

On the Rogue Again



Jackson County Central Office Newsletter

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

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Central Office News

At the OFFICE (March 2018):

Visitors	48
Calls	35
Meeting inquiries	7
Website	996

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

March 2018

Bottom of Barrel	\$150
Medford Fellowship	\$50
Park Bench Group	\$225
Friday Night BYOB	\$89.68
Her Story	\$125
Talent AA Group	\$120
There is a Solution	\$134

VIRGINIA'S CORNER

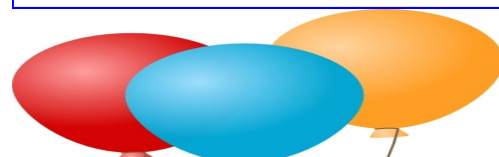
Fellow Travelers

Higher Power, Who fills out whole life, and Whose presence we find wherever we go, preserve us who travel the road of recovery, surround us with Your loving care, protect us from every danger, and bring us safely to our journeys' end.

Editors Note:

Thank you for letting me of service. Our hope is that you enjoy "On the Rogue Again".

Have you read AA approved literature that you would recommend? Would love to hear from you. Submit article to aajacksoncounty@gmail.com



Birthday Celebration Donations:

Gay C \$17

Krista \$2

Wayne T. \$21

Upcoming Event?

Please send your event flyer to web-coordinator@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 Fourth Tradition — *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.*

What does this Tradition call on me to do? It calls on me, it invites me, it obliges me to be vigilant in the group for collective pride and self-will, just as I have to be always vigilant in my own life for the same poisons. It doesn't mean I have to be the resident guru or "bleeding deacon." It only means that in a humble, prudent, caring way I be aware of the dangers to our group and to other groups and to AA as a whole, if we let ourselves get carried away in self-seeking, arrogance, pride and self-will.

What's in it for me? Plenty. If I live Step Three, it will stimulate and encourage Tradition Four. If I live Tradition Four, it will in turn stimulate and encourage the living out of Step Three in my life. There is a reciprocal dynamic between these two principles. And I come out a winner because I'll stay sober. If I submit my will and live in Step Three, I lose the dominion of my exaggerated arrogance and self-willed pride. I gain freedom. If I live that way in the group and encourage the group to live that way in Tradition Four, the same thing will happen to the group. In submitting itself to the welfare of other groups and AA as a whole, in the very act of submission, the group will lose slavery to its lower instincts and gain freedom. And I, as a member of the group, will share in that freedom and at the same time contribute to it. Step Three and Tradition Four inspire and strengthen each other. I win and the group wins and AA wins.

Excerpt from Grapevine April 1992
-- Anonymous
Los Angeles, California

But wherever two or more alcoholics are gathered together to practice A.A. principles, it is an A.A. group if they say it is.



EVENTS

Local & Regional & Beyond

District 16 Monthly Meeting

April 18, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Smullin Center
Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center
[2825 E Barnett Rd., Medford](#)

24th Annual Rogue Valley

Women's Retreat
April 20-22 at St. Rita's Retreat Center,
Central Point.

[Flyer Here](#)

Southern Oregon Speaker Meeting

April 21st, 7 p.m.
Smullin Center
Asante RRMC
2825 E Barnett Rd., Medford

[Flyer](#)

[Map](#)

Northwest Girlstock

3rd Annual
Women's Big Book 12 Step Conference
Bellingham, WA
4 Points Sheraton Hotel
April 27 - 29, 2018

District 7 Al-Anon Spring Fund Raiser

Chilli Feed \$7 Adult, \$3 Child
St. Vincent De Paul 2540 North Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

[Flyer Here](#)

Rogue Roundup

43rd Annual
May 4-6, 2018
Josephine County Fairgrounds

[Website.](#)

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](#)

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

Step 4 - Made a searching and fearless moral Inventory of ourselves.

A suggestion for a closed meeting. . .

"Do you know, I caught myself taking another guy's inventory this morning," laughed the Chairman as he opened the regular weekly closed meeting. "And that of course is not the purpose of the [Fourth](#) Step. . .We make a searching and fearless moral inventory of *ourselves*. Period! Not the other guy." He paused to light a cigarette. "Perhaps we'd better take an inventory of this Step tonight and see what factors enter into the making of an honest inventory."

"I never thought taking an inventory was too important," said Johnny, "until last week while on my vacation I went to a meeting and heard a speaker give out with this thought: 'A man can accept the First Step, believe the Second Step and acknowledge the Third, and build a pretty good foundation for sobriety. But without the Fourth Step his success on the Program is doubtful. He can't lie to himself about this one. That kind of made me think, and after two years I took time out to line up a list of *my* character defects. And brother, I still got a hell of a lot left."

"That's a swell start, Johnny," said the Chairman, "But the fact that it's taken you two years to get around to facing yourself, honestly might [account](#) for some of the dry drunks you've had to suffer." Very few AAs are ready to surrender *all* of their character defects. But this method of taking the inventory results in only partial rehabilitation. The Step as explained in the Big Book suggests a *complete inventory*, honest, sincere and thorough. Let's [start](#) around the room and check into a few of the most common inventory items."

"Speaking of the Big Book," said Charlie, "it says that *resentment* is the number one offender. More alcoholics are affected by this defect, than any other, I believe. When we first set our resentments down on paper, we believed that in the majority of cases we had suffered loss of [jobs](#), self-respect, family and other relationships, through no fault of ours! That of course, is alcoholic thinking, and can lead only to unhappiness. For my money, resentment is a luxury alcoholics can not afford to indulge in. It's dynamite."

