

District 48

Monthly Newsletter

January 2017



Upcoming Events

Registration Forms & Flyers @

www.district48aa.org

January



*Faxon-Kenmar
United Methodist Church*

Friday Night Big Book 35th Anniversary Celebration

Fri. 1/20/2017 @ 7 pm

Faxon-Kenmar UMC

1225 Clayton Ave.

Williamsport, PA 17701

Men's Retreat

(Jan. 27th, 28th & 29th)

(March, 2017)

Lollapalooza Conference

Welcome to the District 48 January Newsletter !

Hard copies of the D48 newsletter will be made available to all GSRs at the monthly district meeting for distribution to your individual meetings. The newsletter is also posted on the district website, district48aa.org, where it can be viewed or printed out to share.

In order for this newsletter to become a viable and relevant communication vehicle that shares positive news of Recovery among us – **you need to be an active participant**. Spread the news of what's working in your meeting, home group and life.

A Fragment of History - By Bill W.

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AA's are always asking: "Where did the Twelve Steps come from?" In the last analysis, perhaps nobody knows. Yet some of the events which led to their formulation are as clear to me as though they took place yesterday.

So far as people were concerned, the main channels of inspiration for our Steps were three in number -- the Oxford Groups, Dr. William D. Silkworth of Townes Hospital and the famed psychologist, William James, called by some the father of modern psychology. The story of how these streams of influence were brought together and how they led to the writing of our Twelve Steps is exciting and in spots downright incredible.

Many of us will remember the Oxford Groups as a modern evangelical movement which flourished in the 1920's and early 30's, led by a one-time Lutheran minister, Dr. Frank Buchman. The Oxford Groups of that day threw heavy emphasis on personal work, one member with another. AA's Twelfth Step had its origin in that vital practice. The moral backbone of the "O.G." was absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. They also practiced a type of confession, which they called "sharing"; the making of amends for harms done they called "restitution." They believed deeply in their "quiet time," a meditation practiced by groups and individuals alike, in which the guidance of God was sought

Important Announcements

- Is your meeting in need of fresh faces or dwindling in attendance?
- Are you celebrating an anniversary next month and would like to share the news?
- Is there a special event your group is working on & you want to spread the word?

***If you answered yes to any of the above or think you have a news item for consideration for upcoming issues, please submit the information to:

newsletter@district48aa.org

Submission deadline is the 28th of each month prior to publication.

for every detail of living, great or small.

These basic ideas were not new; they could have been found elsewhere. But the saving thing for us first alcoholics who contacted the Oxford Groupers was that they laid great stress on these particular principles. And fortunate for us was the fact that the Groupers took special pains not to interfere with one's personal religious views. Their society, like ours later on, saw the need to be strictly non-denominational.

In the late summer of 1934, my well-loved alcoholic friend and schoolmate "Ebby" had fallen in with these good folks and had promptly sobered up. Being an alcoholic, and rather on the obstinate side, he hadn't been able to "buy" all the Oxford Group ideas and attitudes. Nevertheless, he was moved by their deep sincerity and felt mighty grateful for the fact that their ministrations had, for the time being, lifted his obsession to drink.

When he arrived in New York in the late fall of 1934, Ebby thought at once of me. On a bleak November day he rang up. Soon he was looking at me across our kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York. As I remember that conversation, he constantly used phrases like these: "I found I couldn't run my own life;" "I had to get honest with myself and somebody else;" "I had to make restitution for the damage I had done;" "I had to pray to God for guidance and strength, even though I wasn't sure there was any God;" "And after I'd tried hard to do these things I found that my craving for alcohol left." Then over and over Ebby would say something like this: "Bill, it isn't a bit like being on the water wagon. You don't fight the desire to drink - you get released from it. I never had such a feeling before."

Such was the sum of what Ebby had extracted from his Oxford Group friends and had transmitted to me that day. While these simple ideas were not new, they certainly hit me like tons of brick. Today we understand just why that was...one alcoholic was talking to another as no one else can.

Two or three weeks later, December 11th to be exact, I staggered into the Charles B. Townes Hospital, that famous drying-out emporium on Central Park West, New York City. I'd been there before, so I knew and already loved the doctor in charge -- Dr. Silkworth. It was he who was soon to contribute a very great idea without which AA could never have succeeded. For years he had been proclaiming alcoholism an illness, an obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body. By now I knew this meant me. I also understood what a fatal combination these twin ogres could be. Of course, I'd once hoped to be among the small percentage of victims who now and then escape their vengeance. But this outside hope was now gone. I was about to hit bottom. That verdict of science -- the obsession that condemned me to drink and the allergy that condemned me to die -- was about to do the trick. That's where the medical science, personified by this benign little doctor, began to fit it in. Held in the hands of one alcoholic talking to the next, this double-edged truth was a sledgehammer which could shatter the tough alcoholic's ego at depth and lay him wide open to the grace of God.

In my case it was of course Dr. Silkworth who swung the sledge while my friend Ebby carried to me the spiritual principles and the grace which brought on my sudden spiritual awakening at the hospital three days later. I immediately knew that I was a free man. And with this astonishing experience came a feeling of wonderful certainty that great numbers of alcoholics might one day enjoy the priceless gift which had been bestowed upon me.

**As in so many things, especially with we alcoholics,
Our History is Our Greatest Asset !!!**



January 2017 Cover

www.aagrapevine.org/

In the Community...

NEW MEETING

Veterans & Friends in Recovery

Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

1101 Washington Blvd.

Williamsport

Meetings in Need of Support:

Jersey Shore Step Mtg.

Thursday - 7:00 PM - Trinity UMC

1407 Allegheny St.

Jersey Shore – Open Mtg.

Young People in Recovery

Sunday, 3:00PM

Alternative Bikers Club

2003 W. 4th St., Wmspt. - O,T

District 48 Hotline:

866-671-6130

24 Hours/Day – 7 Days/Week