

Unity | Recovery | Service



Central Office Store

Jewelry, coffee cups and other AA gifts

“To my sponsor” the greeting card says on the front. Open it up and it continues, “for walking me through the steps, for standing behind me, and for all those times when I began to backslide – for letting me step on your toes ...”

Greeting cards for sponsors, A.A. birthdays and just plain encouragement are a part of the Central Office store inventory that some volunteers fondly refer to as “drunk junk.” That’s to keep it separate in people’s minds from the A.A. Conference-approved books and pamphlets that take up more space in the store.

In fact the two types of merchandise are kept physically separate from each other. The drunk junk rests on the south wall of the office, and the Conference-approved on the north wall.

In addition to the greeting cards, the small space on the south wall holds a lot

of different items. Workbooks from Hazelden to take you through the 12 steps. An A.A. pocket guide has “How it Works” and other A.A. cornerstone material in a small size that, well, fits into the back pocket of your pants quite easily.

Wooden signs, bumper stickers, inspirational coins, travel mugs, coffee cups, bookmarkers, wallet cards, tote bags, magnets, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and money clips, all with different A.A. sayings also are available, along with t-shirts, including one from “Wilson-Smith University” that proclaims the wearer a “Forever Student” who is taking things “One Day At A Time.”

Some items have simple sayings, “Let Go, Let God” and others have longer inspirations, such as the 3rd and 7th step prayers and the serenity prayer. The unity/recovery/service triangle is used on most earrings and necklaces.

INSIDE

Archives Special Series

This month the newsletter will begin publishing the history of A.A. in Spokane. The history was compiled by Tom W., volunteer archivist for Central Office. Copies of the history are available free to A.A. members and can be found on the side of the metal history display case in the Central Office.

Gratitude Banquet
Save the Date!
Saturday, Nov. 10



First meeting in 1945 at Davenport Hotel

A small booklet written by Evertt K. in 1966 states the first meeting of A.A. in Spokane occurred in the Davenport Hotel on June 21, 1945. The Spokane meeting moved to the Western Union building and started to grow. Some of those A.A.'s incorporated the Alano Club to purchase a house at 119 W. 7th Ave. in October of 1945. In 1947, the Alano Club separated from A.A. and no meetings were held there (1). The meetings had come back into the Alano Club by 1952 (2). Similar to the A.A. traditions first printed in 1946, the Alano Club is run by its members and a central council binds the groups together (1).

As A.A. was organized nationally and turned over to the fellowship, the state of Washington became Area 72. A map produced in 1955 shows that Spokane was part of District 1 which went into Canada and south to about the Whitman County line. The map also lists 11 groups in Spokane and a total of 16 groups in District 1 (3). However, Evertt's booklet lists 14 groups in or near Spokane as well as other groups (1). A schedule from the Alano Club with no date has 19 groups or meetings listed, including two in Coeur d'Alene, the Vets Meeting and one at Eastern State Hospital (4).

To get a better perspective of Spokane between 1945 and 1960, the city limits were approximately Francis Avenue on the north, 29th Avenue on the south, Havana Street on the east and

Latah Creek and the Spokane River on the west. There was no I -90 yet, the Maple Street Bridge did not exist and Riverfront Park was still an industrial area with train tracks (5). There were three public high schools (Rogers, North Central and Lewis & Clark) and three catholic high schools (Gonzaga Prep for guys, Marycliff and Holy Names for girls). The Spokane Coliseum, the Cathedral of St. John and Northtown Mall had all just been built and opened by 1955 (6).

As mentioned above, Spokane was a part of District 1 in 1955. By 1962, the district boundaries had changed and Spokane was the southern end of District 2, Cheney and Sprague were in District 3. Later, Spokane was circled as being District 2 and District 3 surrounded it. District 3 included Idaho at this time also.

Next month: Spokane area AA groups and meetings from 1955 – 1968.

REFERENCES:

- 1-*The History of Washington State Alcoholics Anonymous 1941- -1966* by Evertt K. 1966 pp. 37-41.
- 2-*AlaNews 1952, the Alano Club newsletter at the time.*
- 3-*Historical District boundary maps from area 72.*
- 4-*Directory of A.A. Meetings for Spokane and Vicinity; Alano Club; No date listed.*
- 5-*The Spokesman Review, August 13, 2012 on-line under "Spokane river skyline".*
- 6- *Wikipedia.org, Timeline of Spokane,*

ARCHIVES

How do you start collecting your group's and district's archives for future generations?

Do you want to know about upcoming archives projects like audio recording old-timers' stories and writing down group histories?

Archivists Stephanie H. from District 2 and Tom W. from the Central Office, along with Mary J. of the South Hill Noon Group will present an hour-long workshop on these topics. All are welcome.

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

DATE: Saturday, Sept. 8

WHERE: Alano Club,
1700 W. 7th Ave.,

From GSO

Archives and History

"We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian..."

"It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion..."

"We want to keep enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come..."

