

## Souderton Group

The Souderton Group of Alcoholics Anonymous held its first meeting at 8 pm on Monday March 5, 1990, in the Fellowship Hall of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 75 W. Broad St., Souderton PA., with about 25 persons present.

The group had its beginnings in 1989, when several members of the Sellersville AA Group discussed the attendance at Sellersville, which many times was topping 75 in a room that could accommodate only about 60 persons comfortably.

Among those discussing a possible new meeting in the area to take the load off the Sellersville group were Les J., Brooke M., Ralph O'N., Bill W., and John McK. Brooke suggested a meeting in the Souderton area, and volunteered to approach his pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran, Rev. Richard G. Miller Jr., about the possibility of the church allowing AA to meet there. Pastor Miller was very receptive to the idea, and subsequently got church council approval for a group to meet at the church.

Brooke and Ralph met with the pastor in January of 1990 to outline the needs of the group, and to answer any questions he might have.

It was decided to hold an organizational meeting at the church on Monday, February 19, 1990. Present were Ralph, Brooke, Bill W., John N., Vera M., Jim C., Annaliese C., John McK, Carl G., Harvey K., and Bob C. The group first elected officers: Ralph - chairman; Vera - Secretary; John N - Treasurer; Jim C - GSR; Annaliese C. - Alternate GSR; and John McK - coffeemaker.

The group decided to name itself the Souderton Group of Alcoholics Anonymous; decided to have closed meetings, for alcoholics only; to meet Mondays from 8 to 9 pm, with two speakers and a break at 8:30, and to encourage members to stay after the meeting for discussion and fellowship. For the format, it was decided to open with a welcome, pass announcements, ask for and recognize AA anniversaries, and read the AA Preamble before introducing the first speaker. Since the Church does not allow smoking in any of its buildings, there was no question about making it a no smoking meeting.

The inaugural meeting was held Monday, March 5, 1990. During the first year, attendance averaged around 25, and the group celebrated its first anniversary on March 18, 1991, with about 75 persons attending. The speaker at the anniversary meeting was Helen S. of Norristown.

The group's meeting room had to be changed from the Fellowship Hall to a basement room one Monday each month to accommodate a church group which met there monthly. After a few confusing switches, the pastor recommended that the group meet regularly in the basement room, which is where the meetings have been since December of 1990, except for the anniversary meeting.

The officers of the group as of June 1991 are: Ralph O'N.- chairman; Dave S. - Treasurer; Alice M. - Secretary; Brooke M. - GSR; and Annaliese C. - Alternate GSR.

Brooke M.  
6/91

## Souderton Group

The Souderton Group as now had three very successful anniversary celebrations, and on December 31, 1992 had what is hoped to be the first of many New Years Eve Pork and Sauerkraut Dinners. Over 100 dinners were served, the speakers were excellent and everyone went home early and sober.

The Souderton Group continues to thrive. Attendance has steadily increased; contributions to district, region, and New York remain constant; and the group's efforts to help alcoholics everywhere has expanded.

We look forward to a long and rewarding existence.

PLR  
8/93

The Souderton Groups continues to thrive. Contributions to district, region and New York remain constant. Intergroup and Grapevine are also supported; as is the district picnic. Our New Years Eve Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner always has a full house. Our anniversary celebration draws between 70 and 100 well wishers. The group's focus remains the same -- helping alcoholics everywhere.

On a sadder note, it must be reported that Ralph O., one of our founding members, died this past spring. Ralph was a true friend of AA. He will be sorely missed.

The Souderton Group of Alcoholics Anonymous looks forward to a happy, useful and sober future.

PLR  
7/95

## **Souderton Step Group**

(Compiled from Archival Information 6/98)

The Souderton Step group started in 1997. It is held at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton. The meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm.

History of the Souderton Group of Alcoholics Anonymous  
Eastern Pennsylvania General Service District 47

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Among those discussing a possible new meeting in the area to take the load off the Sellersville group were Les Johnson, Brooke Moyer, Ralph O'Neil, Bill Warden and John McKearns. Brooke suggested a meeting in the Souderton area, and volunteered to approach his pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran, Rev. Richard G. Miller, Jr., about the possibility of the church allowing AA to meet there. Pastor Miller was very receptive to the idea, and subsequently got church council approval for a group to meet at the church.

Brooke and Ralph met with the pastor in January of 1990 to outline the needs of the group, and to answer any questions he might have.

It was decided to hold an organizational meeting at the church on Monday, February 19, 1990. Present were Ralph, Brooke, Bill Warden, John Nyce, Vera Monahan, Jim Campbell, Annaliese Curry, John McKearns, Carl Grammes, Harvey Kramer and Bob Clifford.

The group first elected officers: Ralph O'Neil, chairman; Vera Monahan, secretary; John Nyce, treasurer; Jim Campbell, GSR; Annaliese Curry, alternate GSR, and John McKearns, coffee-maker.

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The officers of the group as of June, 1991, are: Ralph O., chairman; Dave S., treasurer; Alice M., secretary; Brooke M., GSR, and Annaliese C., Alternate GSR.

—submitted by Brooke M.

June 1991

Addendum to History of Souderton Group of Alcoholics Anonymous  
submitted in June, 1991.

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PLR, Aug. 1993.

Addendum to the History of the Souderton Group of Alcoholics  
Anonymous of June 1991

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PLR, July 1995