

# 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:

Visitors 44  
Calls 171  
Meeting inquiries 20  
Website 551

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

#### **GET INVOLVED!**

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

### 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  
Co-Treasurer – Sandy J.  
Special Events – Cheryl R.  
District Liaison – Wayne T.  
Newsletter Editor – Lois L.  
Website – Drew A.

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

### Donations

#### **November 2017 Donations**

Eagle Point Women's \$100  
Eagle Point Step Sisters \$25  
Ashland Men's \$100  
99 and Under \$60  
Medford Fellowship \$100  
Women's Byobb \$317.73

#### **Birthday Celebration Donations:**



### Editors Note

*Happy Holidays from all of us at Central Office !!!*

*Christmas Potluck at MFG Fellowship at  
1921 Elm St., Medford  
Monday, December 25th  
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm*

*We would love to hear your stories and thoughts. If you have a submission for the newsletter please email it to [aajcounty@yahoo.com](mailto:aajcounty@yahoo.com).*

### **VIRGINIA'S CORNER**



***Wishing you a blessed Christmas Season with Family and Friends!!!!***

*Step 12—Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

**Every Chair Matters**—I arrived 25 minutes early to my first City Group AA meeting. It was in midtown Manhattan. I had 19 days sober. It was the third Friday in February. As soon as I walked into the meeting room, I met Kevin, a man in his mid-70s, quietly setting up the chairs in the basement of the church. I asked if I could help him and he enthusiastically replied, “Sure. Welcome to the 20-20 club.”

After we finished setting up the chairs, Kevin took me aside and told me this seemingly cornball story about him picking up a drink in his early sobriety and losing his marbles. At the end of the story, Kevin gazed up at me, looked directly into my eyes and placed a marble in my hand. “Michael,” he said, “don’t ever lose your marble.” Within minutes, the basement filled with AA members and every chair was taken.

I returned home after the meeting and said to my husband, Harvey, “Darling, I’ve found my home.” I recounted how welcoming the AA members were, how honest and healing the meeting felt and that the focus of the shares was on staying sober and spiritual growth. I also told Harvey about Kevin, who I described as, “Mr. Rogers with three felonies and quite a bit of time served.”

I told Harvey about Kevin’s cornball story and about how he’d handed me a marble with such vulnerability, conviction and sincerity. “He was simple and straightforward,” I said. “He’s my guy. I want his sobriety.” On Monday, I returned to City Group 40 minutes early, just so I could spend time with Kevin setting up the chairs. Every weekday for the next two years, Kevin and I set up chairs—120 in fact. For me, what started out as a desire to stay sober by getting the sort of sobriety someone else had, transformed into a really fun and close friendship.

Kevin died recently. I miss him like crazy but I’m very grateful for our time together and for everything that he unknowingly taught me. He taught me that every chair matters because each chair gives one person the opportunity to stay sober for a single day.

When I first started setting up the chairs with Kevin, I did it for myself. I set up chairs because being of service enabled me to stay sober for a single day. But that changed. Over time, I began setting up chairs for my fellow AA members. As I would place each chair, I would think of the member who usually sat there. Or I would imagine a newcomer sitting in the chair and the possibility of him or her enjoying another sober day.

Eventually, I came to realize that each chair benefits more than just a single AA member. When a new dad sits in a chair and enjoys a day of sobriety, he would most likely not be an absent father. Better yet, he might even provide his kids with an evening of love and laughter. When an aunt sits in a chair, she’d be more present and caring for her nephew with a disability who needs care. When a young woman, newly inducted into the working world, sits in a chair, she’d be a better coworker and employee. The examples are as many as the AA members who attend our meeting.

A room full of AA chairs doesn’t just help the members who sit in them but also benefits everyone in their lives. Thanks to Kevin, I came to appreciate that every chair matters.

## Going To Any Lengths

I miss my sponsor, Veronica. She's been gone for over 20 years now, but I still remember the many experiences we share in our AA journey together. One phrase that seemed to baffle me was found on page 58 of the Big Book...*"If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps."* My question to Veronica was how far is any length? The answer was not long in coming: Jim and Ruth were members of my Friday night home group. All three local meetings were held in a Presbyterian church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Most of us found little difficulty with that, but Jim suffered from emphysema and Ruth from congestive heart failure. Their spouses dropped them off at least an hour before the preamble just so they could get up two flights of stairs to the meeting room. Jim and Ruth would sit on the bottom step, chat a few minutes, then joining hands they'd turn and climb a step or so before sitting down again. They would repeat this process many times until reaching the top. Folks would come in from the parking lot and work their way around the couple, but Veronica and I would sit on the steps with them. "This", Veronica would say, "is going to any lengths." It wasn't long before I wanted what they had. As a newcomer, I had other questions about "if you have decided you want what we have...."

Q: How many meetings must I attend?

V: Your home group, your "must meeting(s) and whenever you see yourself on pg. 90 of the 12x12 (the spiritual axiom).

Q: Is there such a thing as AA overload?

V: Yes, but for the life of me I can't think what that would be.

Q: How often should I call my sponsor?

V: Any day we're both breathing. Just don't plan on taking hostages that day, please.

Q: When do I do the steps?

V: As soon as you're able to sit up and take nourishment.

Q: What is a dry drunk?

V: When you surrender yourself to anything that stands between you and your Higher Power. (check pg. 90 in the 12x12 again).

Q: What do I do about a dry drunk?

V: Take a glass of water (dehydration often leads to crazy thinking). Then check the HALT-o-meter. Are you hungry, angry, lonely or tired? Call me and we'll go to a meeting. Better yet, call a newcomer and take her to a meeting,

..... Anonymously submitted

*"If faith without works is dead, willingness without action is fantasy."*

*~Anonymous*

**Tradition 12**—*Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.* We do not want to sell our program as a “surefire remedy” in the extravagant terms of a promotional campaign (Tradition Eleven), or dramatize it by identifying noted people in A.A., thereby implying that recovery has been for each of us an individual accomplishment. As Tradition Twelve reminds us, we have something stronger than our human personalities to rely on. Our principles come first—and they are not our own invention. They reflect eternal spiritual values. With this Tradition, both as individuals and as a fellowship, we humbly acknowledge our dependence on a power higher than ourselves.

Let us always remember  
that anonymity—not taking credit  
for our own or others’ recovery—  
is humility at work.

**Concept XII-** *General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.*

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## **OUT of the ARCHIVES - Submitted by Laura H.**



Dec. 2, 1943, Bill shares in a meeting at San Quentin Prison.

Dec. 8, 1934, Bill and Lois start attending the Oxford Group meetings with Ebby.

Dec. 11, 1934, Bill takes his last drink and enters Townes Hospital in NYC for the last time.

Dec. 19, 1939, First AA meeting in Los Angeles takes place in a private home.

Dec. 23, 1995, The new AA archives in Akron, Ohio are dedicated.

Tips on staying sober during holiday season can be found at AA Central Office Website:  
<https://www.jccoaa.org/>