— Bill W., 1957



CENTRAL OFFICE

- ◆ Bookstore
- ◆ Office
- ◆ 24-hour hotline
- ◆ 12th-step volunteer coordination
- ◆ Meeting schedules
- ◆ AA Pamphlets
- ◆ Coins
- ◆ Answer phone inquiries
- ◆ Consistent information about AA
- ◆ List of District contacts
- ◆ Calendar of events
- ◆ Website
- ◆ Newsletter
- ◆ Other services

Office Hours:

Monday	9am-6pm
Tuesday	9am-6pm
Weds.	9am-6pm
Thursday	9am-6pm
Friday	9am-8pm
Saturday	9am-1pm

A.A. Pamphlets

Need help choosing or being a sponsor?

“Get a sponsor!” is a familiar suggestion at A.A. meetings, but the understanding of what sponsorship means varies.

Some ask you to call them every day and others want only to see you at scheduled times to go through the steps.

The A.A. General Service Conference-approved pamphlet addresses these variations. The following are excerpts:

What is sponsorship?

“In A.A., sponsor and sponsored meet as equals ... An alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through A.A. ... Sponsorship can also mean the responsibility the group as a whole has for helping the newcomer.”

How should a sponsor be chosen?

“An old A.A. saying suggests, ‘Stick with the winners.’ It’s only reasonable to seek a sharing of experience with a member who seems to be using the A.A. program successfully in everyday life.”

Should sponsor and newcomer be as much alike as possible?

“Often a newcomer feels most at ease with a sponsor of similar background and interests. However, many A.A.s say they were greatly helped by sponsors totally unlike themselves. Maybe that’s because their attention was then focused on the most important things that any sponsor and newcomer have in common: alcoholism and recovery in A.A.”

What if the sponsor is unavailable when needed?

“It is the whole A.A. program -- not the individual’s sponsor -- that maintains the



newcomer’s sobriety. Sponsorship is just the best way we know of introducing a newcomer to the program ... We have many recourses when we are unable to contact our sponsors. We can telephone other members; go to an A.A. meeting; phone or visit the nearest A.A. office or clubroom; or read A.A. books or pamphlets

or our A.A. magazine, the A.A. Grapevine, to find answers for almost any problem.”

Can a sponsor be overprotective?

“In their enthusiasm to help a newcomer achieve sobriety, some sponsors may be overprotective. They worry unduly about the persons they sponsor and tend to smother them with attention. In doing so, they may run the risk of having a newcomer depend upon an individual member rather than on the A.A. program.”

What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?

Planned sponsorship within a group might include: A regular committee on sponsorship; regular newcomers meetings; regular assignment of members to greet newcomers at meetings and introduce them around; when it is time for announcements in a meeting direct newcomers without sponsors who want one to see a designated person in the group; a table display of approved literature; a study of chapter 7 ‘Working with Others’; a regular procedure for welcoming newcomers who have just left institutions.



Spokane Central Office Group Contributions YTD January through June 2018

	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	TOTAL
515 Group				127.00			127.00
As Bill Sees It Men's Meeting				404.95			404.95
Attitude Adjustment Hour		243.54		437.59		195.62	876.75
Best 3 Out of 5	290.00						290.00
Came to Believe				133.34			133.34
Chattaroy Group					180.00		180.00
Deer Park Big Book Study			72.00	100.00			172.00
Deer Park Saturday Morning Live				129.60			129.60
Early Bird Group	482.52			637.14			1,119.66
Eye Opener		70.29					70.29
First Things First		220.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	260.00
Foxhall	25.00				50.00	25.00	100.00
Friday Night Rebels-Colville				25.00			25.00
Grateful Ladies		25.00		100.00		100.00	225.00
Keep It Simple				45.00			45.00
Manito Morning Group	20.00	30.00	30.00	20.00			100.00
Manito Women's Group						50.00	50.00
Millwood Madams				50.00			50.00
Minnehaha Fun Group			50.00				50.00
Nine Mile Falls Group				160.00			160.00
Noon Non-Smoking Meeting	174.00	206.00	250.54	270.00	252.00		1,152.54
Northeast Group		5.00			7.50		12.50
Northside Miracles					100.00		100.00
Out of the Hat			100.00				100.00
Prescription for Living		360.00				65.00	425.00
Rule 62 Meeting					40.00		40.00
Saturday Morning Big Book Study	100.00						100.00
Saturday Morning Live - Deer Park	70.20				74.00		144.20
Saturday Night Miracles	100.00						100.00
Sober on Sprague			39.00				39.00
SOTS- Medical Lk		45.00					45.00
South Hill Noon Group		243.48					243.48
Step Sisters		150.00					150.00
Sullivan Road Group	31.45	34.87	16.00	20.95			103.27
Sunday Morning Meeting					500.00		500.00
Trentwood Group						40.00	40.00
Unity Group		118.20					118.20
Wednesday Morning Men's Group	300.00						300.00
Wednesday Noon Live (Deer Park)	30.00						30.00
Wednesday Womens Meeting						50.00	50.00
Women Off the Hill				75.00			75.00
Young at Heart		50.00					50.00
TOTAL	1,623.17	1,801.38	567.54	2,745.57	1,213.50	535.62	8,486.78

