

# On the Rogue Again



## Jackson County Central Office Newsletter

Jackson County A.A. Central Office  
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### Central Office News

At the OFFICE (December 2018):

Visitors 18  
Calls 24  
Meeting inquiries 10  
Website 984

**Great people providing a valued service! Thanks to all**

### Board Members

Chair – Donna K.

Co-Chair – Karen D.

Office Manager – Al Z.

Volunteer Coordinator – Bill S.

Secretary – Amy V

Literature – Tom M.

Treasurer – Fran V.A.

Co-Treasurer – Sandy J.

Special Events – Cheryl R.

District Liaison – Joel S.

Website Coordinator—Terry K.

Newsletter Editor – Lois I.

Member #1 at Large - Wayne T.

Member #2 at Large— Casey H.

Interested in learning more about Jackson County Central Office – join us for our monthly meeting (first Saturday of the month) at 9 am.

### **GET INVOLVED!**

Please **contact Bill S.** to learn more about volunteering at Central Office.

### Donations - Jan. 2019

Thursday Night Candlelight

\$37.50

Crack of Dawn \$57.40

Medford Fellowship \$50.00

Living Sober \$50.00

Dog on the Roof \$200

Monday Night Men's \$120.00

Bottom of the Barrel \$75.00

### **Editors Note:**



**Save the Date!!!**

Jackson County Central Office will be having their fundraiser Brunch and Speaker meeting on Sunday, April 7, 2019. Save the date!!! Flyers and tickets will be available soon!



### **Birthday Celebrations**

**Tana D. \$28**

**Susy \$10**

**Hugh \$18**

### **VIRGINIA'S CORNER**

*"The Twelve Steps are not steps to take progressively in order to arrive at a conclusion, but a code for living—the constitution of a way of life".*

*"Spirituality" from AA Grapevine....1952*

*We publish for your enjoyment and information. Any mistakes you find are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.*

## Step 1— Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity

### In Gratitude

#### **Unable to count on anyone, she became her own higher power—and lived a life of alcoholism, depression and homelessness. Then she found the rooms of AA, and a Power greater than herself**

I am a recovering higher power. All of the best solutions that I used in life before recovery were my own.

I arrived at my own answers, very early in life, because I had lots of experience with everyone in charge letting me down. Disappointment was much more predictable than getting any of my needs met. So, I stopped asking or expecting. As I grew, I became afraid to ever count on anyone again. I was more than happy to become an adult and count only on myself. At least I was coming through for myself, I thought. I had to work hard for everything I had, living basically hand to mouth. I was not used to being given anything by anyone, unless I earned it. An unearned gift, a compliment of some kind...it was a concept very foreign to me. Something meant for others.

Fast forward to age 35. I am sitting one summer in my first of many AA meetings. I am a miserable wreck. I played by the world's rules in order to "succeed" in this life, whatever that means. I am drinking way too much. And I cannot stop. Basically, all I want is to just feel better. I am sitting across from a gentleman named Freddy. I watched a gentle smile spread across his face as he described himself as "grateful." I kept wondering why. That was not how I felt. Maybe I did not fit in here after all?

I felt covered in both defeat and shame. I did not understand him. And yet I had come to that room to find the answers. Mine were not working because my life was in the toilet. Very simply, I was not grateful for even ONE thing. Not one. I had worked for what I had ever received. So why be grateful for something I had worked so hard for? I was also punished for my mistakes. Like gifts, mercy was for others. Looking back, I realize that not understanding Freddy's word "grateful" was the biggest sign for me of just how broken I was by this disease of alcoholism.

I did not know it yet, but I was being given the gift of desperation. The thing I needed most was to stay around Freddy and others like him in that recovery room so I could learn how to live in the spirit of the Twelve Steps. The higher power of my own wisdom had leveled me. I was powerless. For me, it felt so empty, just as I had as a child. Freddy said he was powerless, too. Yet, he looked happy. I remembered how angry that made me feel at the time. Addiction, depression, homelessness, hospitals, isolation, jail, poverty. Those were my problems. My focus. I could not control any of it. I didn't realize that was the answer all along. My life was not meant for my control. Freddy was focusing on his solutions by choosing the will of a Higher Power greater than himself. And he was thankful. Because there is power in AA unity, he had a voice in that room that was significant.

Twelve Steps and a decade later, as I write this, I am sitting in that same AA meeting room. Recovery has been good to me because AA has never left, even though I may have, time and again. I have finally had the chance to introduce myself to Freddy and thank him for teaching me my first lessons of recovery: powerlessness, surrender, gratitude. We are kindred spirits. We are children of God- powerless. We surrender our own understanding for God's understanding, an awesome task that cannot even be conceived of with our human minds. We are grateful to be able to turn our lives and will over to a Higher Power who delivers promises no human can.

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Step 2—In Gratitude, continued.

