

Ottsville Group

The Ottsville Alcoholic Anonymous group has been in existence since November of 1978. The founders of the group were Ruth B., Richard M., Lynn E., Rick B., Joan H., and John.

The group was started because there were no groups in the area. The closest meeting was in Doylestown. When Ottsville began it was part of District 23, at the end of 1983 Ottsville became part of District 47.

The first few meetings were held in the home of Rich M. Ottsville has met at the Red Hill Church of Saint Lukes on Durham Road except for those first few meetings. The original meeting which is still in existence was held on Saturday night for one hour and is a speaker/discussion meeting. The Ottsville Group has always gone by that name.

One of the problems encountered within the group is people wanting to change the format; then the change would be initiated, only to have it changed back to the original format shortly thereafter.

The group took about a year to really jell but still only had 3 or 4 regular members.

On the 10th anniversary of the group, two very nervous founders were asked to speak. Ruth B. spoke first and after just 15 minutes drew a complete blank and Rick B. was left to fill the remaining 45 minutes. Ruth said "Rick really didn't appreciate that, but it turned out fine."

The Ottsville Group still meets at the same place and has a second meeting on Wednesday nights for an hour and a half. This meeting is also at Saint Lukes and is a speaker/discussion except for the last Wednesday of the month, which is a Step meeting.

The size of the meeting has fluctuated over the years. At first there were only 3 or 4 people, then 15 to 20. In the early 1980's it went down to 4 to 10, after another meeting was started nearby in 1982. At this point the Ottsville meeting just about went out of existence. Today we have an attendance on Saturday of about 35-45 and 15-20 on Wednesday.

In closing a tribute to Rich M. a founding member who was tragically killed in a car accident. Rich M. traveled as far as Philadelphia and Allentown to announce the existence of the fledgling Ottsville meeting and therefore gain support.

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