

GOLD DIGGERS

Date Founded: Early 1950's

Updated: July 2020*

Early Members: Tom O., Lloyd C., Deacon P., John M., Bob R., Ty T. and Clayton G.

Original Location: Tom O.'s home, then Ty T's office in Nevada City

Meeting Day & Time: Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Present Location: Nevada City Methodist Church, Broad Street, NC

**The history of the Gold Diggers Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is a compilation of histories written first, by Clayton G (transcribed by Edna), and then updated by various current and past members of the Gold Diggers group, including Mike S., Stacy B., and Sarah M. It is believed this is the oldest continuously operating AA group in Western Nevada County.*

History:

Per Clayton G., the first meeting in Nevada City was started by Tom Osborn who had moved up from Southern California. He held meetings at his home in Nevada City on Tuesday nights at 8:00 pm. As he recruited new members, they took turns using their homes. In Clayton's first meeting on November 24, 1956, there were seven people (listed above). In 1957, the meeting started meeting in Ty T.'s business office in Nevada City.

The meeting was originally open, but only AA members were called on to speak. Wives (Alanons), were supposed to furnish birthday cakes for all the AA birthday meetings plus making and serving coffee and washing up after the meeting. At the non-birthday meetings, one of the members brought doughnuts to each meeting. Clayton brought them for many years.

Prior to 1980 and until early 1990's, the group's location was at Trinity Episcopal Church on Nevada Street.

March 1980 the Secretarys of the meeting were a married couple: Bill and JoAnne N. Some of the regular members (there could be more) were: Deacon P. (walked 5 miles a day all over NC), Clayton G., Dan D., Bud T., Jolly G., Earle M., Jeri T. (Camptonville), Ann H., Robert W., Russ (older Gail from Al-Anon, her husband), Mark S., Sarah S. - M., Albert K. (artist), Charley H., Nancy and Gene F., Mike and Judi J - W., Bob and Diane G., Pete ("I are Pete"), Brian L. (tugboat man), Willie D. (Worked for Forest Service - There were balloons everywhere at Willie's memorial), Sheila H - G., Carolyn C., Nick S. (plumber), Rosalie P., Bruce J., Jerry D. (sold swimming pools), Henry M. (wife Madeline), Bill S., Rudy S., Woody (owned Alano Club across from Jolly Rogers Bowling Alley and electric store), Kitty, Cindy H., Dean (Baltimore Dean) and Monte Sue (rode motorcycle), Jerry and Roxanne K., Sandy and Dennis C., Raymond A., Jim W. (Cowboy - Rough & Ready Wagon Train), Marty (older lady who use to be a brothel madam), Bill A., Gene and Lois D., Bill P., Chuck F.(handlebar mustache), Didi and Rich,

Donna T. - R. and Dan T., William, Lee S., Scott B., Bruce P. (airline pilot), Drinda, Lila, Jeff T., Bonnie and Tom M., Don B., Tom F. (Real-estate), Elio C., Doug S., and James Martin Howard Anonymous (or similar name of a man in his 80's).

Visitors from Auburn who attended occasionally in 1980: Glen S. (Snuffy), Alaska Jack, (Jack would say at meetings, "I had everything that money could buy, but not one thing that money could not buy."), and Randy and Penny A.

Prior to formation of District 20 in 1986, the two original groups (Gold Diggers and Gold Quartz) financed the AA notice in the Union Newspaper and the telephone answering service hotline.

Sometime prior to 1994 the group moved across the freeway to the First Baptist Church on Main Street in Nevada City. It was a great meeting back then, averaging about 35 people each week. It always had bowls of candies and pitchers of ice water on the table. The meeting moved to its current location at the Nevada City Methodist Church in 2017.

For many years, there was an Al-Anon Meeting which was held concurrently with the Gold Diggers meeting at the Trinity Episcopal Church and downstairs in the Baptist Church, and later in the small room next door to the meeting.

The Gold Diggers meeting was perhaps the last hold-out for meetings that started at 8 pm and lasted an hour and a half. In 2005 or 2006, when the meeting was down to 6-8 people a week (Mike S., Harlow, Lloyd R., Pete ("I are Pete"), Ken H. and a couple more from time to time), it was forced to change its starting time to 7:00 pm in order to stay alive. About a year later, the meeting became an hour meeting. The meeting now starts at 7:00 pm and ends at 8:00. The meeting is still a closed meeting except for birthday night, which is the last Tuesday of the month.