

# 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.jccooa.org • aajacksoncounty@yahoo.com



### Central Office News

#### At the OFFICE (April 2019)

Visitors 35  
Calls 21  
Meeting inquiries 11  
Website 1123

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

#### Board Members

- Chair – Donna K.
- Co-Chair – Keren D.
- Office Manager – Al Z.
- Volunteer Coordinator – Bill S.
- Secretary – Amy V
- Literature – Mickey N.
- 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.
- MFG Liaison—Theresa P.

### **GET INVOLVED!**

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

### Donations—April 2019

- Ashland Morning Meeting \$200
- Crack of Dawn \$186.45
- Hole in the Wall \$100
- Talent Phoenix Group \$422
- Ashland Men’s Stag \$125
- Medford Fellowship \$70
- Ashland Friday Night \$60
- Duck Pond \$100
- A Design for Living \$150



### **Birthday Celebrations**

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

### *Editors Note:*

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

**May 28** - Monday District 16 Pasta Feed and Speaker Meeting "Take your Sponsor to Dinner"

**June 10** – Monday District 16 Founder's Day Celebration "Old Times" Speaker Meeting

**July 1** - Monday District 16 Burgers and Dogs Speaker Meeting "Young Members Eye View"

**August 10** - Saturday District 16 Breakfast Tacos and Speaker Meeting

**Cancelled**

### *VIRGINIA'S CORNER*

**Have a great, fun, sober summer!!!**

*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 Five: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*

*From the September 2017 Grapevine magazine.*

### **Work in Progress**

#### **Sometimes quickly, but often slowly, an old-timer expresses gratitude as he celebrates 60 years in AA**



I received a 60th AA birthday cake recently. On top of the cake were three words: "Together We Can." The 60 years were not 60 years of sobriety. Although I've not had a drink for that period of time, little of my life could really be categorized as "sober."

When I got to AA in the 1950s, the desire to drink alcohol left me after just a few days. I did not understand surrender at that time, but I believe that's exactly what happened. I didn't know what was wrong with me, or indeed if there was anything wrong. Were it not for the old-timers, I probably wouldn't have made it. They welcomed me and accepted me. In that era, most of them were in their early 50s and up. I was just 27. The AA program, the old-timers, plus a determined desire to never drink again saved this sorry old peasant.

I had absolutely no idea whatsoever just how seriously messed up I was. It wasn't until many years later in 2006 that I was finally diagnosed as a wounded warrior. I suffered from PTSD. Through counseling, I found out how traumatized I was. For years, PTSD had not allowed me to feel much of anything. It kept me silent in talking about my past.

I am the father of four, but I was a deplorable failure as a dad. I was cold and indifferent. Being a dad takes much more of a commitment than I was able to show up for or even understand. My three youngest ones had never seen me drink, not ever. However, they grew up in a house that tended to be a war zone. I had a hugely unmanageable life. For this I have paid a heavy price.

I stayed in a hopeless and largely sexless marriage for the kids' sake. I think now that that was a terrible mistake. My wife and I could not afford to live separately, nor did I want to leave. Perhaps I feared abandonment at the time. No surprise then that it is now some 26 years since I last saw them.

I wrote to my youngest son a few months ago. This went over like a lead balloon. I sent him a four-page explanation, complete with an apology. Zero reply. I have at least learned one thing well though—the Serenity Prayer. It has saved my life. Acceptance has truly liberated me. It's utterly marvelous. Acceptance has afforded me a free and joyous life.

My struggle with PTSD kept me from doing my Fifth Step until relatively recently. Over the years, the other 11 Steps got worked to some degree, but not nearly as well as they should have. But after

---

and did my Fifth Step. He's absolutely the greatest, my sponsor. In time, no doubt, there will be more to talk about. What a lovely feeling, having finally done this house-cleaning.

I am sober but I'm probably never going to be completely well. But what an improvement. My second wife certainly benefits from my progress. When we married 29 years ago, she inherited a man quite rough around the edges. She has done an excellent job of helping me round off some of the rough spots. Thanks to AA, I am much more of a civilized human being now. And most grateful too.

