

QUAKERTOWN MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP

The need for a women's group in District 47 as well as the desire for female bonding prompted the creation of the Quakertown Monday Night Women's Group. This meeting first met on Monday, August 6, 1989 at the Mumbauersville Gun Club at Route 663 and Klins Mill Road in Quakertown, PA. Six women attended the first meeting.

The original format of this group was Speaker / Discussion. It was an hour long smoking meeting and met at 8 PM every Monday.

The first year was a struggle due to lack of attendance, funding and structure. However, after the first Annual Chairperson and GSR were elected, attendance began to range from 5 to 15 women and structure was realized.

On more than one occasion, it was necessary to climb through a window because keys were at the wrong place at the wrong time. There was no heat or air conditioning, but the AA spirit was alive, under any and all conditions!

Many benefits grew out of this meeting, including the "meetings before and after the meeting". Women arrived at the Gun Club an hour early to talk, support each other and even play football. Typically another hour of fellowship followed the meeting.

Summer of 1992 found some of us on our First Annual Sober Camping Trip. This has become a yearly tradition. In 1995, our camping trip attracted 13 women. We enjoyed three days of sobriety, campfires, serenity, meetings, food and fun. The Women's Group truly inspires friendships and bonding well beyond the confines of its rooms.

The Pavilion at the Gun Club was the site of some very successful Anniversary meetings, attracting upwards of 20 women. These celebratory meetings have been memorable, with more than enough food to go around.

Shortly after this meeting was formed, our group conscious decided to add a Step meeting on the first Monday of each month. By 1993, we had added the reading of the corresponding Tradition to these Step meetings.

In Spring of 1994, we were forced to stop meeting at the Gun Club. We had found a place to move into but it was not readily available, so throughout the Summer of 1994, we held meetings at various member's homes. These meetings often included barbecues and other "extras".

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Our planned location fell through by the end of the summer. As often happens, one door closed and another one opened. We found our current "home" in September 1994 at St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital in the cafeteria conference room.

Since we moved, our attendance has sky-rocketed. Normally between 15 and 30 women attend our meetings. We believe this is due to the more central location as well as word of mouth. We also think the comfort of heat and air conditioning may be a significant factor!

Our Monday evening format continues with the 1st Monday Step / Tradition and the Speaker / Discussion meetings. However, we have changed the meeting time to 7:30 to 8:45 PM and it is now a non-smoking meeting.

We have expanded our literature selection and Grapevines are now available. In 1995 we had our first Grapevine Representative and we extended the coffeemaker's duties to include acting as a greeter. We bought a pamphlet rack and it is well stocked with group-chosen materials and area meeting schedules. One of our 1996 goals is to have an Intergroup Representative.

We are an empowered group. We are self-supporting through donations to the hospital and we send contributions to the various AA 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 on life's terms. We continue to grow as a strong, intimate, positive, loving, warm and, best of all, spiritual part of Alcoholics Anonymous.