

SHOEMAKERS GROUP

Date Founded: January 2002 **Prepared by: Wendy M. 2016; updated Garnet H. 2020**

GSO# 650975

Updated: November 2023, Phil A.

Founding Members: Carl H., Bernie O., and Ted McT.

Original Location: 440 Henderson Street, Grass Valley

Current Location: Horseman's Lodge, 10600 Bubbling Wells Road, Grass Valley

Day of Week and Time of Meeting: Sunday, 11:00 am

Shoemakers met for the first time at 11:00 AM, Sunday, January 6, 2002. About a dozen people showed up in a room that was located "over there where CoRR (then Nevada County Substance Abuse,*) was first located, somewhere near the bowling alley." Carl H. became the first secretary since it was his idea to start a new group in Grass Valley. Bernie, Ted and Carl worked together to rent a space, buy a coffee pot, find a 7th Tradition Basket and craft a format that focused on the solution to our mutual problem with alcohol.

Members at the first meeting (from Big Book signing): Carl H., Jimmi A., Moe F., Bernie and Pat O., Cynthia S., Ed B., Carol B., Lindsay L., Cheryl N., Margo C., Henry C., Mike and Jennifer P., Cliff W., Diane B. Mick and Sarah McT., Brian L., Sean McT., Ted and Annette McT., Keith L., Duke G. and Kathie T.

*CORR is now known as Granite Wellness

These were the guiding principles:

- Make it a closed meeting for alcoholics only
- Focus on the solution
- Welcome and include newcomers
- Give as many people as possible a chance to share in meetings; therefore, limit individual shares to 3-5 minutes
- Ensure that there is an informed group conscience. Use the AA Service Manual (sharing sessions) as a guide in making sure that everyone who has something to say on a particular subject gets a chance to say it.

Shoemakers has been carrying the message since that initial meeting in 2002 in one location or another. It moved to the Children's Advocacy Building on Maltman Street after losing the space at CoRR. Then for a period of time it met in a park across the street from the Gold Country Fellowship (GCF) on Alta Street. When the weather turned cold, the GCF offered the group a 1:00 pm slot in their meeting room. Then a large conference room became available at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (SNMH), which enabled Shoemakers to resume their usual 11:00 am

meeting time. The meeting remained at this location until new SNMH security regulations required another move. On January 26, 2014, Shoemakers began meeting at its current location, The Horseman's Lodge off Brunswick and Town Talk Road, at 10600 Bubbling Wells Road.

While Shoemakers has continued to operate under its original guiding principles, some procedural changes have been implemented in recent years:

- **Birthday Celebrations.** Originally, Shoemakers didn't want to make a big deal of birthdays and awarded birthday chips only to members with one year or more of sobriety. In 2018, that policy was changed to include chips for 1, 3, 6 and 9 months. This is believed to be important in encouraging newcomers to join the meeting. Birthdays are celebrated the last Sunday of the month.
- **Elections.** Elections were originally handled in the monthly Business Meeting, and it was often difficult to fill all positions. In 2019, the policy was changed to have elections occur during the full meeting. More people are now involved in the elections, and positions are filled more easily.
- **Meeting Sharing.** Meeting sharing begins by the Secretary calling on someone, and each speaker then calls on the next person. In January 2020, the last ten minutes were opened to sharing by anyone who hasn't already shared. This change addresses a commitment to include everyone who wants to share.
- **Anniversary Potluck.** Annually, in January, Shoemakers celebrates the Meeting's anniversary with a Potluck lunch. 2020 was Anniversary #18. By sending an email to all on the phone list who share their email, participation has increased in recent years.

Shoemakers has been a strong supporter of participation in General Service, supports its GSR and Alternate GSR, and has consistently been able to make 7th Tradition distributions to its District, Area and GSO.

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WHERE DID SHOEMAKERS GET *ITS* NAME?

It is based on Tradition Five, which states: "Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

"SHOEMAKER, stick to thy last" . . . better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

Pandemic Years 2020 - 2023

In March 2020, when the Covid Pandemic hit, Shoemakers met one week outside. Then on March 21, 2020 they started to meet on-line. They had on-line meetings until March or April of 2021 when they started hybrid meetings. The members who were in-person wore masks. The members who regularly attended the online meetings before going to hybrid were: Eddy (Business Secretary), Michelle (Recording), Kathie (Treasurer), Phil A. (Meeting Secretary) and Mary (Literature).

The last day for the hybrid Zoom meeting was October 22, 2023. There were problems with the Internet, so it was decided that the Zoom meeting would continue separately from the in-person meeting. The first Zoom meeting being held at the same time as the in-person meeting was on Sunday, October 29, 2023. The persons attending this meeting were: Larisa (Host for this day), Brenda B., Camilla, Sarah McT., Julie A. (Southern Calif), Joseph (newcomer), Gwen (Charlotte, NC.), Bill B., Jonny T., Dan (State of Washington), Jeannie A., and Lynn G.

Update (5-22-24) Due to attendance dwindling on the Zoom meeting, the last date the meeting took place on Zoom only was April 21, 2024.

Zoom ID login #948 683 340 446 Passcode: 892876

Regular Attendees - 2023

Shoemakers is a Home Group Meeting. Therefore, regular members attend. This is listed for Archive purposes. Although this is current, some day this will be relevant history.

Regular Attendees in 2023: Eddy, Kathie, Phil, Larisa, Brenda, Steve, Mike, Andrew, Henry, Time, Richard, Sam, Jordan, Mark, Soren, Jennifer, Bill.