



November 2016

**The Next
Siouxland Intergroup
Meeting will be 7:00PM
Thursday, Nov 17, 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 Nov 8, 2016
at the Hawkeye Club,
420 Jones St, in Sioux City**

EDITORIAL: THE 7TH TRADITION

from June 1948

The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contribution of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve its 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.

Our growth continuing, the combined income of Alcoholics Anonymous members will soon reach the astounding total of \$250,000,000, a quarter of billion dollars yearly. This is the direct result of A.A. membership. Sober we now have it, drunk we would not.

By contrast, our overall A.A. expenses are trifling.

For instance, the A.A. General Office now costs us \$1.50 per member a year. As a fact, the New York office asks the groups for this sum twice a year because not all of them contribute. Even so, the sum per member is exceedingly small. If an A.A. happens to live in a large metropolitan center where an intergroup office is absolutely essential to handle heavy inquiries and hospital arrangements he contributes (or probably should contribute) about \$5.00 annually. To pay the rent of his own group meeting place, and maybe coffee and doughnuts, he might drop \$25.00 a year in the hat. Or, if he belongs to a club it could be \$50.00. In case he takes *The A.A. Grapevine* he squanders an extra \$2.50!

So, the A.A. member who really meets his group responsibilities finds himself liable for about \$5.00 a month on the average. Yet his own personal income may be anywhere between \$200. and \$2,000. a month--the direct result of *not* drinking.

"But", some will contend, "our friends want to give us money to furnish that new club house. We are a new small group. Most of us are still pretty broke. What then?"

I am sure that myriads of the A.A. voices would now answer the new group saying, "Yes, we know just how you feel. We once solicited money ourselves. We even solicited publicly. We thought we could do a lot of good with other peoples' money. But we found that kind of money too hot to handle. It aroused unbelievable controversy. It simply wasn't worth it. Besides, it set a precedent which has tempted many people to use the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous for other than A.A. purposes. While there may be little harm in a small friendly loan which your group really means to repay, we really beg you to think hard before you ask the most willing friend to make a large donation. You can, and you soon will, pay your own way. For each of you these overhead expenses will never amount to more than the price of one bottle of good whiskey a month. You will be everlastingly thankful if you pay this small obligation yourselves.

When reflecting on these things, why should not each of us tell himself, "Yes, we A.A.s were once a burden on everybody. We were 'takers.' Now that we are sober, and by the Grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about face and become 'thankful givers'! Yes, it is high time we did!"

Bill W.

CENTRAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday: CLOSED

Tues--Thurs: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Fri: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Garden variety

October 2010

from

Addicted to alcohol, a waitress keeps hoping that someday something will change;

The best way to celebrate an anniversary is to share experience, strength, and hope. I would like to begin by saying that I am a garden-variety alcoholic. I have the obsession of the mind and the allergy of the body. The first time I picked up a drink I blacked out. I was in grade 9, 12 years old, going to a concert. My friend had brought a "mixed drink"--she had gone to her parents' liquor cabinet and emptied little bits of alcohol from each bottle into a container of her own. We added soda from our local convenience store, and next thing I knew, we were sitting on a bench at our local train station, passing a large cup of vile-tasting toxic booze. Down the line it went; we each took a sip and passed it along.

The funny thing was, I didn't like it. I didn't say, "I'm going to do this again!" I felt out of control. The concert was full of loud, crazy teenagers. I was only 12, a little drunk and really scared. I don't know when the blackout started. I know I got home from downtown Vancouver by myself, late at night. Not the safest thing for an adolescent girl. That wasn't the first time that I put myself in danger from drinking. I was always staggering around wasted, thinking that nothing bad could ever happen to me.

Skip forward 10 years and I'm at university. Every sub night, my good friend and I would arrive at 4:30 P.M. and start drinking beer. By 7 P.M. we would be wasted. My friend actually fell asleep at the table one night while I was outside throwing up. I staggered my way across the campus that night, after the authorities had issued a warning that there was a rapist active on campus. My route home took me across a dark campus and through the woods to avoid a long walk home. Another night of luck. I arrived home unscathed except for my hangover.

I drank and drank and drank. At age 24 I decided I needed something stronger. My future husband showed up with the cocaine and away I went. I know it's an outside issue to some, but it's an inside issue to me and directly related to my alcoholism. Without alcohol I would never have tried drugs. I was way too scared and anxious. Well, what do you do if you are a waitress addicted to drugs and alcohol? You get married and keep hoping that someday something will change. I can remember moving apartments, literally three blocks from each other, and I thought that I would stop using and drinking now that I had a nice apartment. It was the shortest geographic ever, but wherever you go, there you are, and I took myself with me. The booze and drugs showed up a few days later and off I went.

We thought we were hip, slick and cool, but we were just doing what drunks do when they are 22.

