

Monday Ladies Night Group

(Compiled from Archival Information 6/98)

It appears the group started June 26, 1989. It was originally held at the Mumbaursville Gun Club in Quakertown on Mondays at 7:00 pm. It was a discussion meeting. Shortly thereafter the time changed from 7pm to 8 pm.

Effective September 19, 1994 the group relocated from the Gun Club to the Quakertown Hospital Cafeteria Conference room. The time changed again to 7:30 pm but still on Mondays.

The need for a woman's group in District 47, as well as the desire for female bonding, prompted the creation of the Monday Ladies Night Group. Our meeting first met on June 26, 1989 at the Mumbauersville Gun Club on Route 663 and Klines Mill Road in Quakertown, Pa. Six women attended our first meeting, which was an hour long, smoking meeting that originally started at 7:00pm. Shortly after we began, we changed our starting time to 8:00pm. Our original format was speaker/discussion.

Our first year was a struggle due to a lack in attendance, minimal funding, and weak structure; however, after electing our first Annual Chairperson and our first G.S.R., attendance began to rise, and structure was realized. Around this time, our group conscious decided to add a Step meeting to our format that would be held on the first Monday of each month. By 1993, our group conscious added the reading of the corresponding Tradition (short form) to these Step meetings.

Throughout the years, many benefits have grown from our meeting, including the meeting before and after the meeting. Women would arrive an hour beforehand to talk with one another, support each other, and even throw football and frisbee. Normally another hour of fellowship followed our meeting. Having our meeting at the Mumbauersville Gun Club added some special memories for all who came. The pavilion at the club was the site of some festive anniversary meetings with plenty of food and fellowship to go around. Also, it enabled us to be an outdoor meeting from spring until late fall. When it became to cold, we took our meeting inside the club. Though our surroundings were primitive, and the heat and air conditioning system was barely noticeable, the A.A. spirit stayed alive under all conditions. The meeting went on; even when we had to climb through a window to unlock the door because the keys were not where they should be when they should be. The summer of '92 found some of us on our first Annual Sober Camping trip. For a while this became a yearly tradition of our group. For three days in the summer, we enjoyed sobriety, campfires, serenity, meetings, food, and fun. Our group truly inspires friendship and bonding beyond the confines of the rooms.

In the Spring of '94, we were forced to stop having our meetings at the Gun Club. In no time, we found a new place to move into, but because of renovations being made there, we were forced to hold our meetings at various members' homes. These meetings, which included barbecues and other extra activities, became sincerely special to the core women in the group, who were determined to keep the meeting alive. By the end of summer, our planned location fell through; though as it often happens, when one door closes; another one opens. In September of '94, we found our current home at St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital. Our meetings ~~were~~ ^{ARE} held in the cafeteria conference room.

Since our move, attendance has sky-rocketed. We believe this is due to the central location, as well as by word of mouth. Also, we think the comfort of heat and air conditioning may be a significant factor. Our Monday evening format continues with the 1st Monday-Step meeting, and the rest of the month being Speaker/Discussion. Our meeting time changed. Today, it starts at 7:30 pm and ends at 8:45 pm. Also, we are a non-smoking meeting and

handicap accessible. We expanded our literature section, and Grapevines are for sale. In '95, we elected our first Grapevine Rep., and we extended the coffee maker's duties to include being the greeter. In addition, we purchased a pamphlet rack, and have it well stocked with A.A. approved literature and local and 5 county meeting lists.

In 1996, the hospital asked us to move our meeting from the cafeteria conference room to the 3rd floor conference room. Our attendance continued to remain strong, but with the lose of some regular women, structure weakened. Though it took some time, eventually the effects of a weak structure began to show in our meeting with low attendance being the biggest sign. Everything would gradually change for the better, because the end of '98 brought women who were grateful and willing to be involved in service. Structure quickly materialized, and we became an informed group conscience who not only carries the message to the still suffering alcoholic, but who also carries the Traditions of Alcoholic Anonymous to all who come. We are an empowered group. We are self-supporting through donations to the hospital, and we send contributions to the various A.A. service organizations.

There is a wonderful mix of women who attend our meetings, old-timers and newcomers alike. Many women consider our meeting their home group. Ours is a loving, caring atmosphere that enables members to share and relate with each other openly and honestly. Sobriety, along with this meeting, has given many women a new outlook on life. God willing our meeting, as well as the fellowship among it, will continue to grow with love, honor, patience, tolerance, and understanding. May we always remember our primary purpose: to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

*This report was updated 1-99. Monday Ladies Night Group-District 47- Area 59.