#### OKC INTERGROUP

#### January 2023

PLEASE send us your story or article about a step or other topic to: admin@ okcintergroup.org

#### **Inside this issue:**

Stories	1-3
Meeting Changes	3
Puzzles	4
Birthdays	5
Intergroup News	5
Group Contributions	6
Minutes	7
AA History	8
Ads	8-9
Upcoming Events	10
Pamphlet of the Month	11

# Sooner Sobriety

Submit stories to admin@okcintergroup.org

#### **It All Made Sense**

It had been a particularly bad Super Bowl Sunday in January 1981. I was determined to only have a few beers during our planned Super Bowl party, and not do the usual get drunk, run the streets, and feel horrible the next day etc. I was working at a job I really enjoyed; I set my own hours, and had a really nice boss (who later went to Al-Anon). But the following Monday I was too sick, once again to go to work. When I called in I told my boss I'm going to go back to those AA meetings. And thank God I did. I didn't get sober right then; my sobriety date is March 1 of 1982 so it took a while and a few more really bad drunks before I could go and sit down and actually try to start learning something about living sober.

I had also found a good therapist when a friend concerned about my life had insisted I call her. In spite of all my problems, marital, work, home, the therapist always brought the conversation back to my drinking. I later learned that until the real issue, alcoholism, is addressed, solutions to all the other problems will not be long lasting.

My first meeting was at a clubhouse and I was probably one of the younger ones there. People were talking about one day at a time but I intuitively knew they were saying abstinence which was not something I was ready to do....then.

A nice lady gave me her telephone number and I put it in a drawer at my house. I kept that number for the next year or so and then called it on that Monday after the bad "Super Bowl" drunken night. My first step happened that morning when I knew that I was completely helpless in trying to not drink. I also knew that my life was completely unmanageable. So when I started attending meetings and really listening it all made sense.

Step two happened for me when, sitting in a meeting, I realized that a few days had passed and I had not been drinking. I have been asking for help in the morning and thanking my Higher Power at night, reading the literature, and listening to the AA tapes in my car. I didn't listen to regular radio, rock 'n' roll etc., for the first two or three years of my sobriety. In my car and at home I had an AA tape going listening to people talk about how they found recovery and enjoyed recovery.

My third step was a process that I found relatively easy as I had had family members that I knew had a loving God so I never had the battle that I've seen some have with a punishing God. The type I listen to spoke of a loving God with no judgment, no testing, no punishment. I learned, in time, that

consequences to our behavior is the reality and

#### Page 2

#### **It All Made Sense**

often times gets blamed on a Higher Power.

I had gotten an excellent sponsor who I had in my entire sobriety up until her death and she helped me with my first fourth step. It was adequate because we can't really do a bad one if our motives are to stay sober and work the steps. Four years later I did a more thorough fourth step and have never felt the need to do another.

My sponsor recommended a pastor, who I did not know, for my fifth step. I made the appointment and on the way to his house my thoughts were, "What in the heck am I doing?," followed by what I remembered from the big book, the sentence: "We pocket our pride and go to it..." That fifth step was adequate but again, a few years later, I did one that was more thorough with a person at TEAM.

Six and seven are pretty selfexplanatory. What I did learn was that defects are something we all have, just practicing them at different times. We must be ready to have them removed and then ask God to remove them.

I was taught to remember the steps 4, 5, 6, and 7 were not designed for us to denigrate ourselves, beat ourselves up over past behaviors, or do anything to harm us. They were written to help us see the things that did not serve us well and give us the tools to correct those things. By steps 4, 5, 6 and 7 we have already done step 3, so our lives are in our Higher Powers' hands and we are not the same people as before.

"I was told that in recovery I would be granted my heart's desire. That has happened for me and continues to happen every day."

I made my 8th step list and went over it with my sponsor. We discussed who should be on it and who could be taken off. This step as all the others needs to be done in communication with your sponsor or any other trusted AA member with more sobriety.

I made my 9th step amends over the next few months, remembering that I was cleaning my side of the street. Most were from my 8th step and any others that came to mind.

