

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 (January 2018):

Visitors	55
Calls	36
Meeting inquiries	13
Website	709

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

January 2018

Thursday Night Candlelight	\$75
Medford Fellowship Group	\$50
Design for Living	\$163.50
Central Point No Name Group	\$224.54
Crack of Dawn	\$134.01
I Did It My Way	\$125
Keep It Simple	\$300
Sober Seniors	\$150
The Duck Pond	\$100
Jacksonville Men's Stud Muffin	\$150
AA Sunday Grange Ashland	\$135
Phoenix Rising Group	\$35
Capacity to be Honest	\$25

Newsletter: Brandy C \$10.00

VIRGINIA'S CORNER

Thank you, God, for all You have given me.

Thank You for all You have taken from me.

But, most of all, I thank You, God, for what You've left me:

Recovery, along with peace of mind, faith, hope and love,



Happy Valentine's Day !!!

Birthday Celebration Donations:



Editors Note:

Central Office Fund Raiser Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, April 8, 2018 @ St. Vincent DePaul. Tickets available at Central Office.

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.

TRADITION Two: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority...a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants... they do not govern.

Members of A.A. may be chosen to serve in many ways...



Intergroup Representative



General Service Representative



OUT of the ARCHIVES -Submitted by Laurie H.



Freedom From Bondage - Wynn L, California

"Young when she joined, this A.A. believes her serious drinking was the result of even deeper defects. She here tells how she was set free."

Wynn joined A.A. in California in 1947 at age thirty-three. She was described by the novelist, Carolyn See, one of her several step children, as "tall, and with a face that was astonishing in its beauty. She had "translucent skin with a tiny dusting of freckles, Katharine Hepburn cheekbones, bright red hair, and turquoise eyes." She was a "knockout."

She believed that her alcoholism was a symptom of a deeper trouble, and that her mental and emotional difficulties began many years before she began to drink. But AA taught her that she was the result of the way she reacted to what happened to her as a child.

She was born in Florida and, like Bill W before her, her parents separated when she was a child, and she was sent to live with her grandparents in the Mid West. She reports feeling "lonely, and terrified and hurt." (This common childhood experience may have been one of the reasons for the reported close friendship she had with Bill W.)

She married and divorced four times before finding A.A. The first time she married for financial security; her second husband was a prominent bandleader and she sang with his band; her third husband was an Army Captain she married during World War II; her fourth husband was a widower, with several children.

One A.A. friend quipped when first hearing Wynn's story, that she had always been a cinch for the program, for she had always been interested in mankind, but was just taking them one man at a time.

Sometime after 1955 when her story appeared in the Big Book, she married her fifth husband, George Laws, another A.A. member. George and Wynn were married for several years and his daughter Caroline lived with them when they were first married. After they were divorced, according to Caroline, she dated a wealthy insurance executive whom she had hoped to marry.

George and Wynn were a popular team speaking at meetings. "My dad was Wynn's opening act," said Carolyn. "He couldn't help but be funny. Then he would defer to Wynn, whose tale was hair-raising."

Carolyn writes: "Wynn's mother had deserted her in order to go out and live a selfish life. An unloving grandmother reared her in strict poverty. She contracted typhoid fever and hovered between life and death for about ninety days. All her hair and (though she would not admit this) her teeth fell out."

She recovered at about age sixteen. Her beautiful red hair grew back in and she wore dentures "stuck in so firmly that no one saw her without them." According to Caroline, "she began carving out a career as a femme fatale, and started drinking to bridge the gap between the grim hash-sliding reality she was born to, and the golden mirage of American romance she yearned for."

Wynn said in her story that she didn't know how to love. Fear of rejection and its ensuring pain were not to be risked. When she found alcohol it seemed to solve her problems -- for a time. But soon things fell apart and jails and hospitals followed. When she wound up in a hospital for detoxification, she began to take stock and realized she had lived with no sense of social obligation or responsibility to

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 84

Step 2 *Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*

Mail Call— Excerpt From the December 1950 Grape Vine magazine.

IN THE Second Step we "*Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves. . . .*"

That word "believe." Isn't it just the very beginning of our spiritual awakening that holds such an important place in the Program way down in the Twelfth Step? Just as there are many words and sentences between these two Steps isn't there perhaps quite a broad mental expanse between that first belief and our eventual complete and thorough awakening to the spiritual power of AA?

For how do we use the word "believe" in normal, every-day conversation? "I believe you're right"-- meaning: "Why, that's so, I hadn't thought of it that way before." Not a very strong expression of opinion, perhaps merely a cautious admission that the person who we are talking with at the moment has made a good point.

