

## The History of the Hoschton Group

The Hoschton Group was founded in October 1987 by Joe T., Ray M. and Cheryl M. We met at the Hoschton United Methodist Church on Monday nights and moved to the Rockwell Masonic Lodge in 1992 where we added an additional Friday night meeting. We are still located at 111 Hall Street (at the corner of Broad Street) which is 2 blocks from Highway 53 in Downtown Hoschton, GA 30548.

Joe T. was still very active until his accidental death in 2000. Ray and Cheryl M were no longer active in the group. Agnes F was the only other charter member, as well as the first Secretary and Treasurer. She remained in those positions until after the move and remained an active member in our group until her death in 2006.

We lost many of the active and sober members. The remaining early members of the group in 1992 were Lois T and Marjorie S until her death in 2015. Both were officers and Lois T is still active and will have 44 years of sobriety in November of 2019.

Shortly after moving to the Rockwell Masonic Lodge, we decided to start an "eating meeting". This is a celebration/speaker meeting the last Friday of every month beginning at 7 to eat and a speaker at 8. Our home group members celebrate their sobriety birthdays. It is very successful and well attended. We have had exceptional speakers from both outside and inside our group. It has been said by outsiders that we have the best food! All who come, bring a covered dish to share. The menu is never planned, yet somehow always works!

Richard M. has been an active member since 1997 and as GSR in 2003, he and the group decided to add an additional meeting on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. geared towards new-comers in order to offer them another home group meeting. It has become our highest attended weekly meeting – with the exception of our monthly eating meeting.

Several years ago, we decided to have a group inventory meeting to insure we were following all AA guidelines. This was conducted by two outside AA members from Athens who had special training for conducting group inventories.

In addition to our regular meetings, we hold group conscience meetings monthly following the District Meeting. After our group expenses are paid, the remaining funds are sent to the District, State and GSO offices.

Once a year we celebrate the Hoschton Group Anniversary meeting at the end of October or the first week in November at the Hoschton First united Methodist Church – Fellowship Hall, where it all began. It is a dinner meeting at 7 pm followed by an open speaker meeting at 8 pm. Announcements are sent to other groups inviting them to attend. This is always a great event!

We have so many wonderful contributing members with good sobriety. In all our gatherings and meetings, God is our Ultimate Authority. Keeping this and the traditions in mind, we have grown from 8 members to our current 43 active members.

07/11/2019

