



Conscious Contact

Prescott Area Intergroup: Serving Central Yavapai

October 2023

240 S. Montezuma St. # 108 Prescott, AZ 86303

Office hours: Monday thru Friday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Oxford Group

The Oxford Group was a Christian organization founded by Dr. Frank Buchman in 1921 and was originally called "A First Century Christian Fellowship." The name later became known as the "Oxford Group" when some followers from Oxford University were traveling in South Africa in 1929, a porter wrote on their luggage, "Oxford Group". This organization was instrumental in the early sobriety of Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith. In New York, the Oxford Group headquarters was at Reverend Sam Shoemaker's Calvary Rescue Mission they worked on drunks. In Akron Jim Newton, helped Harvey Firestone's son Russell get sober, by taking him to a conference in Denver. In appreciation, the senior Firestone invited Buchman to have a ten-day campaign in Akron to spread their message. One of those attending was Dr. Bob.

Though not a religion itself the Oxford Group used principles based in Christianity. They were made up of people who surrendered their life to God. They strived for the "Four Absolutes": absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and absolute love. They also lived by the Five C's: confidence, confession, conviction, conversion, and continuance. To be spiritually reborn they advocated four practices that have been used by Alcoholics Anonymous; 1. Sharing our sins with another, 2. Surrender our life to God, 3. Restitution, 4. Listening to God. They also looked to help other people. House parties were held by the group in locations to spread their word at homes, outdoor camps, and hotels. These parties were from a weekend and up to two weeks. There would be a team to handle the events.

Rowland Hazard, became an Oxford Group follower after Dr. Carl Jung, suggested he might find relief from his alcoholism by having a vital *spiritual experience*. Rowland helped Ebby Thatcher get sober and brought Ebby to Sam Shoemaker's mission. Ebby looked to help another and thought of Bill Wilson in Brooklyn. He brought the Oxford Group message to him. *Bill W. had his last drink and a spiritual experience that allowed him to stay sober for the rest of his life.* Five months after Bill became sober, he reached out to Akron's Oxford Group in order to help someone; and a woman named Henrietta Seiberling introduced Bill to Dr. Bob. **The rest is history.**

Bill wrote in the book Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, "the early AAs got their ideas of self-examination, acknowledgment of character defects, restitution of harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Group and directly from Sam Shoemaker, their former leader in America, and nowhere else."

So why did Alcoholics Anonymous need to break from the Oxford Group first in New York in 1937 and later in Akron in 1939? Bill thought that alcoholics needed to work with alcoholics. He also felt

the Oxford Group's aggressive evangelisms did not work on alcoholics who needed to be anonymous, or they might get drunk. Also, the Oxford Group's use of the word *absolute* in front of the principles of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love, was too strong for alcoholics. He also felt AA needed tolerance of others' beliefs.

Article by Dan S. Prescott Valley, AZ

Editor's Note: Welcome to the October 2023 edition of the Conscious Contact Newsletter! Some great reading awaits you in this edition. We welcome any article submissions for the newsletter; we just ask that you please keep it under 500 words. Submit your contributing article to the following email addresses: mikes_prescott@yahoo.com & prescottaa@prescottaa.org – In Service, Mike S.

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST from the AA Grapevine

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

TRADITION TEN: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

c. THE AA GRAPEVINE INC., PO BOX 1980,
GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10163-1980

September 2023 Prescott Picnic

What a blast we had at the picnic! 1st of all, perfect weather. Then, nearly 300 people attended. Next, there was food! Our Intergroup purchased 500 pieces of chicken (only three were left at the end!). The home-made desserts were incredible, and there were so many delicious side dishes. Nobody went home hungry, that's for sure. Also, what a successful raffle. 17 thoughtful and attractive baskets and artworks were raffled off to happy ticket buyers. The PA system was perfect, and the weather was the best! We had numerous helpers for the set up before and clean up after; it went quickly!

Kudos to the **Round Table Group** for organizing this very special event. Decades of experience sponsoring these picnics really paid off in 2023. The 7th tradition and raffle monies were very generous at this event - which covered our expenses (rental and food and drinks) and will support the Montezuma Street Intergroup office, which houses our volunteers, our literature, chips, phone lines, and printed schedules. The office volunteers keep the doors open, with reliable members showing up as scheduled. Now would be a great time to get on a sign-up sheet for alternates in case someone has a holiday coming up and needs a fill-in **volunteer**.

Thank you Intergroup Office Volunteers!

Beth B	Kelly M.
Dan S.	Kim A.
Deborah F.	Mary M.
J.J.	Michael A.
John T.	Paul S

Submitted by Cathy N., your *Roving Intergroup*

Service Corner

Look back and be grateful.

Look ahead and be hopeful.

Look around and be helpful.

