

On the Rogue Again



Jackson County Central Office Newsletter

Jackson County A.A. Central Office
116 East 6th St., Medford, OR 97501

(541) 732-1850 • www.jccoaa.org • aajacksoncounty@yahoo.com

Central Office News

At the OFFICE (February 2019):

Visitors 52
Calls 156
Meeting inquiries 16
Hang ups / Telemarketers 1
Website 1190

**Great people providing
a valued service!
Thanks to all who
volunteer.**

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.

Website - Drew A.

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

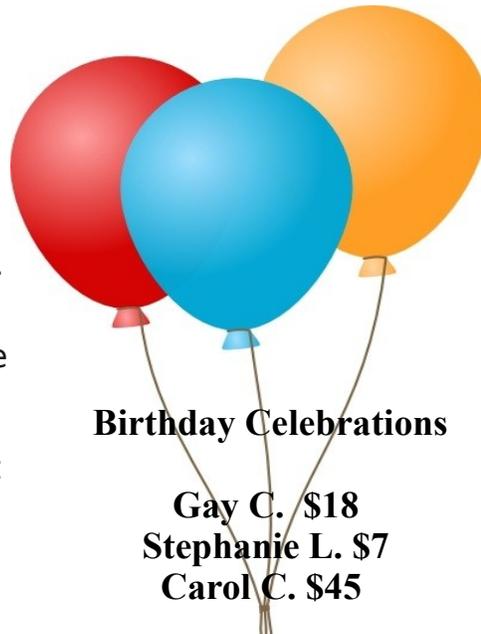
GET INVOLVED!

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

Donations - February

Bill S. \$8.00
Medford Fellowship \$50.00
Pacific Positive Action \$75.00
Eagle Point Womens \$50.00
Sober Seniors \$150.00

**Thank you for participating
in the 7th Tradition!**



Birthday Celebrations

Gay C. \$18
Stephanie L. \$7
Carol C. \$45

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!!!
Tickets available at Central Office.

VIRGINIA'S CORNER

***"A Really Good Idea"
Spring City, Utah, November
2003 - Grapevine***

***"It's true that the only
requirement for membership
in AA is a desire to stop
drinking. But if you
absolutely want a better life,
hmmmm...How's this?
Working the Steps with a
sponsor is a really good idea."***

*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 3— Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him .

10 years sober

There in the basement on his plywood bed, he was going to be OK. Something had changed. The morning of my 10-year anniversary in AA, I woke up in a friend's basement. I was in my sleeping bag on a piece of plywood, which was on some 2x4s that kept me off the concrete floor. I leaned over and picked up my open can of soda and took a sip. Along with the soda came a cockroach that must have crawled in during the night and drowned. I spit it all back into the can, out of revulsion. That set me off. My mood went from depressed to angry.

Lately, after I'd awakened, I would cry. Not this morning, though. This morning, I was mad—mad at God. I said out loud, "God, if this is what it's like to be sober after 10 years, I'm not sure I made the right decision. If you want me to keep being sober, you'd better give a sign by 5:00 p.m. or I'm going to the liquor store and blow this whole thing up. You hear me? Five p.m., or else."

At that time in my life, I felt like the prodigal son. I had returned to St. Louis, Missouri after giving up a job in Colorado, under circumstances that were of my own making. I had a car, a little savings, but no prospects. I brushed my teeth, showered, ate and made it to the noon meeting I'd been attending since returning to St. Louis. At that AA meeting, after the perfunctory beginning verbiage, they asked if anyone would like a 24-hour chip. Some guy raised his hand. He said his name was Steve and everyone clapped. They gave him his chip and hugs and Steve sat down. Then they asked if anyone was celebrating 30 days, 60 days, and so on, until it came to ask whether anyone was celebrating a birthday today.

I didn't say a word. I was pissed off about having 10 years and little else. I wasn't going to have people congratulate me when I felt so resentful. The meeting finally got to open sharing. The first person to speak was Steve. He said, "My name is Steve, I'm an alcoholic." We all said, "Hi, Steve." Then Steve said, "I had 10 years and went back out three months ago. Now I'm back." That was it. I sat there quietly. I looked up, closed my eyes and silently said, "OK, God, I got it."

That was how I came to believe in the power of prayer. Before, when I prayed I was just going through the motions. I didn't really believe anyone was listening. In that instant when Steve spoke up, somehow my life changed. I felt I wasn't alone anymore. That night when I went to sleep in the basement again in my sleeping bag on my piece of plywood, everything was OK. I was right where I was supposed to be. Things didn't change. But I did.

That happened about 22 sober years ago. I've never doubted my sobriety or my God since. God got me to AA and AA got me to God. Prayer does work. I now believe it.

-- Mike G. Madison, Missouri Grapevine 2019

Kicked Out Already?

She was new and beginning to like going to AA, but this meeting said it was “closed”.

My first week in AA I went with a friend to various meetings all over town. If I introduced myself, I just said I was a visitor. Or I said I was accompanying my friend (I did not want to say I was an alcoholic). There was one noon meeting I really liked because it was very artsy and cozy.

However, when I told my friend I wanted to return to it the second week, she said I couldn't because it was a closed meeting and visitors and friends were not allowed. Boy, was I mad. One week in AA and kicked out already!

In one of the meetings that I had attended the first week, I had heard a man share who was very serene and seemed to know the Big Book really well. He had 13 years sober. He had given me his phone number in case I had any questions, or if I felt like drinking.

I called him and reported my complaint about not being allowed to attend my favorite meeting. I also told him I had read through the entire Big Book and could not find any rule about attendance. He asked me if I recalled hearing the Preamble read at the beginning of each meeting. Of course I did not recall this because I had such difficulty focusing. So he read it to me over the phone. He emphasized the line that said, “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking,” which I have learned is our Third Tradition. He asked me, if indeed, I had a desire to stop drinking. I answered with a firm, “Yes.” He said I had established my membership and could state that fact in any AA meeting.

Boy, was I thrilled. I wasted no time getting to my favorite meeting, plus many others, and claiming my membership at each one. This was such a key point in my early sobriety, because I could have just walked off and never come back and never gotten sober.

Thankfully that man gave me his phone number that day and talked to me. That was in 1990, and the desire to stop drinking is still keeping me going, one day at a time.

-- Katherine P.

Houston, Texas, USA, Grapevine 2018

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.

W.A.I.T - Why am I talking, typing, texting.
 God gives us the gift of A.A, we give gifts back to God when we are
 in service to others.
 Don't believe everything we think!

UP COMING EVENTS

Southern Oregon Speaker Meeting

April 27, 2019, 7 p.m.
 Smullin Center
 2825 E Barnett Rd., Medford

Central Office Annual Fundraiser Breakfast

Sunday, April 7th, 2019
 Breakfast, Speaker, Raffle at
 St. Vincent DePaul
 Tickets available at Central Office

Rogue Valley Women in Recovery Brunch

Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Inn at the Commons. Al-Anon and AA speaker, Buffet and Raffle
 Registration required, see flyer on website.

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 the of changes."

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.