

Happy New Year to Everyone!

IAC is looking for a new tape/cd librarian. If interested, please write to us at www.iac-aa.org.

I am enclosing a letter from Peter M. our Denmark Representative on the History of AA in his country, Copenhagen. It is as follows:

The Gay and Lesbian Group rose after a Gay Island camp in 1984 where one of the subjects was "Gay and Alcohol". One of the participants knew about AA and shared generously his experience of keeping sober by the program of AA. As it turned out, there was a great interest of the subject and after the Gay Island camp 4 gay guys continued meeting privately at one of the participants. AA meetings took place in a quite informal way. After a while they realized the importance that the meetings were kept under the right forms, so they got a meeting in Ryesgade 107 together with the few AA groups existing on that time. The Gay and Lesbian Group's members were very respected by the other AA's, because of their active participation in all the groups. It was no problem to get allowed to have Gay and Lesbian meetings in Ryesgade 107 and the Gay meeting were registered in the meeting list as The Gay and Lesbian Group (not restrictive). The Gay Group was well visited, also by heterosexuals.

In 1987 some of the group members were anonymously interviewed in "Radio Rosa" a Gay radio program. This broadcasting brought the fifth gay guy to the group. Few months later the first lesbian group member appears.

In 1988 the church, who owned the meeting rooms in Ryesgade 107 got a new priest. He had a very different attitude to homosexuals. He shall have said "you come into AA and get sober, then you go out and sin as homosexuals" The priest gave an ultimatum, either the Gay and Lesbian Group had to leave the place, or all groups should disappear. The other AA groups were supportive to the Gay group but there was nothing to do about it!! So they left the Ryesgade rooms and got established in the church of Enghave. Wise by earlier mistakes, they told at once that the AA group was for Gay, Lesbians and Bisexuals. The priest was thrilled and meant the gay group would reach people, which the church could not.

In 1989 the next 2 Lesbians showed up and from there the group has grown. In 1990 the service area expanded. One of the issues AA's Service office of Denmark was looking into at the time was whether or not to register special groups on the meeting list. (F.ex. women groups and gay groups) Once agreed upon the meeting list is formed without register of special groups on the meeting-list. Yet another 4 years had to pass before the gay group was registered as a Gay and Lesbian group. Mean while some of the gay men started a new group for gay and bisexual men, in the rooms of Unity of 1948 (The Gay Community center) Today this group have Men's Meeting in Reformerte church on Friday at 0700pm. The Gay and Lesbian Group in Enghave continued in the years after. Sometimes near closing because of missing people. The group survived every time, either by sudden approach by new-comers or roundups by the old-timers. Today it's a good study group with around 15-20 regular members which whom consider the group to be their home group. It's all about identification, so thank God for being AA and Gay.

Yours in service
Peter

Hi Stan

By the look at it, then it's not much is it??? Anyhow, didn't mention that this is a country with only 5 mill people living in it. I guess AA still has to come of age around this part of the world ;-)

Bless ya'
Peter

Our current bank balance, as of 14 January 2006 is \$2,870.44. Please note our mailing address is:

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San Benito, TX 78586
USA

Notes from Readers follow:

mailto:jrpeters@earthlink.net]

>Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2006 02:45 AM

>To: iac-aa@iac-aa.org

>Subject: So glad to find you!

>

>Hi. My name is Jeff P. and I found out about you from the 12 step

>coffee shop for GLBT drunks and junkies in recovery. I live in a

>small, military town in Southwestern Oklahoma called Lawton, OK,

>USA. I feel isolated from my gay brothers and sisters. I can drive

>90 miles to Live and Let Live in Oklahoma City and do from time to

>time. I am curious as to the "gay friendliness" of the advertised

>round-ups. I know we are trained to look for the similarities rather

>than the differences. However, I am still a work in progress (Thank

>God). Is there something I can do to help? XO, Jeff P.

mailto:altransa@mail.wplus.net]

Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2005 01:21 PM

To: iac-aa@iac-aa.org

Subject: Gay AA

Dear friends,

Could you please provide me with information, whether there are any Gay AA groups in Russia (in particular, in St. Petersburg). I have phoned the contact given in your list, but they told me I got a wrong number.

Best regards,
Alexander,

In closing, I wish to leave you with some writings by the author Andy Andrews in his book entitled "The Traveler's Gift" isbn 0-7852-6428-0

I Will Seek Wisdom

"Knowing that wisdom waits to be gathered, I will actively search her out. My past can never be changed, but I can change the future by changing my actions today. I will change my actions today! I will train my eyes and ears to read and listen to books and recordings that bring about positive changes in my personal relationships and a greater understanding of my fellowman. No longer will I bombard my mind with materials that feed my doubts and fears. I will read and listen only to what increases my belief in myself and my future.

I will seek wisdom. I will choose my friends with care. I am who my friends are. I speak their language, and I wear their clothes. I share their opinions and their habits. From this moment forward, I will choose to associate with people whose lives and lifestyles I admire. If I associate with chickens, I will learn to scratch at the ground and squabble over crumbs. If I associate with eagles, I will learn to soar to great heights. I am an eagle. It is my destiny to fly.

I will seek wisdom. I will listen to the counsel of wise men. The words of a wise man are like raindrops on dry ground. They are precious and can be quickly used for immediate results. Only the blade of grass that catches a raindrop will prosper and grow. The person who ignores wise counsel is like the blade of grass untouched by the rain – soon to wither and die. When I counsel with just myself, I can make decisions only according to what I already know. By counseling with a wise man, I add his knowledge and experience to my own and dramatically increase my success.

I will seek wisdom. I will be a servant to others."

Personally, I find this to be true when attending AA meetings. I hope you find this to be an enriching statement and relate it to your life living it "one day at a time."

In service,

I remain,

Yours truly,

Stan L.
Deputy Chair
IAC