

# Area 78 Archives Newsletter

## March 2021 Volume 3 Issue 1

### Formation of Districts in Area 78

In the late 1950's Area came into being and was then known as Alberta Provincial Service Committee. Instead of Districts at that time we had 4 Areas which included 1A and 1 B , 2 A and 2 B, and so forth through to Area 4.

As more and more towns and cities started to have meetings the known areas continued to be broken down into 8 Areas, In the early 1960's the known name for Area 78 was then the Provincial Assembly of AA with 16 areas with groups at this time.

In the early 1970's we were still called the Provincial Assembly of AA but had changed Areas into Districts. At this time we had 17 Districts many subdivided into two Districts such as 2A and 2B Districts.

In the mid 1970's the Provincial Assembly of AA became then known as the Alberta Assembly of AA. In the late 1970's we had Districts numbering 1 through 212. Many of the Districts 100 plus and 200 Plus were at this time committees of our Area such as CPC, PI, Literature etc.

In the early 1980's our name changed again to the Alberta, Northwest territories Assembly. Then in 1982 to the Alberta Provincial Assembly of AA. Also in 1982 at the behest of New York our districts were asked to be downsized into Districts being comprised only of Districts 1-98 like they are today, Along with this our committees would no longer be considered as districts in our assemblies but committees.

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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

## Extracts from Oral History of Les M-District 16

Narrator: What made your first Home group special in your life?

Les: My Home group was special because I could feel that caring about another human being when I came there and the people cared especially with the first few months of AA. I think there were people who were actually glad to see me and said keep coming back and all this kind of stuff and made an effort to make me feel comfortable. That to me back then was quite special to me at that time. The meeting I go to today tells me I'm in the right place the group I feel says God is here when I come through the door.

Narrator: How do people today or in your past treat multiple addictions?

Les: In the Smokehouse meeting before I came here there wasn't any multiple addiction, I don't even remember somebody coming with just a drug problem but some with dual addictions. We read those cards that talk about alcoholism rather than about other addictions, I don't ever remember anybody tell a druggie or whatever to leave or anything but up here they are quite adamant about it sometimes at an open meeting they will let him stay but at a closed meeting they tell them its for alcoholism only. We got some guys that go to NA and AA which is fine they go to NA to talk about their drug problem, but we try to keep it mainly about Alcoholism at the meetings here.

Narrator: Is there anything you would like to say or share to those that come after you now in the program?

Les: I would say for one thing keep going to meetings and get his sponsor someone you can talk too. I think everyone needs that regardless of whether you're an alcoholic or not. Have a friend to talk too I know I sure as hell do. So, If you're going to have a drink one day for God's sake call somebody use your phone numbers. Phone somebody or somebody on your phone list 'cause it makes it a whole lot easier I talked to a lot of guys that phoned and drank And some admitted to me that they wanted to drink and they didn't want phone anybody. I have told people they have Frank and come back to keep coming to keep coming Don't feel like you're not welcome here anymore. This thing is where we open our hearts to you and let you try again . If you're an alcoholic like I am and someone reaches out to me I get that warm feeling that I matter

**“Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men.”**

### Extracts of District 24 History through the Years

District 24 is comprised of the following communities, municipalities, towns, villages and cities which is Blairmore, Cranbrook, Creston, Elkford, Fernie, Ft. Steele, Golden, Hosmer, Kimberley, Parson, Riondel, Sparwood and Wardner. The oldest known active groups are the Seeds of Serenity Group in Kimberley which meets on Sundays at Kimberley United Church. The Seeds of Serenity Group registered with GSO on December 16, 1958.

**Kimberley** - The city of Kimberley hosts two active groups currently one of which include the Seeds of Serenity Group above. The Marysville Sunshine Group meets on Wednesdays at the Marysville Community Church and registered with GSO on January 14, 1999. The two other registered groups which are inactive are the following. The Back to The Basics Group met at the United Church and the Kimberley Rebels in Sobriety Group has no previous address given.