Thank you, Alcoholics Anonymous, for saving a life that at times I did not seem to want. Today, I just put one foot in front of the other and keep on trucking. This is a serious business, this one day at a time thing. I have so much to be grateful for. Bless you all who played such a huge part in my ongoing recovery. I am a work in progress. May it ever be thus. ....Anonymous

## ***Tradition Five—***

*From the May 2018 Grapevine magazine.*

### **The right place**

#### **By sharing their drinking stories in a treatment center, a few women helped another find her way**

I am currently serving as chair of my district's Cooperation With Treatment Facilities (CTF). As part of my work, I took a panel into a local treatment facility a little over a week ago. It was a women's outpatient group. I brought my sponsor and one other woman from my home group with me.

I led the informational part of the panel, as I was the facilitator. Then my sponsor and the other woman shared their stories. Both women are familiar with the Traditions and respect singleness of purpose. After they shared their stories and we closed the panel, everyone started leaving except for this 24-year-old woman who was very emotional and was embarrassed to walk out in tears. The three of us stayed behind and did our Twelfth Step work with her.

It was just the four of us in the room. She was crying because she identified with what she'd heard, and for the first time in her life she was feeling she might be a real alcoholic. She explained to us that she had never identified as an alcoholic before in meetings. No one had ever told her story, she said, or shared her feelings. She told us that she was a blackout drinker and she never understood why alcohol affects her differently than all of her friends.

She said she had never heard anyone in the meetings talk about blacking out or the phenomenon of craving. My sponsor asked her what meetings she had been attending. She told us that she was going to a different fellowship because that's where everyone else at that facility went. I asked her if she was also a drug addict. She said no, she wasn't, that alcohol was her problem, but that the (well-meaning) treatment facility staff had told her that alcoholism and drug addiction are the same thing.

The next day we took her to our home group. This was her very first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. She cried for hours afterward. She said she identified with every single share.

That was just a few days ago. Since then, she's been attending an AA meeting every day and has found some hope. One of my sponsees became her sponsor and has been taking her through the Big Book. She has now completed her First Step and is on Step Two. She is excited for her future in AA.

Thank you, Bill and Bob, for being able to foresee the crucial need for identification and singleness of purpose.

---



## Meeting Guide

Introducing “Meeting Guide” – AAWS licensed meeting locator app!

Finding an AA meeting in the Rogue Valley and when traveling just got easier. Meeting Guide is a free mobile A.A. meeting finder app for iOS and Android. It gets its data by syncing with area, district, Intergroup/Central Office and International G.S.O. websites.

Greg T, General Manager of AAWS, announced the licensing of the app in November 2018.

“We are pleased to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., has licensed the Meeting Guide technology. Meeting Guide was launched in November 2015 and provides a platform for local A.A. entities (Areas, Intergroup/Central Offices, Districts, etc.) to post their local A.A. meetings and currently provides information to more than 100,000 users, reflecting some 86,000 meetings. Since the meeting information is all made available through the app’s mobile-friendly interface, those seeking a meeting have a simple, one-stop place to look.”

The app can use your location to find meetings close to you. You may filter the meetings on types such a Closed, Women’s of Child Friendly. Clicking on a meeting listing will provide further details on the meeting. And even getting directions through Google maps to the meetings location.

Old Timers – what a great opportunity to bond with a newer member. They can show you how to load the app onto your phone and how to use it.

### UP COMING EVENTS

#### **Rogue Valley Women in Recovery Brunch**

19th Annual  
June 15, 2019  
10AM - 230PM  
Inn at the Commons

#### **All 12-Steppers Women's Camp Out**

August 1st thru August 4th 2019  
Camp Apserkaha @ Howard Prairie Lake

**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 I you enjoy and find the humor in them.

#### **You know you’re a recovering alcoholic if:**

1. Emails from your friends say **HALT** in the subject header.
2. Your idea of a smooth opening line is “I really like what you shared.”
3. You don’t know the last names of most of your friends.

**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.