

Groupline

FEBRUARY 2016

THE SIOUXLAND INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

The Next
Siouxland Intergroup
Meeting is will be 7:00PM
Thursday, Feb 18, 2016
at the Central Office,
614 Cook Street.
www.aasiouxcity.org

Come early
and grab a
good Seat!



If you would
like your EVENT to be listed
in the GROUPLINE or if you
have artwork, poetry or an
article you would like to be
considered for print, please
email your submission to:

AAcentralofficesc@gmail.com

Or drop it by the
Central Office
712-252-1333
www.aasiouxcity.org

The next DISTRICT 1
meeting will be 7:00PM
Tuesday Feb 09, 2016
at the Hawkeye Club,
420 Jones St, in Sioux City

CENTRAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday: CLOSED

Tues--Thurs: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Fri: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

The Good New Days

The theme of the 2000 Virginia Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Convention was "Bridging the Gap." In keeping with that theme, they asked an old guy like me to be the opening speaker on Friday evening, the first night of the convention. I had to remind the group that despite my looks, I really was an old guy.

To bridge the gap, I reminded the group that I had been the kick-off speaker for the international convention of young people in AA in Toronto, in 1968. At the time, I was thirty-seven years old and had been sober for eleven years. I had graduated from college that July and spoke at the convention in August. I was excited and all fired up.

At the convention in Virginia this year, I saw the same excitement and interest in recovery as I had seen in Canada thirty-two years before. The commitment and talk about sponsorship and working with the newcomer were as prevalent today as they were those many years ago.

If anything, this current group is more knowledgeable about the Big Book than young people were in the early days, and they seem to be more concerned about the principles of AA as described in the Big Book today than we were in the late fifties.

Working with newcomers is also alive and well in this generation. I even heard some people at the convention talking about how they had been working all day with a man who had drunk and wanted to get back on the road to sobriety.

It was my observation that the gap has been bridged and that the message of recovery is being passed in earnest by the young people of AA today.

Leo R.
Portsmouth, Virginia

SAVE THE DATE
SIOUXLAND INTERGROUP
UNITY DAY POTLUCK DINNER

Hosted by the TBD



Saturday April 23, 2016

Location TBD ???, Sioux City, IA

Registration/Fellowship at 5:00pm

POTLUCK DINNER 5:30 to 6:00 pm

6:15 ... AA: Dan G., Gladbrook, IA

(Area 24 Chairman)

6:45 ... AA: Amy M-G., Gladbrook, IA

(Area 24 Grapevine Chairperson)

Main Dish TBA

Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert

Suggested \$5.00 free will donation

Proceeds go to Central Office

FLYER TO FOLLOW

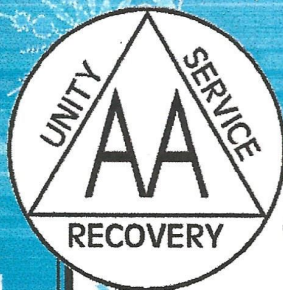
SAVE THE DATE

19th Annual

MID WINTER BEAST

NORTH WEST IOWA AREA

Don't
Miss It!



Drawing
for Door
Prizes

Saturday, February 20, 2016
Allee Building
North Main Street Newell, Ia

Schedule of Events

1:30 pm	Registration
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Al-Anon Speaker - Wendy E. - Storm Lake, Ia
4:00 - 5:00 pm	AA Speaker - Amy G. - Grand Brook, Ia
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Chili & Pork Sandwich Supper
6:00 - 6:30 pm	Door Prize Drawing
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Al-Anon Speaker - Sarah F. H. - Sheldon, Ia
8:00 - 9:00 pm	AA Speaker - Derick W. - Des Moines, Ia
9:00 - Midnight	Dance
9:00 - 10:00 pm	Ice Cream Social
10:00 - 11:00 pm	AA Meeting

Registration, Supper,
Speakers & Dance:
\$10.00

Ice Cream Social:
\$2.00



Everyone Welcome!