We call steps 10, 11, and 12 the maintenance steps. I think so too but I would add for me that all the steps are maintenance steps for long-term sobriety. They have become internalized for me so that whatever life challenge comes up I have the tools to deal with it. My life this past 40 years in AA has been a dream. Of course I've had challenges as every person does: marriages, divorces, deaths of loved ones, but with the AA program, the AA meetings, and a close circle of AA women friends I've been OK through it all.

Therapy has also been a large part of my recovery. It was very helpful my first few years and I've continued to use that tool whenever I felt the need for it throughout the years.

I was told that in recovery I would be granted my heart's desire. That has happened for me and continues to happen every day.

I'm eternally grateful to my loving Higher Power that I choose to call God, to the AA fellowship, and to our beloved Bill and Dr. Bob who through Grace found the solution for alcoholics like me. During my sobriety I've taken advantage of all the tools that are suggested in the program, a good therapist, Alanon, and the steps.

If you're new, nearly new, or just think you might have a problem with alcohol, please give AA and the people in it a chance to help you. You will not be disappointed. In gratitude, Dana S., OKC

### Volume 36, Issue 1

#### Page 3

#### When I Became a Member

My name is Deborah, and I am an alcoholic. I knew, through tunnel vision, that a drunk was a person living under a bridge with a bottle in a brown paper bag. That wasn't me (Yet!) I looked for the differences instead of the similarities.

Then I wanted to know who the president of AA was. And

then I wanted someone else to tell me I was an alcoholic. I was told there was no president and that I needed to concede to my innermost self that I was an alcoholic. Next the members of the Classen Club in OKC informed me to keep coming back; to put the plug in the jug; to buy a Big Book and read the first 164 pages; to go to 90 meetings in 90 days (one a day); to pray in the morning (to ask ASK! to be kept sober); and if I stayed that way, to says thanks at night. I bitched about how much the Big Book cost (LOL-it was only \$4), so some guy bought me my first Big Book. I still have it, a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

I get tears when I remember this story.

When I read the Doctor's Opinion, I thought, "OH WOW!" That's when I became a member of AA. So, with the reality of my Higher Power and practicing the rest of the steps to the best of the ability with my mind, body, and sprit, from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1983 till now, I am blessed to have 39 years of sobriety.

Deborah H., Guthrie

Practice an Attitude of Gratitude

### Meeting Changes

- The **Southside Serenity Group** now meets Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30pm (instead of 5:30 and 7:30).
- The **Friends of Bob Group** in Edmond now meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm instead of 7pm.
- There is a new meeting Monday through Friday called the **Joe and Charlie** meeting, held every weekday at 3pm at 1146 N MacArthur. It is nonsmoking.
- The **New Leaf Group** now meets for an open Big Book Study at the First Presbyterian Church in Burns Flat, OK. Enter through the West entrance. Open to all!

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Sooner	30	briety

Page 4

#### Word Search SEMYNSDIQPBIRLSWZS JA W. EEARYADNU S Q L U Н Р Т К С V A N Е R S DATEG JР ECINY N DΟ WVEXED N Е S GС Т R Ι N Ι N. U G R Е В Е в E P Н ELGRQE D Ν КОЕ ΤL Alcoholics Made В R U Е В В GΝ R. F В U ΕW Ν Y. Ε Μ. L L **Anonymous March** J L Т S Y Ν A O R W. V Ι Р S 0 Ν L ΗE V Back **Meetings** 0 0 M Р Т RWNSTOM Т S S С S LA V Beers Next Y. Μ. A D Е Р LAMNR S R Т Q R 0 В ΑH Nice Boss Е S LEPABBUQEUE К LCI в οк Called **Particularly** CQARTAZNSD Т Ι Rυ FC D G N U Date **Party** RYCUAI Е R N J Т R N 0 Н R Т U R D Determined Planned Т Ι Т ΙΖΟΑΚΟ JD 0 U S G Ε D S Н J Drunk Sense L Т Ο Q Y C Q L Y P Y Q H V H U L EON During Sick Е LQNUHXFMAOAZWLV ОМХ Ε Enjoyed Sober Е Ε Ι ASLKNURDUBEAW - 5 F Z 0 Feel **Streets** OAGOINGLECNZVA F M C S Y В Going **Sunday** S . W SCORQQLCLKDZL ј н D RN Horrible **Superbowl** NEXTSUOM N A L Y N ΟN A U Μ. Y U Hours **Usual** Working ΙΙΑΙΧΥΡΟΙΟυΗΜΟΡΕΚΕΜυ January