**Sparwood** - The municipality of Sparwood hosts three active groups. The Sparwood Group meets on Sparwood Health Care Centre at the Sparwood Health Care Centre and registered on March 15, 1971. The Any Lengths Group meets on Fridays at the Sparwood Christian Centre and registered with GSO on April 28, 2015. The Sparwood Monday Group is not registered but meets on Mondays at the Sparwood Health Care Centre. Sparwood also had one other registered group in its past which is no longer active the Easy Does It A.A. Group used to meet at the Sparwood Library Meeting Room. Sparwood and Elk Valley have hosted an annual campout over the years from 1983 through 2004.

**Golden-** The town of Golden hosts 5 nonregistered AA groups which consists of There is Hope Group which meets on Tuesday at the Lutheran Church, the Golden Women's AA Meeting which meets Thursdays at the St Andrews United Church, the There is a Solution Group which meets Thursdays at the Golden Family Centre, the By the Book Group which meets on Fridays at the Lutheran Church and the Back to Basics Group which meets on Saturdays at the Golden Museum. Golden also had one New York GSO registered Group which is no longer active, The Clean Air Group use to meet at the Golden and District General Hospital. Golden also held its 52<sup>nd</sup> annual roundup in 2019.

**Fort Steele** - Fort Steele hosts one active registered AA group which is the Ranch Recovery Group which meets on Tuesdays at the Top of The World Ranch and registered with GSO on January 9, 2008.

## District Minutes from September 1959

**Area 4-Johnny W.** - Johnny reported he's visited almost all the groups in his area and says that good progress has been made in sending contributions to New York . He's also found out that by regular business to his groups the members get a better understanding of their responsibilities to New York office.

**Area 4-Andy J.** - Rooney reports having visited most of his groups and says that he will be able to do a better job of service for his groups as he says he now has a better understanding of his duties as a committee man.

**Area 6 -Paul J.** - Paul certainly had a lot of good to report of the service he's been giving in his area. It would be too long report to cover with anything more than highlights. Paul brought along a GSR from Edson to sit in the door meeting so that he would have a better understanding of the important work done by this committee and 'cause so be a better service to his group.

Since our last meeting Paul has visited with all his groups in the area holding some open and closed meetings and at these meetings he discussed the importance of support to New York office also promoted the sale of the Grapevine gave his committee report discussed public relations and the work that is being done by the provincial service committee.

Also husband trying to get more interest in his groups for the necessity of public meetings in order to attract members within our traditions.

Paul also went to the meeting in Whitecourt on August 7 at the time of the conference report. The Attendants at this meeting was 16 very good and Paul is very pleased at the interest shown by the numbers in this area.

**Area 3 -Bob T.** - As a newly elected committee man in his area Baba shown his deep interest in this provincial service. Bob visited all the groups in his area and reports progress in most groups. He has also been working with institutional groups as shown by the progress made at the Ponoka institution. The attendance at meetings there has so grown that they are now able to have two meetings a week Monday and Thursday at 8:30 PM. The Monday night meeting is open to outside members to go to in the Thursday night meeting is handled by the Ponoka members only.

**Area 78 Archives is currently stored in a storage facility in NE Calgary. If you would like to see our facility please contact Tim H. your Area 78 Archivist.**

Extracts from Oral History of Roger M.-District 18-2008

3: What contributions did you, yourself make to the fellowship's growth?

Roger: Attended meetings, regularly sponsored some newcomers, carried the message to Prince Albert Jail Penitentiary when I belonged to the Houghton Group in Saskatchewan started the High River Group again in 1970

4: What was AA like in your early days in your group and district?

Roger: We kept very close contact with each other. Success rate was very good

5: How did you contact new members? How was 12 step work done?

Roger: Add in local paper and calls from family members

6: Did you seek cooperation of local community and professional agencies-ministers, doctors and law enforcement agencies?

