

# 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 45  
Calls 38  
Meeting inquiries 12  
Website 854

**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 - Dec 2018

- Stud Muffin \$250
- Tuesday Shady Cove \$75
- Pacific Positive Action \$100
- Tom M. #12
- Dog on the Roof \$200
- Living Sober \$100
- Medford Fellowship \$50
- Michelle C. \$160
- Just for Today \$364.37
- Duck Pond \$100
- Park Bench Group \$150



### Birthday Celebrations

Kelly K. \$36

### Editors Note:

#### Willingness

“ If we are **willing** to straighten out the past, if we can ...we have made a good beginning. ” P. 70-71 Big Book.

“ We have emphasized **willingness** as being indispensable.” P76 Big Book.

“ The main thing is that he be **willing** to believe in a power greater than himself. ” P. 93 Big Book.

“ We grow by our **willingness** to face and rectify errors and convert them into assets. ” P. 124 Big Book.

### VIRGINIA'S CORNER

*The road to spiritual and emotional recovery...has taken diverse routes—lots of meetings, readings, talks with AA members, discussion groups, psychotherapy. The keys seemed to be listening and sharing—the spirit at work.....*

*.....from Spiritual Awakenings.*

*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— We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.**

## Smooth ride

My sponsor told me many years ago that I would never be finished with the Twelve Steps—especially Step One. He said that no matter how much I admitted that I was an alcoholic, I'd never completely understand it. My smart-alecky answer was, "That's why it says 'admitted.' "

But, as in most things, I've discovered that he was right again. The longer I'm sober, the more about my own First Step is uncovered.

In my home group, there's a man who has nearly 45 years sober. He's told the story of his car wreck many times. He describes driving drunk at a high rate of speed when he lost control and his car rolled over about 10 times. It landed on its wheels, and luckily he wasn't hurt. So he tried to drive it away, but he passed out until the next morning. When he woke, he could barely see out of what used to be his windshield and again tried to drive it home. He was stopped by the cops and arrested for driving an unsafe vehicle. He was then taken to treatment.

For whatever reason, one morning I heard his story in a different way. What I heard was a description of an unmanageable life. As an alcoholic, I'm always driving an unsafe vehicle—me. I used to drive this unsafe vehicle drunk. Today, by God's grace, I no longer drive it drunk, but my vehicle (me) is always unsafe if under my own power. My life can quickly get out of control if I try to drive it on my own. I need this program every day. I need God in my life everyday. Otherwise my selfishness and self-centeredness shows its ugly head very quickly.

Every time my life seems overwhelming and I'm afraid or angry or feeling isolated, I hear the voice of my sponsor asking, "Which Step are you working now, Bob?" The answer is always one of the Twelve—usually Steps Three and Eleven: I haven't been praying.

I'm retired now, so I'm able to attend more meetings. So I'm able to hear the answers in other people's stories more often now. And the answer is always the same: Keep coming back, let go and let God, carry the message, read the Book, talk about it, take myself out of the equation, more conscious contact—and of course, work the Steps. The answer for me is here, around these tables.

-- Bob M Green Valley, Arizona Grapevine May 2018

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***Tradition One—(the long form) - Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence, our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.***

## **Unity Disrupted**

### **An awkward incident at a morning meeting enlightens some members about our common welfare**

I will never forget the first time I really understood the meaning of Tradition One and how important our common welfare is to me personally. I was sitting in my home group meeting one morning a little after seven a.m., not quite awake but aware that I was safe and among friends. These were the people who'd been there for me as I learned how to stay sober and live a life of love and service. Through the sharing of their own experience, I've learned the spiritual principles of the Steps and Traditions.

My home group is a large group that meets six days a week, has a lot of long-term sobriety and has a very strong service structure. The monthly home group meetings (what we call business meetings) are often focused on what we can do to better carry the AA message to the newcomer. We celebrate birthdays by giving away AA literature and Grapevine. The minority is respected and encouraged to speak. As a result of this concerted effort to examine ourselves, our group continues to grow and prosper and attract newcomers.

That morning, a fellow (a new face) stood and began to hold forth, to preach really, about the Bible. Suddenly, I was no longer in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous but in a revival meeting. I was extremely uncomfortable and fearful. I wanted to say something, to interrupt him, but either I couldn't figure out a way to do it so as not to embarrass him or myself, or I didn't have the courage. So I sat there looking at my feet, feeling miserable and hoping that any newcomers in the room would somehow know that this was not the message of AA.

After a few minutes, a member of the group interrupted the man—rather gruffly everyone later agreed—and told him that this was an AA meeting, that we really didn't want to hear about the Bible, and asked him to sit down. The room heaved a silent and collective sigh of relief. Thank goodness someone had thought more of the group, thought more of our common welfare than of his own ego, and had the courage to speak up. There were a few seconds of awkward silence before the chairperson quickly called on someone else and the meeting got back on its normal footing.

Naturally, this incident was a topic of much discussion at the next home group meeting. It provided the basis for a lengthy discussion about Tradition One and how we could deal with disruptive people in the future. We all worried that telling someone that their sharing wasn't appropriate might jeopardize their sobriety. If embarrassed they might go out and drink. Others felt strongly that the welfare of the group as a whole was more important and that we had a responsibility to the newcomer to carry the message of AA. If our group failed in our primary purpose, newcomers would not be attracted to our meetings, or worse yet, would not stay.

The result of this discussion was increased unity for the group. Everyone had their say and in the end we agreed that our common welfare as a group must come first. We would do our best to lovingly explain Tradition One to anyone who disrupted the group.

Continue on next page.....

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Continued from Tradition 1.....

To participate in God’s will through the group conscience process was a tremendous spiritual experience to me. I understood that in being a member of AA and of my home group, I was a part of something much greater than myself. For this I am truly grateful. The principle of putting AA’s welfare above my own self-interest teaches me humility and self-sacrifice. These are principles that do not come naturally to a “me-first” alcoholic. But it’s a tremendous way to live.

-- Anonymous  
Maui, Hawaii, USA...Grapevine January 1998



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

- keep an open mind
- it works -----it really does ! (page 88,line 8 in the big book)
- willingness is the key

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

**UP COMING EVENTS**

**Women to Women Conference**

April 5, 6, & 7, 2019  
Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova  
11211 Point E Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

**Southern Oregon Speaker Meeting**

January 26, 2018, 7 p.m.  
Smullin Center  
Asante RRM  
2825 E Barnett Rd., Medford

**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

**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.

**I dialed the number** of a newcomer and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes....Richard M., Golden, CO, April 2006

**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.