

NEW BEGINNINGS

Date Founded: 2008

Prepared By: Rosie D.

GSO# : 725213

May 2020

Updated by sm May 2024

Founding Members: Judy B. and other recovering alcoholic women in Lake Wildwood

Original Location: Met in various members' homes

Current Location: Buttermakers Cottage, Western Gateway Park, Penn Valley

Day of Week and Time of Meeting: Friday, 10:00 a.m. (one hour)

This form is a shortened history without last names to be displayed on District 20 website.

The New Beginnings meeting was established in 2008 by Judy B. & included a small group of recovering alcoholic women in Lake Wildwood. Meetings were held in various homes each Friday morning. As word spread our sisters in Grass Valley & Nevada City began attending. So we also held meetings in homes at those locations.

The meeting grew and grew until it became impossible to hold in homes. So, in June 2013, we rented Buttermakers Cottage in Western Gateway Park and had the meeting included in the local AA directory. In 2019, the meeting registered with GSO and the District, and in 2020, elected its first GSR. The meeting has always been and continues to be a closed women's meeting.

The format is that we read the daily selection from Hazelton's New Beginnings with a discussion following on that reading. The first Friday of the month is a Step meeting, corresponding to the month (i.e., January is the 1st Step, February, the 2nd Step, etc.)

Members volunteer for the Secretary position and to bring snacks each week (we have great snacks!) These positions change weekly. The Treasurer & GSR, however, are elected positions with a term of 2 years. There is a loyal following of women with an average attendance of 25. We think it's a great meeting!

Quilt Made For Founder of New Beginning's Group

In 2015, Judy B. moved away from Nevada County. Some of the women, made and presented her with this quilt of appreciation:



Pandemic Years: 2020 - 2023

The following is taken from a District 20 on-line schedule dated August 14, 2020: Meeting ID#:499 389 0586, Password: pvsobor, Call in Phone #: 1 253 215 8782, Call in Password: 444342

New Beginnings was still listed on a March 2022 online schedule but not on a June 2022, so it can be assumed that the group went back into person only by June 2022.

It's possible that New Beginnings was Hybrid for a small amount of time as they are listed on an in person meeting on August 2021.

Stories from members, answering this question: **How did you stay sober and connected through the pandemic?**

Comment from C. N.:

Breathe, Acceptance, Trust and do not Drink no matter what.... I survived the Pandemic soberly with the help of my family at home and in A.A. They are my biggest supporters in my A.A. life. Knowing I could call on my Sponsor or any member of my AA group to help me thru my difficulties was my Ace. I relied on those phone calls.

When on-line meetings became available, I was able to see and hear meetings at home. I did not have the greatest reception on the Internet but the group came in loud and clear.

Following the principals of AA and trusting that I and my family would get through this time, met everything!

Comment from D. B.:

All I can say is Thank God for on-line meetings. It was nice to go to my regular meetings on Zoom, but it was also nice to venture out and go to other meetings in other areas, and other States. I also used the on-line platform to meet with sponsee's and of course the phone came in handy to connect with all my friends and family. When it felt safe, I used masks and did social distance when restrictions were lifted. So glad to be back to in-person meetings and seeing my friends again. The Pandemic taught me that together we can get thru anything.

Comment from A. H.:

I got sober in June 2020, just three months into the pandemic. In the short three months since lockdown began, AA had fully gotten Zoom there for us coming in. I was a mom to a nine month old and Zoom allowed me a meeting every single day, that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to make. Zoom meetings, AA members showing up for them, and my higher power (and Sponsor) saved my life during the pandemic!

Comment from M. F.:

Thank God for Zoom. I don't know how I could have stayed sane, much less sober without Zoom AA meetings.

Comment from T.:

I took a monitoring position (via Zoom) at the meeting I got sober in a different country. It helped keep me sane and sober and connected during the pandemic.

Comment from K.:

I got sober on November 9th, 2021 during the pandemic. Zoom meetings saved my life. I appreciate Zoom meetings being available and easy to find.

Anonymous Comments:

I became willing to try different ways to be in meetings. I felt AA immediately provided opportunities to be in meetings. Zoom was my friend for meetings and it was easy to get on. I even was able to volunteer during the International Women's Conference.

(I visited several online Zoom meetings especially women's meeting - only women's meetings, esp. International.) I LOVED joining the Women's International meetings. Seeing all the other women - in Australasia and British Isles and their stories. Would have loved to have joined in meetings of other language countries, to learn their experiences, too.