Roger: No

7: Do you know how the first group was received by the community when it was started?

Roger: Received very well people were glad to see some help for alkeys

8: Do you think your group has had any influence in your community? Has the attitude of local professional people, particularly towards alcoholism been changed by contact with local members?

Roger: Yes, a great influence, The Lutheran Church where we held our meetings for 35 years have said we do better in the community than they do.

9: If there is a clubhouse in your district when did it start? Why? Under what circumstance?

Roger: 1973 We were getting too many for private houses.

11: Is there Al-Anon in your community? Good relations? What about Al-ateen?

Roger: Yes, we have an active al-anon group and good relations. Al-ateen is on again off again.

15 : How has AA changed, if it has, since you first encountered it?

Roger: More younger people more ladies

16: What's been your best experience in AA?

Roger: Staying sober myself and seeing the young people coming in they are getting their life together before too much damage is done

Extracts from Oral History of Patricia Long. District 40-2020

Narrator: When and how were you first introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous ?

Pat: I first learned about Alcoholic Anonymous in 1977 when my mother quit drinking. Both of my parents are and were Alcoholics. My mother died sober after 12 years in Alcoholics Anonymous. Father unfortunately never did find recovery and died at a very early age of cirrhosis of the liver. My mother had a real serious drinking problem. I did not, and I was really happy when she quit.

Narrator: Did you have a sponsor in early sobriety, and do you still have a sponsor today ?

Pat: My first sponsor was selected by my mother. She was one of the youngest women in my mother's Home group and I didn't know her, and she didn't know me. Her name was Helen. She became my sponsor I would say she was sponsor for probably the first year of my sobriety and we never spoke ever not a single solitary time we never spoke. the women who 12 step me the women who were members of my first group which is called Happiness Is. I discovered just recently as archivist of intergroup archives that it was never registered with GSO but I stayed sober in that little group with the women who I loved and adored and who showed me the path for four years. So, I don't know what my first sponsor was like and with all due respect I really didn't have one .

