

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 (April 2018):

Visitors	40
Calls	39
Meeting inquiries	13
Website	721

Great people providing a valued service! Thanks to all

Board Members

Chair – Joel S.

Co-Chair – Donna K.

Office Manager – Al Z.

Volunteer Coordinator – Bill S.

Secretary – Beth M.

Literature – Tom M.

Treasurer – Fran V.A.

Co-Treasurer – Sandy J.

Special Events – Cheryl R.

District Liaison – Wayne T.

Website Coordinator—Drew A.

Newsletter Editor – Lois I.

Member #1 at Large - Davina J.

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

May 2018

Medford Fellowship \$50

Susan S. \$10

Ashland New Timers \$40

Living Sober \$115

VIRGINIA'S CORNER

A Willingness Prayer

Dear God, I pray that I find the willingness to change, to grow, to work the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and to always seek

*Your will for me.
Amen.*



Editors Note:

What is on the Jackson County Central Office Website?
(www.jccoaa.org)

- Newsletter new and old
- Upcoming events' flyers
- Meeting Schedule (printable)
- Form to update Meetings
- News to Use (interesting articles)
- Volunteer at Central Office Forms
- AA related links

Al-Anon and Alateen

Grants Pass AA

District 26

Upcoming Event?

Please send your event flyer to 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.

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.

The Sixth Tradition — *An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

This is AA - Tradition Six is a reminder that outside facilities are separate

IN thinking about this Tradition I'm reminded of my friend George. In the fall of '94 I was on our local intergroup call list. Late one evening, I was asked to give George a call, as he might want help. George said that he had tried "AA" before but it had never worked--during several previous stays in treatment, he'd gone to meetings there. It was a great surprise to George when I said that most of those meetings were run by the facilities; they were not AA groups but a function of the treatment center or hospital. I said I would be glad to meet him and show him the program of recovery that worked for me--as outlined in our book *Alcoholics Anonymous*--and introduce him to an AA group.

Because of the amount of alcohol George had consumed, I suggested a medically supervised detox. After that, I agreed to meet him at my home group. Unexpectedly, I had to leave early so I arranged for George to be met by a fellow member, Jimmy D.--who became George's sponsor.

Eight years later, when Jimmy D. died, George talked about the wonderful away of life Jimmy had shared with him. George and I often reminisced about how he had given up hope of finding sobriety, and how he thought he had tried AA but had never been introduced to the program of recovery.

"While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied," AA's Sixth Tradition, long form, says. (AA's Third Tradition, long form, adds: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.")

-- MIKE M.
Fort Wayne, Ind. The June 2009 Grapevine

They [the Promises] are being fulfilled among us — sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 84

Step 6 — *Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*

My Armor—Step Six suggested that he place all his defects on the table and let God sort them out.

WHILE I had no problem admitting I was an alcoholic, I didn't believe I was the kind of alcoholic who joined AA, the kind who had to stop drinking altogether, who could never take another drink. "One day at a time," they said. But I knew what that meant: "One day at a time . . . for the rest of your life." Oh, no, not me, buddy! I was pretty sure I was the kind who cut down. You know, a mild case.

My plan was to take a look at these famous Twelve Steps (whatever they were), analyze them and decide which of them I might apply to seriously cutting down. My drinking had admittedly gotten out of hand. Since I had no intention of stopping entirely, I surely wouldn't need all twelve.

A couple of the Steps seemed to be unnecessary. Six and Eight, for instance, were preparation for Steps that followed, and had been stuck in there to make an even dozen, no doubt. Step Six especially, I thought, was a useless space saver. "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." Who wouldn't want to have their defects removed? I'd like to be a nice guy. I'd like to have people think well of me. Maybe it would help me to keep a job, maintain a friendship . . . or have a second date with the same girl.

The problem was that I hadn't identified any defects. Little did I know that I had developed, cultivated and come to depend on an army of character defects. They weren't even pests to me. They were more like beloved pets that I fed and nurtured. Arrogance, for example, was self-confidence. I'm not lustful--I'm romantic by nature. You might call me selfish--I call it frugal. You call it gluttony--I call it lunch. If I'm intolerant, critical or judgmental of others, I call it being ruthlessly honest and painfully frank. As for my own dishonesty, I denied it. "I pride myself on my personal integrity." In other words, I lied!

