



Central Oregon AA's

CONSCIOUS CONTACT

AA HOTLINE - (541) 548-0440 / DECEMBER, 2014

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS Area Updates . . .

DISTRICT 5 GSR MEETINGS are held on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church (Community Room on Kansas) 680 NW Bond, Bend. All are welcome.

PI/CPC is recruiting new members to help distribute literature; re-contacted members involved in local media; continuing to develop contacts at public and private radio stations; connecting with Deschutes County prevention staff for local schools to receive schedules and literature; Ads in the Source weekly and Bend Bulletin with the AA Hotline phone number.

Calling for volunteer AA members, who may be interested in helping spread the message to professional groups, who come

into contact with alcoholics. This is the CPC (Cooperation with Professional Committees) part of presenting AA to community groups. We have scripts and specific training ideas for presentations. If you are comfortable talking to groups and have at least one year of sobriety please contact Thom D. at 971-237-1373

If you or someone you know is having a birthday in the month following this issue, please let Judy W. know at least a week before the end of the current month.

From December 21st, SHH will no longer be our meeting place. We are returning to TEC – YAY!

BTW, the AA Hotline number is (541) 548-0440.

INTERGROUP OFFICERS CHAIRPERSON

Vickie M (541) 410-3481
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VICE CHAIRPERSON

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NEWSLETTER

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SCHEDULES

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HOTLINE

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ENTERTAINMENT

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AL-ANON LIAISON

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Vera F (541) 408-7470

ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE

Bill O (541) 771-5152

Pattie O (541) 771-5452

Mike S (541) 815-7458

Peggy R (541) 480-4019

OUR INTERGROUP OFFICE

M-F 9:00 am -1:00 pm
337 Antler St., Suite B
Redmond OR 97756
(541) 923-8199 www.coigaa.org

OREGON AREA TREASURY

1900 NE 3RD Street
Suite 106-172
Bend OR 97701

DISTRICT 5

P. O. Box 7241
Bend OR 97708

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 459
New York NY 10164-0371

AA HOTLINE



To qualify you must:

- Have a working telephone
- Have 6 months of sobriety
- Have an AA sponsor
- Be working the AA steps
- Be attending AA meetings regularly
- Participate in a brief training

If you are willing to give back what was so freely given to you, please call:

Hotline Chairman: Samantha R. (541) 604-5319

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Shari A.	12/01/86
Kathy N.	12/16/13
Lisa H.	12/17/12
Kris F.	12/25/93
Bobbye R.	12/27/82
Wendy L.	12/28/86
Candy O.	12/29/02

(Let us know when your birthday is, and you'll be in the newsletter. Ed.)

MEETING CHANGES

BEND

Thursday 7:00 pm "By the Book" meeting, at the Church of the Nazarene will no longer be meeting, effectively immediately.

REDMOND

Wednesday 7:30 pm SOS Group at 1108 W. Antler, is no longer meeting.

Thursday 5:30 Sobriety Sisters, 12 and 12 Step Study (**W**). New location is at the Joseph house on the corner of 12th and Glacier. Enter at side door

LaPINE

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM First Things First location will be at Pentecostal Church 51491 Moroson Street

Friday 8:00AM - Kick Start, 52601 Coach Rd. (Jay Bird, Inc.) has been canceled

Wednesday 7:00PM Living Sober, Discussion; and 2nd Wednesday, Potluck 6:00PM, Speaker 7:00PM, will now be meeting at Community Church, 16565 Finley Butte Road.

Saturday 7:00PM - Living Sober **HUT**

Sunday 5:00PM - Sunday Serenity **HUT**

HUT = Huntington Hut, 52379 Huntington Road, LaPine

MADRAS

Saturday 8:00AM - Madras Women's Meeting - Has been changed to 10:00AM Saturday and is both Men and Women, and is still meeting at Jefferson library at 134 SE "E" Street, Rodriguez Annex.

CALL FOR SERVICE WITH CPC

Calling for volunteer AA members, who may be interested in helping spread the message to professional groups, who come into contact with alcoholics. This is the CPC (Cooperation with Professional Committees) part of presenting AA to community groups. We have scripts and specific training ideas for presentations. If you are comfortable talking to groups and have at least one year of sobriety please contact Thom D. at 971-237-1373

STEP 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

MORE and more, I wonder whether my responsibility ever ends. Several years of successful sobriety in AA have led to my name being placed on the telephone-answering service's list of members willing to accept Twelfth Step calls. Out of the dozens of calls I have made, I can count my "successes" on the fingers of one hand, and that fact has led to some serious personal-inventory taking.

Just where and how have I failed so often? Is there something wrong with my approach to the still-suffering alcoholic? Perhaps I, who preach tolerance at every opportunity, have developed intolerance towards those in whom I see my former self. It is never a pleasant experience to be reminded of our own personal failings, no matter how long ago we may have changed our way of life.

