

Hands Of Hope Group History

The Hands of Hope Group started in April, 1981 at 8:30 pm on Tuesday evenings.

The original members were Roger M; Bob M; & Bertha? Bob was a member of the St. Anne's Group and Roger M was a member of the Merritton Group. He passed away on March 26/20.

The Group started at the request of the old St. Catharines General Hospital located on Queenston St., St. Catharines. It was hoped A.A. members who were patients could attend an A.A. Group, while they were in hospital. However this only happened on a few occasions and instead, other A.A. members started to attend on a regular basis. The early Meetings were held in the cafeteria when smoking was allowed. After 2-3 years the Group relocated to the Norris Wing. Our Meeting time changed from 8:30 pm to 8:00 pm in 1992. In early 2009 the Hospital required extra space for the planning of the New Hospital, and our Group moved to Club 16, St.Catharines, as a temporary measure. This was followed by another move on April 7, 2009, to Westview Christian Fellowship Church, St. Catharines. On June 7/16 our Meeting changed its starting time to 7:30 pm. With the development of the old St. Catharines General Hospital site.the parking became very limited at this location. On January 3/23, the Group moved to St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Queenston St. St.Catharines. (enter through side door off Calvin St.) every Tuesday.

Over the years our attendance and Group membership has ebbed and flowed. We are primarily a Discussion Group, however for members' Anniversaries, several of our members choose to have a Speaker Meeting. Our Group has always been conscious of being represented at the service level – GSR and Intergroup Committees, and our Group members have served on various Committees. We have a Literature Table and have a raffle every week for an A. A. Book. Presently we have 13 Group members, including two members, who joined our Group in 1988, and another member who joined in 2004.

We offer a warm "Welcome Home" to the suffering alcoholic, as well as other members, as they continue to progress in their journey of Sobriety, "One Day At A Time."

Revised August/ 23 .