

# ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

## THE H.O.W. GROUP CELEBRATES 14TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY WRITTEN BY CLARK A.

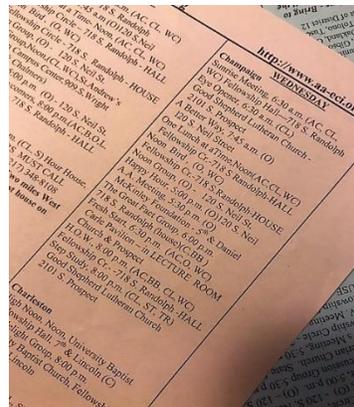
The H.O.W. Group was formed on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 by Tom G., John O., and Clark A. Over the last 14 years, the H.O.W Group has held its meeting at 718 S. Randolph Street, at the corner of Springfield and Mattis and is currently at Presence Covenant Medical Center in Urbana IL. In the beginning the group held three closed meetings each week with all meetings beginning at 8pm.



Mondays were closed open discussion meetings, Wednesdays were closed Big Book study meetings

and Thursdays were closed open discussion candlelight meetings. In 2004 or 2005 the group added an open speaker meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month which is still practiced today. At one point the starting time of each meeting was changed from 8pm to 7pm.

*“Willingness, honesty and open mindedness are the essentials of recovery. But these are indispensable.” Spiritual Experience Page 568 of the AA Book*



When the 718 S. Randolph St. facility closed and moved to the corner of Springfield and Mattis we dropped the Wednesday Night meeting.

At that point the Monday night meeting became the closed Big Book Study and the Thursday night meeting remained a closed open discussion candlelight meeting. In 2015 the H.O.W. group moved to Presence Hospital in Urbana where is continues to hold meetings today. Mondays the Big Book study is from 7:00-8:00pm, Thursdays the candlelight meeting is from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Open speaker meetings are on the fourth Thursday of each month except in November when it’s held on the third Thursday. In December, no speaker meeting is scheduled. Please join us in continued support.

The H.O.W. Group will be celebrating its 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 16<sup>th</sup> with an Italian Beef Dinner starting at 6:00 pm and Ed L. of Danville will be speaking at 7:00 pm.

*We would love to hear about the history of your group. Please email us at [archives@aa-eci.org](mailto:archives@aa-eci.org)*

## GRATITUDE MONTH – OUR CHANCE TO SAY, “THANK YOU!”

For decades now, A.A.s in the U.S. have set aside all of November as Gratitude Month - marking the occasion with special contributions to G.S.O. In the spirit of the Seventh Tradition A.A. is self-supporting through its members' contributions, and frequently turns away money from well-meaning outside contributors. Gratitude... It's a weighty, high-dignity word, but in truth its close companions are humor and joy. As Bill W. observed early on in the Big Book (p. 132), "Outsiders are sometimes shocked when we burst into merriment over a seemingly tragic experience out of the past. But why shouldn't we laugh? We have recovered, and have been given the power to help others." What greater cause can there be for rejoicing than this?

## THE BEGINNING OF A.A. IN PAXTON, IL

Studying the history of A.A is important to people like us, because it fosters a deep sense of gratitude. Our program stresses the importance of looking to our own personal history so that we can experience all the promises stressed in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. People often say that “history repeats itself,” and for alcoholics the failures of our pasts haven’t always helped us learn from our mistakes. But in studying the successes in our history and seeing how we came about can bring about a whole new sense of gratitude for those who hand delivered the message to our area. The Archives Committee is currently processing requests made to the General Service Office to learn about the beginnings of our groups in this District. We would love to share this information in search of more information from our members. We cannot do this alone, as for each one of our members is what makes our history.

The first correspondence that the Alcoholic Foundation received from Paxton, Illinois is a letter dated November 29, 1946 from D.R.S. The letter reads: “I wish to report that we have an A.A. Group here in Paxton and would like to have our group listed and also receive any inquires you may have from this territory. I became a member of A.A. at the Indiana Home in Indianapolis in June 1946. Mr. H.E. Mc. there helped me along this line. Since that time, I have two men here in Paxton who have come into the organization with me thereby forming our Paxton Group: Mr. Nobel J. and Mr. Howard P. We have

been attending the Bloomington, Illinois Group meetings, and they have been very helpful to us. We have also become acquainted with some of the Decatur, Danville, and Peoria, Illinois Groups. We held our first local meeting last week but we have not chosen a special evening each week and do not have a Post Office Box, but we will make future plans soon.”

In November 1951 the Paxton-Rantoul Group wrote to the Alcoholic Foundation and provided information on their group’s meeting location and time:



“Attached is check in amount of \$24.00 to apply in accordance with your recent

bulletin. This is to be credited to the Paxton-Rantoul Group and we would like very much to be listed in your directory. Our present secretary is Raymond Q., Rantoul, Illinois. Our members are from Paxton, Rantoul and Chanute Field and meetings are held at the Arcade Café in Paxton, 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday.”

**We are looking for more information on the Beginnings of A.A. in Paxton. Please contact us at [archives@aa-eci.org](mailto:archives@aa-eci.org).**

# REST IN PEACE DR. BOB

NOVEMBER 16, 1950

WRITTEN BY ANTONIA D.

