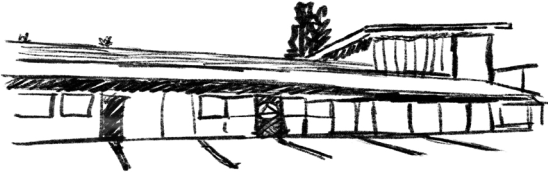


DISTRICT 8 TELEGRAM

the newsletter for district 8

spring 2023-24 edition

Commit to Sobriety and Service by
visiting the South Sound Service Center



I mean, why wouldn't you?

The South Sound Service Center (SSSC), located at 344 Cleveland Ave. SE, Suite K in Tumwater, is open every Monday-Friday from 2 to 6pm, and Saturdays 10am to 2pm. Our office is filled to the brim with all sorts of AA approved literature to enhance your spiritual recovery journey. Planning an inventory or home group event? Check out our office space which is available for committee and home group meetings to access at no cost. It's sober, it's exciting, it's an often untapped resource, it's our local open-to-the-public South Sound Service Center. Please do yourself a favor and come check us out!!

Bringing Cap City AA meetings to our Incarcerated Youth

by Penny W., District 8 AA member

Incarcerated AAs need meetings, especially our local youth at the Thurston County Juvenile Detention Center in Tumwater. The facility imprisons up to 158 mostly 13-17 year olds. We host about 6 incarcerated youth at our weekly meetings. The meetings start with readings and shares, followed by short shares where we can "compare in" with something someone has said. That's usually where these AAers become amazed at our shared experience. We are one in

Of service to Thurston & Mason Counties, which includes Hoodspout, Kamilche, Lacey, Littlerock, Olympia, Ranier, Shelton, Tatlock, Tumwater.

To find out more, including a meeting directory, please visit aadistrict8.org. District 8 is part of Western WA Area 72 area72aa.org

the same - we thought we had heard and done it all and no friend or elder could tell us anything. Then we hear that relatable piece and we no longer feel alone. That is why AA works. Once we have that point of relatable connection, it is easy to go into the wonder of how we have found our new way of living.

Our meetings are grounded in the 12 steps and 12 traditions. We aren't there to "scare anyone straight," lecture, or parent them, and we cannot get around that there is an age difference because of the facility's rules of engagement. We are there to carry the message and to be of service to the still suffering alcoholic.

Cap City has agreed to bring AA Meetings to the Thurston County Juvenile Detention Center and our home group member Stella has agreed to serve as liaison. All AA members that wish to take a meeting into TCJDC must pass a background check by submitting a copy of your driver's license to Stella. It can take up to 2 months to be approved, so please act now. Our goal is to show up in a consistent manner and have at least two volunteers a week. By having the "numbers" we would be able to spread out the regular commitment to once or twice a month.

For more information call Stella 360-480-0671 or Penny 360-280-6409

District 8 hosts July Quarterly with Ice Cream Social WOO HOO!

A message from Debbie B., District 8 Alt DCM (District Committee Member)

Hi. Greetings from D8. Big News! District 8, yes your District, is hosting Area 72's July Quarterly July 5 and 6, 2024. (yes, your Area, Western Wa). What that means is that you have a unique opportunity, in your own backyard, to see how business gets conducted and meet other AA'ers.. It starts at 6 pm for about 3 hours then there is an Ice Cream Social around 9. If you go on the Area Website (area72aa.org), you can be part of the Ice Cream Social for a nominal fee (like \$5) or you can just come and get to know your Area Officers which includes Crystal, the Delegate for Area 72. This is being held at the Lacey Campus of SPSCC, the same place where the Jamboree will be in June. Woohoo – a party in July.

Volunteers are needed to help if you are interested in service. Debbie B. (360) 970 9686
P.S. Later in July, the District will be having a picnic. Yep, summer is on the way!



There's a New Meeting in Town!

Queer Ideas of Fun: a meeting that is one and a half years old by Luca, GSR

Queer Ideas of Fun is a queer and trans AA meeting, consisting only of members who fall under these umbrellas. It's a masked meeting that takes place at 6pm on Sundays at Temple Beth Hatfiloh, and has a rotating format that cycles between Step Study, 11th step meditation, readings from Living Sober, and Speaker/birthday meetings held the last Sunday of every month. The attendance has fluctuated, in its beginning there have been as few as 2 or 3 people. Lately we're seeing closer to 10-15 people attending consistently, with a home group of 8-10. Over the last year and a half this meeting has offered community to the queer newcomer, both in the meeting and at the post-meeting fellowship held at Old School Pizzeria. It was created as a sequel to 'Queers, Crackpots, and Fallen Women' which took place in the same location. Though it's small, and fairly new, this meeting has offered unwavering support and community to the queer/trans alcoholic seeking recovery.

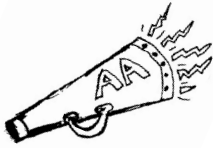
Reflections on Service & Carrying the Message into Treatment Centers by Chris, Young People's Chair

"I've seen firsthand how bringing AA meetings into treatment centers and jails can truly change lives. It's about more than just sharing our stories; it's about being a beacon of hope for folks who are right where we've been.

This journey isn't just about helping others; it's incredibly rewarding for us, too. Every time I see the impact of a shared experience or celebrate someone's sobriety milestone, it reinforces my own commitment to this path. It's amazing how much light we can bring into someone's life.

