cosmopolis WA 98537**

Accessibility: New Chairperson - Lynn B.

Archives: District Archives display is available for group presentations/events! Call Ken H (360) 581-4490
New items include a copy of original 1st ed. Big Book manuscript (orig was formerly owned by Lois W)

Public Information (PI): After attending the PI/CPC Quarterly in Kirkland last month, PI has a new chairperson, and is well-inspired! Now, all we need is some people who’d like to learn how to carry the message of AA, OUTSIDE of AA - contact Michael P for more info. (360) 500-9507

Cooperation w/the Professional Community (CPC): Talked with new Corrections Chair, Dennis. We’re working to set up a panel for Correctional workers at South Bend Jail.

Corrections: There is now a jail meeting in Pacific County!!! **(REPORT ON PG 4)**
Volunteers are NEEDED - ESPECIALLY WOMEN!! Contact Dennis L or Dean M

Grapevine & Liturature: Call Floyd at 532-2721 or (Cell) 593-0004 for liturature sales.

Hospitals & Treatment (H&T): >>VACANT<< Chairperson needed - sobriety & spirituality is the reward!
Contact Coleen (DCM) for info about what’s involved!

Newsletter & Webpage: Continuing to work on greater usability and connections between the Newsletter and the Website - go check out the new website! Links to GSO, Liturature and even AA speaker tapes!

LITURATURE-BASED MEETINGS (meetings based upon AA Conference-approved liturature)

(For all other meetings, please refer to the current meeting schedule - available at: www.aa21.org)

Aberdeen - 1p m Wednesday: Harbor Crest (“Living Sober” Study) E. Campus 2nd Floor (more info 532-6533)

Aberdeen - 7pm Wednesday: Walk-the-Walk (Book Study) Alano Club - 823 W Heron

Montesano - 7pm Friday: (Step Study) St Mark’s - Corner of Sylvia & Spruce

Montesano - 7pm Sunday: (Big Book Study) St Mark’s - Corner of Sylvia & Spruce

Ocean Shores - Noon, Monday: Came To Believe (Big Book Study) Methodist Church -557 Pt Brown Ave

Ocean Shores - Noon, Wednesday: Came To Believe (Step Study) Methodist Church -557 Pt Brown Ave

South Bend - 7pm Thursday: South Bend Book Study - St John’s Episcopal - 501 W. Cowlitz St

Westport - 7pm, Tuesday: South Beach Group (Step Study) St Paul’s Church - Westport “Y”

Westport - 7pm, Thursday: South Beach Group (Big Book Study) St Paul’s Church - Westport “Y”

From:

DISTRICT 21 NEWSLETTER

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For more information, please give me a call at: (360) 500-9507 or e-mail: Newsletter@aa21.org

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