Come & Enjoy Fun & Fellowship

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS THRU Jan 29, 2016

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GROUP NAME	THIS MONTH	YEAR TOTAL	GROUP NAME	THIS MONTH	YEAR TOTAL
21 Club N-S Group			One A Day Group	\$29.36	\$29.36
3 & 11 Groups Quarterly Breakfast			One Page At A Time Group		
Afternoon Matinee Group			Pause When Agitated Group	\$11.00	\$11.00
Akron AA Group			Room 106 Big Book Study Group at Holy Spirit		
Big Book Buddies Study Group			Saturday AM 12x12 Study Group		
Books & Beans Group			Second Chance Group		
Books & Cookies Group			Serenity Now Group		
By the Book Group			Sergeant Bluff AA Group		
Check your Ego at the Door Group	\$110.50	\$110.50	Sioux City Tri-State Roundup	\$250.00	\$250.00
Cheyenne Non-Smoking Group			Solutions Group Women's BB Study Group		
Club 21 Group			Someone Cares Group		
Come and Go Group			South Sioux Friday Nite BB Study Group		
Drunks Helping Drunks Group			South Sioux Tuesday Niter's Group	\$75.00	\$75.00
Early Risers Group			Spiritual 3-11 Meeting - Hawkeye Club		
Elk Point AA Group			Steel Magnolias Group		
Faith Without Works Group			Stockyards Men's Group	\$100.00	\$100.00
Faithful Fiver's	\$80.00	\$80.00	Sunday 1030AM Spiritual Meeting		
FOUNDER'S DAY			Sunday 3-11 St. Luke's Hospital Group	\$125.00	\$125.00
Friday 530 PM Group	\$47.00	\$47.00	Sunday Nite Spiritual Group		
Friday Night Keep It Simple Group S.L.			Sunday Nite Big Book Study Grp		
Glenn Ave Group			Sunrise Attitude Adjustment Meeting	\$262.75	\$262.75
Grupo Nuevo Camino			Sunrise Retirement Home Group		
Hawkeye 10AM Group			Sweets and Treats Group		
Hawkeye Steps 3&11 Grp at Mercy Hospital	\$228.00	\$228.00	TGIS in Alton Group		
How and Why of It Group			The How & Why Of It 12x12 Group		
Jackson Nebraska Monday Night Group			Tuesday 12 X 12 Group		
Leed's Tuesday Open Group			Tuesday Early Bird Group		
Leed's Wednesday Brown Bag Group			QUARTERLY UNITY DINNER		
Leeds Sunday Nite Spiritual Group			We Can Group		
Living in The Solution Group			Wednesday BB Study Group		
Living Sober Group			Westlawn Group	\$50.00	\$50.00
Many Hands Caring Grp			Where It All Begins Group		
Marble Group			Wise Words Fellowship Club Group		
Morningside Fellowship Group			Women's Open Topic Group		
Moville Tuesday Nite Group			Young Persons In AA		
No Name Group	\$44.29	\$44.29			
No Matter What Group					
OTHER DONATIONS					
Birthday Donations			Individual Gifts		
Cash Donations			Memorial Donation		
Central Office Open House			** Monthly Intergroup Mtg**	\$24.00	\$24.00

Faithful Fiver Contributors as of Jan 29, 2016

Amy D	Cal H	Carol C	Charlie K	Don P	Greg N.	Jerry H
Joe B	Kathy B	Kevin M	Mike H	Pat G	Rick W	Roger J.
Rodney C	Teresa S	William B				

Basket case

A former binge drinker contributes more to his group's Seventh Tradition collection, and doesn't hide it.

I HAVE yet to be at a meeting that didn't pass the basket. It has come at different moments during the meetings but it has always come. In most meetings the first line of the Seventh Tradition is read as a brief explanation of the purpose of the expectation: "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting. . . ." However, it does not say AA groups should be struggling for financial survival, as is happening currently to one of the largest and most influential groups in my area.

When I last joined AA, 21 years ago, everyone was dropping a dollar in the basket. No amount was mentioned or suggested; it just seemed that the most common rate was a buck. In the last decade or so some groups have taken to making a suggestion of \$1 and, more recently, \$2.

I recall that when one small group I regularly attended was going to adopt the suggestion of \$2, I'd argued against it. I had some idea that those who couldn't give that much would be embarrassed by such a suggestion. I now have more time, more experience, more security, more sobriety and perhaps a bit more wisdom, and now I feel foolish for the objection.

In the last couple of years, I have reconsidered my position on the basket and the amounts. I have realized that I had been stingy. Here's my newer thinking: If I had been drinking on any given day, I would have surely spent more on alcohol than a dollar or two. Even as the binge drinker that I was, I had a daily average that was several dollars higher than the current Seventh Tradition suggestions. so, I have been thinking that if I paid more than \$2 to poison myself, soul and body, why am I being so stingy with paying for my sobriety? Hmm.

