

Alumni Group History

The Alumni Group was founded on March 17, 1981. Founding members were Helen S. and Doctor Bill T. Another early member was Vivian M. They first met at the Commencement house, a recovery center but never a recovery residence, at 8:00 PM. Although there was never an affiliation, the group reportedly got its name because many of the early members were "alumni" of the recovery center.

The group moved to the basement of the Talmadge Building on the grounds of Athens General Hospital in 1983, and to the ground floor of the Talmadge Building in approximately 1987, when the meetings became nonsmoking.

The group had many humorous incidents during the early years, as well as its share of sad ones. In 1986, a GSR was elected who had only 3 months of sobriety. He ran off with the group's money and got drunk. Since then the group has elected trusted servants with more time! One member who "went out" came back drunk with his shoes on the wrong feet. Another person who was asked to chair said it got him drunk. People guess he's still scared; he hasn't been back. There was one member who didn't want anyone else to set up the meeting. If someone did, he would rearrange the chairs and ashtrays. He died sober some years later.

More recently, the group moved to the basement of the Physician's Imaging Center at Athens Regional Medical Center in approximately 1999 and then to its current location at the Athens Area Council on Aging on approximately 2004. The current building is an old train station which also served as bar and discotheque at one time.

The group has met continuously since 1981 on Wednesdays for open discussion and Sundays for an open speaker meeting except for a period of approximately 1 and ½ months when the Council on Aging briefly disallowed meetings. One individual with more than 20 years sober credited this lapse with helping to save his sobriety during a very difficult period because it forced him to go to other meetings.

The group currently has approximately 25-30 home group members and is very heavily invested in service work in the Athens area and beyond.

ALUMNI GROUP
Athens Community Council on Aging
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