### Cryptic Quote

Last Month's Quote: "Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead....."—Alcoholics Anonymous

Exchange the letters below with the correct letters to reveal the quote! (For example: "L" is really "K")

"PWI CKUI PWGP UKU MAP NOIQGKY EKYY GYEGFC TI JKQIM

PWI ANNAOPDMKPF PA CNIGL." - PWI GG CIOQKHI ZGMDGY

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Page 5

### **Birthdays**

Mustang Group		Shelley B.	12/22/14	Western Wom	ens 1-2-3	El Reno	
Chris S.	12/01/14	Mike S.	12/28/09	Jackie M.	12/30/17	Kevin Mc.	11/13/04
Bill S.	12/03/02			Melissa	12/18/21	Alex	11/15/20
Tim F.	12/07/01	IG Staff and vol	unteers	Tammie C.	12/02/06	John Z	11/15/12
Steve J.	12/07/16	Debra H.	11/01/83				
Preston L.	12/12/14	Tiffany P.	11/26/01	Drexel Group		Little Axe	
Syd C.	12/16/88	Sydney	12/16/88	Ken E.	12/08/03	Dave H.	10/04/12
Fred D.	12/18/96	Chris F.	12/21/15			Scott M.	10/10/01
Zach P.	12/18/17	Janice R.	12/17/86	MWC Tinker	Fellowship	Kimberly B.	10/14/09
Patty D.	12/19/13			Brett A.	12/02/12	Celia H.	10/28/15
Jack H.	12/21/15	Drexel Group		Tim J.	12/10/14	Charles R.	11/05/08
Rick M.	12/22/93	Ken E.	12/08/03	Sunny G. Joe C.	12/15/08	Vicki	11/07/72
Kurt E.	12/22/04			JUE C.	12/17/89	Ed M.	11/13/94

### Events and Workshops

There are two 12th Step and Hotline workshops coming up at the Winter Conference on 01/21/23 at 11:30am and 4:30pm at the...

Holiday Inn & Suites OKC North

6200 N Robinson 73118

Is your group interested in hosting a workshop?

