

on the Rogue again

Jackson County Central Office Newsletter

Jackson County A.A. Central Office
116 East 6th Street, Medford, OR 97501
(541) 732-1850 www.jccoaa.org aajacksoncounty@yahoo.com

Central Office News

At the OFFICE:

Visitors 28
Calls 23
Meeting inquiries 10
Website 694

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

October 2017 Donations

Medford Fellowship Group \$100.00
Pacific Positive Action \$136.00
There is a Solution \$130.87
Ashland Morning \$45.00
Crack of Dawn \$188.00
Thursday Candlelight \$75.00
AA Sunday Morning Ashland \$98.00
Take It like It is \$60.00
Applegate 1 Page At a Time \$60.00
Her Story \$125.00



Editors Note

*Thanksgiving Potluck at MFG Fellowship
at 1921 Elm St., Medford*

Thursday, November 23rd

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

We are fast approaching the end of 2017. I would like our readers to submit ideas for 2018 newsletters. Do you have a pamphlet you could write on? A short article for a step or tradition? Maybe an article on a "A.A." approved literature?

We would love to hear your stories and thoughts. If you have a submission for the newsletter please email it to aajcounty@yahoo.com.

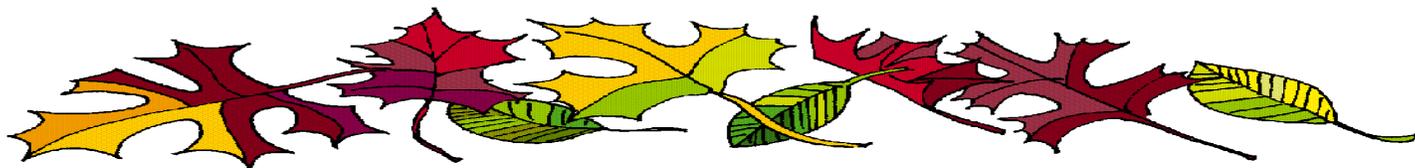


VIRGINIA'S CORNER

Keys to the Kingdom.....excerpt from Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous...page 276

The last "45" years of my life have been rich and meaningful. I have had my share of problems, heartaches, and disappointments because that is life, but also I have known a great deal of joy and a peace that is the handmaiden of an inner freedom. I have a wealth of friends and, with my A.A. friends, an unusual quality of fellowship. For, to these people, I am truly related. First, through mutual pain and despair and later through mutual objective and newfound faith and hope. And, as the years go by, working together, sharing our experiences with one another, and also sharing a mutual trust, understanding, and love -- without obligation -- we acquire relationships that are unique and priceless.

.....A Grateful Member of A.A.



Upcoming Events:

BE SURE TO STAY UP TO DATE & VIEW AVAILABLE FLIERS
@www.jccoaa.org OR www.medfordareaaa.org

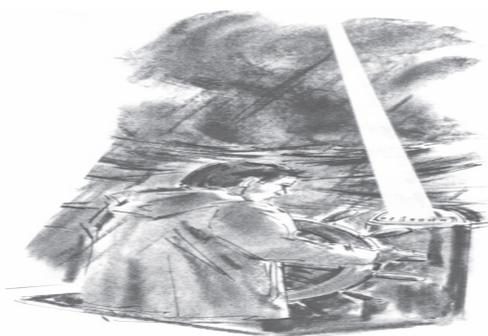
Southern Oregon Dog on the Roof Annual Spaghetti Feed and Desert Social

Around 6 pm On Saturday, November 11th
At St. Vincent de Paul 2424 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford
Bring a dessert if you can....we'll supply the rest..
Fellowship and OLD Time Speaker Sharing to Follow

Happy Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at Medford Fellowship Group.

Thursday, November 23rd.
1921 Elm Ave., Medford
Potluck—bring a dish to share
Turkey and Ham provided
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (or food runs out)

Step 11—Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.