I have a sponsor and many friends. I am sober. And see my life through a lens of never-ending blessings. Sometimes I forget it is not me who is in charge of it all. Yes, I am a recovering higher power who is a continual work in progress. Thankfully, prayer and AA meetings are available 24/7 when I need to be re

stored to sanity and the sunlight of the spirit - Rebecca K. Saginaw, Mich. GrapeVine 2018

***Tradition Two—For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.***

### **One Among Many**

When I first came into the Fellowship, I fell in love not only with AA, but with the business meetings. I loved to sit there and watch the members arguing back and forth, hashing and rehashing the tiniest bit of trivia and expounding on why and why not something should change or stay the same. I heard some members say they didn't like business meetings and didn't like to see the members disagreeing. I couldn't identify with this. Why, I thought, it added an exciting dimension to meetings! In the beginning I was made aware of my inflated alcoholic ego by working the Steps. What I didn't know at the time was that I would get in touch with other defects I didn't even know I had--little things like power driving, tunnel vision, and numerous other lovable traits. Humility, self-sacrifice, principles before personalities, and anonymity were not my favorite words. To begin with, I didn't really know what they meant.

After my first Fourth Step, I thought I had discovered all there was to know about me--oh, boy! With each additional Fourth Step, I found I was only scratching the surface. The Twelfth Step told me that after having a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, I would try to carry this message to alcoholics and I was to practice these principles in all my affairs. So far, so good. Little did I know, when I started out in service, that these principles would become a reality I couldn't have imagined.

It happened that I moved from my old home group, which had nurtured me for five years, to a group that was entirely different in the way they did things (or so I thought). No one told me to grab a club when I started telling this group about the Traditions and how they were breaking them all, but I did. God help the alcoholic who discovers a bit of truth and needs to tell others about it, come hell or high water. I became the group's watch dog, making sure they did everything "according to Traditions." Without even realizing it, I was breaking our First Tradition. Unity went out the door when I walked in. This was the beginning of the realization of just how deep my defects of character went.

As I trudged this happy road of service, many challenges surfaced. Could I become one among many who are also in service positions? Could I see there is no "chief" drunk, and no "peon" positions, either? That we are all an important part of the whole--that any position I might hold is in direct relationship with the positions others hold? Could I realize, when needing to voice my opinions and make sure all hear, that I have lost my ability to listen? Could I see that tunnel vision isn't practical when I need to see the whole? Could I do what I was trusted to do and let others do what they were trusted to do without making sure it was done and self-righteously picking up the slack (all for the good of AA, don't you know)? Could I put any position I might hold in proper perspective to its relationship with AA as a whole? If I don't do these things, my job either gets escalated in my mind and I end up with an overrated ego, or I see my job as not that big a deal and do half a job or none at all.

After a while, I began not to take myself so seriously. I am developing the ability to laugh at myself when I get off the beam in these areas. Like I said, AA is a journey that takes a lifetime. -- Anonymous Winthrop, Maine February 1994 Grapevine

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## A.A.W.S./G.S.O YouTube Channel

A YouTube channel has been launched for A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. General Services Office. The new channel can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServiceInc>. It provides an additional platform from which A.A.W.S.—produced videos can be easily shared with a broad audience in order to enhance carrying the message to alcoholics, the general public and the professional community.



On the Road to Recovery -**Epigrams**—"*Wit and Wisdom*" spoken in the rooms of AA all over the world.

we are only as sick as our secrets  
be part of the solution, not the problem

there are no coincidences in AA  
sponsors: have one-----use one-----be one

Hear something clever, witty, or even profound at a meeting? Send it to: [aajacksoncounty@gmail.com](mailto:aajacksoncounty@gmail.com)

### UP COMING EVENTS

#### **Oregon Area 58 Quarterly Service Assembly**

Feb. 22-24, 2019

Ask for details at the next General Service meeting or email our DCM.

Inn at the Commons

200 N Riverside Ave, Medford

#### **12 Traditions & 12 Concepts**

3rd Monday of every month in 2019: February 18th 5:30-7 PM

Traditions and Concepts 3 & 4

Sponsored by District 16

Smullin Center

2825 E Barnett Rd., Medford

#### **Southern Oregon Speaker Meeting**

April 27, 2019, 7 p.m.

Smullin Center

2825 E Barnett Rd., Medford

**Rule #62—“Don’t take yourself too damn seriously”** - is at the heart of Grapevine collection of humor. Sometimes staying sober calls for a good laugh, so that we don’t take our situations or ourselves too seriously. Humor tends to put things in perspective. And the Grapevine has, from its beginning, published jokes and cartoons. Our Monthly newsletter will be sharing some of these over this next year. We hope you enjoy and find the humor in them.

**“Bartender!”**

**“What now?”**

**“Do lemons have feet?”**

**“NO, lemons do not have feet.”**

**“Oh, God”**

**“What?”**

**“I just squeezed your canary into my gin and tonic.”**

**Upcoming Event?** Please send your event flyer to [webcoordinator@outlook.com](mailto:webcoordinator@outlook.com). If you do not have a flyer—please provide details of the AA event so we can get it posted on our website and put it in newsletter.