

Recovery In The Eighties

Our First Meeting May 1, 1987

Recovery In The Eighties where we have been meeting every Monday at 7:30 PM here in this space for 29 (as of 2016) years this month.

This group grew as all our NA groups do because people get excited, involved or they had a coffee pot, a Basic Text and a resentment and Voila!! A new meeting.

25 years ago many places did not want NA; we had a bad reputation. We (?) and myself visited over 35 Churches, Temples and community organizations before finding this space. My buddy Ritchy B, now in CA & Jonathan B & Greg S., would give us verbal encouragement. My HP put one of my feet in front of the other till we found a meeting space here at Recovery in the 80's.

Meetings grow, they change, they face issues, and they change some more, they grow, mourn and they rejoice... It's a lot like "our own recovery."

The real beauty of any meeting space is that it provides a safe haven for its members, new comers & "visitors" to recover. To hear the NA message that we can and do recover from this disease of addiction. That we do not have to spend our lives in active addiction. NA works, this group and all of us are shining examples of that. We're all miracles in the making. All worthwhile... worthy of being loved... and having the ability to love

Hank came into these rooms like most of us, with no self esteem. He had a loving sponsor, a little manipulative and a piece of work like most of us. He was clean 3 years when Hank came in '84 which back then was like really one of Gods miracles an old timer. He gently guided Hank to get involved with service.

When Hank had 90 days a guy named Santos nominated him to be the secretary of Midtown Connection. Hank "knew" no one really liked him (corporate suits & ties made him feel different) so he couldn't win but accepted the nomination. Guess what?

Hank tried to stay involved with service in some capacity for his first 18 years of his recovery and then was blessed with a son. He still went to meetings but not as much as before.

How do you develop self esteem and later self like, and self love? It all starts out with doing estimable acts. For Hank service equaled showing up each week opening up the door and setting up chairs. If it meant mopping floors, he mopped floors. Most of all it was about staying clean, no matter what was going on, One day / one minute, at a time. It's also about getting involved with and working through the 12 steps.

Hank wrote:

I'm very grateful to the church for letting us "rent" this space over the years.

I'm very grateful to all the trusted servants the people who made this group a part of their own personal recovery path. As well as the people who "just show up" every week for that is also a form of service. We're all different & we all get involved in our ways. The common tie that binds us all together is our disease of addiction and what we're doing about it.

I'm very grateful to the people in NA who were here before me who passed on their "message" of recovery. How we can become, "a part of" by getting involved in service instead of staying involved with our diseased thinking. I first heard that from Terry R. who helped bring NA to NYC about 31 years ago.

Special thanks to the folks over at AA for helping point us in our current direction.

I'm very grateful to a Higher Power that makes this all possible. Thanks for helping us to stay clean today.

Remember, if no one told you that they loved you today remember that Hank loves you. More important your Higher Power loves you!

Partial List of Chairpersons & Trusted Servants –

Let me apologize for my poor memory, there are many missing. * = help multiple positions

Ritchie B.

Marty

HB

Lisa

Melissa

Mitchell P.

Laurie G.

Helen G.

Tom R.*

Marty S.*

Penny*

Earle

Andy*

Lori*

Luke

Hank K.**

Ira

Jennifer*

Judy

Dondi C.*
Karen
Kevin*
Marion
Richard- red haired

Terry-(multiple positions)
space- Terry's sponsee woman who still comes
Woman who moved to DC
Bill
Rockland crew co-chair
George
Angelo co chair and made coffee
Mark-
Jonathan B.
Tony
Lou
Bobbie
Steve
Jose*
Steve*
* = held multiple positions
More will be revealed