Meditation and prayer has kept him connected and become an essential light in his life

Today, I have two periods of quiet time: one in the a.m. and another one in the p.m. Each lasts usually about 45 minutes. And I strive to pray continuously in-between those times, with prayers for people special to me and for knowledge of what he wants me to do. All those random thoughts that run through my head during my waking hours can be focused with a lot of practice. My intention is to practice, practice and practice, until they throw dirt over me one day.

And boy, does it have benefits. This is not goody-two-shoes stuff. It's practical thinking that keeps me protected from the daily war with untreated alcoholism. The quality of my prayer life makes me much more effective in working with other alkie. In fact, it's directly proportionate to it. His will for me is to pass on the good news of my experience with all 12 Steps. In doing that, I'm lifted to this fourth dimension, where I'm relatively happy, no matter what my life circumstances. That's a blessing for this ex-drunk. I think I'll try to stay sober one more day.

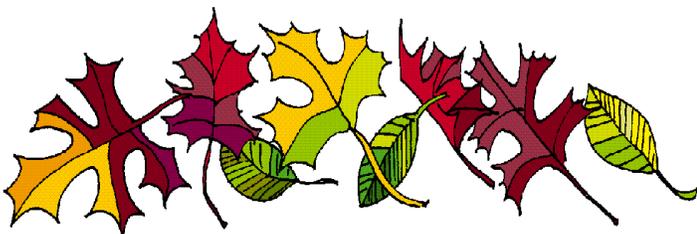
—B. K., Grove City, Ohio (excerpt from Grapevine dated November 2015)

Wit AND Wisdom

On the Road to Recovery -Epigrams

"Wit and Wisdom" spoken in the rooms of AA all over the world.

- Don't quit 5 minutes before the miracle happens
- We're all here because we're not all there
- Alcoholism is an equal opportunity destroyer
- practice an attitude of gratitude
- The road to sobriety is a simple journey for confused people with a complicated disease

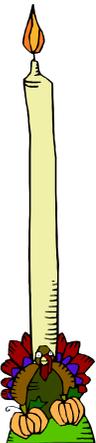


The Eleventh Tradition - *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.*

Alcoholics who have recovered through our program are themselves the strongest attraction that A.A. has. When asked people are what led them to seek A.A. help, the answer given most often is: "An A.A. member." Their chances would have been slim if all of us had remained completely in hiding. But many of us have chosen to tell our friends, neighbors, employers, co-workers, doctors, or spiritual advisers that we are in A.A.—and when we do so, we are *not* breaking our anonymity in the meaning of this

Tradition. Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks *it* should be anonymous, too. The Tradition is talking about "personal anonymity," remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to A.A. if they don't know that it exists or if they have distorted, unfavorable impressions of its members or its program. Giving the general public an accurate picture of A.A. is the chief job of our public information committees. In addition, they often carry the message to certain groups—from police officers to personnel directors—whose work includes contact with active alcoholics.

Ours is not a secret society...
we carry the message
anywhere we can—



November "The Grateful Month"

"When I first "arrived" in AA (1984), 'Gratitude' was consistently chosen as a topic for sharing in meetings beginning as early as September and continuing through the end of November. At the time, I thought this practice to be a bit redundant and unimaginative, considering the long list of many other topics available. Oh, how grateful I am now that I practiced some 'restraint of tongue' then and kept that thought to myself.

Of course, my opinion towards the topic of gratitude has shifted more favorably proportionately as my level of gratitude has grown. I am blessed to currently participate in the daily practice of texting a gratitude statement within a group of AA friends. This helps us keep in touch and hold gratitude uppermost in our thoughts.

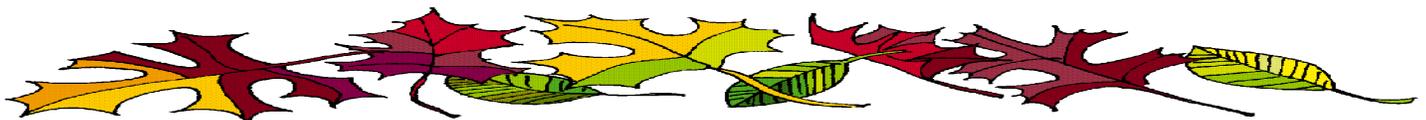
Our founder, Bill Wilson, referred to his practice of listing "a full inventory of my blessings and then for a right acceptance of the many gifts that are mine -- both temporal and spiritual. ... When such a brand of gratitude is repeatedly affirmed and pondered, it can finally displace the natural tendency to congratulate myself on whatever progress I may have been enabled to make in some areas of living.

