

A History of the Woman's Fellowship  
Submitted by Emily B. October 2010

A long time member of the Woman's Fellowship tells the story of how the group first began:

Janis L.- "I was not comfortable sharing at meetings with men. I spent more time thinking about what I was going to say that sounded somewhat profound, rather than saying what was on my mind and in my heart. I approached my sponsor Phyllis at the time, and asked why there wasn't a woman's meeting in the area. She told me that it had been tried at least twice before, but it never worked. They had turned into a hen party, and folded. But she suggested that if I wanted one that badly, that I should start one...but I would have to be totally dedicated to the Group. Phyllis sponsored another gal named Hilda at the time who also wanted a woman's group. I contacted the pastor at my church to see how he felt about having us there and he was delighted. He said that is what a Church is all about.....not to sit empty in the evenings. He didn't even want to charge us rent, but I told him we had to pay our way. He supported us fully and later even came to our annual anniversaries and said a few words. So Hilda and I got together with a few other ladies at my home, and we went from there. We printed up some flyers and distributed them at all the meetings. We were met with a lot of criticism....told it would never work, but we were committed. The first few meetings were well attended, but during the winter months, attendance slacked off a bit and we had concerns. But it picked back up in the spring and by our 1st year anniversary, we felt we were strong enough to form a group. Other strong dedicated ladies joined us along the way, some stayed, and others moved on but helped to keep us on track...grounded in AA. principles. Phyllis and Joan C. offered us lots of support. For me in my early sobriety and for many other woman the group was our life-line."

We have since grown into a strong AA group of women, dedicated to keeping the doors open. We have developed strong friendships and support networks within our group, the support one woman can offer another is truly invaluable. We have an open discussion beginners room (all women are welcome) which focuses on steps 1, 2, and 3, a closed discussion 12 step and 12 traditions room, and a closed discussion big book table. And on the last Wednesday of each month we have an open speaker meeting and welcome everyone even the men.