Please call us at 405-524-1100 or 405-949-0910

## Sooner Sobriety

#### Page 6

Group Name	Monthly	YTD	Group Name	Monthly	YTD
12x12 Group	0	0	Round Table	0	105.00
5th Tradition Group	0		Rule 62	0	0
9th Traditions Group 89ers—Guthrie	0 29.00		Sahara Group Santa Fe Group	0 0	0 50.00
Acceptance Group	29.00		Serenity Seekers	0	0
A.W.O.L A Way of Life Group	0		Shawnee Big Book	0	90.00
Altered Boys	0		Shawnee Fellowship	0	100.00
AM Attitude Adjustment Group Arch of Freedom	51.50 0		Simple Steps (Ponca) Simply AA	0 0	0 100.00
Ardmore Group	0		Solutions Group Norman (&WiH)	0	261.00
Barnyard Group	Ő	21.00	Southside Serenity Group	Ő	185.00
Bill and Bob's Group (Yukon)	0		Spirit Winds Medicine Park	0	0
BYOC	0		Station 23	0	0
Choctaw Rebellion Dogs Classen Club	0		Straight Talkers Sulphur AA	20.00	0 60.00
Cordell Group	0		Sundowners—Kelley Club	20.00	88.00
Cornerstone Group	0		Too Early Group	0	507.21
Courage to Change/Harmony	0		Too Early 2 (Mustard Seed 12/1/21)	0	133.35
Daily Reprieve Del City Common Welfare Group	0 10.00		Touchstone Three Legacies (Ada)	0	103.34 0
Donations Jar at Intergroup	400.00		Thursday Grapevine at Kelley Club	0	0
Downtown 12&12	821.29	2104.29	Traditions #2	0	176.00
Drexel Group	0		Tradition 2 (Ardmore)	25.00	200.00
Duncan Group	0		TriCity Group Triangle Group Norman	1180.14 0	2637.18 475.06
Early Birds of OKC Edmond Group	0		Tues Night Mens Kelley	0	4/3.08
Edmond Friends of Bill Group	300.00		Tues Women's Group Kelley	0	0
Elgin Only Chance Group	0	0	Turning Point (Durant)	0	0
El Reno Groups	60.00		Unity Women's Group	0	1,538.00
Exodus House Group Freedom Group	0 198.24		Walking Our Walk (WOW) Way Out Group (South Penn)	0	0
Girls Night Out—Norman	0		Weatherford Group	0	400.00
God of the Preachers	0	146.45	Wed Night Women's 12x12—May	0	0
Grapevine Meeting—Noon at Kelley			Wednesday Womens #2	0	0
Great Escape Guymon Main Street Group	100.00		Western Club AA Group Westside Gas Savers	0 0	0 64.00
Harmony @5:30 Group	0		West Side Sober Sisters	0	04.00
Home Group Meeting—RH	0	0	Whiskey in Milk	0	15.00
Into Action (closed 4/2022)	0		WHY AA Group	0	2026.00
Kelley Club Women's Meeting	25.00 0		Women's 1-2-3 Western Club (Sat) WOW #2	0 0	383.10
Lakeshore Ladies Lakeside Serenity	0		YANA #1 Women's 10a.m.	0	145.72 362.40
Little Axe Group	100.00		YANA (You Are Never Alone) Yukon	0	0
Live and Let Live Group	77.25	898.50			
Love and Tolerance	0		BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS*	0	0
Maine Street AA Mayfair Group	0 201.00		Pierce 1 year (Altered Boys) Gene Miles	0 0	0 30.00
Mid Day Group	201.00		Gene Elliott	0	35.00
Midwest City Tinker Fellowship	0		Patrick K (PK) Rockwell—34.00	0	0
Misfits	80.54		Susan Holcomb	0	73.00
MOD Squad @May Club Monday Midday Madness + Fault Fr	ee Friday 0		William Steck Beckye C.—25 years	0 0	37.00
Monday Midday Madness + Fault Fi Monday Night Mixed at Kelley Club	•		Dunavant—4 years—Perry	0	0 0
Mulligan Group	0		Joann D.—28 years	28.00	28.00
Mustang Group	0	565.55	Dana A.—21 years, Barnyard	0	21.00
MWC Tinker Fellowship	0	0			
New Jones Group Norman Original Group	0		OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS Josh & Gayle	0	55.00
North Meridian Group	10.00		Joy W.	0	100.00
Northside Freedom Group	0	2000.00	Ben W. Celebration	0	75.00
Northside Gas Savers	0		In Honor of Stephanie Snipes	0	30.00
NW Central #3 NW Nomads	0		Anonymous John C.	0 0	29.00 50.00
OKC Big Book Group	0		Ada B.	0	50.00
Old Homestead Group	0		William M.	0	200.00
Parlor Group	0		Denise L.	0	5.00
Pauls Valley Serenity Group	0		Bruce M.	0	100.00
Pass It On Pay It Forward	0 0		Joyce W. David M.	0 0	52.00 25.00
Phoenix Group	0		Mike—Old Homestead 25	0	0
Primary Purpose Group Norman	0	1081.98	In honor of Tom & Julie (May Club)	0	20.00
Road to Recovery	0		District 20	0	200.00
Rock Bottom Rockwell Group	0 83.00	102.00	Totals	3,800.96	34,836.26
Active of the second	35.00	237.00	2 (111)	5,000.20	54,050.20