I was twelfth-stepped by a woman at university who recognized my disease and slowly told me about herself and showed that she understood me without judgment. she said she didn't drink anymore and I was instantly amazed and intrigued. When the day arrived that I couldn't imagine one more day of drinking and I couldn't imagine a day without, I called her and she took me to my first meeting. It was a women's Step meeting and I had come home. I had to do one more night of research, but I knew this was the place for me. I fell in love with Alcoholics Anonymous and I jumped in headfirst. I asked that lady to sponsor me, I worked the Steps, I joined a home group, and I did 90 meetings in 90 days.

Ten years later I can honestly say that I have been given the life of my dreams. I know that one day at a time my life is becoming all that God intended it to be. My life is not glamorous or fabulous, but it's full to the brim with love and endeavors and presence. That husband who introduced me to cocaine has become a true partner. We have two courageous, bright, inquisitive children who are growing up in a sober home. My husband and I have been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and although we don't drink or use, our problems have not disappeared. As a result we have gone to counseling and I go to Al-Anon. Our children will not be immune to this disease, but hopefully they will have the resourcefulness and knowledge to get help when and if they need it.

SARA S.

Vancouver, British Columbia

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is probably the hardest thing for an alcoholic to do or accept. Forgiveness is not a clear-cut, one-time decision. No matter how sincerely we want to let go of the past and move on with our lives, we cannot expect to wake up some morning and think, "Okay, today's the day I'm going to forgive everyone, including myself for all the hurt to me or others." Forgiveness just doesn't work that way.

Forgiveness is not forgetting, condoning, absolution, nor self-sacrifice. Forgiveness is a way of reaching out from a bad past and heading towards a more positive future. When we forgive, we lessen the past's impact on our present and our future, but this doesn't change the fact that the injuries we experienced were painful.

Forgiveness is an internal process. It happens from within ourselves. It is a feeling of wellness, freedom and acceptance. I wrote the following poem to help myself with this process. I hope that maybe it will help someone else who struggles with forgiveness, especially forgiveness of self.

*Have I lost or have I won,
I fear the fight has just begun
My mind she tells me to beware,
I fear I might, oh do I dare,
Melt my heart and start to care.
Have I shattered your hopes and dreams,
In the night I hear the screams.
So it seems; I've broken your heart with my schemes.
More than just a little confused,
I thought I might be amused;
But truly, I've only abused.
I sure hope it's not too late,
To drive away your fears and hate,
I've pierced your mind, body and soul,
I know it's wearily taken its toll.
I'll fight the good fight, with all my might,
And hope someday to make it right.
I know you've shed many a good tear
Because of me; it's crystal clear.
I'm sorry my precious dear,
I need your love; close and near.
Please forgive me if you can,
If you can't I'll understand.*

Theresa J.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS THRU Oct 31, 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	\$6.57	\$146.82
3 & 11 Groups Quarterly Breakfast	\$30.00	\$104.00	One Page At A Time Group		
Afternoon Matinee Group			Pause When Agitated Group	\$21.55	\$90.06
Akron AA Group			Pink Cloud Group		\$37.50
Big Book Buddies Study Group			Room 106 Big Book Study Group at Holy Spirit		
Books & Beans Group			Saturday AM 12x12 Study Group	\$20.00	\$20.00
Books & Cookies Group		\$243.00	Second Chance Group		
By the Book Group		\$30.00	Serenity Now Group		
Check your Ego at the Door Group		\$110.50	Sergeant Bluff AA Group		\$80.00
Cheyenne Non-Smoking Group			Sioux City Tri-State Roundup	\$820.07	\$1070.07
Club 21 Group			Solutions Group Women's BB Study Group		
Come and Go Group			Someone Cares Group		
Drunks Helping Drunks Group		\$50.00	South Sioux Friday Nite BB Study Group	\$75.00	\$225.00
Early Risers Group			South Sioux Tuesday Niter's Group	\$100.00	\$275.00
Elk Point AA Group			Spiritual 3-11 Meeting - Hawkeye Club	\$80.00	\$456.18
Faith Without Works Group		\$300.00	Steel Magnolias Group		
Faithful Fiver's	\$145.00	\$855.00	Stockyards Men's Group	\$100.00	\$300.00
FOUNDER'S DAY			Sunday 1030AM Spiritual Meeting		
Friday 530 PM Group		\$187.42	Sunday 3-11 St. Luke's Hospital Group	\$150.00	\$275.00
Friday Night Keep It Simple Group S.L.			Sunday Nite Spiritual Group	\$100.00	\$300.00
Glenn Ave Group			Sunday Nite Big Book Study Grp		
Grupo Nuevo Camino			Sunrise Attitude Adjustment Meeting	\$64.00	\$500.00
Hawkeye 10AM Group			Sunrise Retirement Home Group		
Hawkeye Steps 3&11 Grp at Mercy Hospital		\$228.00	Sweets and Treats Group		\$45.00
How and Why of It Group			TGIS in Alton Group	\$150.00	\$150.00
Jackson Nebraska Monday Night Group			The How & Why Of It 12x12 Group		
Leed's Tuesday Open Group			Tuesday 12 X 12 Group		
Leed's Wednesday Brown Bag Group			Tuesday Early Bird Group	\$173.66	\$377.66
Leeds Sunday Nite Spiritual Group			QUARTERLY UNITY DINNER	\$374.09	\$1891.86
Living in The Solution Group	\$101.00	\$208.50	We Can Group		\$213.00
Living Sober Group			Wednesday BB Study Group	\$300.00	\$740.00
Many Hands Caring Grp		\$175.00	Westlawn Group	\$25.00	\$470.25
Marble Group			Where It All Begins Group		
Morningside Fellowship Group			Wise Words Fellowship Club Group		
Moville Tuesday Nite Group		\$58.50	Women's Open Topic Group	\$5.00	\$50.00
No Matter What Group			Young Persons In AA		
No Name Group	\$29.00	\$528.09	12 Steps & 12 Traditions Group		\$85.55
			(NEW) Tuesday Night Speaker Tape Meeting	\$7.00	\$7.00
OTHER DONATIONS					
Birthday Donations	\$10.00	\$185.00	Individual Gifts		
Cash Donations	\$141.55	\$200.08	Memorial Donation		
Central Office Open House			** Monthly Intergroup Mtg**	\$16.80	\$152.55