"Thanks, Johnny. Some night we'll expand on this major inventory item. . .Ruth, have you got an item for our inventory list?"

"Yes; I feel that many persons who do not recover through the help offered by the AA Program have not been absolutely honest with themselves. *Dishonesty* has no place on our Program, because being honest with your God, yourself and your fellow man is the main link between alcoholism and happy sobriety. The AA Program to me, would be a very boring affair if I permitted dishonesty to become one of my character defects again." "OK, Ruth. Joe, what you got on your mind?"



"*Fear!* Mister Chairman, knocked me for a loop when I was drinking. And when I took the First Step--with reservations, I admit, it was fear of living without a drink that made me take it that way. After I learned that the AA Program was not founded on fear, but rather on a spiritual way of life in which we learned through faith that a Power Greater than Ourselves would help us overcome our fears, then I began thinking positively and my fears disappeared. In other words, I replaced my fears with faith."

"That's a swell thought, Joe, on a vital inventory item. Fear actually has an important part in the lives of human beings. It prompts us to take precautionary measures necessary to every day living. But in the case of us alcoholics, we've always utilized fear as a negative quality, always apprehensive of the worst, and forever fearing tomorrow."

"Tommy, have you a contribution to our inventory list?"

"I think most alcoholics have indulged in *self-pity* as a form of rebellion against circumstances. I can recall that it hit me the hardest when I was in the throes of a hangover. However, I think it is very closely allied to resentment, and until we realize that its a false attitude toward life, it can hinder our rehabilitation, and stunt our growth in AA. When I feel self-pity sneaking up on me I find that the best remedy, is to look around for someone else to help whose troubles are greater than mine. Invariably my own difficulties disappear as I gain strength in helping the other guy solve his problem."

"Patsie, I don't imagine a mild mannered gal like you had too much trouble with the inventory. . .or did you?"

"Haven't you ever heard me tell how I nearly killed my husband by bashing him on the head with an electric toaster?. . .Well, my contribution to your list is *Anger*. And I experienced the entire gamut from indignation to blind rage. But the AA philosophy showed me that there is no room for this emotion if I am to make any progress or growth. I think you will find a line in the Big Book that says "If we were to live we had to be free from anger. . .its a dubious luxury for normal men, but for alcoholics anger is poison!" "Wonderful, Patsie. I'd like to continue, but time is short. Many, many more items can be included in our Fourth Step Inventory. You might continue thinking about them, and remember that Step Ten suggests continual taking of our inventory, because a perpetual inventory is daily [insurance](#) against the instability of our nature. . .But please remember--take your own--not the other guy's!"



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 4 - Made a searching and moral inventory of ourselves.

The AA principle and Virtues for this step are: Courage, Honesty (An inventory of self). Soul Searching—There is a saying in the 12-step programs that recovery is a process, not an event. The same can be said for this step—more will surely be revealed. Trust in the process.

“Works, don’t it?”

In 1984, I completed 90 days of residential treatment in Pasadena, California. I could have stayed at the treatment facility, living in one of the little ‘casitas’ (apartments) in the rear of the property. My father sent me a bus ticket for Oregon and I ultimately made the decision to move in with my parents in Medford, Oregon.

My sister-in-law had completed treatment 6 months prior to my going into treatment and she gave me a piece of paper with a name on it. I was told to get this man for my sponsor. It took me two weeks of nightly A.A. meetings to finally find him (he was on vacation), and when I showed him the note with his name on it, I asked him to be my sponsor. He replied to me, “I don’t sponsor “BROADS”. This made me angry and I cussed him out. Then I followed him around for two weeks even to the bathroom where I waited outside for him to come out. I guess I finally wore him down and he started to work with me in my recovery.

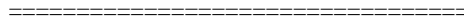
We used to have a wall telephone when you first came in the door to the A.A. hall and we got our 12 Step calls on it. My sponsor worked at our local de-tox and he would always answer the phone while were in A.A. meetings. My sponsor explained to me that a “12 Step call” was taken from the 12th step of the A.A. 12 Steps, and it meant that if anyone reached out for help to stop drinking, we needed to help them. I didn’t pay too much attention to this because I only had 4 or 5 months of sobriety and I didn’t think that I had enough sobriety to go on a 12 Step call.

One night at an A.A. meeting, my sponsor returned to his chair after answering the phone and said, “Put on your coat!” I asked “Where are we going?” on a “12 Step call”, he replied. I hissed at him, “I can’t go on a 12 Step call, I don’t have enough sobriety.” And, my sponsor said, “You’ve got a hell of a lot of sobriety, compared to that woman on the phone!” And, off we went!

I do not remember what I said and I vaguely remember the lady. Riding home, my sponsor complimented me on what I had said, saying, “I wouldn’t have thought to say what just said to that lady”.

Then he taught me that the outcome was not in my hands as to whether or not she stayed sober. “Carry the message”, he said. I started saying ‘yes’ to the women who were new to sobriety and would ask me to be their sponsor them. Not a one of them stayed sober, and when I would tell my sponsor this, we would ask me, “Did you stay sober?” “Yes”, I would answer. To which he would always reply, “Works, (the A.A. program) don’t it?”

Submitted by Paula A. (Sobriety date: 5/29/84)



On the Road to Recovery - Epigrams—“Wit and Wisdom”

spoken in the rooms of AA all over the world.

- we're all here because we're not all there
- alcoholism is an equal opportunity destroyer
- practice an attitude of gratitude
- I can't handle it god; you take over

Hear something clever, witty, or even profound at a meeting?

Send it to: aajackson-county@gmail.com