	Volur	me 36, Issue 1
	Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes November 17, 2022	Page 7
Chairperso	a: Linda opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer	
Introductio	ns of Board Members and Intergroup Staff:	
Chairperso	n: Linda	
Co-chair: L		
Liaison: La	ice (absent)	
Secretary: C	ayla	
	aura (absent)	
	th step Chair: Jared	
Literature (		
Events Cha		
	Chair: Sydney C (absent)	
IG Manage		
IG Staff: Ti		
New Reps:		
Birthdays: 1		
	eport: Gayla- Read Minutes - Motion to accept, 2 nd and accepted	
	<b>Leport:</b> Laura (Cathy filled in) – \$3100 for October, \$21k for the year	
	entory in Dec 4, 2022 @ 10:00 am.	
Lots of Inve	ntory to reduce	
Other Boar		
Co-Chair: I	inda – Sooner Sobriety –Keep bringing sobriety stories–Challenge reps to write your own story – 200 – 12	200 words
	th Step Chair: Jared –Dec. 11 th @ 2pm – Intergroup office – 12 th step and hotline workshop-Winter C	Conference – Jan 21 st /
Saturday –	2 workshops 11:30am and 4:30 pm	
Literature (	hair: David	
District 50	- sold \$250 literature-Weekend of November 19 th - Red River Valley Rally @ Lake Murray in Ardmore-	- Dec 4 th - Area 57 Assembly
Events Cha	r: Michelle –	
-First thing	s First – Jan 1 st Ækelly Club- raffling TV, Black eye pea contest–\$2 each/ \$6/10 cost of tickets	
Workshop	Chair: Sydney –	
Anonymity	and Technology Workshop – Dec 3 rd @2:30 @ Western Club	
Liaison: La	ice (absent – reported by Jared)	
Next Distri	t 10/20 meeting – District 20 -Nov 20 th @6pm at Western Club (date change)–District 10 – Nov. 20 th	- Next Area meeting- Dec 4 th
Manager's ]	Report: Cathy N	
	nportant the need for Sooner Sobriety Stories and send in birthdays to be added in	
	Sobriety	
	group is having Thanksgiving or Christmas – send Intergroup notice so we can get the	
word o		
	iver Valley Rally – Nov. 19 th – can ride with Cathy N	
	ly Meeting – N. Meridian group @ 7pm – Dec. 8 th	
	push hotline volunteers – Hotline workshop @Intergroup Dec. 11 th @2pm	
i iease	pash nounie volunieets - mounie workshop wintergroup Dec. 11 til @2pill	
Elections:	hew board members – Stacey C (Kelly Club), Michelle B (Simply AA), Jeff (NOG), Kat (Edmond)	

7 th Tradition:: The basket was passed in observance of the 7 th tradition.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn and seconded; motion passed

Sooner Sobrie	ety			
Page 8				
	January 1st, 2023			
	First Things First			
	Meeting and Black-eyed Pea Contest			
JOI	IN US TO START 2023 OFF RIGHT!!			
Contest entry at 11:30, Noon meeting, Eating and Judging at 1pm				
This month i	n AA History			
January, 19	937 – Bill W. takes his last job in securities. In			
the fall, his	firm collapses due to economic troubles. Bill's			
	complete focus now turns to AA.			
	For more info on the events above, please check out the out the following books available at Intergroup:			

<u>AA Comes of Age</u> <u>Pass It On</u> <u>Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers</u>

#### Volume 36, Issue 1

Page 9

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SERVICE WORK?



Shifts are two hours long, Monday through Friday. You may work one shift a week as a regularly scheduled volunteer or more as a substitute. Examples include: Tuesday from 1-3 or Fridays from 9-11. There is no sobriety minimum, but you MUST be an alcoholic in recovery. For more information, please contact the Intergroup Office at 405-524-1100. It is a great way to learn about meetings throughout the OKC Metro and the rest of Western Oklahoma!