When, after months of attending AA meetings, I finally did stop drinking, got a sponsor and decided to apply the Steps to my life, I discovered that taking the Twelve Steps is an entirely different experience than reading them or hearing them read.

Step Six is an extremely significant part of the process. In fact, I've come to think of the Sixth Step as the "gateway Step."

After taking Step Five, I had a list of people to whom I owed amends. I would deal with them at Steps Eight and Nine. The list at hand now was the list of my character defects, my shortcomings. These were the manifestations of self that had placed me in a position to be hurt and to hurt others.

These were the elements of my personal armor I had gathered over my life. I put them on and wore them as if into battle. They may have been heavy and awkward, but I believed that they protected me. Step Six suggests I place them all on the table and let God sort them out, ask God to decide which I need and don't need. There may be things I consider short-comings that my Higher Power has some use for, just as there may be things I consider virtues that need to be cleared away for my spiritual well-being.

My meditation was once interrupted by what I considered some worldly and less than spiritual thoughts. I was so irritated by this that I shared it with my wife and exclaimed, "I need to ask God to remove my lust." Her response was, "Don't you dare!" Evidently she had some use for such distractions and considered them beneficial.

On the other hand, as an artist, I have long considered pride in my work a necessary tool of the trade. And though pride has its usefulness in craftsmanship, it is a total liability in spiritual matters. The Big Book refers to the "leveling of our pride." That doesn't mean evening it out like we might "level" a sand lot, it means like they level an old building to build a new one in its place. It has to be destroyed.

The Seventh Step Prayer says, "I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows."

So Step Six may be the greatest act of courage in the whole twelve-step process: a total act of faith. I have to trust that God will see the big picture and make the right choices. Funny thing is, without all that armor, it's a lot easier to move. In fact, I feel like dancing through the rest of the Steps.

-- DOUG R. (Tujunga, Calif.) Excerpt from *June 2010 Grapevine*.

The 12 Steps of AA ARE the Principles of the Program that we practice, as listed in the Big Book pages 59 and 60! Over the years many lists of virtues that correspond to each of the Twelve Steps and their underlying spiritual nature have been printed in local area AA newsletters and on pocket cards. The origins of these lists are unknown, although they are used by many Twelve step members.

Step 6 - Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

The AA principle and Virtues for this step are: Willingness (favorably inclined; minded, disposed, ready, gladly)- choosing to abandon defects of character. Acceptance—the key to Step 6 is acceptance — accepting character defects exactly as they are and becoming entirely willing to let them go.



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

ISM – I sponsor myself

ISM – I, Self and Me

ISM – I have a short memory

Good things happen to drunks who don't drink.

My life is NOT unmanageable – as long as I remember what is mine to manage and what IS God's.

Fear is the cause – Resentment is the condition.

If nothing changes, your sobriety date will.

God help me learn to accept the things I cannot change, but quit accepting the unacceptable!

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

Local Events

2nd Annual Eagle Point AA Picnic Saturday, June 9th, 11 am—4 pm. At Chamberlain Park in Eagle Point. Hot dogs and hamburgers provided. Bring a covered dish to share.
[Flyer Here](#)

Founders Day Ice Cream Social Celebrating 83 years of AA Sunday, June 10th Ice Cream at 3 pm, Speaker meeting at 5 pm. At Ascension Lutheran Church, 675 Black Oak Drive, Medford.
[Flyer here](#)

Rogue Valley Women in Recovery Brunch Saturday, June 16, 2018 10 am—2 pm Registration required
[Flyer Here](#)

All 12-Steppers Women's Camp Out 2018 August 9th - 12th Camp Apserkaha at Howard Prairie
[Flyer Here](#)

Searching and Fearless South Coast Roundup July 27-29, 2018
[Flyer Here](#)

Southern Oregon Speaker Meeting. Saturday, July 28th 7 pm at Smullin Center, 2825 E. Barnett Road, Medford.

41st Annual South Coast Round Up July 27-29 Brookings, OR For more information contact> Jeff B. 541-254-9140 or 541-373-1196

SORYPAA

Southern Oregon Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

The aim of young people's groups in AA is to show the newcomer that they don't have to endure years of drinking and loss of family, friends and finances to find lasting and meaningful recovery. Business meeting 1st Sun of the month—Rotating location.

Call or text for the biz meeting location. We do awesome stuff, all the time, to promote unity among young people

Beth—541-916-9028 or
Garrson—541-301-9723