

Early History of Alcoholics Anonymous in Kansas

1940 - April -Harold R. With Leo H. (Hardcastle) Started first known A.A. group in Kansas. This Small group lasted about a year until Harold R., a railroad solicitor, was transferred to New York. The group apparently disbanded, although Leo H. remained in contact with the New York Foundation through 1942 listing two members. This occurred in Wichita.

1942 - May -Dr. Niles N. (Nason) brought A.A. to Kansas City, Kansas across the Missouri River from Kansas City, Missouri (which formed a group in April, 1941). This group became the Kansas City group #1 and the start of continuous A.A. in Kansas. Kansas City Group #1 became known (1948) as the Shrine On The Hill and formed the nucleus for Kansas A.A. North, South and Westward expansion.

1943 - During 1942, several members would attend the Kansas City Group #1 from surrounding communities. In April, 1943 a group was started in Topeka with L.T. W. (West) serving as secretary. November, 1943 this became the “2100 Group” and the first known expansion from Kansas City Group #1.

1944 &

1945 - January - The start of continuous group(s) in Wichita with Sid E and Otis R. (transfer from Kansas City, MO). During this time period, Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City served as group-centers for surrounding communities - some members traveling long distances to attend. Glen G (Gill), Hays, many times with other interested people, would board the train two or three times a month to attend meetings at the Kansas City Group #1 (500 miles round trip). This 250 mile journey went on until...

1946 - January, 1946 when Glenn G. (Gill), George M. (Madison), Nevill M. (Mills), and Varonis K. (Kent) and others started the “Oak Street Group” in Hays. This group became the nucleus for many groups in Western and North Central-Western Kansas. Southeast Kansas: A

group started in Coffeyville via Tulsa, Oklahoma A.A. with Hack H. (Hafford), Ross H. (Herrington), and Luke M. (Miles). A Reading, Kansas Loner moved to Emporia to start that group. Southwest Kansas: Garden City, with Edwin D. (Daw) serving as secretary. Spearville: Later Loyd C. (Cold) would move to Dodge City (1948), starting the “Boot Hill Group”. The original “2100 Group) in Topeka split-off to form the “Yale Group”.

1947 - There were several new groups started ... mostly as spin-offs of the earlier ones. Argonia with Bill B. (Bringer), Buck B. (Buchannon), and Maurice & Christine W. (Wooden). Atchison with L.F. D. (Day), John G. (Griffis), Scotty F. (Fletcher), and Faye B. (Berridge), Galena with William P. (Poteet). Great Bend with John R. (Russel), who would become our Panel 4 Deleagate. Manhattan with Walter J. (Jacobson), Herb G. (Gaede), Clyde B. (Butler) and Pete H. (Harrison).

1948 &

1949 - By this time, there were groups scattered throughout the state and more being formed. This enabled almost any member to be within an 80 mile driving radius of a meeting. It would not be until the 1970's until this mileage was cut to about 30 miles throughout the state.

The first Are structure (committee) was started about 1951; probably coinciding with the establishment of the General Service Conference in New York. From 1951 through 1969, the Area was divided into six districts with the entire Area being represented by six District Committee Members (D.C.M.'s). With steady growth in the Area through the 1950's and 1960's, the system of six districts was proving unsatisfactorily and unwieldy to most of the groups' needs. At the 1968 June Committee meeting, a redistricting plan was presented - this became known as Plan 22.

This proposed that the Area be subdivided into 22 districts - divisions by both geographical location and membership in population. The plan was passed by the Area committee in March, 1969, and the Assembly in September 1969. Plan 22 is still in effect and with only minor changes.

The Area structure Guidelines were written/rewritten and passed by the Area Assembly in June, 1981. Some changes have been made since that time to make them more compatible with the wishes of the Area and they are “open-minded” - subject to change by upcoming assemblies.

Institutional Groups

Two members of the Kansas City Group #1 helped start the “New Hope Group” in the Leavenworth U.S. Penitentiary in April, 1945. These sponsors were Charlie M. And Robbie R. Kansas City Group #1 members have served in this outside sponsor capacity since that time; a primary example with John B. (Brooks). The “Candle Lighter Group”, State Penitentiary, Lansing, was founded in 1953; a long time sponsor is Bud H. (Hessenflow). The “Hard Times Group”, Industrial Reformatory, Hutchinson, was started about 1965 with outside sponsor Clarence (Tex) W. (Warren). Currently there are both mens and women’s correctional groups, numbering about 20 within the state - these with outside sponsors.

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