Well, then, how much should I toss into the basket? I tipped the last waiter who served me \$9 to do little more than carry a piece of paper to the chef and a couple of plates to my table. That was more than the \$2 suggestion and far less important to my life. I've paid more for frivolous purchases than two dollars. Why have I been so tight with money for the basket? Don't know.

One week I started to give what my last restaurant tip was, but that seemed a bit high. Then I decided to put in the current price of one bar drink. Heck, that's not so much to pay for sobriety.

I've tossed in a five or a 10 or a 20 (that's been my maximum) and I had this wonderful sensation. I told myself that perhaps I had covered for those poorer souls who couldn't give a buck. I reminded myself that the rent on the clubroom had surely risen over the two decades of my sobriety. I reminded my wife that she would surely have left me had the same amounts been poured down my throat. I felt really pleased--perhaps a bit too pleased with myself.

I began to wrestle with a couple of small ego issues. Just how good should I feel about this giving? Just how public should I be with it? Should I tell myself that I am so wonderful and generous that I should be honored? Sure disaster, that, for an alcoholic. Should I allow others to see that I am giving more than the suggested amounts? Would that be self-serving? Even this article has risks.

Well, this past fall I attended a gratitude dinner/fundraiser in my area and the person with the most sober time was the keynote speaker. Among all of the wise and humorous remarks she made, she touched on donations and brought up the same idea of giving what your last drink cost. I felt relieved that I wasn't the only one to arrive at this notion. I would only have added to her remarks that with 40-plus years, her last drink was a lot cheaper than one drunk by someone recently sober.

So, here's what I have concluded. We all might reconsider how long we've been giving the same dollar (or two) and how much the costs to AA groups have risen. Perhaps we all could consider giving at least the current cost of one of the drinks we would have drunk had we not joined Alcoholics Anonymous and taken up sober living. Not only will it benefit the groups' survival, thus helping other alcoholics find our path, but it will also provide an inner warmth without the drink. I suggest trying just once to give the cost of a drink and see what that does.

By the way, I have decided that I would not fold the higher bills but allow whomever might notice to do so. Perhaps it will serve as a model and attract others to donate the same, and I'll keep trying not to feel too good about it.

Brad S.

Miami, FL.

Intergroup Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2016

The was meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. by Tom C. with the Serenity prayer, Intergroup Statement of Purpose and Central Office Statement of Purpose.

Secretaries Report: Last month's minutes were read by Stasha K. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Teresa S, motion seconded by Tim L., motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Brad R was working and not present. Mike H. gave the treasurers report. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers report by Ray C., seconded by Kevin J. Motion passed

District Report: Mike H reported that Winterfest was happening this weekend on Saturday Jan 23. Winterfest is a District 1 fundraiser to help small groups send their GSR's to represent District 1 at Area 24 conferences.

Functions and Committees: Phone committee; Stasha K. reported that the committee is currently fully staffed. The next Unity dinner will be hosted by the Stockyards Men's Group and will start at 5pm on January 30th.

Old Business: Elections took place this month. Ray C. was elected chairman, Jose' P. was elected vice-chairman, Bill H was elected Treasurer and Stasha K was elected Secretary. Mike H stated the request new meeting schedules are in of printing. Hawkeye Club is requesting to have 100 schedules added for them. Motion was made by Dianne B to increase from 3000 to 4,000., seconded by Ray C, motion passed We will now be requesting a free will donation of \$.25 per schedule to cover the costs.

New Business: Teresa S contacted GSO regarding declining donations an financial issues. A suggestion made was combining District and Intergroup which allows the Central Office to remain open. This reduces volunteers needed, financially becomes one and less needed in service.

Motion to close by Paul T seconded by Ray C.

Respectfully submitted:

Stasha K., Secretary

SIOUXLAND INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE—GRATITUDE WITH SERVICE FORM

Return this form by: email to: aacentralofficesc@gmail.com or drop in the mail or stop by the office

Date: _____ First Name: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP:: _____ Gender: _____

Sobriety Date: _____ Home Group: _____

Email Address: _____

Volunteer Service Options:

12 step list volunteer

Weeknights ☐ Weekends ☐

Phone Night & Weekends

Weeknights ☐ Weekends ☐

Committees of Interest:

Public Information Cooperation with Professional Community

Special Events ☐

Literature ☐

Newsletter ☐