Shifts are overnight on weekdays (6pm to 7am) or one of three shifts on the weekends (7am to 12pm, 12pm to 6pm, or 6pm to 7am). A volunteer must be sober for at least one year and must have a home group they regularly attend. Positions become available regularly, so if you are interested, please call us at 405-524-1100 for more details. This is an outstanding way of being the alcoholic's first contact with AA. We have volunteers who will speak with them day or night. You become the bridge between the two.

### Sooner Sobriety

Page 10

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Out of Town:

February 3-5, 2023–Outright Mental Defectives Men's Weekend at St. Crispin's Conference Center. Registration is \$275 for everything. For more info Email: thomas@aceairinc.com. Flyer is available at Intergroup.

February 17-19, 2023—Southwest Unity Conference (SUNLIGHT OF THE SPIRIT) at the Quartz Mountain Resort. Pre-registration is \$25 if received by 1/8/23. Lodge rate is \$90 per night with special code 1029 until 2/1/23. For more info or flyers, email: sosconference@yahoo.com.

Local:

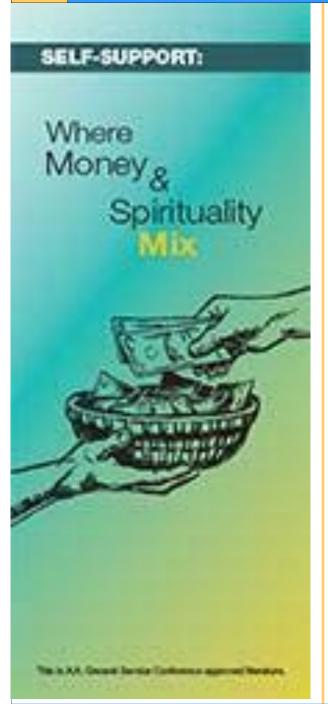
- December 31st—**Sunset and Serenity Group's HELLO 2023!!** Event held at the Devon Boathouse on the Oklahoma River, featuring a live band (SUPERFREAK). Fireworks at Midnight, 70's costume contest, dancing, food, and more! Early Bird ticket price is \$50. Visit the website: sunsetandserenityaa.com.
- January 14, 2023 (Saturday Only!)—The Area 57 Archives Committee invites you to attend an **Open House at the Area Office**, from 10am to 2pm. Come and go! There will be refreshments and you will be able to tour the Area 57 Archives. This will take place at the Area Office, at 4509 N Classen.

January 20-22, 2023—5th Annual Winter Conference—at the Holiday Inn & Suites OKC North at 6200 N Robinson Ave. Great Speakers, Raffle, Bingo, Dance, Workshops, Marathon Meetings, and more! Pre-Register for only \$15 at winterconferenceokc.com

May 19-21, 2023–Area 57 Oklahoma State Conference–Living Free in '23– at the Embassy Suites at 3233 NW Expressway. Registration is \$20 before 12/31/22. Register at aaoklahoma.org/2023-state-conference. Hotel rates with conference code "ARC." The purpose of the conference is to hear the delegate's report!!

## Happy, Joyous, and Free!!

### Volume 36, Issue 1



#### The long form of the 7th Tradition states that:

"The AA groups themselves ought to be fully selfsupported by the voluntary contributions of their own members.

We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise.

Then, too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

This pamphlet explores that tradition in great detail by answering many questions about money and how AA handles it. It also explains how your group can help support AA at other levels. It even provides pie graphs of possible distribution percentages, which are very helpful both to groups just starting out and those well established.

A Declaration of Unity (to be found on the back of many pamphlets):

This we owe to AA's future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Please send your story or article about a step or other to	opic to ADMIN@OKCINTERGROUP.ORG
Individual \$10 per year	Group \$25 per year
Name:	Group Name:
Address:	
City:State:	City:
Zip:	10 copies to be picked up each month
Telephone: ()	
Intergroup Service Office, Inc.	Place
2701 N. Portland, Suite E	Stamp Here