



Conscious Contact

Prescott Area Intergroup: Serving Central Yavapai County

November 2019

240 S. Montezuma St. # 108 Prescott, AZ 86303 Phone: (928) 445-8691 Open Weekdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Website: www.prescottaa.org Email: prescottaa@prescottaa.org

A Fellowship of Hope

Recently, the assigned topic for a writing class I'm taking was friendship, and that got me thinking about the difference between friendship and fellowship.

Those two words sound similar but have important differences. The dictionary describes friendship as the state of being attached to another by affection or esteem. Fellowship, on the other hand, is defined as a community of interest, activity, feeling or experience. Friendship may also be built on common interests and experiences, but not necessarily. A fellowship, by contrast, requires some commonality and, while often leading to close friendships, frequently includes people who wouldn't otherwise mix, much less be friends.

There are different sorts of fellowships, but membership in the one that has changed my life and thousands of others involves two principal commonalities. First is a kinship of misery, despair, destruction and failure. The second is a shared understanding of and commitment to a path out of that misery.

The fellowship I refer to is like a family in one sense – you can't be kicked out. There are no rules; just traditions and suggestions. You may leave of your own accord, but just say the word and you're welcomed back. Like the military, we don't leave our wounded behind. When one of us relapses into old, destructive behavior, we try the harder to be of help – whether we happen to like the individual or not is immaterial.

Remarkably, there is no hierarchy in this fellowship; little formal organization at all. While friendship is based on affinities that may change, this fellowship is based on principles rather than personalities. And principles don't change.

Instead of a pulpit, my information about how those principles can work in everyday life has come largely from flawed men and women so desperate to find a way out of their degradation that they're willing to try anything, and to share what they learn along the way.

There is much wisdom in the written traditions and suggestions of this fellowship. Yet, for all the powerful ideas that have helped shape the second life it has given me, it's the positive examples I've been privileged to witness that speak most eloquently. I learned about love from men who showed me love, and who let me see them show love to others. I learned about handling physical

and emotional pain from men and women who have confided in me as they walked through betrayal, divorce, bankruptcy, injury, and even death with grace and dignity.

People who have nearly destroyed their own lives and caused immeasurable pain in others now inspire me to search out and try to overcome my own character defects by sharing theirs with me. They teach me how to go about making amends for the past by revealing the harm they had caused and how they did their best to right those wrongs. They show me how our sometimes sordid pasts, honestly shared, can become tools with which to help those, often unresponsive to other methods, who are in similar circumstances. We can be uniquely qualified to offer understanding and hope. And in the process, we learn to forgive ourselves.

I enjoy many friendships today – golfing friends, old journalism colleagues, travel buddies, etc. But my most intimate friendships are with a few other members of this special fellowship. They know and understand me – and I them -- at a depth I could never have imagined possible.

This fellowship is Alcoholics Anonymous, and I've been a grateful, sober member for well over half my life.

Perhaps the best way to describe how important this fellowship has been to me is to recall 9/11. I was alone on business in New York City that day – mid-town Manhattan. I was even temporarily evacuated from Rockefeller Plaza when no one really knew how many targets there might be. Yet as the horrors of the day unfolded, I found myself longing not so much for the company of my family, but for an AA meeting. I had no thought of drinking – I think I just needed some tangible reason for hope amidst the catastrophe. And that's what AA continues to represent to me.

There was a meeting very near my hotel, and while I didn't know any of the others on hand, I felt a sense of safety the minute I walked in the door. And as the group shared their feelings about what had happened, I had the overwhelming sense that despite all the devastation of that day, despite the sense of powerlessness in the face of great calamity, we were engaged in something constructive and vitally important. We were strangers, but brothers and sisters in a nearly 85 year old worldwide fellowship of hope.

Dan F.

AA International Convention

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2 – 5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme “Love and Tolerance is our Code.”

When I first heard it was in Detroit I was not sure if I wanted to go. But I understand that Detroit has improved. “This is an experience in America’s great comeback city.”

They are expecting 56,000 people. They have chartered a fleet of 270 shuttle buses which will run on regular schedules back and forth between the hotels and the convention. A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th anniversary at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.

There are a few members from Prescott going. I hope to take a few days and visit Dr. Bob’s home in Akron, Ohio to see the history as I have never been there. I have been to Bill Wilson’s home in East Dorset, Vermont many times and even stayed overnight and attended meetings at the Wilson House. I visited the graves of Bill and Lois where members have left sobriety coins. My sponsor once left his 13 year coin and picked up his 14 year coin. Henry (the old dinosaur) who “never had it so good” picked up his 20 year coin on a visit to East Dorset. Bill Wilson is still 12 Stepping people!

