

Ray of Hope History

The Ray of Hope Group of Alcoholics Anonymous first met in March of 1981 at the home of Les and Judy Williams. Other members in attendance were Terry and Gladys Hawkins and Gloria Creech. Gloria's husband Jim got sober and joined soon after. As the group was formed as a split from the Kemp AA Group, Judy Williams gave it the name "Ray of Hope".

After a brief time, the group moved to where the building where the Seven Points Post Office is now. Due to that building changing ownership, the group moved to the Cedar Creek Methodist Church in Tool. Then in 1985, the group found a more permanent home in the north end of the Old West Auction building across the street from its present location in Seven Points. Rent was \$300 a month and stayed at that amount until we moved in 2009. Our landlord, Paul Ciardo, though not a member, was grateful for what AA was doing in the community and helped the small group any way he could.

From its beginning until 1995, the group met three times a week. Tuesday for a "12 and 12" meeting, Thursday for "As Bill Sees It", and Saturdays were speaker meetings with Birthday Night on the last Saturday of the month. Birthday Night was also a pot luck supper. In 1995, a Monday open discussion and Wednesday "Big Book" study were added. All this time the group hovered at a membership of around 8 to 16 people. Six people at any given time were considered a good meeting. In around 1999, the Friday and Sunday night discussion meetings were added as the group grew a bit.

The summer of 2009, the Ray of Hope moved to the Gibson center in Seven Points. This was, at the time, considered a step up since the new location had level floors and dependable toilets. Then we made our last move in the summer of 2016 to the present location. In the past couple of years, the Ray of Hope has seen phenomenal growth with an average of over twenty alcoholics attending each meeting. Through the years, though the faces have changed, the Ray of Hope has maintained the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and offered a healthy place for fellow sufferers to achieve and maintain sobriety. As one of our late members was fond of saying, "the proof is in the pudding".

A Member. February, 2019