

NA HISTORY HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH

Aug. 6, 1979 Braddock Group Began
Jan., 1980 Roup Group formed
Oct. 1980 Northside Group Sunday Nights
Feb. 1981 Friendly Group Thursday 8:00
July 1981 Last Stop Group
JULY 12th, 1981 FIRST AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Aug., 1981 Jefferson Hospital Group
Aug 15th, 1981 Rain or Shine Group
Oct. 1981 Brookline Group
Oct., 1981 Crossroads Group
Dec., 1981 Mon Valley Group
Jan, 1982 Request for use of Beaver Valley A.S.C. Hotline
Mar., 1982 Beechview Group
Mar., 1982 Uniontown Group
April, 1982 - Public Information Committee
May 1st , 1982- Hotline Established
June, 1982 - 3rd E.C.C.NA.
After June, 1982 - Pittsburgh N.A. comes into its own

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THE HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH'S

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

The Braddock Group

The Pittsburgh area has many addicts and cross addicted people who got clean in another 12 step program and eventually felt a need for an NA meeting. On August 6, 1979, the first NA meeting was started at Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR in the Drug and Alcohol facility, ~~723 Braddock Avenue~~, at 8 p.m. on Monday night. All it took was commitment to staying clean, trusting God for growth, and two women committed to both. They did what anybody who succeeds at anything does--they complained, made mistakes, hung in, had frustrations, fun, and kept coming back. They outgrew the facility long before they found a place to move, but finally in November, 1981, they moved to St. Brendan's Catholic Church; ~~18 Holland Avenue~~; Braddock, Pa. Of course, the group members feel it's the best group in the NA world--Don't you feel that way about your group?

The Roup Group

The Roup Group

The second group was started at Alpha House in January, 1980, at an inpatient treatment program. They later moved to the Salvation Army in Shadyside, where no smoking was permitted, so they again moved to the present location--~~5450 Friendship and Roup Street~~, meeting at 8:30 on Friday night. The members were determined that the group would not fold--they persevered--and God is rewarding them.

The North Side Group

The [^]group started in October, 1980, and meets Sunday nights at 8 o'clock. It is the third meeting in the area and is home base for our A.S.C. meetings. Actually, it is the "hub" of the program in Pittsburgh.

Program information and materials are available, along with something that can't be bought--good fellowship from the three starting members and the group as a whole. The group meets at 501 Avery Street.

The Friendly Group

[^]~~This~~ group was started by a woman who (unlike most of us) came directly into the NA fellowship. ^{At the} ~~At the~~ second meeting, a guy joined, and the two of them held the meeting together. They meet Thursday nights at 8 o'clock at the Center for Substance Abuse, ~~120 Fifth Avenue~~; McKeesport, Pa. The first meeting was held on February, 1981. The group is rightly named--maybe because both original members have the advantage of NA friendship through service and going to conventions throughout the NA world.

Last Stop Group

The [^]group's first meeting was held on July 4, 1981, at St. Francis Hospital, and they got off with a bang that Saturday night. They had some problems and had to leave the hospital, but they didn't fold. They were without a meeting place for three weeks until they found a place to move.

They now meet at the Wightman School, ~~second floor~~, ~~Solway and Wightman Street~~, Squirrel Hill, at 8 o'clock Thursday nights. They didn't give up, and the group is growing. There were three starting members.

The Jefferson Hospital Group

A husband and wife who were active in 12 step work in another 12 step program started the Jefferson Hospital Group on August 1, 1981, ~~on Coal Valley Road~~. They started in a small room but soon moved the meeting to the cafeteria, where they currently meet at 8 o'clock on Saturday nights. The group is growing.

Rain or Shine Group

^{Rain or Shine}
The [^]group adopted its name because its meetings were originally held in the park. When the weather got cold, the group moved ~~to 4800 Liberty Avenue, second floor~~, and meets on Sunday at 1 p.m. One of the three starting members told me that God, as he understands him, is "visably" present in nature at every meeting. The group started on August 15, 1981, and is growing. It is the only all-discussion meeting in the area to date.

The Brookline Group

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~~This group~~ started off like old timers, with three starting members and about twenty people attending. They did so well in the beginning that they were able to loan a sister ^{group} money to buy a coffee pot to help start another meeting. Right on Brookline!! The starting date for this group was October, 1981. They meet at the United Presbyterian Church, ~~1036 Brookline Blvd.~~, at 8:30 Wednesday night.

The Crossroads Group

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~~The group~~ started in October, 1981, at Trinity Methodist Church, ~~Center Church Road and Trinity Drive~~; Cannonsburgh, Pa., at 8 o'clock on

Friday nights. The group was started by two men involved in helping young people with drug problems. Initially, they were not involved with the NA program, but after seeing the recovery in NA, they talked to parents, MH/MR facilities, and anybody who would listen, and they now have a growing young group.

The Mon Valley Group

The ~~group~~ group was started by two guys, one with three months and the other with sixty days clean time. They started in December, 1981, at the Mon Valley Health Center; ~~Eastgate Plaza;~~ Monessen, Pa; on Monday nights at 8 o'clock.

The members fellowship a lot together after meetings, bowling, playing video games, eating together, or just plain hanging out.

