

Live & Grin Group

Our group was started in October 1985. For the most part, it came from an idea of Bob F. (an alcohol counselor and AA member) and Susan L. The need for a discussion meeting as an alternative and extension of group therapy, was the basis for starting our meeting. Other early members include Al D., Lois L., Ted., Linda S., Tom P., Harold and Rick. We met at Grand View Hospital, Sellersville, Pa. From 7:00 - 8:30 pm, as an open discussion meeting.

Although the detox patients attended from the start, weekly attendance the first year ranged from 3 to 10, sometimes 15.

When becoming an official AA meeting, we had to change our name. (We were known as the "Living Problems" meeting) Other growing pains included rumors that we were not a real AA meeting, hence, growth was slow. Despite this our meeting did grow, I think somewhat from curiosity, but mostly from attraction. The newer people returned, (maybe tired of war stories, bigger meetings, or not getting a response from a problem), and older members returned to "give away", and (and the sobriety that goes along with that).

We have had some changes in our meeting over the years. We had to change rooms within the hospital to accommodate our size. Next, we had to conform to the hospital's no smoking policy. In September of 1993 the group changed it's format to a speaker/topic meeting. This was done in an effort to bolster attendance. WE limited our speakers to three months to one year sobriety, to relate to newcomers, We also had to change our time to 7:30 - 9:00pm.

In order to stay within AA guidelines, for self-support, we donate books to detox, and created a "Beginner's Packet", consisting of pamphlets, a meeting schedule, and phone numbers. A supply is kept on the detox floor for the ones who miss our meeting. Others are given out at our meetings to all the newcomers.

We have a group conscience meeting after our regular meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. Attendance has varied over the years, and is about 15 to 30 members at the present time.

Lori D.
Tom P.
4/95

JUNE 1990

"LIVE & GRIN" GROUP

OUR GROUP WAS STARTED IN OCTOBER, 1985. FOR THE MOST PART, IT CAME FROM AN IDEA OF BOB F. (AN ALCOHOL COUNSELER AND A.A. MEMBER) AND SUSAN L. THE NEED FOR A DISCUSSION MEETING AS AN ALTERNATIVE AND EXTENSION OF GROUP THERAPY WAS THE BASIS FOR STARTING OUR MEETINGS. OTHER EARLY MEMBERS INCLUDE AL D., LOUIS L., TED G. AND LINDA S. WE MET AND STILL MEET AT GRAND VIEW HOSPITAL, JELLSVILLE, WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00-8:30 AS AN OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING.

ALTHOUGH THE DETOX PATIENTS ATTENDED FROM THE START, WEEKLY ATTENDANCE THE FIRST YEAR RANGED FROM 3 TO 10, SOMETIMES 15.

WHEN BECOMING AN OFFICIAL A.A. MEETING, WE HAD TO CHANGE OUR NAME. (WE WERE KNOWN AS THE LIVING PROBLEMS MEETING,) OTHER GROWING PAINS INCLUDE RUMORS THAT WE WERE NOT A REAL A.A. MEETING, HENCE, GROWTH WAS SLOW. DESPITE THIS, OUR MEETINGS DID GROW, I THINK SOMEWHAT FROM CURIOSITY, BUT MOSTLY FROM ATTRACTION. THE NEWER PEOPLE RETURNED (MAYBE TIRED OF WAR STORIES, BIGGER MEETINGS OR NOT GETTING A RESPONSE FROM A PROBLEM,) AND OLDER A.A. MEMBERS RETURNED TO "GIVE AWAY". (AND THE SOBRIETY THAT GOES ALONG WITH THAT). OUR ATTENDANCE TODAY AVERAGES 35-50.

WE HAD TO CHANGE ROOMS WITHIN THE HOSPITAL TO ACCOMMODATE OUR SIZE, AND HAD TO CONFORM TO THE HOSPITALS NO SMOKING POLICY, BUT OUR PURPOSE HAS NOT CHANGED FROM OUR ORIGINAL INTENTIONS.

April, 1995

Live & Grin Group District 47

Our group was started in October, 1985. For the most part, it came from an idea of Bob F. (an alcohol counselor and AA member) and Susan L. The need for a discussion meeting as an alternative and extension of group therapy, was the basis for starting our meeting. Other early members include Al D., Lois L., Ted G., Linda S., Tom P., Harold and Rick. We met at Grand View Hospital, Sellersville, Pa. From 7:00-8:30 p.m., as an open discussion meeting.

Although the detox patients attended from the start, weekly attendance the first year ranged from 3 to 10, sometimes 15.

When becoming an official AA meeting, we had to change our name. (We were known as the 'Living Problems' meeting.) Other growing pains include rumors that we were not a real AA meeting, hence, growth was slow. Despite this our meeting did grow, I think somewhat from curiosity, but mostly from attraction. The newer people returned, (maybe tired of war stories, bigger meetings, or not getting a response from a problem), and older members returned to "give away", (and the sobriety that goes along with that)

We have had some changes in our meeting over the years. We had to change rooms within the hospital to accommodate our size. Next, we had to conform to the hospital's no smoking policy. In September of 1993 the group changed it's format to a speaker/ topic meeting. This was done in an effort to bolster attendance. We limited our speakers to three months to one year sobriety, to relate to newcomers. We also had to change our time to 7:30- 9:00 p.m.

In order to stay within AA guidelines, for self - support, we donate books to detox, and created a "Beginners Packet", consisting of pamphlets, a meeting schedule, and phone numbers. A supply is kept on the detox floor for the ones who miss our meeting. Others are given out at our meetings to all the newcomers.

We have a group conscience meeting after our regular meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. Attendance has varied over the years, and is about 15 to 30 members at the present time.

Lori D
Tom P

PENNSYLVANIA District 47
A.A.
ARCHIVE REPORTS

LIVE'N GRIN

Sellersville

Wednesday 7:00 PM

I don't recall when the group was started; I just know it was there and very small when I started coming around in October 1985. This was a different type of meeting than the others in the area. It was an open discussion (still is today) and the name of the group at that time was called "Living Problems". I guess that's why I started going; I had plenty of living problems. Being a novice, it was very difficult to separate my living problems from my drinking problems. I just couldn't understand that they didn't go hand in hand. I needed to talk to someone or somebody and that meeting seem to be the place. It was held in the conference room at Grandview Hospital on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. At that time with only 6 or 8 of us, the conference room was plenty big. Now we meet in the cafeteria, we seem to have out grown the conference room. The group was young and new, but they saved my life. Susan, Ted, Roger, Bob, Harold, would listen to me week after week. Each time I got the strength to stay sober one more day and the courage to look at my living problems and to see what I could do about them. I've continued to go to this meeting for it helps me to grow in my sobriety. The detoxer's that come down from the third floor of the hospital keep it green for me and each meeting adds a new look at the world around me. The group has changed it's name to "Live'n Grin", it still meets on the Wednesday at 7:00 PM, we still discuss "living problems" in sobriety, and for this, I am grateful.

Lynda Smith

Live'n Grin
Open Discussion

Grandview Hospital

Wednesday 7-8:30 PM

Five people began a new meeting that would allow for discussion of living problems. Susan L., Dick, Al d, Harold and Tom P had discovered that living problems after the compulsion to drink lessened, needed to be addressed. How best to cope with these new feelings we experience? How best to apply what we learn through A.A. steps and traditions to our every day living experiences?

This meeting began in the small conference room on the second floor of Grandview Hospital, Sellersville, Penna. There is a chairperson, but no speaker. It started in September of 1985.