

## SHOEMAKERS GROUP

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

**GSO# 650975**

**Revised: May 2020**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Basket and craft a format that focused on the solution to our mutual problem with alcohol.

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**