The Beechview Group

The interesting thing about ~~this group~~ ^{the} group is that its meeting is right on "the set," and one of the three people who started the group used to "score" on that corner.

They meet on Monday night at 8 o'clock at St. Catherine's Catholic Church; ~~Broadway and Pauline Avenue;~~ Beechview, Pa. "The set" couldn't have better examples that "it works." The group started on March 22, 1982.

The Uniontown Group

~~This~~ group was started in March, 1982, at Uniontown MH/MR in the Drug and Alcohol facility near Rt. 40 by two NA members. They meet Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. It is a new group, and we wish them much success.

Our first A.S.C. meeting was July 12, 1981. (Pittsburgh area had previously been a part of Beaver Valley A.S.C., and they helped us get started.)

We elected officers and decided we should establish a P.O. box.

We felt that the most important function at this point was to "tighten up" the existing groups and start new groups.

We discussed having a "hot line," and although none of us dreamers knew how we would make this a reality, we knew that someday we would.

At our fourth A.S.C. meeting, we decided to make a 12 step list available to local hospitals and establish lines of communication with them geared towards getting addicts detoxed.

In January, 1982, two members from our area went to the Beaver Valley A.S.C. meeting to request the use of their "hot line" until we got ours established. They agreed.

Many seeds were planted at that first A.S.C. meeting, and we will soon see the fruits of those seeds: In April, 1982, a Public Information Committee will be formed.

On May 1, 1982, Pittsburgh will have a "hot line." The number is 391-5247.

There is talk of starting a "teen" and a Naranon meeting. Pittsburgh area NA is growing!!

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W. PENNSYLVANIA AND E. OHIO - Bob Plummer - Philadelphia has 60 meetings - no structure though in that area. E. Penns. is writing their own literature. Communication is Penns.' biggest problem. Fellowship is continuing to grow (meeting lists were distributed to WSC members present). Fellowship grew out of a need. Benefited from World Convention in Atlanta. Will be starting an answering service as soon as they have enough people to man the lines. E. Penns. has not been sending their minutes - bad communications. Cleveland area starting - a lot of support. Bob introduced his Alternate Jim from Youngstown, Ohio. Area is real spread out.

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- 81 Ohio - Jim Miller, Representative for Ohio, gave his report. Growing rapidly: 2 members started N.A. in Ohio in the spring of 1979. Began in N.E. part of state. Ohio is part of Region comprised of Western Pennsylvania, Central and Southwestern Ohio and Indiana - 35 meetings altogether. Meeting in Akron is almost a year old. 22 meetings in ASC in Northeast Ohio. Meeting lists available. 5 H&I meetings. 24 hour answering service for 6 months. Clubhouse started in Youngstown. Newsletter started (monthly). Over 50 people attended past 2 literature conferences (mini-conferences). Fund-raisers held. 1st Regional Service Conference this 4th of July weekend.
- 81 Pennsylvania - George Richards, Representative for Mid-Eastern Region, comprised of central and eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, east and West Virginia and District of Columbia. Various ASC have chosen to form a RSC. Elected officers for RSC. Region has 5 24-hour hotlines. 100 meetings approx. 15 in Philadelphia and Delaware area. 20 in D.C. and Baltimore. 1 in West Virginia, and 4 in Virginia. Convention last year helped unify region and all of area's meetings have more than doubled. 2nd East Coast Convention in June 26th, 27th, and 28th. Region has been communicating with other areas. Participated a lot with Literature Committee. Planning to bid for next World Convention.

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Tri State Region

Regional Representative Reports Continued.

November 27, 1981. Our Region is comprised of three Area Service Committees---U.C.V.A.S.S., B.V.A.S.C., and G.P.A.S.C. Our Region has a total of 38 meetings. Of the 30 meetings, seven are Hospitals, and three are institutions. We have about 250 members. One of the groups has had three functions of Public Information--community awareness meetings, going to have them quarterly. Another group has formed a Public Information committee and an Hospital and Institutions Committee. Tri-State Region and the Ohio Region sponsored a workshop in February 1982 to study proposed service manual. TSR had another workshop in April 1982 to go over input in the last World Wide Fellowship Report. We have two functional hotlines in our region with another to go into effect hopefully July 1. Future plans include hosting the Third Annual East Coast Convention and forming Sub-Committees so we can more successfully carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Our biggest problem is not enough members willing to get involved, and the violation of the Sixth Tradition. Hoping to get ideas and solutions to take home and share. Thank you.

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Tri State Region-Bruce Cooper (Representative) PO Box 1353, Steubenville, OH 43952 Telephone (614) 264-0223.

May 10, 1978 first meeting in Aliquippa, PA. Soon after two meetings started in Butler County. August 1979 first meetings in the city of Pittsburgh, PA at Braddock. We started growing. Beaver Valley Area Service Committee was formed December 1979. The Area Service decided to stockpile literature at this time. At this time Pittsburgh, PA, Southeast Ohio, and the West Virginia Panhandle was growing. June 1981 the Greater Pittsburgh Area Service Committee was formed. Everything was fine for awhile. Then because of Geographical conditions, the need to form a region was discussed. We had our first Regional Service Committee meeting