I was a few years sober when the world convention was in Montreal, Canada. I did not go. When I heard everyone talk about having a great time there I got a resentment which is good because I decided I would go to the next one in Seattle, WA, which I did. It was a little overwhelming to learn that I cannot go to every event. So, I just learned to pick the ones I really want to go to.

In Seattle it was very moving to see AA members from almost 100 countries coming out on stage with their flags. It was the first time Russia was represented. And, Seattle got worried because they almost ran out of coffee. Many people still remember a blind woman singing Amazing Grace.

Many people did not go to Toronto in 2005 because passports were needed and having a recent DUI could mean refusal to enter Canada as 2001 changed a lot of things about travel.

I think everyone should try to attend at least one world convention. Being in a stadium with 40,000 - 60,000 members of AA holding hands and saying the Lord's Prayer is something I will not forget and I am not a religious person.

A.A. World Conventions I have been to:

Seattle, Washington	1990	48,000 members
San Diego, California	1995	56,000
Minneapolis, Minnesota	2000	47,500
Toronto, Canada	2005	44,000
San Antonio, Texas	2010	53,000
Atlanta, Georgia	2015	57,000

GSO has scheduled the next world convention in 2025 Vancouver BC, Canada. In 2030 it will be in St Louis, MO. Maybe I’ll see you there!

New York Jimmy

DCM Report Sub-District 14-140

It doesn't seem like a new rotation (2yrs) is coming. I've enjoyed being DCM and have learned a lot. I attended many assemblies, orientations, all district meetings, and hospitality suites.

The business of AA, for lack of a better term, is very interesting, exciting, fun, and a great learning experience.

As happens in service work I started out willing and able to fulfill my duties as DCM then, as also happens, life's changes; time, work, health, etc. I feel I've not done as good a job as I had set out to do. Opportunities to visit remote communities meetings (Yarnell, Ashfork, Paulden and Chino Valley) were met but only one time each.

Our Alt. DCM, Isaac was a great help to new GSR's when needed. Our secretary, Paul B. put together workshops as well as his regular duties. Gabi was a great treasurer, as well as Founders’ Day committee chair.

Attendance by GSR's was good. Still, a lot of groups are not represented. The numbers from Area 03 (State of Arizona) indicate about 800 or so groups in the state. However, attendance at assemblies is two to three hundred including DCM's, DCMC's and intergroup liaisons.

Once again let me praise sub-district officers, and GSR's for helping me learn from a wonderful experience.

Love, Peace and Strength,
Paul S.

Step Eleven:

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Tradition Eleven:

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

Concept Eleven:

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.



November AA Birthdays CONGRATULATIONS!



Crazy Birds

Terra R. 11/15/11

Alternatives

Chuck H. 11/15/71

Bradshaw Seniors Mtg

Donya 11/15/87

PV Men's Book Study

Jack C. 11/18/16

Jimmy W. 11/01/11

Wilhoit

Sue M. 11/29/98

Barb R. 11/13/82

Toolbox Group

Matt M. 11/13/13

Kay L. 11/28/97

Julia F. 11/06/82

Humboldt Men's Stag

Rick K. 11/18/97

Mike R. 11/15/94

Earl G. 11/01/91

PV Friday Night Speakers

Art C. 11/07/03

Wally M. 11/18/94

Jack P. 11/09/69

PV Sun No Name

George K. 11/26/15

Josie B. 11/08/10

Emily I. 11/19/89

Sunday Round Table

Chrissy H. 11/26/11

Lawrence B. 11/01/10

Mike S. 11/02/86

Karen B. 11/22/85

PV Noon Group

Fred J. 11/07/13

Anita R. 11/25/12

Knute 11/08/95

Ray P. 11/02/79

Diamonds in the Rough

Bobbie D. 11/18/13

Erin K. 11/01/08

Kathy T. 11/03/99

Robin M. 11/01/01

Park Ave

Colyn 11/23/12

Tracie 11/13/12

Justin P. 11/05/11

Larry F. 11/11/84

Joan S. 11/29/81

Girlie Birds

Kiley M. 11/21/15

Wendi P. 11/01/15

Jean V. 11/15/14

Sasha R. 11/08/14

Sue A. 11/01/07

Colleen T. 11/11/90

Michelle H. 11/04/87

Serenity@Sunrise

Kelli S. 11/16/17

Serena H. 11/14/17

Andrea W. 11/15/13

Mikki T. 11/28/12

Saul H. 11/16/06

Jeff G. 11/10/88

Buck W. 11/09/80

Sun Morn Men's Stag

Carter K. 11/05/09

Cameron C. 11/28/08

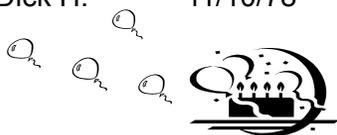
Drew B. 11/16/08

Paul B. 11/20/04

Ed H. 11/06/88

Larry W. 11/29/83

Dick H. 11/10/78



Service Corner

**Look back and be grateful.
Look ahead and be hopeful.
Look around and be helpful.**

Next Intergroup Meeting:

6:30 pm, Wednesday, November 13, 2019
(the second Wednesday of every month)
at the First Christian Church, 1230 Willow Creek Rd.

