

# Groupline

MARCH 2016

## THE SIOUXLAND INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

**\*\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\*\***

The Next  
Siouxland Intergroup  
Meeting is will be 7:00PM  
Thursday, Mar17, 2016  
at the Central Office,  
614 Cook Street.  
[www.aasiouxcity.org](http://www.aasiouxcity.org)

Come early  
and grab a  
good Seat!



If you would  
like your EVENT to be listed  
in the GROUPLINE or if you  
have artwork, poetry or an  
article you would like to be  
considered for print, please  
email your submission to:

[AAcentralofficesc@gmail.com](mailto:AAcentralofficesc@gmail.com)

Or drop it by the  
Central Office  
712-252-1333  
[www.aasiouxcity.org](http://www.aasiouxcity.org)

The next DISTRICT 1  
meeting will be 7:00PM  
Tuesday Mar 08, 2016  
at the Hawkeye Club,  
420 Jones St, in Sioux City

Due to an employment change we have an  
opening on the Siouxland Intergroup Board.

Nominations for the Vice-Chairman position will  
be taken at the March 17th Intergroup meeting. A  
special election will be held at the April 21st  
Siouxland Intergroup meeting

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From the book DAILY REFLECTIONS©—March 4

### WEEDING THE GARDEN

The essence of all growth is a willingness to make a  
change for the better and then an unremitting  
willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this  
entails.

—AS BILL SEES IT, p. 115

By the time I had reached Step Three I had been  
freed of my dependence on alcohol, but bitter  
experience has shown me that continuous sobriety  
requires continuous effort.

Every now and then I pause to take a good look at  
my progress. More and more of my Garden is  
weeded each time I look, but each time I also find  
new weeds sprouting where I thought I had made  
my final pass with the blade. As I head back to get  
the newly sprouted weed (it's easier when they are  
young), I take a moment to admire how lush the  
growing vegetables and flowers are, and my labors  
are rewarded. My sobriety grows and bears fruit

CENTRAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday: CLOSED

Tues--Thurs: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Fri: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

I often hear discussions among members that address the question: "Is AA different today from what it used to be?" Of course, the answer is, "In some ways, yes, and in other ways, no."

I came to AA in 1959 and have watched the evolution of our Fellowship over four decades. The basis of our program remains the same. The details are in the Big Book, the "Twelve and Twelve," and *AA Comes of Age*. But yes, there have been subtle changes in members' attitudes and commitment and in the application of established and proven approaches.

I believe this is most evident in the practice and application of the Traditions. In the past, members sought to determine the spirit of each Tradition; today, I frequently encounter members and groups seeking to debate the "legal" interpretation of a Tradition, and arriving at an interpretation that is usually slanted in a way that supports their particular point of view.

Members stay away from Tradition meetings in droves and attend discussion meetings in hordes. This says to me, "I do not care to know what the spirit of AA is all about; all I want to do is vent my feelings." I would remind these folks of a chapter in the Big Book entitled "Into Action." There is no chapter entitled "Into Feelings." It is this I-want-it-to-be-my-way approach to the Traditions that may someday destroy our Fellowship from within.

For those not familiar with the spirit of the Traditions, I would certainly advise reading both the long and short form of the first three Traditions printed in the back of the Big Book, and the first three Traditions in the "Twelve and Twelve." These Traditions form the spiritual approach required to keep AA vibrant and alive--the spirit of AA, so to speak.

Tradition One says: Hey, buddy, you aren't the most important thing here, the group is. Whatever you do or say should be in the best interests of the membership of AA as a whole, not you. "Selfishness, self-centeredness, that, we think, is the root of our problem." Tradition One deals with the root of our problem.

Tradition Two says: Hey, buddy, you aren't in charge here, God is. Understanding God's will requires time for prayer and meditation before a major decision is made. In a group, any and all decisions can be major. Tradition Two deals with the development of trust in God, and patience.

Tradition Three says: Hey, buddy, if you agree with points one and two and are willing to embrace the spirit of these Traditions, you can be a member if you have a desire to stop drinking. Tradition Three deals with our need to serve others in a meaningful way to acquire and maintain long-term sobriety. It should be noted that the member comes third after the group and after God.

The May 2004 edition of the Grapevine is dedicated to the topic "Singleness of Purpose." Sit very quietly and think of all the AA groups throughout the world, about God's will for AA, about our historical roots, and about how you are less important than your group or God. If you do, you should have no difficulty understanding the cofounders' intentions regarding the spirit and meaning of "singleness of purpose."

Ed T.