As I take inventory, I recall how many Twelfth Step calls I have considered completed by simply calling on the sufferer and making arrangements for him to attend a meeting, either with me or with others in a group closer to him. Can I honestly say that my responsibility ends there? Even if he lives miles away, at the other end of town, and I put him in touch with a group near him, is this in itself enough?

Isn't it perhaps up to me, as the man's first AA contact, to take a more *personal* interest in his progress? Like most of us, I have a living to make, and my time is limited. But how much of my valuable time would be taken up by a mere friendly phone call once a week? Just a friendly voice on the phone, saying, "Hi, Joe, how're things going?" could perhaps make all the difference. I recall that when I first came to AA, the fact that other people *cared* whether I stayed sober or not did make all the difference.

I tell myself I don't want the newcomer to get the impression that I am "checking up" on his state of sobriety or otherwise. Isn't this a pretty weak excuse for not calling him? Isn't it better for him to get the impression that I am checking up than to get the impression that I just don't care one way or the other? I recall the last few horrible weeks before I found AA. I was so alone. Then, by simply making a phone call, I was no longer alone with my fears. Somebody cared!

I think back to my early days in AA, and remember how reluctant I was to "bother" my sponsor with phone calls, but how delighted I was when he took the trouble to phone me. I remember how *every* contact of any kind with AA helped me in those first difficult days; how my hope and faith were renewed again and again by some simple act of kindness and interest shown by the members of my group.

I have decided that my Twelfth Step responsibility does not end when I have made a house call and introduced the newcomer to a group. I must be willing to give freely of my time and to show the newcomer that I have a real desire to help *him*, that I have a real interest in *his* progress towards sobriety. Only in this way can I fulfill my responsibility, and only in this way can I repay in some small measure what AA has done for me.

T. C.
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Tradition Twelve **Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.**

THE spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because AA's Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit--well symbolized by anonymity--is the foundation of them all. It is AA's proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

But in the beginning, anonymity was not born of confidence; it was the child of our early fears. Our first nameless groups of alcoholics were secret societies. New prospects could find us only through a few trusted friends. The bare hint of publicity, even for our work, shocked us. Though ex-drinkers, we still thought we had to hide from public distrust and contempt.

When the big book appeared in 1939, we called it "Alcoholics Anonymous." Its foreword made this revealing statement: "It is important that we remain anonymous because we are too few, at present, to handle the overwhelming number of personal appeals which may result from this publication. Being mostly business or professional folk, we could not well carry on our occupations in such an event." Between these lines it is easy to read our fear that large numbers of incoming people might break our anonymity wide open.

As the AA groups multiplied, so did anonymity problems. Enthused over the spectacular recovery of a brother alcoholic, we'd sometimes discuss those intimate and harrowing aspects of his case meant for his sponsor's ear alone. The aggrieved victim would then rightly declare that his trust had been broken. When such stories got into circulation outside of AA, the loss of confidence in our anonymity promise was severe. It frequently turned people from us. Clearly, every AA member's name--and story, too--had to be confidential, if he wished. This was our first lesson in the practical application of anonymity.

With characteristic intemperance, however, some of our newcomers cared not at all for secrecy. They wanted to shout AA from the housetops, and did. Alcoholics barely dry rushed about bright-eyed, button-holing anyone who would listen to their stories. Others hurried to place themselves before microphones and cameras. Sometimes they got

distressingly drunk and let their groups down with a bang. They had changed from AA members into AA show-offs.

This phenomenon of contrast really set us thinking. Squarely before us was the question, "How anonymous should an AA member be?" Our growth made it plain that we couldn't be a secret society, but it was equally plain that we couldn't be a vaudeville circuit either. The charting of a safe path between these extremes took a long time.

As a rule, the average newcomer wanted his family to know immediately what he was trying to do. He also wanted to tell others who had tried to help him--his doctor, his minister, and close friends. As he gained confidence, he felt it right to explain his new way of life to his employer and business associates. When opportunities to be helpful came along, he found he could talk easily about AA to almost: anyone. These quiet disclosures helped him to lose his fear of the alcoholic stigma, and spread the news of AA's existence in his community. Many a new man and woman came to AA because of such conversations. Though not in the strict letter of anonymity, such communications were well within its spirit.

But it became apparent that the word-of-mouth method was too limited. Our work, as such, needed to be publicized. The AA groups would have to reach quickly as many despairing alcoholics as they could. Consequently many groups began to hold meetings which were open to interested friends and the public, so that the average citizen could see for himself just what AA was all about. The response to these meetings was warmly sympathetic. Soon groups began to receive requests for AA speakers to appear before civic organizations, church groups, and medical societies. Provided anonymity was maintained on these platforms, and reporters present were cautioned against the use of names or pictures, the result was fine.