Service Committee Meetings

Prescott Area Intergroup

2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm

Safe Harbor, 520 W. Delano, lower level

PRESCYPAA Committee Meeting

2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:30pm

Treehouse, 635 1st Street, Prescott

District 14-140 GSR Meeting

First Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm

Zoom ID: 619 267 7891 - PW: District14

District 14-142 GSR Meeting

First Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

7763 E. Long Look Dr., Prescott Valley

Treatment Facilities Committee

Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

Methodist Church, 505 W. Gurley, Steed Hall

What is the AA definition of service?

Service is an essential way to maintain quality, continuous sobriety. Service means getting involved in A.A. functions, directly carrying the A.A. message, or helping others to carry it. "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drink as intensive work with other alcoholics. (Big Book, p. 89)

Pay It Forward | A Poem by Zandria V.

A soul floats around
in the ether above
called to this Earth
A being of love

It came here to learn
to stumble around
to fall on its ass
to hit the hard ground

The life it experiences
as a child on this Earth
Is determined by who
It chooses at birth

It could be a life
surrounded by love
or encompassed by pain
We can't even dream of

Our journey down here
Is meant to teach us
to stumble and fall
But always get up

Life throws us punches
that make us collapse
the pain we feel
can cause a relapse

A relapse of using
that draws us back in
to our nasty old habits
and so we begin

to forget who we are
to forget why we're here
to numb all the pain
the guilt, shame and fear

But what have we learned
When we hit the ground?
To _____ stand up!
And know what you've
found

The answer to life
You've known all along
To dust yourself off
And know you belong

You belong to this planet
You belong to this race
You have a purpose
A God-given place

You're meant to fall down
You're meant to feel pain
You're meant to end cycles
to bring your soul again

to where it began
before coming down here
Your angels are watching
They stay very near

To guide you through life
whatever it brings
To heal all the pain
from so many stings

that bring us all down
And make us afraid
they show the path
that's been divinely laid

Out for us all.
And they're all so unique
When the bumps tear you down
And you start to think

You can't possibly go on'
You need to remember
The help is there waiting
But you need to surrender

Surrender self-will
Surrender control
Surrender your ego
Begin to let go

And when you do
The angels appear
And remind you just why
Your soul was brought here

They'll bring you back up
with their light and their love
they'll remind you that
you're protected from above

We may all regret
The mistakes that we've made
But that's in the past
And today is today

We've all fallen down
On our knees or our ass
But today we are strong
Because of our past

So take all that knowledge
It's agift from above
And teach al the others
that seek out the love

The love you've been gifted
When you fell to you knees
Because they need the guidance
to help them succeed.

So please pay it forward
All the things that you've learned
Spread the knowledge and love
That you've clearly earned.

(August 2023)



Prescott Area Intergroup, Inc.

Contributions

2023

Meeting	September Donations	YTD	Meeting	September Donations	YTD
11 Step Meditation		230.00	PV No Name Group		0.00
4 Directions Group		300.00	PV Noon Group		2,055.84
4th Dimension		0.00	PV Reflections		64.00
AA Birthday Gratitude		34.00	PV Roadmap to Recovery		0.00
Afterwards Group		1,536.00	PV Serenity Seekers		15.00
Alphabet Soup		0.00	PV Wed Step Study		0.00
Alternatives		0.00	Rarely Group		406.64
ANONYMOUS/Per Don	53.00	1,503.60	Rebel Ladies With Solutions		0.00
Bridge to Shore		420.00	Round Table Meeting		1,357.00
Broad Highway		401.88	Saturday Night Live		342.00
Carry This Message		0.00	Seniors in Sobriety		0.00
Chino Valley AA	636.00	2,128.00	Serenity at Sunrise		1,307.00
Common Solutions		0.00	Serenity Online	839.00	3,303.62
Dist 14-142		34.00	Serenity Sisters		65.00
Girlie Birds	1,137.50	2,187.50	Serenity Sunday Noon	10.00	30.00
Humboldt Men's Stag		142.00	Sisters in Sobriety		27.00
Intergroup		226.00	Step One Wed Night BS		0.00
Noon BB Discussion	134.00	512.00	Step Stories	20.00	70.00
Old Shoe (Skull Valley)		265.00	Sun AM Men's Stag	420.00	3,790.00
Park Avenue Group	111.48	738.98	The Great Fact		750.00
Paulden Meeting Place		0.00	The Slice of Life	450.00	450.00
PISR	1,500.00	1,500.00	Thurs Men's Stag		0.00
Prescott Group		200.00	Tues Night Men's 12x12		0.00
Primary Purpose Group		0.00	Walking Thru Hell		40.00
PV As Bill Sees It		247.00	Wed Night Step Study		27.60
PV Diamonds in the Rough		0.00	Welcome Valley Group		280.00
PV Friday Night Speaker	300.00	1,397.26	Whatever Group		125.00
PV Keep it Simple		244.39	Women Awakening		0.00
PV Lushes t' Ladies		104.00	Women's Grat Lunch		0.00
PV There is a s Solution		0.00	Prescott Young People		38.50
PV Men's Big Book		0.00	TOTAL DONATIONS	\$ 5,610.98	\$ 28,895.81

Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.