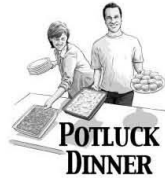
Winnipeg, Manitoba

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**SIouxLAND INTERGROUP**

## **UNITY DAY POTLUCK DINNER**

**Hosted by the Sunrise Attitude Adjustment Group**



**Saturday April 23, 2016**

**Location TBD ???, Sioux City, IA**

**Registration/Fellowship at 5:00pm**

***POTLUCK DINNER* 5:30 to 6:00 pm**

***6:15 ... AA : Dan G., Gladbrook, IA  
(Area 24 Chairman)***

***6:45 ... AA: Amy M-G., Gladbrook, IA  
(Area 24 Grapevine Chairperson)***

**Main Dish TBA**

***Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert***

**Suggested \$5.00 free will donation**

**Proceeds go to Siouxland Intergroup Central Office**

***FLYER TO FOLLOW***

# GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS THRU Feb 29, 2016

GROUP NAME	THIS MONTH	YEAR TOTAL	GROUP NAME	THIS MONTH	YEAR TOTAL
21 Club N-S Group			One A Day Group	\$10.35	\$39.71
3 & 11 Groups Quarterly Breakfast	\$24.00	\$24.00	One Page At A Time Group		
Afternoon Matinee Group			Pause When Agitated Group	\$11.00	\$22.00
Akron AA Group			Pink Cloud Group	\$37.50	\$37.50
Big Book Buddies Study Group			Room 106 Big Book Study Group at Holy Spirit		
Books & Beans Group			Saturday AM 12x12 Study Group		
Books & Cookies Group			Second Chance Group		
By the Book Group			Serenity Now Group		
Check your Ego at the Door Group		\$110.50	Sergeant Bluff AA Group		
Cheyenne Non-Smoking Group			Sioux City Tri-State Roundup		\$250.00
Club 21 Group			Solutions Group Women's BB Study Group		
Come and Go Group			Someone Cares Group		
Drunks Helping Drunks Group			South Sioux Friday Nite BB Study Group	\$75.00	\$75.00
Early Risers Group			South Sioux Tuesday Niter's Group		\$75.00
Elk Point AA Group			Spiritual 3-11 Meeting - Hawkeye Club	\$18.00	\$18.00
Faith Without Works Group			Steel Magnolias Group		
Faithful Fiver's	\$320.00	\$400.00	Stockyards Men's Group		\$100.00
FOUNDER'S DAY			Sunday 1030AM Spiritual Meeting		
Friday 530 PM Group		\$47.00	Sunday 3-11 St. Luke's Hospital Group		\$125.00
Friday Night Keep It Simple Group S.L.			Sunday Nite Spiritual Group	\$100.00	\$100.00
Glenn Ave Group			Sunday Nite Big Book Study Grp		
Grupo Nuevo Camino			Sunrise Attitude Adjustment Meeting	\$58.00	\$320.75
Hawkeye 10AM Group			Sunrise Retirement Home Group		
Hawkeye Steps 3&11 Grp at Mercy Hospital		\$228.00	Sweets and Treats Group	\$45.00	\$45.00
How and Why of It Group			TGIS in Alton Group		
Jackson Nebraska Monday Night Group			The How & Why Of It 12x12 Group		
Leed's Tuesday Open Group			Tuesday 12 X 12 Group		
Leed's Wednesday Brown Bag Group			Tuesday Early Bird Group		
Leeds Sunday Nite Spiritual Group			QUARTERLY UNITY DINNER	\$700.75	\$700.75
Living in The Solution Group	\$107.50	\$107.5	We Can Group		
Living Sober Group			Wednesday BB Study Group		
Many Hands Caring Grp			Westlawn Group	\$80.00	\$130.00
Marble Group			Where It All Begins Group		
Morningside Fellowship Group			Wise Words Fellowship Club Group		
Moville Tuesday Nite Group	\$58.50	\$58.50	Women's Open Topic Group	\$10.00	\$10.00
No Name Group	\$26.00	\$70.29	Young Persons In AA		
No Matter What Group					
Group Donations not published from Dec 2015			Group Donations not published from Dec 2015		
Glenn Ave Group	\$300	\$300.00	Saturday AM 12x12 Study Group	\$200.00	\$250.00
Leeds Wednesday Brown Bag Group	\$50.00	\$100.00	No Nme Group	\$323.00	\$1008.50
Marbal Group	\$75.00	\$175.00	Room 106 BB Study Group at Holy Spirit	\$110.00	\$110.00
<b>OTHER DONATIONS</b>					
Birthday Donations			Individual Gifts		
Cash Donations	\$35.85	\$35.85	Memorial Donation		
Central Office Open House			** Monthly Intergroup Mtg**	\$14.75	\$38.75

## Faithful Fiver Contributors as of Feb 29, 2016

Amy D	Bill H	Cal H	Carol C	Charlie K	Don P	Greg N.
Jerry H	Joe B	Kathy B	Kevin J	Kevin M	Mike H	Pat G
Rick W	Roger J.	Rodney C	Rose A	Teresa S	Theresa J	William B

When I came into AA after twenty-four years of daily drinking, I was ready for a new way of life. My "treatment" was two to three meetings a day at "The Divine Dump" in San Francisco, a long-time meeting place in a neighborhood full of bars and funeral homes. The old-timers would point at these establishments and tell us, "If you don't like it here, try it out there."