I have wondered for days about how I can write about Dr. Bob to commemorate his life in this tiny article. Then I remembered all we have is our own experiences and it is impossible for me to tell someone about something I have not



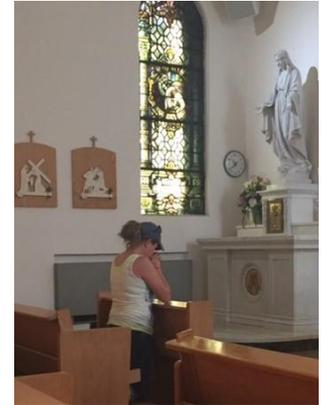
experienced myself. However, I have experienced strong moments of impact in my life surrounding the life of Robert Holbrook Smith. If you ever want to check your ego and feel smaller than a pin hole in a screen door, I urge you, go to Akron, OH. I thought I knew a fair amount of stuff about A.A.; GSO, the Steps, Traditions, and being



of Service. But when I walked into the Akron Archives my life changed forever. My ego deflated very quickly, and I felt this overwhelming sense of gratitude. All of the people on those walls, fought for our lives. The Four absolutes, the

Akron Pamphlets, suggested reading lists, Sister Ignatia, the Alcoholic Ward in St. Thomas Hospital, the Oxford Group, Dr. Bob and all the non-alcoholic friends of AA. The "Friends of AA" list in the early days was longer than the list of people that could sober up in the first few years. Also, to be honest I didn't think alcoholics had any friends. I was blown away with the fact all these pioneers just trusted God, cleaned house

and helped others. We coined that trip as the first time we got "Spiritually Wasted." The result of this was a series of Spiritual Experiences. When I got home I read, "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers", I laughed, I cried, I sat on the back of my couch in anticipation of what was going to happen next, I called everyone I knew to talk about the stories. In those stories, I finally understood what they meant about this being a spiritual program. Dr. Bob's life helped me understand that this whole program is indeed about, Love and Service.



You might think it's strange saying this about someone I have never met, but his life has changed me on such a deep, emotional level that I don't have the proper words to thank him. He has opened my eyes. He made me want to believe in everything. The confidence he gave me allowed me, for once and for all, to hold my head up high when I say, "I am an Alcoholic" to anyone and to be comfortable in doing so. Thank you, Dr. Bob

for being one of the most influential people I've ever had in my life, for accepting and loving everyone you helped, and for being someone that impacted the lives of so many. You will never be forgotten.



We want to hear your personal stories! Next month is Bill W's Anniversary, please write in and share with us how Bill's life has changed your life. Email your stories to [archives@aa-eci.org](mailto:archives@aa-eci.org)

## OUR HISTORY WILL SOON BE OUR FUTURE

“We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian...

“It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion...

“We want to keep enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come...”

— Bill W., 1957

## DISTRICT 12 AA SPEAKER MEETINGS

- S.W.A.T – Champaign; Nov. 5th at 12pm – Cody F.  
Friday Night Fellowship - Champaign; Nov. 10th at 7pm - TBA  
Attitude of Gratitude - Charleston; Nov. 11th at 10am - TBA  
As Bill See's it – Champaign; Nov. 11th at 8pm – Jimmy W.  
Shipwrecked – Champaign; Nov. 12th at 6pm – Speaker Panel: Cathy G., Bill B., Sarah S., and Andy C.  
Cellar Dwellers – Urbana; Nov. 13th at 8pm - TBA  
Nuts and Bolts - Danville; Nov. 15th at 7:30pm - TBA  
H.O.W – Urbana; Thursday, Nov. 16th at 7pm - Ed L.  
We Do Recover - Rantoul; Nov. 18th at 6:30pm - TBA  
Tolono Closed Group - Tolono; Nov. 20th at 8pm - TBA  
Women's Step Study – Champaign; Nov. 21st at 7:30pm - Diane G.  
Charleston Friday Night Group - Charleston; Nov. 24th at 8pm - TBA  
Working with Others – Champaign; Nov. 25th at 6pm - TBA  
Grapevine Group – Champaign; Nov. 26th at 8pm - Liza W.  
Ages of Miracles - Mattoon; Nov. 27th 7pm - TBA  
Women's BB Meeting; Charleston; Nov. 29th at 5:30pm - TBA  
Our Common Journey - Mattoon; Nov. 30th at 7pm - TBA
- District 12 Business Meeting – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 2-3 pm  
Presence Hospital Auditorium B

To have your Speaker Meeting, Event or Anniversary listed in the Archives Newsletter please email [archives@aa-eci.org](mailto:archives@aa-eci.org)

## AA ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

- Erin J. - 1 year - October 16, 2016  
Lindsay S. - 2 month – October 5th, 2017  
Cara M. - 3 years – October 13th, 2014  
Casey H. - 14 years - October 8th, 2003  
Robert S. - 4 years - October 5th, 2013  
Paula P. - 38 years - October 29th, 1979  
Maureen M. - 32 years - October 27, 1985

## AREA 21 EVENTS

- November 17 – 19, 2017  
East Central Regional Forum - Wyndham Hotel  
700 E Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701  
For more information visit [www.area21aa.org](http://www.area21aa.org)

## DISTRICT 12 EVENTS

- SHIPWRECK'S 3RD YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
November 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00pm at 8 Henson Place. The panel will be speaking on “We absolutely insist on enjoying life!” Pizza and Fun will be provided.