Some of us doubtless took the Second Step in just this way--But as time went on our tentative belief became strengthened: we *were* being restored to sanity, the fog *was* rolling back, things *were* beginning to shape up. Our belief became faith--and we found "faith" a much stronger word.

Continue Freedom From Bondage - Wynn L. California

her fellow men. She was full of resentments and fears.

When she wrote her story she had been in A.A. eight years and her life had changed dramatically. She had not had a drink since her first meeting, and had not only found a way to live without having a drink, but a way to live without wanting a drink.

Wynn believed she had many spiritual experiences after coming to the program, many that she didn't recognize right away, "For I'm slow to learn and they take many guises."

On the last page of her story Wynn says: "As another great man says, 'The only real freedom a human being can ever know is doing what you ought to do because you want to do it.'" That "great man" may have been Bill Wilson.

Wynn and Jack P. of Los Angeles started more than 80 meetings in hospitals, jails and prisons in Southern California from about 1947 to 1950. Jack P. reports that during this period they were widely criticized by other members of the Fellowship who thought this was not something A.A. should be doing.

"A.A. can be said to have worked for my father and Wynn," wrote Carolyn. "Although they would divorce, neither of them would ever take a drink again."

George died from lung cancer. Wynn, too, suffered from cancer and when first diagnosed became very active in the American Cancer Society.

Carolyn comments: "Here's the other thing my father wanted, above all else, to write. My first and second husbands wanted above all else, to write. All I ever wanted was to write. But guess who really got to be the writer? Who's the one in our family, who has actually changed, improved, transformed thousands of lives? The woman who wrote 'Freedom from Bondage' under the section 'They Lost Nearly All' in the A.A. Big Book. The girl who lost all her teeth from typhoid when she was in her teens, who slung hash way up into her forties, and who died a cruel death from cancer when she was way too young. She couldn't have done it if she hadn't 'lost nearly all.'"

The date of Wynn's death is unknown, but she apparently died in poverty. When her cancer returned, several years after she had divorced George, she contacted Carolyn trying to reach him because she needed financial help. Carolyn tried to persuade her father to help Wynn. When he refused it upset Carolyn who was genuinely fond of Wynn. Her last words to Carolyn were "I've always loved you," and Carolyn believes she truly did.

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EVENTS

Local & Regional & Beyond

Rogue Mountain Retreat

A Closed, Women's AA Step Experience
Cascade Mountain Ranch, Hugo, OR
March 9-11, 2018

1st come, 1st serve registration
Registration is currently: OPEN

[Flier Here](#)

Central Office Annual Fund-raiser Breakfast—Sunday, April 8, 2018 at St. Vincent DePaul, 2424 N. Pacific Hwy, Medford.

[Flyer Here](#)

Rogue Valley Women in Recovery Brunch Saturday, June 16, 2018—SAVE the date! More info coming!!!

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.

Principles of AA Program

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 2 Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

When I came into the rooms and started working the Steps, I noticed people in meetings talking about the principles behind each of the Steps. When I started going to Step studies, there was much more discussion about the principles behind each step. I had little fight left in me, so I listened and learned.

The dictionary, which I was urged to carry and use along with my Big Book, says a principle is “a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning.”

That's the way I looked at Step 2: “*A fundamental truth that serves as a foundation for a system of belief or behavior.*” Step 2 was a fundamental truth for me, and followed closely on the heels of the honesty that I learned about in Step 1.

Step 2 is fundamental in that, along with Steps 1 and 3, it lays the cornerstone for all that is to follow. It is on those three Steps that you build your program. And with that program, I believed I could be restored to sanity and see the Promises come to life. Step 2, I learned, had two fundamental principles: Hope and Faith.

Hope: Step 2 is often called the mirror image of Step 1. Where I had felt despair, I now felt a degree of hope. In Step 1, I admitted that alcohol has been my Higher Power, and that my life was unmanageable. In Step 2, I find a different Higher Power – not alcohol – that I gave me hope for a return to sanity in the way I lived my life.

Faith: It seems to be a spiritual truth that before a Higher Power can begin to operate you must first believe that it can. That belief – that a Higher Power can operate in your life – is part of the mortar that holds the cornerstone of my program in place. I'd be lost without it. Faith also includes trust and reliance in that new-found Higher Power.

It took a while for me, but eventually placing my trust and reliance in my Higher Power proved to be a game-changer. Things started to happen and I could see a glimmer of a new life. A little hope and faith, I found, can take you a long way. It certainly has for me.



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

“What is Acceptance?” ...AA Co-founder, Bill W. , March 1962

“We neither ran nor fought. But accept we did. And then we began to be free.”

SAVE THE DATE:

*Rogue Valley Women in Recovery Brunch
is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018.*

More information to come.