For the first three months, I practiced the "ism"--I sponsored myself. But I did ask for help through the emotional storms of early sobriety from the people I saw every day at the meetings. The Steps that everyone spoke about, which hung crookedly on the wall, mystified me. My will had always been my higher power, way before I started to drink; drinking simply helped ease the pain of life not going my way.

I was also an agnostic and cynic. The idea of turning my will and my life over to something other than my own efforts at control was an action that I simply could not imagine. But I wanted this new way of life desperately, so I listened closely to what people had to say in meetings about their experience of coming to believe. Initially, I was repelled by those who talked about God, but they had a joy and a calm that I wanted.

An important part of my coming to believe was spending time at the ocean, where I could see a power greater than myself in action. Several times a week, I would go out to an abandoned WW II fort situated on a bluff overlooking the beach. It was an area for hang gliders, and I'd always enjoyed watching them sail by as I walked along the cliffs and down to the beach. I'd always yearned for the freedom that flight represented. I even had thirty hours of flight logged in small, aerobatic planes before giving it up, as I did with many pursuits during my drinking. As part of my training, I'd learned that the impact of alcohol increases as one ascends into the air, so I usually drank before I flew, to latch on to that thrill.

One day out at the fort, as I was struggling with how to work the Third Step, I found myself watching the hang gliders as they got ready to launch themselves. They lumbered up to the take-off spot with this heavy equipment on their backs, and then simply stepped into space from this very small spit of sand on the edge of a cliff. This was an intermediate skills area, so everyone had a certain expertise with the principles of aerodynamics. They knew what to do when they left the ground and moved into the air. A week before, however, a man had hesitated as he took off, and he'd fallen down the cliff and died, breaking his neck.

Hearing this story opened up the path to the Third Step for me. I had learned the principles of AA flight from Steps One and Two. I had seen how halfway measures could lead me out of the program to certain death. What I had to do was stand on the edge of the unknown, have faith in the Steps and my teachers in the meetings, and let go--step with both feet into this terrifying new realm of surrender, and trust that a power greater than myself, which I was only coming to understand, would carry me. If I held back, trying to keep one foot in the old realm, I'd fall out of the program. I had to abandon myself absolutely to the principles of the new dimension.

Bette-B. B.

Omaha, Nebraska

# Siouxland Intergroup Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2016

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Jose' P.. with the Serenity prayer, Intergroup Statement of Purpose and Central Office Statement of Purpose.

**Secretaries Report:** Last month's minutes were read by Stasha K. A motion to accept the minutes with corrections was made by Tom C., motion seconded by Paul T, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurers report was given by Bill H . Don P suggested a new format. Was needed for the report. Bill H stated he would have a new format at the next meeting. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers report by Mike H., seconded by Don P. Motion passed

**District Report:** Mike H reported that Winterfest made under \$100. Also that GSR's should go back to their groups to see if their group can fund all or part of the cost for their GSR to attend the Area 24 Spring Conference in Dubuque, IA. District 1 wants to have as many GSR's as possible attend at the conference to cast their vote for District 1 to host the Area 24 Fall Conference held in October of 2017.

**Functions and Committees:** Mike H reported that The January Unity Dinner held on Jan 30th was attended by over 125 members and brought in \$640 for the Central Office. Mike is also creating a board that will list upcoming functions for planning and coordinating with other groups. This also ensures that flyers and planning can place 2-3 months in advance. The next function is the March Spring Fling. Don P. suggested we go back to our groups asking to come up with a date for Founders Day in June. The next Unity dinner will be hosted by the Sunrise Attitude Adjustment Group on April 23rd.

**Old Business:** Mike H stated that the new schedules were received and 1000 have been distributed to the Hawkeye Club and 1500 to District 1.

**New Business:** Tom C stated that in April we may have a special election for Vice Chair. Tom C. stated he would like to be on a committee to combine District 1 and Siouxland Intergroup. Don P. said he would be part of that committee also. Bill H. made a motion to create a committee to check into what it would take to combine Siouxland Intergroup and District 1, seconded by Stasha K. and the motion passed.

Motion to close by Dianne B. seconded by Bill H.

Respectfully submitted:  
Stasha K., Secretary

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## SIouxLAND INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE—GRATITUDE WITH SERVICE FORM

*Return this form by: email to: [aacentralofficesc@gmail.com](mailto:aacentralofficesc@gmail.com) or drop in the mail or stop by the office*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Service Options:

#### 12 step list volunteer

Weeknights  Weekends

#### Phone Night & Weekends

Weeknights  Weekends

### Committees of Interest:

#### Public Information Cooperation with Professional Community

Special Events

Literature

Newsletter