Faithful Fiver Contributors as of Oct 31, 2016

Bill H	Cal H	Carol C	Charlie K	Charlie P	David P	Dianne B
Don P	Greg N.	Jerry H	Joan P	Joe B	Kevin J	Kevin M
Mike H	Pat G	Rick W	Rodney C	Roger J.	Teresa J	William B

Siouxland Intergroup Meeting Minutes from Oct 20th , 2016

The October meeting was opened at 7:00 P. M. with The Serenity Prayer, by Rose A. Intergroup Statement of Purpose, and Central Office Statement of Purpose were read with 11 members present.

Secretaries Report: Secretary Michelle M. read last months minutes. A motion to accept Minutes as read was made by Tim L., Seconded by Tom C., motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Bill H was not present and the report was given by Mike H. In addition, the Central Office requested approval to pay the annual insurance premium. A motion was made by Paul T to cover the insurance expenses and accept the Treasures report, seconded by Kevin J and the motion passed.

District One Report: Election of new officers will be made during the 7pm November 8th District 1 meeting at the Hawkeye Club. Several positions are open and nominations are still being accepted. Please contact your GSR, Mike H. at the Central Office or DCM, Charlene B. for more information.

Functions and Committees: The M-W-F 10am Hawkeye Group is hosting the next Unity Dinner on October 23rd at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Start time has been changed to 4:30 pm. Contact Rose A. or the Central Office with questions. Intergroup is looking for a groups to host the Jan 2017 Unity Dinner and the Feb 2017 Founders Day functions. Intergroup raised \$320 for the Central Office by selling water at the Sioux City Tri-State Roundup last month.

Old Business: Mike H reported that he felt reinstating our Bulk mailing permit was to expensive (\$225 per yr.) to keep. A motion was made by Paul T to drop the Standard bulk mailing permit, seconded by Don P., motion passed

New Business: Mike H reported that Windows10 did an automatic update on the Central Office computer which crashed our 2011 version of QuickBooks and caused issues with some of the drivers. He was able to download the driver compatibility upgrades needed but had to purchase an updated version of the QuickBooks (2016 from 2011) accounting software at a cost of \$220. The transition to the new version went surprisingly quick and easy and we are operating at 100% again. A motion to accept the new business was made by Rose A., seconded by Kevin J., motion passed.

Announcements: We need to raise interest with and inform the Fellowship that nominations for new officers will be taken at the 7pm Intergroup meeting on November 15th .

Motion to close the meeting was made by Rose A., seconded by Kevin J. and we closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary, Michelle M.

SIouxLAND INTERGROUP UNITY DINNER

Hosted by: TBA

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday Jan 21, 2017 (Subject to availability of location)

2017 WINTER 12-STEP WORKSHOP

Starts Jan 9, 2017 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The Ten week workshop will meet each Monday at 5:30 PM at the Jay Ave Club House, 2432 Jay Ave., Sioux City, IA

**** 50 person limit ****

Contact Vince M. at 712-259-5134 or Will M. at 712-266-6017

SIouxLAND INTERGROUP FOUNDERS DAY

Hosted by: TBA

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday Mar 4, 2017 (Subject to availability of location)