Then came our first few excursions into major publicity, which were breath-taking. Cleveland's Plain Dealer articles about us ran that town's membership from a few into hundreds overnight. The news stories of Mr. Rockefeller's dinner for Alcoholics Anonymous helped double our total membership in a year's time. Jack Alexander's famous Saturday Evening Post piece made AA a national institution. Such tributes as these brought opportunities for still more recognition. Other newspapers and magazines wanted AA stories. Film companies wanted to photograph us. Radio, and finally television, besieged us with requests for appearances. What should we do?

As this tide offering top public approval swept in, we realized that it could do us incalculable good or great harm. Everything would depend upon how it was channeled. We simply couldn't afford to take the chance of letting self-appointed members present themselves as messiahs representing AA before the whole public. The promoter instinct in us might be our undoing. If even one publicly got drunk, or was lured into using AA's name for his own purposes, the damage might be irreparable. At this altitude (press, radio, films, and television), anonymity--one hundred-percent anonymity--was the only possible answer. Here principles would have to come before personalities, without exception.

These experiences taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes AA life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as AA members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that AA can ever have.

Bill W.

We are not a glum lot . . .

One sleety winter evening, visibility zero, the doors of a bar flew open and three drunks staggered in. The first stumbled into a telephone booth and began making long distance calls. The second lurched to the bar and began searching through his vest and the lining of his hat for hidden dollar bills. The third tripped over the doorsill and crash-landed flat on the floor.

"Name it, gentlemen," invited the bartender, as soon as the first dollar bill came out of the hat.

"Two whiskies," ordered the drunk at the bar. "One fer me, an' one fer my friend in the phone booth."

The barkeep cocked an eye at the drunk on the floor. "An' how about your companion?" he inquired. "Doesn't he need another drink t' straighten up?"

The drunk with the cash considered the idea, then shook his head, wisely. "Not him, pal. Don't give 'im a drop. We're keepin' him sober; he's drivin'."

Intergroup Entertainment Committee
presents:

2014/2015
New Year's Eve Dance!

Pine Forest Grange Hall
63214 Boyd Acres Rd. Bend

8 pm: Hors d'oeuvres
9 pm: Dance until 12:01

\$12 at the door

First Meeting of the New Year
@ 12:15 AM

Questions?

Teryce @ 541-390-5320

Kim T. @ 541-480-1505

Raffle Donations Needed

MARIE K @ 310-941-5084

ROSE @ 541-213-6820

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Tuesday Night AA Speaker Mtg. 7 pm Church of the Nazarene	3	4	5 CO Speaker Mtg. 7pm Environ- mental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend Speakers: Jennifer C., Richard C.	6 Redmond Pot Luck and Speaker Mtg. 6-8:30 pm Redmond Community Church
7	8	9	10 LaPine Potluck Speaker 6 pm Park & Rec. 16565 Finley Butte Rd., LaPine	11	12	13
14 District 5 GSR Mtg 4 pm First United Methodist Church, 680 NW Bond (enter Kansas)	15	16	17	18	19 CO Speaker Mtg. 7pm Environ- mental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend Speakers: Amy A., John A.	20 Culver Nuts & Bolts Meeting is hosting a Speaker/ Potluck Meeting at 6:00 pm. 501 W. 4th Ave Culver OR.
21 Entertainment Committee Meeting 4 pm TEC, Bend	22	23	24	25 Alcathon: Brooks Hall, TEC. Check website for information.	26 CO Milestone Mtg. TEC 7 pm Speaker: Lauren G.	27
28 IGR Advisory Board Mtg 4:30 IGR Mtg 5:30 pm TEC	29 Step Sisters Speaker Mtg. 7pm TEC Speaker:	30	31	1	2	3

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2 CO Speaker Mtg 7pm Environ- mental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend Speakers: Allison J., John J.	3
4	5	6 Tuesday Night AA Speaker Mtg. 7 pm Church of the Nazarene	7	8	9	10
11 District 5 GSR Mtg 4 pm First United Methodist Church, 680 NW Bond (enter Kansas)	12	13	14 LaPine Potluck Speaker 6 pm Park & Rec. 16565 Finley Butte Rd., LaPine	15	16 CO Speaker Mtg 7pm Environ- mental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend Speakers: Terry L., Joan C.	17
18 Entertainment Committee Meeting 4 pm TEC, Bend	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 IGR Advisory Board Mtg 4:30 IGR Mtg 5:30 pm TEC	26 Step Sisters Speaker Mtg. 7pm TEC Speaker:	27	28	29	30 CO Milestone Mtg. TEC. 7 pm Speaker: Bruce C.	31