

# Straight Talk

A publication of Fairview Riverside AA  
U of M Medical Center

Meeting  
Listings  
Inside

Visit us online  
<http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>

May - June 2021

## Do I Even Want To Be Sober?

As I tried to bend the universe to my desires, the only thing that seemed to keep bending was my elbow as the bottle found its way to my mouth again. When I entered Lodging Plus in the Spring of 2017, I wasn't sure if I wanted to be sober but when I had moved home to live with my parents the previous year the stated goal had been to get healthy again. Was I going to be a man of my word or not? Would this time be any different? Do I even want to be sober?

Many questions ran through my mind as I struggled to find a new magical idea or something I had missed in the multiple attempts at treatment. They seemed to keep saying things I already "knew" but had never applied consistently to my life. Was it as simple as they made it out to be? Had I just been overcomplicating things for all these years?

All I found was more questions and still no new answers. I connected with my sponsor who said we could re-evaluate working together after I got out of treatment. I didn't have to call him every day but he suggested we touch base weekly. I loathed his suggestions, especially the one to pray about whatever problem I hoped he could solve. What I wanted most of all at this time was to feel how he looked. He had peace; I hadn't had peace in a long time.

I completed treatment and the aftercare and still wasn't certain about the only requirement for membership in AA. Do I have a desire to stop drinking? Do I want to be sober?

After reading How It Works, I was reflecting with a member of one of the groups I started attending while I was in the treatment program. I said I thought I might be one of the unfortunates they talk about. I just didn't think AA was going to work for me. I felt as though I was a lost cause and just wanted to disappear from existence more and more as the fog receded. Maybe I was stupider than I thought. She told me that she had never seen anyone too stupid to work this program, but she had seen many die who thought they were smart enough to solve it on their own. She hoped I wasn't too smart for my own good and encouraged me to take a service commitment.

This service commitment and other service changed my life in a way I can't begin to describe. I kept coming back and eventually I was proud to be sober. I was glad to wake up free from the grip of the bottle. My life became one I was excited to live again. It had always been a good life, I just hadn't always been grateful for the many abundant blessings in the people, places, and things my Higher Power put in my life for me to do my best each day.

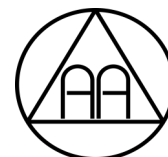
Today I do want to be sober and hope to spend the rest of my life that way. I know I am not going to find the escape or solutions I am looking for at the bottom of the bottle. Practicing these principles in all my affairs is not easy and I don't do it perfectly. By the grace of my Higher Power I get to be sober and of service today even though I wasn't sure when I started exploring my program of real health and recovery. What I found was by giving back I get to keep it.

Kyle W

Sqs 1,2,3,20,70,GM

*Love is something if you give it away. You end up having more. It's just like a magic penny. Hold it tight and you won't have any. Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many. They'll roll all over ...*

Malvina Reynolds

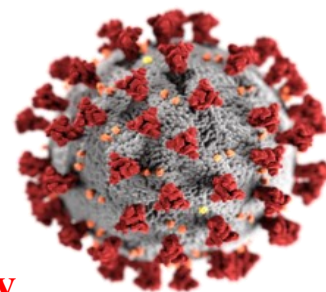


**"I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN SOBRIETY"**

All Fairview Riverside AA gatherings and meetings at the U of M Medical Center have been suspended until further notice. Please refer to pages 3 and 4 of this issue of *Straight Talk* for more information about Online AA Meetings and 12-Step opportunities.

For AA help and information call anytime at:  
Greater Minneapolis Inter Group  
(952) 922-0880

St. Paul and Suburban Inter Group  
(651) 227-5502 Spanish (651) 888-6912



- Stay safe
- Stay strong
- Stay sober

Visit & Join our new Facebook page - **StraightTalk Society**  
**Information - Fellowship - Support**

“God grant me the **Serenity** to accept the things I cannot change,  
the **Courage** to change the things I can, and the **Wisdom** to know the difference.”

### AA at Fairview Riverside (1968 - Present)

Among the thousands of people who have gone through Chemical Dependency Treatment here, there is an inside joke: “What was the name of the Treatment Center when you were in treatment?” The original treatment center was started at St. Mary’s Hospital in 1968 by Dr. George Mann, an anesthesiologist at the Hospital. It was called St. Mary’s Rehabilitation Center and was the first hospital-based addiction treatment program in Minnesota. Dr. Mann, also a member of Alanon, wrote a book entitled *Recovery of Reality: Overcoming Chemical Dependency* in 1979. His wife, Marion C. Mann, a member of AA, served as a family counselor for many years at St. Mary’s Rehabilitation Center.

In 1986, St. Mary’s Hospital was sold to Fairview Hospital which was an adjacent neighbor. In 1997, Fairview Hospital merged with the U of M Hospitals. And in 2018 the University of Minnesota Medical Center became the flagship for the Hospital with the addiction treatment program still named the Fairview Chemical Dependency Program.

AA has been on-site since the treatment center was established in the late 1960’s. During the 70’s and 80’s, nearly 100 AA and other 12-step groups met weekly on campus. There was a drop-in AA Club House where 100’s of AA’s met in fellowship and celebrated sober birthdays for many in recovery. Also in the 80’s a monthly newsletter, *Straight Talk*, was published and distributed to AA members.

In 1974, St. Mary’s AA was one of the founding organizations of Gopher State Roundup, an annual statewide recovery celebration over Memorial Day weekend attended by 1000’s of gratitude-filled AA’s.

Today, although fewer in numbers, AA at Fairview Riverside continues to welcome approximately 500 attendees per month and vibrantly stewards the principles of **Unity, Recovery, and Service**.

