

AS BILL SEES IT - KISS WOMEN'S GROUP

Date Founded: January 1991

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GSO#: 171089

May 2020

Founding Member: Annette McT

Original Location: Annette's House

Current Location: Grass Valley Fellowship, 154 Olympia Park Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Day of Week and Time of Meeting: Tuesdays 10 AM to 11 AM.

Business meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 9:20 AM.

The As Bill Sees it - KISS Group ("Keep It Simple Sisters") started in January 1991 by Annette McT., a mother of a new baby and a 5-year-old child. She needed a meeting that would accommodate her young children, which was difficult since smoking was still allowed in those days. "I complained to my sponsor about that, and I thought she'd just agree with me," explained Annette. "Instead she told me I should start my own meeting."

The meeting initially met at Annette's house, then moved to Sierra Presbyterian Church in Nevada City. The group was small, often meeting with 4 to 6 people. The church started an elementary school and needed the room, so KISS met in a room that had only a partial wall. They had to be quiet in order to not be heard in the hall. Eventually, the meeting moved to two locations on Hughes Road and then to its present location on Olympia Park Road. In addition to Annette, early members included Cass, Alison O, Arlene H, and Linda L. Another early member, Mary R., is one of the longest continually attending members of KISS.

On March 24, 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, KISS conducted its meeting via web conferencing. There were 40 participants. Annette McT. attended that meeting and remarked that it felt like KISS had come full circle as the meeting was back in her living room. She also noted that the baby who was the impetus for the KISS meeting, was now about to have her own baby.

Originally, the KISS meeting was open, but ultimately became closed, meaning that it was open to A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking." Women are still welcome to bring their children. We now average between 40 to 60 women per meeting.

The format for the meeting is someone reads and then comments on a selection from *As Bill Sees It* (published by Alcoholic Anonymous World Services). Others may comment on it or select a different reading. This group offers a safe place for all women who have a drinking problem and

have a desire to stop, especially newcomers. In addition to finding ways to encourage newcomer participation, this group explores way to make it easier for those with limited hearing to better hear what is being shared. Birthday meetings are the last Tuesday of the month, where sobriety chips are given.