

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? Roger is now a member of the Merritton Group & Bob is a member of the St. Anne's Group.

The Group started at the request of the old St. Catharines General Hospital located on Queenston St., St. Catharines. It was hoped AA members who were patients, could attend an AA Group, while they were in hospital. However this only happened on a few occasions, and instead other AA 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 the Group moved to Club 16 as a temporary measure. This was followed by a more permanent move on April 7, 2009 to Westview Christian Fellowship Church (enter through side door on Oakdale Ave), 124 Queenston St., St. Catharines. Our Group continues to be located at this Church and we meet at 8:00 pm every Tuesday.

Over the years our attendance and Group membership has ebbed and flowed. We are primarily a Discussion Group, however for members Anniversaries, most 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. In addition our Group members have served on our BTC, BTG, and the Ad – Hoc Committee relating to our Intergroup Guidelines. Presently we have a member serving on our PI/CPC. We also have Grapevine Table and have a raffle every week for a Big Book, or the 12 & 12. Presently we have 10 Group members, including one member who joined our Group in 1988, and another member who joined in 1991.

We offer a warm “Welcome Home” to the suffering alcoholic, and other members, as they continue to progress in their journey of sobriety, “One Day at a Time.”

Update: Effective June 7/16 the meeting changed its starting time to 7:30 pm.

Submitted March /2016.