

Nuts and Bolts Kansas City, Archivist Timeline

Our group is a sister group of Lawrence Nuts and Bolts, who stemmed from “The Week that was” group in Manhattan. That group, while not a sister group to Foxhall in Bellevue NE, had ties to the Foxhall group.

- Foxhall group is where N&B gets a lot of its group ‘customs’: suits and ties celebrating sobriety, dresses and skirts for the ladies celebrating their sobriety, directive sponsorship, working the steps without delay, and enthusiasm.

August 1993: Nuts and Bolts Group Founded officially on August 16th, 1993 with the first being held at Julie and Steve’s house on Friday August 13th, 1993 in their house in Waldo.

- Group contact at that time were only 3 members: Julie B, Steve McCullough, and Brad W.
- GSO was nervous to allow another group to be named “Nuts and Bolts” as they were worried it would be confusing to a wayward drunk desperate for a meeting. The perspective was that since this N&B group would be on the Missouri side that would help eliminate confusion. GSO agreed and thus the name “Nuts and Bolts Kansas City” was allowed.

August/September 1993: Nuts and Bolts in KC moved to St. John’s United Methodist Church, 6900 Ward parkway. At that time there was one Friday night Literature Discussion meeting, and every last Friday of the month there was an open birthday speaker meeting to allow for group members to share their story on their birthday.

- Sometime in late 1993/Early 1994: Nuts and bolts added a Monday night Big Book discussion meeting, and then later a Tuesday step study meeting.

1994: Nuts and Bolts was largely attended by members of Lawrence Nuts and Bolts and was known for being “a small group that newcomers could feel comfortable in due to the size.” There was participation at the District Level, as the group was in Missouri at that time, district members would travel to Sedalia for Area Assembly. (It just so happened that a home group member was the District Secretary at that time. She would take notes with her pen, then copy the notes onto her computer, print them out and then mail the minutes – in envelopes with stamps! -- to all the groups in the area. Talk about going to any lengths!!)

1995: Home group member recalls road trips, loading up in cars to hear home group members speak at different groups. Then they would go out to eat afterwards to continue the fellowship. It could be speculated this is the first instances of N&B members going out to eat and it started a bit of a tradition.

2000: At one point in 2000, there were only 2 official home group members. These folks continued to show up for the meetings, despite the low attendance and “hearing the same thing over and over again”

- At some point a Tuesday step study meeting was added to the meeting schedule. The meeting schedule then was a Monday Big Book meeting, a Tuesday Step Study, and a Friday literature discussion meeting. The last Friday of the month was a speaker meeting for homegroup members celebrating their sobriety birthdays.

2002: Nuts and Bolts moved their meeting location to Cherokee Christian Church at 75th and Belinder. GSO did not have a problem with Nuts and Bolts being moved to the Kansas side as it still could be called Nuts and Bolts KC. Roe Center hosted many dances at Cherokee Christian Church, but those dances were not affiliated with Nuts and Bolts KC. The group membership grew immensely during this time.

- Around this time, the group conscience decided to reserve the last 2 Fridays of the month to speaker meetings, rather than just the last Friday. This was to accommodate the growing group membership.

2004: in 2004 a newcomer meeting was added to the schedule. This was a 45-minute newcomer meeting that took place from 6:00-6:45 on Friday allowing people with less than one year of sobriety to share. Then the Friday night literature or speaker meeting would begin at 7:00.

2008: In October 2008, the group conscience decided that every Friday would be a speaker meeting, rather than just the last two Fridays. This was the antecedent to a group split. One group member felt this was a conflict of the traditions. This person left over the stress of the change and ended up bringing most of the people he sponsored with him. The group membership dropped significantly.

2010: Friday night Newcomer meeting format changed. The newcomer meeting from 6:00-6:45 was removed from the schedule and the speaker meeting time was increased to an hour and a half. A meeting from 7:00-8:30 allowed for two birthday speakers (if there were birthdays) or two 10-minute speakers and a birthday speaker. It also allowed for more time to give away less-than-annual coins. More influx of membership. At the end of 2010 there were upwards of 60-70 home group members.

2014: The Monday night meeting was changed to a speaker participation meeting that summer. Due to rising conflicts with new land lords at Cherokee Christian church, nuts and bolts began the search for a new meeting location. Because a school had purchased the church, they began asking N&B to “cancel” meetings due to various PTO events. They also asked that no one with felonies be allowed on the property.

- Due to tradition violations (how could we possibly know who has what felonies? Also, Alcoholics Anonymous is ANONYMOUS – we aren’t supposed to necessarily know that information) Nuts and bolts moved from Cherokee Christian Church to Cedar Ridge Christian Church in Lenexa KS that June. Some home group members were leery as the decision seemed to be made rather quickly, but the group (in true tradition 1 fashion) united to make the move work. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday meetings were held in

the Childcare room on the second floor of the Parkside Building and the Friday speaker participation meeting was held in the Streetside Building.

2015: The Monday night meeting was moved to the Streetside building to accommodate more people as the childcare room was quickly being outgrown. Almost 50 members attended the International Convention in Atlanta, GA.

2016: The Thursday noon meeting was added to Nuts and Bolts schedule. This meeting's format is identical to the Monday night Big Book Study's format before it was changed to a speaker participation meeting. Nuts and Bolts created a Facebook page for social events, heavily monitored to keep in line with traditions of anonymity and the internet. It is mostly used for social events that N&B people are putting on; AA moves, birthday parties, BBQ's and other events.

2017: The group has over 80 members who attend consistently, many times the Friday night meeting is over 100 people.

2020/2021: Covid arrived. In March, the Governor of Kansas announced schools would be closed for the remainder of the year, and we would be on a "temporary" complete shutdown. Only essential businesses would be open. There would be a 10-person limit on group gatherings. On Monday, March 16th, our GSR numbered people off to three separate rooms. We thought we had it all figured out. On Monday evening, we had our first confirmed case of Covid. We informed the church that we would not be meeting for "a bit." By Thursday, March 18th, we were up and running on Zoom.

We held all of our meetings on Zoom.

Attendance was very large the first few months. It wouldn't be until July when we began to meet back in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mondays and Fridays would stay on zoom and we returned to in person for those mtgs in October. Chairs were spaced, masks were worn, and chairs were sanitized. There would be no coffee, books or hand holding going on. In May 2021, the mask mandate was lifted, however we were still sanitizing and spacing chairs. June 2021, we changed our Monday Speaker/Participation meeting to Big Book Discussion and changed our Friday Speaker meeting to one 20-minute speaker (1-4yrs) and one 30 minutes speaker (5+ yrs), and is currently also on Zoom. We also discontinued the Thursday noon mtg. We currently have about 75 members. Although Covid has taken a toll on people in and out of the rooms, Nuts & Bolts KC continues to be a solid and thriving AA group, and continues to honor our group customs, practice principles, and live within the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous!