

Area 78 History Book Update

As your Area 78 archivist, I would like to give you an update on our Area 78 History Book. Your Adhoc committee has decided we would only be creating a digital version of the history book.

Our reasoning for this was twofold.

1: As our history continues to unfold a digital version allows us to update the history book as often as we deem necessary.

2: The cost of creating a hard copy Area 78 History book is too high and with trying to be fiscally responsible for our 7th tradition we deem it unnecessary currently to create a hard copy of the History book.

The actual title of the Area 78 History book will be decided this September weekend by our archive committee. Also, we will be deciding who we will ask to write the Forward to our new history book.

We will still be looking for updates on your group histories and district histories in 2021. Our goal at present is to have all the information together and ready for the September Assembly in 2021 to ratify on. Day for inclusion to the Area 78 History book will be June 30, 2021.

Thank You for your Service

We would also at this time like to thank the individual members of the Area 78 History Book Adhoc committee which are Dave S., of District 76 Catherine P. of District 16, Keith A. of District 18, Jan M. Of District 13, Nick T. of District 86, and Rhonda R. of District 35 for their service on the Adhoc Committee. Since September 2019 they have invested their valuable time and energy into helping make viable decision on the formation of the Area 78 History Book. Thanks Folks.

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Archives service work is much more than mere custodial activity; it is the means by which we collect, preserve and share the rich and meaningful heritage of our fellowship. It is by the collection and sharing of these important historical elements that our gratitude is strengthened.

Table of Contents of Area 78 History Book

This is the order and Chapters of your Area 78 History Book elected and decided by your Adhoc Committee.

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District Histories to Date

Since last September your archivist has been busy putting together district histories for the individual districts comprised from the available information from group histories and Area 78 archives. This district history is for inclusion in the Area 78 History Book. This was forwarded to your DCM for any changes the district wanted to make and to be sent back to the archivist for inclusion in our Area 78 History Book. All current DCM's that have an email address with Area 78 have been given the latest updated District History for their area to date to change or add to as needed. Some areas currently have groups that are active but have no DCM. If you are a GSR please contact your DCM if he has not approached you about your district history.

District 7 History-1970-2020

District 11 History-1964-2020

District 60 History 1978-2020

District 10 History-1973-2020

District 26 History-1974-2020,

District 64 History 1968-2020

Group Histories by District to Date

On the following pages you will find groups that have sent in their histories for inclusion to the Area 78 History book to date..

District 1-????

District 3-Grande Centre Group History ID-114714

District 4-

District 5-Niton Group History ID-114954**District 12-**Calmar Tuesday Night Group History ID-114663, Camrose Group History ID-114598, Leduc Live and Active Group History ID- 114728 , Leduc Thursday Night Open Meeting Group History D 127418, Stairway to Freedom Group History ID- 169395, Thorsby Monday Step and Tradition Group History ID- 136887, and Wetaskiwin Group History ID- 114765

District 6-????

District 7-????

District 9-????

District 10-???

District 11-????

District 12-????

District 13-Balmoral Easy Does it Group History ID-697834, Ladies 12x12 Group History ID- 707582, Monday Night Men's Group History ID- 647411, Noon Group History ID-164985, Red Deer Hospital Meeting Group History ID- 664105, S1REN Group History No ID, Footprints Group ID 153548, Happy Hour Group ID 727853, All Inclusive Group Monday Nights Group

District 14-Elnora No Name Group History ID- 114592

District 15-????

District 16-????

District 17-Sunset Group History ID- D53-11518

District 18-Dewinton Group History ID- 128905, Undergrounders Group History ID- 69272,

District 19-????

District 20-Serenity Sundays Twilight Group History ID- 678758, Vegreville Group History ID- 114761, Irma FrID-ay Night Group History ID- 165417, Wainwright Thursday Night Group History ID-114763

District 21-????

District 24-????

District 26-????

District 33-????

District 35-Big Book Rejuvenation Group History ID- 603600, Rainbow Valley Group History ID- 115391, Vision of Hope Group History ID- 641846

District 40-Jasper Place Group History ID- 114690

District 46-Must Change Group History ID- 126204

District 53-60 Minutes to Sobriety Group History ID- 605529, North Edmonton Group History ID- 114693, Rite Trac Group History ID- 119330

District 57-AB Group History ID- 608916

District 60-Beaumont Friday Night Group History ID- 127545

Group Histories by District to Date

District 61-Big Book Tool Box Talk Group History ID-- 692901, Happy Hour Group History ID-- 121626, Millshaven Group History ID-- 119605, Sherwood Park Group History ID-- 114752

District 64-St. Albert Breakfast Group History ID-- 114607

District 73-????

District 74-????

District 75-Bow Trail Group History ID-114565, Unity Group History ID-- 119606

District 77-Edgemont Group History ID-- 613070, University Group History ID-- 114660

District 79-Crossroads Group History ID-- 114644, Friday Night Fellowship, Group History ID-- 000722125, New Life Group History ID-- 125034, Regal Group History ID-- 117186

District 80-????

District 83-Southlanders Pancake Group History ID-- 114572

District 85-King Solomon Lodge Laughter Nooner Group History ID- 666002, Weedon Hall Freedom Group History ID- 666003

District 86-Irricana Recovery Group History ID- 117035

District 87-ABC Group History ID- Not Registered, Shipwreck at Sunset Group History ID- 707225

One Who Has Gone Before an Archive Mystery

In 1994 a member, Gordon L., wrote a oral history transcription of another member on his 39th AA birthday by the name of Wilf H. who was at that time 84 years old. We know that in this history he originally drank in Edmonton and sobered up in Calgary in 1955. His home group is unknown in Calgary the only information we have is it was somewhere near 1512 8 Ave NW. Although bits and pieces were missing its interesting to know what AA was like in 1994.

"There must have been 500 people there. There were people of all ages, from teens all the way up to my age: These are true stories, not fairy tales. Its fantastic the way they're coming in now and thank God they are. They don't have to go down to the bottom of the hole. There's a high bottom and a low bottom. I was medium. When you hit that bottom though, you know, you don't need anyone to tell you. You've got to change-your attitude.

My daughter and my wife-went to Al-Anon a bit. My daughter came with me to the meetings more than my wife did. She understands the program too. I am the way I am. I don't want to be somebody else, but just me. You never want to be concerned with what you think other people think about you. You want to be concerned with what you think of yourself. Don't try to be somebody else, that's what I'm trying to do today. If you know yourself, then you know the Almighty God."

Trivia: What does the first sentence say after we read how It Works in the big book?

The History of those that have gone before

Through the years many groups have come and gone but thanks to a few of them we have their story in our archives to share who they were and what they held dear in Alcoholic Anonymous. It is a sad day in Alcoholics Anonymous when a group closes its doors but people change in AA, people move, life changes and districts and groups become dark. Below is one such group that created a group history before it folded in 2016.

Crossroads Group History ID 114644-District 79

It all started in August 1965 when a group of recovering alcoholics got together and decided they needed a meeting place in North East Calgary. Elmer B. a member of AA was also a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church at 1432-19 Street NE at that time. He approached Pastor Gordon Hanson and the Ascension Lutheran Church on behalf of the AA Members in North East Calgary about renting a room for Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and so the Crossroads group was formed.

Pastor Hanson, of the church, at that time also became a true friend of Alcoholics Anonymous. He did many 5th Steps with members of AA and counselled many AA members and their families through the years that we met at the church. Although Pastor Hanson has passed on many of us remember him fondly sharing a cup of tea with us in the rectory .

In September 1997 the Crossroads Groups moved to where it was until it closed in 2016 at the Crossroads Community Church, 912-19 Street NE. While doing our research for this group history as far as we can tell the following members were the founding members of the Crossroads group for the first 15 years.

Founding 1965 Members-Elmer B., Bill D., Ron H., Bruce L.

The above people and several that are not listed formed the core of our group for many years. If we have missed any members of the Crossroads group in this Group History hopefully they will remember us in their next Fifth or Tenth Step.

At its core the Crossroads Group had not changed in its inception of the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. It still firmly believed in the practice of the twelve steps of the program in keeping the Alcoholic Sober. It further embodied the principles of the Twelve Traditions as they were laid out to keep the Group and AA as a whole spiritually fit.

The Crossroads Group followed the 12 Concepts and had members as representatives on both the Calgary Service Committees at times for Intergroup and the CGSC. The group carried these principles in all their regular Monday Night Meetings until its closure in 2016.

Needful Things

Your Area 78 Archives is growing. As your archivist it has been my pleasure to file and digitize our Area 78 History to date. Currently your Archives is in need of a legal size file cabinet to store more of our memorabilia we have on hand. If you know where Area 78 Archives can get a hold of one or buy one cheaply please contact your Area 78 Archivist.

Oral Histories Verses Personal Stories

While personal stories and sharing's we give at a roundup, speaker meeting etc. share our message of hope we only get a true history and vision of our fellowship when we take exacting questions to our fellowship about their experience with AA. We truly discover who we are as a people, who we were as a people, and who we are becoming as a people and what we experienced through working the 12 steps, the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Oral History

- 1: Facts about Life
- 2: Facts about AA History
- 3: Facts about AA Service Work
- 4: Life Story as shared by Outside Interviewer
- 5: Actual verbatim transcription history of an old-timer

Personal Story

- 1: Brief History of What it was Like
- 2: What Happened
- 3: What it's like now

Currently your archivist is trying to do oral histories of our old timers in each district for inclusion to the Area 78 History and to also show our history as a people recovering from Alcoholism. If you know of a person 40 years plus that would be interested in doing this please contact your area 78 archivist. We can do the interview on zoom or in person .

Oral Histories on File in your Archives

District 2

Unknown Year Oral History of Bert C.

District 4

2012 (06) June Oral History of Ray M.-Vauxhall-AB

District 9

2019 (10) October Oral History of Barry B. at the 50th Anniversary of the Athabasca Group

2019 (10) October Oral History of Brenda L. at the 50th Anniversary of the Athabasca Group

2019 (10) October Oral History of Mark S. at the 50th Anniversary of the Athabasca Group

2019 (10) October Oral History of Phil D. at the 50th Anniversary of the Athabasca Group

2019 (10) October Oral History of Ross A. at the 50th Anniversary of the Athabasca Group

District 12

2009 (08) August Oral History of Gerry O.

2009 (08) August-Oral History of Hugh D.

District 13

2019 (11) November Oral History of Bill G. & Sadie G.

2020 (06) June Oral History of Jim F., District 13

District 14

2019 (10) October Oral History of Brian O. of District 14 Cremona Group

District 18

2008 (12) December Oral History of Roger M.

District 40

2020 (07) July Oral History of Pat L.

District 79

2018 (10) October Area 78 Workshop Stump the Old Timer Q & A with District 79 Moe (Maurice) R.
of Out to lunch Bunch-District 79

Unknown District

1994 (01) January 29th Oral History of Wilf H.

Excerpts of Oral History of Jim F. –District 13

June 2020

Narrator: Thanks Jim. Last question. Is there anything you would like to say or share to those that come after you, now in the program?

Jim F: We have, and this is maybe a little bit controversial for some people, but I hear the first 164 pages. Yeah, that's our solution. But the Big Book is more than 164 pages. We have, our Big Book has changed, and its changes are the stories in the background. I had a lady come up to me, and an indigenous lady, and she said-, "They don't do anything for us." And I had just been to Atlanta when the fourth edition came out. I had been told that in the fourth edition, there are four stories in there, about indigenous people. But we don't read those stories. Those stories in the back, it's almost like the alcoholic looks at the, to the agnostic, and they say, "Well I'm not there, I don't need to read that." That's one of the most important chapters in our book, for people that are having problems with the higher power. The same thing. Those stories in there have been picked by the conference people, the grassroots on all up, and they don't put those things in there without lots of thought, and detail. And they're there to help those people identify in the program. And it's an area that's forgotten.

We could've saved a lot of money, if all those stories were taken out of there, and printing over here. They're there for a purpose. Just the first 164 pages are there as, they're suggested as the solution. Now the solution, and they're important, the doctor's opinion, and those chapters are, everything in The Big Book, everything in that book is important. And the Bill and Bob stories. You get into the tradition of anonymity with Bill and Bob. Bob said-, I heard it in Atlanta: they wrote The Big Book because they were concerned that they had to pass it on. But they made it anonymous, because they were Afraid- that if everybody found out who they were, we wouldn't be able to get started. Anyway, that's another point, but, study our history, and the words of Dr. Bill, "Keep it simple", reign loud and true today. Don't complicate the program. Our program as it is, as it was in the beginning, and as it is now, is an inside job. You won't get this program if you don't allow yourself to get it. You're the program; you carry the whole thing. It's suggested for you. Our founders knew the value of doing the steps. They knew we could acquire the humility, honesty and spiritual help necessary to live the AA program successfully, if we put effort into it. We have to work it.

To any newcomer, we say, "Don't give up on yourself, and know that AA will not give up on you." And that's a guarantee in most cases. When I was very young in the program, and wanted everything as quick as possible, one old-timer said to me, "Take your time. You have the rest of your life to work it." Our program is total abstinence. The bottom line is, we just don't take that first drink. By going to meetings, and trying to be a little better person each day, trying to stay as positive as I can, never stop being teachable, I have stayed sober. I have had many great things happen in my life, but the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is by far the most important gift from God I have ever been given. I am truly blessed. Learn to not take yourself too seriously. Have fun, and learn to accept the gift of sobriety, which is freely given to you. Remember always that we have to give it away, to other alcoholics, in order for us to keep it. Thank you, AA.