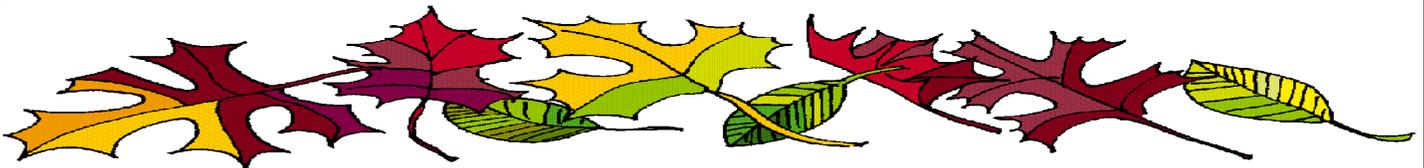
"I try hard to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits. When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know." (~As Bill Sees It, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. copyrighted 1967, pg. 37.)

Bill Wilson also believed that "Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you." (~As Bill Sees It, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. copyrighted 1967, pg. 29.)

Grace and gratitude go hand in hand. Sharing our experience, strength, and hope with another, especially during Twelve Step work, is our greatest benefit of God's grace in our lives. Transmitting AA's message to Newcomers is our most important task that also allows us to share that which was so freely shared with us. Whenever that opportunity is presented to us, we can know God is offering us the purest form of gratitude.

We will surely be able to personally share our gratitude during at least one AA meeting this holiday season. Perhaps we will be given other opportunities even away from meetings to reflect on our many blessings. You may choose to take an inventory of your blessings as Bill Wilson did. Better yet, we may find ourselves called upon to offer the gift of sobriety to another alcoholic. Submitted by Rhonda D.





Concept XI -

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

...,Excerpt from Twelve Concepts, P-08for more information please refer to this pamphlet.

OUT of the ARCHIVES - Submitted by Laura H.

Following from AA Grapevine, Inc. - 1958



Editorial by Bill

THIS is Thanksgiving time; our gratitude should certainly be boundless. Twenty-four years ago this month, I landed in a hospital for the last time. Then and there I received the gift of sobriety. Like all who have since joined AA's ranks, I was given a chance to choose what I would do with my new life. Just like most AAs of today, I chose to try to pass my gift on to the next suffering applicant.

This simple practice of trying to give of one's self without demand for reward (at least sometimes!) has brought incredible blessings—more than my share, I guess. Every practicing AA comes up, however, with just about the same general list of them.

First we receive sobriety, which is the chance to go on living. We try to bring that chance to others and watch them come alive. We slowly discover that our lives have a purpose because God has a plan for us; a plan that we grow little by little toward His likeness and image.

Then follows the conviction that we live in a universe filled with His love—a creation that makes sense. As this vision comes clear we can begin to live in harmony with ourselves and with our fellows. We are going someplace; our destiny becomes secure.

Next we begin actually to welcome our growing pains. Suffering is no longer a menace to be evaded at any cost. When it does come, no matter how grievously, we realize that it too has its purpose. It is our great teacher because it reveals our defects and so pushes us forward into the paths of progress. The pain of drinking did just this for us. And so can any other pain.

Our Twelve Traditions are a prime example of what pain has done for us since we sobered up. Every single AA Tradition was evolved from the immense growing pains of AA's early years; each rests securely upon this foundation. For this reason only, we now have our Twelve Traditional principles that can spell unity, brotherhood and service for all time to come.

What people in this very troubled world of 1958, could possibly have more reasons to be grateful at Thanksgiving than we of Alcoholics Anonymous!