

RECOVERY IN THE LOWER GROUP HISTORY

In 2010, Eric, Ana and Biviano were doing service at another meeting. That meeting was looking for a space to move but the meeting fell apart and they decided to start a new meeting. Sonia suggested that Eric look into 630 East 6th street. There was a meeting there already and we didn't have to have Area come in to do a presentation.

Eric shared the information with Ana and Biviano and they asked Eric to find out if Thursdays were available. Eric met with the Director of the facility, Susan, who said that we could have a meeting there. We wanted to keep the meeting on a Thursday as the other meeting was on Thursdays at 7:00P.M.

Eric, Ana and Biviano met for about two Saturday mornings at McDonald's on Delancey Street to discuss the meeting. We got thrown out of McDonalds after being there a few hours because we weren't buying anything. We had a third meeting at Ana's house. We were grateful that Ana opened up her house to us. She had pizza and treats waiting for us when we got there. At Ana's house we created a Chairperson and Secretary format and then the next week we focused on making a policy. We decided to keep the policy to a minimum as we expected more people to participate and create more policy as was needed to have more structure. Eric wanted to name the meeting "Recovery in the Lower East Side." Ana suggested that we call it "Recovery in the Lower" just in case we needed to move outside of L.E.S. We met again to decide on the opening date of the meeting.

The first meeting was on March 4, 2010 and we had about thirty addicts in attendance. The first chairperson was Biviano, the first speaker was Oscar, the first secretary was Eric A., and the first treasurer was Ana R. The meeting went well for the next month after that there were only a few people attending. At times the attendance suffered. There was a time when Eric and the speaker were the only ones who showed up. Eric was frustrated and he was reminded that "Our Primary Purpose is to carry the Message to the addict who still suffers." Some days it was Eric who was suffering. The meeting went through its trials and tribulations just as we do. The meeting survived and new trusted servants started to step up. More addicts began to show up to support the meeting, Paulie M., Eddie R., Louie R., Eddie P, Americo, Ana, Tommy, Becky, Candido, Julie, Phil and many more who still show up today.

The meeting started to grow and the trusted servants had to re-visit the Chairperson's format and Policies. We have demonstrated a sense of Unity and perseverance in supporting Recovery in the Lower. And for that we humbly say "Thank You."

We are grateful for our Fifth Tradition being applied in our home group. The most powerful vehicle is the group to carry the message to the still suffering addict. The message of Hope and promise of freedom, that an addict, any addict can lose the desire to use and find a new way to live.