

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
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September 23, 2016

Ms. Peggy Jackson
[REDACTED]

Redding, CA 96001

Sisters By Choice
#101862

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK, NY 10115
TEL: (212) 870-3400

Dear Peggy,

Hello and greetings from the General Service Office Archives of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am writing in response to your telephone call from September 16, 2016, concerning the history of the Sisters By Choice Group of Redding, California, which has the Service Number 101862.

According to our database, the Sisters By Choice Group was previously known as the Wednesday Womens Noon Group, and before that was simply the Wednesday Noon Group. Our database also says that the group first met in 1976. We have some paper records in our files which are marked as being for the Wednesday Womens Noon Group, but they are dated between 1947 and 1951. The notation that connects the papers to that group seems to have been written at a later date, so it is unclear if these papers are related to the current Sisters By Choice Group. I am telling you this to let you know that the information in the paragraphs that follow are taken from these papers, which may or may not be for your group.

The first item we have is a letter from Sidney S. to the G.S.O. dated August 27, 1947. It includes newspaper articles which describe the new group in Redding. It also says that the group started meeting on August 22 and received help from members in Sacramento. Sidney S. says he was formerly a member of the Beverly Hills Group and asks for literature. He says the group had ten members. After this, we have a letter from James D. to the G.S.O. dated April 13, 1948. He says he has been a member for six weeks and that only he and one other person are A.A. members in Redding at this time. He states that there is great distrust of alcoholics in the town and that they must remain strictly anonymous. He asks if there is a correspondence service.

G.S.O. responded to James D. with a letter dated April 23, 1948. It says that members can be as anonymous as they wish and that they will send more letters if it would help. It acknowledges the difficulty of alcoholic stigma. It says that there is no "correspondence membership" and provides some advice for working the program. This is followed by a letter dated August 6, 1950 from H. S. to the G.S.O. It says that members are starting a New Redding Group because the old one and all of its members seem to be gone. It says that they have had two meetings so far, starting with three members and currently with eight. They want to be listed as a regular group and asks for any help and instruction available.

In response, G.S.O. wrote to H. S. on August 15, 1950. They say that the other group in Redding has not contacted the office in some time. They send a green card to fill out and return. After the card is received at the G.S.O., the group will be sent complimentary literature, a Directory, and a "Handbook for the Secretary." The next item is from Charlotte O. to the G.S.O. dated October 28, 1950. Charlotte was

the secretary and treasurer for the group. They send a contribution and thank G.S.O. for its help. They also say that they have had many contacts, and although not all stay, they foresee being successful.

An undated letter from Charlotte O. to the G.S.O. is next. It describes some trouble within the group caused by three members. The three members apparently want to start their own group. Finally, G.S.O. wrote to Charlotte O. on January 19, 1951. They thank the group for returning a filing card. They also say that dissention in the group is unfortunate for being unpleasant but good for promoting A.A. development. They advise that, if a faction wants to start a new group, she should let them. This is the last correspondence I was able to find.

Here are the entries for this group as they appear in our A.A. Directories going back to when it was first listed there:

1982 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Sherry H. was contact, 75 members

1983 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Sherry H. and Ellie P. were contacts, 20 members

1984 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Shirley S. and Maxine B. were contacts, 20 members

1985 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Shirley S. was contact, 20 members

1986 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Bonnie S. and Joann H. were contacts

1987 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Ronny W. and Joann H. were contacts

1988 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Ronny W. was contact

1989 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Ronny W. was contact

1990-1991 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Ronny W. was contact

1991-1992 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Ronny W. was contact

1992-1993 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Meetings on Wednesdays

1993-1994 A.A. Directory:

No Listing

1995-1996 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Jane M. was contact

1996-1997 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

1997-1998 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

1998-1999 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

1999-2000 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2000-2001 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2001-2002 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2002-2003 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2003-2004 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2004-2005 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2005-2006 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Wednesday Womens Noon Group – Telephone Number Listed

2007-2008 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Sandy K. was contact

2008-2009 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Sandy K. was contact

2010-2011 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Olivia O. was contact

2011-2012 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Olivia O. was contact

2012-2013 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Olivia O. was contact

2014-2015 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Olivia O. was contact

2015-2016 A.A. Directory:

Redding – Sisters By Choice Group – Meetings on Wednesdays, Olivia O. was contact

Both Jane M. and Sandy K. served as G.S.R.s for this group in the past. Also, Sandy K. and Olivia O. were primary contacts, with Judy M. as a secondary contact. Other than this, there is little I can tell you about the history of this group. Please keep in mind that the amount of available information about a group depends on the amount of information the group sent the G.S.O. throughout the years. In addition, it is common for groups to organize meetings, prior to contacting the G.S.O.

We hope that this information is useful to you and helps you to know the history of this group. If you need anything else, please contact me through E-mail at davrias@aa.org, by calling me at (212) 870-2568, or by writing our office. Thank you very much for your inquiry, interest, and service.

Sincerely Yours,



Steven D'Avria

Associate Archivist

General Service Office Archives