Next District 14-140 GSR Meeting

6:30 pm, November 6, 2019
(the first Wednesday of the month)
at the First Christian Church, 1230 Willow Creek Rd.

Next District 14-142 GSR Meeting

6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 5, 2019
(the first Tuesday of every month)
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7763 E. Long Look, PV

Prescott Shoestring Roundup Committee

5:30 pm, Friday, January 17, 2019
(no meetings in November & December)
Unity Church, 145 S. Arizona Ave. @ Goodwin

PI / CPC Committee

(Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community)
5:30 pm, Wednesday, November 20, 2019
Meetings scheduled as needed
Prescott Area Intergroup, 240 S. Montezuma #108
Contacts: Larry W. (928) 499-2936 or the
Prescott Area Intergroup Office (928) 445-8691.

The Prescott Area Intergroup's Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting

6:45 pm, November 6 & 20, 2019
(the first and third Wednesday of the month)
Treehouse, 635 1st St., Prescott
For information on how you can be of service on this
committee please call Tom M. (561) 389-3232

The Prescott Area Intergroup's Correctional Facilities Committee

For Yavapai County Juvenile Justice Center AA meeting
information call Jerry D. 928 636-9343

COMING SOON!

Our New and Improved Website!
www.prescottaa.org

- Regularly updated meeting info with maps
- Flyers and additional info on events
- Business meetings schedules
- Online contributions
- Newsletters and more

**Our meetings will soon be listed in the
Meeting Guide App!**



Transitions

My name is Mark C. and I am a grateful recovering alcoholic who is about to be released from prison in just a few days. I'm aware of how important it is for a recovering alcoholic like myself to make my transition from prison to the program of A.A. as short as possible and attend a meeting my first day out. Regular meeting attendance is key for me because my disease doesn't take breaks and neither can I. With an attitude of gratitude and service to the program that saved my life (and many others'), I am confident I will be welcomed in my transition from one loving fellowship to another. I am looking forward to my journey.

Love & Service,
Mark C.

Hope Lost

It was suggested at a meeting that we step up and write an article for the *Conscious Contact* newsletter. Here goes:

On September 11, 2011 addiction took everything from me and almost took my last breath. Thinking I could fix everything, I made a series of self-delusional bad choices which ended up almost killing me. It took God, many good people and the right actions of coming to A.A.; showing up for life; finally caring about myself; working the steps and helping others.

I have been given many gifts since then: love, tolerance, compassion, purpose, steadfastness, selflessness, courage, integrity, humility, sympathy, honesty, open mindedness, willingness, humanness, humor, serenity and hope. I had some of them before but never all of them. Today I am not waiting for life nor do I take it for granted. I get to live in the moment, help others and pay it forward.

For those who don't yet know, the answers you're looking for are in the steps. Get a sponsor, work the steps, accept help and recover. Hope is there and it always will be. Just try and I promise you will get well. It happened for me and for that I am grateful. And, with that I pass.

Love and Service,
Bryan B.

Have a Nice Day

Today I am 42 years sober!

That is a complete miracle because, left to my own devices, I would surely be dead instead of happy, joyous and free! When I came into A.A. I was full of anger and fear and I didn't trust anything or anyone.

Today, because of the grace of God, I am living the life I always wanted but didn't know how to get.

Today I completely trust God with everything and because of that I also have friends instead of just acquaintances.

I walk in the sunlight of the spirit and it has taken me many years to know that I deserve good things. I was the one that made bad choices and tried to blame everyone else.

Today I know that since I follow God on the path that he has set out for me I have nothing to fear. He has everything covered, so I am going to just relax and have a nice day.

Jan F.

Surrendering

After hitting my personal rock bottom and asking my Higher Power and the loved ones still in my life for help I was faced with these repeated questions: "Why didn't you say anything? Why didn't you ask me for help sooner?"

Pride, shame and my own stupidity prevented me from asking for help from those who cared about me most. After much reflection, I came to the realization that 95% of the problems I experienced in life could have been prevented if I had just opened up to those around me about what I was really going through.

So, I would like to encourage you. If you are struggling emotionally, spiritually, mentally or physically, I beg of you, grab one of your loved ones or one of your brothers or sisters in your fellowship and tell them exactly what's going on in your life. We care about you. We love you. But, we can't help if you don't tell us what's going on.