Every session we run, every piece of advice we share, it's not just a lifeline for someone else—it's a reminder of how far we've come and how much further we can go together. So, grab your books, your stories, your willingness to listen and get in touch with your district about service opportunities!"

If you are interested in being of service at the District 8 level, please contact our Third Legacy Chair, Jason at thirdlegacy@aadistrict8.org



Our Stories Disclose: Squaxin Island Spiritual Fellowship



Nestled amongst the rolling hills on the Salish Sea coastline is the small town of Kamilche, home to the Squaxin Island Tribal reservation. On Wednesday nights from 7:30-9pm in the Elders Building you'll find the Squaxin Island Spiritual Fellowship meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, sharing experience, strength and hope with the still suffering alcoholic. With much laughter, some tears, snacks, coffee and spirituality, elders in the community share tables with newcomers in an open format meeting where we read from Daily Reflections to inspire shares, while discussing anything that relates to AA and alcoholism.

Our meeting was formed in the early 1980's, and the Squaxin AA meeting became the home group to many of the local community's recovering alcoholics. Numbers ebbed and flowed over the years, the location changed, but the group stayed active into the next century before losing momentum and shutting down in 2005.

In 2006, two Squaxin Elders, Mary W. and Glen P. (who have since left to join the Ancestors) along with several of our other meeting's "old timers" started the meeting back up, and brought us to our current home in the sacred Elders Building on the reservation. We are grateful to our Squaxin Elders for hosting us.

After a break and returning from the COVID protocol in 2022, our meeting is back to hosting 20-50 alcoholics weekly, we hold monthly business meetings with 3-10 folks, and our members are involved in both District and Area service work. We host a speakers meeting and potluck three times a year, in the Kamilche Community Kitchen across the pond from the Elders Building, which you are bound to find close to a hundred people attending.

Squaxin Island Spiritual Recovery has this name for good reason, our meeting is SPIRITUAL, and leaves people feeling blessed and grateful after every meeting. There are many Indigenous people at our meeting, we love this about our group. Our membership is rich with Natives from many local Tribes, and First People from across Turtle Island. While many of our members are walking The Red Road, all people who need an AA meeting are welcome to join us. We are always looking for new home group members!

Our group celebrates birthdays every single week, acknowledging hours, days and decades of sobriety with coins, and we take pride in making newcomers feel welcome. For several years the Northwest Indian Treatment Center had been bringing its members to join our meeting, and those newly sober people and their recovery are at the heartbeat of our meeting's soul. We are blessed to truly share the message of Alcoholics Anonymous with newcomers and share the program in a loving light.

If you find yourself traveling on the 101 between Shelton and Olympia on a Wednesday night, please stop in for a Squaxin spiritual recharge. You are welcome and we will gratefully share our recovery with you.

DISTRICT 8 24-HOUR 12 STEP HOTLINE

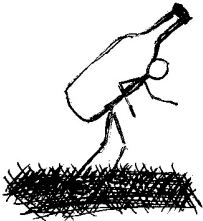
Call 360-352-7344 to speak to a sober alcoholic 24 hours a day. The District 8 phone line is often the first place the general public acquires information about AA in Thurston and Mason county. If you need support, please call us. Would you like to be of service and support the hotline? Please contact our Hotline Chair, Sue C at phones@aadistrict8.org

DISTRICT 8 BUSINESS MEETING

The District 8 Business Meeting meets on the second Thursday of every month from 6-8pm, and is hybrid - both on zoom and in person at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Lacey. All members of AA are welcome to attend. Please visit our website for more information aadistrict8.org.

THE DISTRICT 8 TELEGRAM seeks your contributions!

Our newsletter publishes quarterly in print and on line at <https://aadistrict8.org/> Please consider submitting your drawings, poems, art, stories, announcements and ideas about service & recovery. Please contact our newsletter chair Lisa G at 612-272-8739 via text or call to submit your work.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 32nd annual Capitol Jamboree is June 14 -15, 2024 at SPSCC Lacey campus.

The Capitol Jamboree began in 1992 and its mission is “..to bring in speakers from outside the area to share experience, strength, and hope with all people affected by the disease of alcoholism, to share our community’s enthusiasm for sobriety with the newcomer, and to strengthen our fellowship during an annual, fun-filled convention in Olympia, Washington.” In anticipation, we will be having our Capitol Jamboree Kickoff March 23, 2024 from 5:30-9p at SPSCC Lacey campus. This is a dessert social so bring your favorite dessert or savory treat to share. We will have both an AI-Anon and AA speaker starting at 6:30p AND a booth where you can volunteer to help with the Capitol Jamboree in June. More hands makes for light work... and a lot of FUN! Both the Kickoff and Jamboree will be fully hybrid. You can purchase your \$10 ticket now online. Every attendee gets a zoom link in case you can’t make it in-person. Register at www.capitoljamboree.org.

The highly anticipated 40th annual AA women’s meeting & potluck Springfest is Saturday, April 6th from 11am to 2pm at the Lacey Community Center!! This is a closed and registered event w Speaker, Food, Sober countdown and Door prizes. For more information contact our chair Stacey G at 360.789.0791

Make plans to attend the 2025 AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION July 3-6th, 2025 at the Vancouver Convention Center and BC Place Stadium in Vancouver BC, Canada! The International takes place once every five years, and the theme of the 2025 International Convention is “90 Years – Language of the Heart.” For more info, check out the General Service Office’s website <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>