

RESEARCHING A.A. GROUP HISTORY

The General Service Office Archives Department is frequently asked how A.A. Groups can write their group history. Listed below are some typical questions that the Archives Department uses when writing a group history. It is suggested that groups try to answer these questions and as needed, contact both the General Service Office Archives and their local Archives for information. If groups are conducting an oral history, the G.S.O. Archives has prepared an Oral History Kit that can be used as a guide -experience has shown that many groups have found it to be helpful. The Oral History Kit is available on the Archives portal of G.S.O.'s A.A. website at www.aa.org.

- Who were the founding members of the group?

Bob T, Jack C, Ray H, Clyde F, Paul J, Virgil K, Chuck S,

Terry A, Hank A, Ed R, Gary F, Tom T, Grady G, John K

- Where and when was the first meeting held? In date order, list where later meetings have been held. Include city, state, building, residence, church, clubhouse, etc.

13005 W. 92nd Place, Lenexa, Ks. 66215 May 10, 1974 We have met in the "Little House" ever

since. We grew in membership and only had 1 Open Anniversary meeting and met, for awhile, in

Lenexa Baptist Church next door. We then started a 2nd open Anniversary meeting and did not need to meet there anymore.

- Did the group list with the General Service Office at the time the members first met?

Yes

- What is the group's name? Have there been any changes to the group's name over the years?

Lenexa Fellowship-Lenexa AA Group-"Little House"

- What initiated the meeting, was it the offshoot of a parent group? Was there a split due to disagreements? Did a few A.A.'s simply decide to start a hometown group, etc.

Our founder, Hank A., was a member of the Shawnee Group and he saw a need for an AA group further south. The Shawnee Group had grown too big and members lived out south. The Shawnee group was steeped in the Traditions and he brought the same to the Lenexa Group. He found the "Little House" and was able to rent it for \$50.00 per month from the Lenexa Baptist Church. Many members of the Shawnee Group came to the 1st Open Meeting and contributed money so we could buy literature..

- How did the founding members let the community know that a new A.A. meeting was forming?

Unknown

- How many members attended the group's first meeting?

Fifteen members attended the 1st business meeting on May 10, 1974. It is unknown how many attended the first meeting.

- Describe member composition, for example, men only, women, young people, etc.

Men, at first, and then women and younger people eventually attended.

- How did the group experience growth over the years?
Are group inventories conducted regularly and have they been helpful?

The early members carried the message to treatment centers, detox centers, jails and prisons and continued to grow. We had and still have annual group inventories and they are very helpful in determining how well we are following the Traditions.

- Who were the early group officers? List, for example, GSR, Group Contact, Chair, Group Secretary, etc.

"Program Chair-Hank A., Treasurer-Bob T., Jack C.- Secretary. It was decided by the group at the first business meeting that "the GSR would be selected in about a month, probably at the next business meeting".

- Has the group used a steering committee?

No-We use ad hoc committees when needed

- Have any group members participated in District, Area or other service to the Fellowship?

Yes-we are active in District 10 and Area 25. We have had 3 Area 25 delegates from our group.

Bob T. Carolyn H. and Tom L.

- How often were meetings held and has that changed over the years?
What meeting formats have been used -closed, open, discussion, etc.

At first we had 2 meetings on Wed., 2 on Sat. and 1 on Sun. and now 23 meetings per week.

We have 6 Book Studies, 2 Open Meetings, 1 Newcomer's Meeting, and 14 discussion meetings.

- Describe the group's growing pains or controversies.
How does the group celebrate group member's anniversaries of sobriety?

We have had 2 controversies. One over Prudent Reserve and the other over non-smoking. Some members

broke off and started a new group further south. We have over 300 members currently.

- How has the group celebrated the anniversary of its' founding?

We celebrate the founding of our group every year on or about May 10.

- Describe how the group has cooperated with professional agencies (by signing court cards, supporting a meeting in an institutional setting, taking regular phone duty at the Intergroup or Central Office, etc.).

Members of our group take meetings to treatment facilities, detox centers, jails and prison. We have had members of our group volunteer their services at the Central Office. We do sign court cards.

- Has the group participated in special local or regional A.A. functions, such as conventions, conferences, round-ups, forums or workshops

We have members of our group who participate in the Sunflower Round-Up, Area 25 State Conferences, regional forums, workshops and SWRAASA

In 2020 and during Covid our group remained open. We practiced social distancing, provided masks, hand sanitizer and started Zoom meetings. We cleaned twice a week instead of once a week. We still have Zoom meetings.

For information on how to contact your local Central, Intergroup Office or Area, go to the A.A. Near You portal of www.aa.org. G.S.O.'s Archives Department can be contacted via their portal on the website or by calling (212) 870-3400.

Email completed form to Chronicler at: district10chronicler@gmail.com

Or email chronicler to have them set up an interview with a long time, or founding member of your group!