Andrew P.

November is Gratitude Month!

It is a longstanding tradition in Prescott Area A.A. to show our gratitude during this month of Thanksgiving by making special contributions to our Intergroup office. Contributions go to support the office, service committees and special events.

Group conscience determines how each group participates. Some pass the basket twice during Gratitude Month meetings. Some groups that meet daily donate collections from one day per week in November. Other groups choose to donate a percentage. Some members make individual anonymous gratitude donations. There are many ways to give.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to make our Intergroup self-supporting.



**Prescott Area Intergroup's
2019 Christmas/Holiday Alcathon**

Tuesday, December 24th

Wednesday, December 25th

**Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds
840 Rodeo Drive, Freeman Building**

Marathon Meetings on the Hour.

Groups are needed to lead meetings.

Call office by 12/19 to schedule day and time.

Tuesday, 12/24

2:00 pm - Setup

4:00 pm - 1st Marathon Meeting

6:00 pm - Potluck Dinner Please bring food to share!

7:00 pm - AA Speaker Meeting

Wednesday, 12/25

6:00 am - Continental Breakfast

11:00 am - 50/50 Raffle (Need not be present to win)



Prescott Area Intergroup's June 2019 YTD Treasurer's Report

GROUP DONATIONS	YTD
4 Directions Grp	\$400.00
A Way Out Group	\$153.15
Afterwards Group	\$1,154.30
Alternatives	\$70.00
Amity Group	\$40.00
ASCYPAA	\$408.43
Bradshaw Seniors Meeting	\$588.35
Candlelight Meeting	\$42.00
Carry This Message	\$753.00
Chino Valley AA	\$200.00
Coming Home	\$65.00
Cordes Lakes Group	\$20.00
Cordes Lakes Whatever Group	\$40.00
Crazy Birds	\$441.03
District 14-140	\$150.00
Early Risers	\$151.00
Freebirds	\$171.00
Friday Big Book Solutions	\$65.00
Girlie Birds	\$1,025.00
Healing the Hole in the Soul	\$378.00
Humboldt Men's Stag Meeting	\$500.00
Intergroup Meeting	\$333.41
Noon BB Discussion	\$1,195.87
Old Shoe (Skull Valley)	\$272.00
Open AA Meeting	\$500.00
Park Avenue Group	\$1,201.21
Prescott Group	\$435.00
Prescott Shoestring Roundup	\$4,500.00
Principles B4 Your Personality	\$1,200.00
PV As Bill Sees It	\$274.00
PV Friday Night Speaker Mtg.	\$600.00
PV Gut Rap Group	\$250.00
PV Keep It Simple	\$392.55
PV Lushes t' Ladies	\$464.70
PV Men's Book Study	\$300.00
PV No Name Group	\$104.00
PV Noon Group	\$400.00
PV Roadmap To Recovery	\$125.00
PV Sunday Nooners	\$400.00

GROUP DONATIONS	YTD
PV Wed Step Study	\$140.00
Rarely Group	\$250.00
Round Table Meeting	\$792.00
Seniors In Sobriety	\$471.76
Serenity At Sunrise	\$789.00
Sisters In Sobriety	\$60.00
Step Stories	\$150.00
Sun. AM Men's Stag	\$1,050.00
Sunday Morning AA Solutions	\$125.00
Sunny Days	\$360.33
The Great Fact	\$1,143.47
The Slice Of Life	\$700.00
Thurs Men's Stag	\$33.71
Toolbox Group	\$893.00
Tues Night Book Study	\$450.00
Tuesday Night Step Study	\$270.00
Walking Through Hell	\$100.00
Whipple Group	\$41.00
Women's Gratitude Luncheon	\$50.00
Working Girls	\$135.00
Yarnell On the Mtn Grp	\$70.00
Young Peoples Meeting	\$300.00
TOTAL GROUP DONATIONS	\$28,137.27
OTHER INCOME	
AA Birthday Gratitude	\$395.00
Anonymous IG Donation	\$237.36
Literature Sales	\$8,963.35
Chips Etc.	\$2,481.00
Meeting Directory Sales	\$273.50
Newsletter Sales	\$120.00
Picnics	\$1,492.67
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$13,962.88
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,100.15
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,856.35
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$3,756.20
Total Monies 9/30/19	\$35,199.93
Literature & Chips Value	\$8,077.00



Conscious Contact

Conscious Contact subscribers have three options to receive the newsletter:

1. Receive it via email at no charge. Email your subscription request to prescottaa@prescottaa.org
2. View online at www.prescottaa.org.
3. Receive it hard-copy via US Mail for \$15 per year.

If you would like a hard copy sent by US Mail fill out the form below and submit with \$15.00.

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