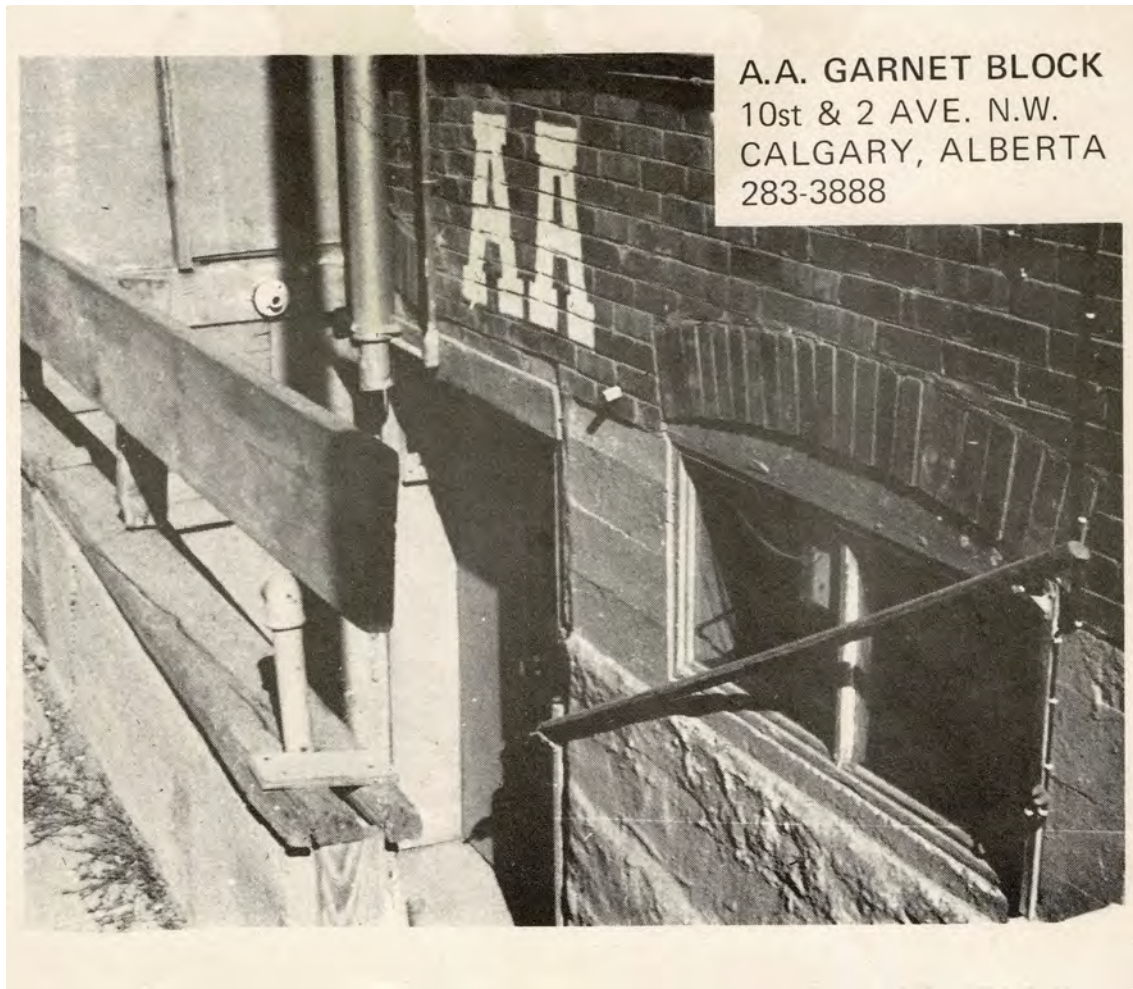
Narrator: is there anything you would like to say or share to those that come after you now in the program ?

Pat: Yes, I would like to say if you want what I have please do what I do. I attend AA meetings on a regular basis. I am an alcoholic and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in the 12 steps and 12 traditions saved my life and the life of my family. Get involved, have a sponsor be a sponsor, trust in your higher power whomever that might be. Bill said we cannot tell anyone who should be or will be their creator ever. Stay committed and stay with sober people or you will not you will not trudge the road of happy destiny, carry yourself in the best light reflecting the success of Alcoholics Anonymous. Show up and be grateful do you know how many people crawling on the streets in the gutter wish they were where you're sitting and don't know how to get there.

***“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**



### **The Importance of Our Group Histories and where we come from**

The Garnet Block of Calgary has existed since the 1950's we are uncertain of the actual originating Date. Its registration date with GSO is for January 1, 1952. In 1973 the Garnet Block had their daily meetings at the upstairs room at 10 street and 2nd Ave NW. One of its original founding members is to believe have been Ted K.

The Garnet Block has gone through many places being housed through the years.

Today the Garnet Block is housed at 1609 Centre Street NW.

The above group history was put together from various information housed in Archives. While the building history is important where it held its meeting a synopsis of what went on behind the doors of the meeting place tells more about what happened back them, what's it like now and where they hope to be tomorrow. Please if you have not done a group history considered doing it for the Area 78 History Book.



## Area 78 Archives Workshop on creating a District Archive

April 10, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM-12 Noon

Zoom Meeting: You must register with Archivist to get the Zoom Video information.

### Agenda

- 1: Why Have a District Archives 9:00-9:15
- 2: Deed of Gift 9:15-9:20
- 3: Where is your Repository? 9:20-9:30
- 4: Will you be a collector or an archivist for your District?  
9:30-10:00
- 5: Group Histories 101 10:00-10:20
- 6: District Histories 102 10:20-10:40
- 7: Preserving Documents 10:40-11:00
- 8: Oral Histories versus Personal Stories 11:00-12 Noon