Jim M. - Squad 70

### Sober Bicycle Rider’s Program



Do **YOU** like bikes?

Do **YOU** ride bikes?

Do **YOU** have a bike you’d like to donate?

Do **YOU** need a bike?

Lee C. & Jim W.

AA Members of AA at Fairview Riverside  
would like to hear from **YOU**



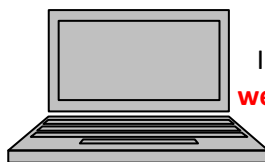
### 7th Tradition

Every AA Group Ought To Be Fully  
Self-Supporting

That’s why we pass the envelop!

Contribute directly with a Venmo account to:  
**@Aa-fairviewriverside**  
or

Send your contribution by mail to AA Treasurer at  
2209 22nd Avenue South, Mpls MN 55404



### AA at Fairview Riverside & the Digital Age

In 2015, AA at Fairview Riverside established a **website** (see address below). It has extensive information about: **meetings** on campus and links to other meeting resources across the

Twin City metro area, current and past **newsletters, trustee minutes, treasurer reports, 12-step opportunities, and AA resources**. If you’re looking for info about AA or meeting topics, you’re sure to find something on this website.

In 2018, a Facebook page for AA at Fairview Riverside entitled **StraightTalk Society** was developed as a fellowship and outreach platform for members of the recovering community.

Visit us online ... <http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>



Join us for a  
Speaker Meeting

Online ZOOM  
983 3148 0892  
435229  
Sunday 7:15pm

AA  
Sunday  
Night



The General Meeting on  
Sunday nights @ 7:15pm  
If interested in helping out,  
please contact us at  
aabtriverside@gmail.com

### 12-step Opportunities



Fairview Riverside AA – U of M Medical  
Center

*To keep the program, we must give it away!*

General Meeting – Sunday speakers – 7:15pm  
Online ZOOM 983 3148 0892 435229

AA Wing Meeting – Zoom Meeting

Fairview Riverside – U of M Detox  
Center – Zoom Meeting

Annual Gopher State Round Up –  
AA Hospitality Suite 115 - Labor Day  
Weekend - September 3 - 5, 2021 - LIVE!

For more information, please email  
Fairview Riverside Board of Trustees  
at  
aabtriverside@gmail.com

## Visit us online

<http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>

Have you  
written  
something?

Would you  
like to have  
it published in  
Straight Talk?



Send to  
aabtriverside@gmail.com

### Online ZOOM during Stay-At-Home Quarantine

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic all  
community gatherings and AA meetings at the  
hospital and church have been suspended until  
further notice.

So .....

To access these meetings, please download the  
ZOOM on your smartphone, laptop, tablet or  
computer.

The AA meetings listed on the back page happen  
every week.

- Your device must have a working micro-  
phone, camera and screen
- Navigate to the ZOOM
- Select join a meeting
- Enter meeting code
- Enter password when prompted
- Select enable video
- Host will welcome you to the meeting

### 7th Tradition

*Every AA Group Ought To Be Fully Self-Supporting*

Your contributions support:

- Online Meetings during Stay At Home
- *Straight Talk* Newsletter
- GSO & AA service organizations
- AA at Fairview Riverside website



That's why we pass the envelop!

Contribute directly with a Venmo account to:  
@Aa-fairviewriverside

or

Send your contribution by mail to AA Treasurer at  
2209 22nd Avenue South, Mpls MN 55404

AA thanks you for your ongoing support!

# U of M Medical Center Fairview Riverside Meeting Listings

## AA

(Alcoholics Anonymous)

Online ZOOM during Stay-At-Home Quarantine

**Due to the Coronavirus epidemic all community gatherings and AA meetings at the hospital and church have been suspended until further notice.**

**So .....**

**To access these meetings, please download the ZOOM app on your smartphone, laptop, tablet or computer. The AA meetings listed below happen every week.**

**More detailed instructions on previous page....**

Day	Group/Squad	Time	Meeting Code	Password
Monday	3	5:30pm	690 284 815	000777
Tuesday	62	7pm	592 304 732	022704
	57	1pm	924 612 379	020287
Wednesday	20 (men only)	7pm	672 945 520	016038
	W (women only)	6:00pm	954 6022 0508	207870
Friday	70	8:30pm	982 0212 3715	823676
Saturday	1	8pm	979 323 653	009361
Sunday	47	5:30pm	238 221 601	004638
	General Meeting	7:15pm	983 3148 0892	435229
	2	8:30pm	330 843 112	013328

**Trustees** 2nd Sunday each month 6:15pm Meeting ID: 932 2496 7231 Password: 784195

Visit & Join our new Facebook page -

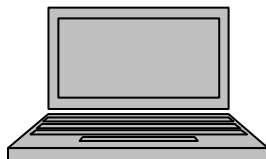
**StraightTalk Society**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371595779928822>

Monthly Treasurer's & Secretary's Reports on  
website

Visit us online

<http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>



### Trustees

Bruce M. – Sq. 62  
Lynn S. – Sq. W  
Katie M. - Sq. 1  
Kyle W. - General Meeting  
Jim M. – Sq. 70  
Kyle W. - Sq. 20  
Jenn G. - Sq. 2  
Jeremy K. - Sq. 3  
Karl K. - Sq. 57  
Patrick R. - Sq. 47  
Dave P. - Sq. 47

**Looking for Rep from: Sq. 43  
Please send a representative from your Squad!**

*People who don't go to meetings aren't there to see what happens to people who don't go to meetings.*

• Is your group not listed? Is it listed incorrectly?

Please send a note with any changes or your writing submission to:

**[aabtriverside@gmail.com](mailto:aabtriverside@gmail.com)**