

A.A. HISTORY IN NEVADA

1945 – 1970 – 1990

NOVEMBER 1945

Letter to Alcoholic Foundation (now GSO) that a couple of loners had held the first A.A. meeting in Las Vegas.

DECEMBER 1945

Letter to Alcoholic Foundation stating group is continuing to meet.

JANUARY 1946

Las Vegas group returned questionnaire stating 24 members.

FEBRUARY 1946

Las Vegas group had Box 732 and Secretary Evelyn Galloway.

JUNE 1946

Excerpt from a letter to the Alcoholic Foundation from Ward D. Lee of San Francisco:

On May 23rd, while on business in Reno, I found that city had a bad need of an A.A. Group so I got busy and started one – a little group of four with the first meeting on Saturday evening in the house of Mr. & Mrs. C. Jaslin. I recently heard that the group has increased to ten.

JULY 1946

Reno Group now had fifteen members and Box 166 with a secretary, C. Holloran.

AUGUST 1946

Henderson Group – Box 453, Secretary K. Toth and four members.

Las Vegas Group – Now at Box 2, Secretary Millie Davis and thirty-five members.

SEPTEMBER 1946

Excerpt from Grapevine

Writing about the Las Vegas, Nevada Group, with 35 men and women to date, and the new branch that has been formed by members from Boulder City and Henderson, a Las Vegas correspondent, lauding the work of A.A., begins with: "Last November, when it was announced that Alcoholics Anonymous had organized in Las Vegas, a startled women went to her minister and complained at the sorry state of affairs. She declared that things were coming to an awful fix 'when the drunkards organize.'"

Reno Group reported building a clubhouse and plans a big meeting on November 17th with the San Francisco Group, the Governor, Warden of the State Prison, Chief of Police, Mayor and many others.

OCTOBER 1946

Excerpt from Grapevine

From Northern California comes word that there has been "considerable opposition to the A.A. program in Reno, Nevada." But since some of the Sacramento and Roseville members – 18 in all – went to Reno and held an opening meet, it is felt that the Reno populace now has a better understanding of the aims of A.A. . . .

FEBRUARY 1947

Nevada listings in the Directory shared a small page with two other states! The groups were shown in:

Carson City: five members, secretary John Doherty, 311 W. 3rd Street

Henderson: four members, same secretary and Box # as August 1946.

Las Vegas: thirty five members, same secretary and Box # as August 1946.

Reno: fifty-eight members, Secretary Ken Bovard, Box 166 (comprised of seven groups)

Carson City Group showed \$8.50 contribution to Alcoholic Foundation.

MARCH 1947

Carson City Group organized the first meeting in the Nevada State Prison. About 25 inmates attending regularly.

AUGUST 1947

Nevada added:

Ely: W.S. McGill, loner

Fallon: two members, L.S. Cooper – Box 672

Hawthorne: Charles Evans, Box 42 – loner

Verdi: Donner Trail Group – four members, Leslie Barnes, Box 96

Reno had a club at 22 E. 8th Street. The Carson City, Las Vegas and Reno groups all showed contributions.

FEBRUARY 1948

Nevada still shared a small page with three other states in the Directory.

Carson City: fifteen members, same secretary (\$15.00)

Fallon: same

Henderson: now listed the secretary as a loner

Las Vegas: thirty-five members, Secretary Mrs. Irving Ahlswede (\$35.00)

Reno: forty-five members, Secretary D.S. Raleigh (\$32.00)

Verdi: same

AUGUST 1948

Only five cities reported groups or loners:

Boulder City: David English, Box 908 – loner

Carson City: as above

Las Vegas: forty-five members, secretary Oscar Crogun

Reno: Group #1 – 60 members- Paul Fannigan

Group #2 – 14 members – Dick Hudson

Sparks: Betty Meyer, loner

JUNE 1949

A letter from the Reno Group states they had new headquarters at 415 W. 1st St. with closed meetings Monday and Wednesday evenings and open meetings on Friday evening – also a twenty-four-hour answering service.

The Spring 1949 Directory showed a membership for Nevada of 119. Boulder City was not listed and the Ely – White Pine Group had two members, Arnold Ney as secretary. Other listings showed little change from August of 1948.

1950

Nevada membership – 168. Listings shown for Carson City, Hawthorne, Henderson, Las Vegas, Reno and Sparks.

1951

Nevada membership 204. New listings shown for:

Beatty – Box 201, three members

Elko – Larry Johnson, six members

Reno – Three groups

1952

Nevada membership – 186. Beatty, Carson City, Henderson, Las Vegas and two Reno Groups listed.

1953

Nevada membership – 197. Beatty, Carson City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Reno – three groups and Sparks listed.

1954

Nevada membership – 188. Total 1953 contributions shown as \$260.

New listings

Lovelock: Raymond Corrigan, loner

Reno: Alano Club, 817 E. 4th St.

Winnemucca: Group #1, Box 885

Beatty, Carson City, Henderson, Las Vegas (100 members), Reno (40 members) and Sparks listed.

1955

Nevada membership – 186 Total Groups – 10. Total contributions 1954 - \$275. Sparks now showed two groups listed, all others same as 1954.

1956

Nevada membership – 217. Total Groups – 9. Total contributions 1955 - \$366. New listings shown:

Battle Mountain: Bettie Borden

Fernley: Ray Brady

All others are similar to 1954 and 1955.

1957

Nevada membership – 318. Total Groups – 15. Total contributions 1956 - \$454.

Beatty: Renee Gibson, loner

Carson City: Capitol Group – 20 members

Elko: John McAllister – 5 members

Eureka: Box 1051 – 7 members

Fallon: Catherine Breeding – 4 members

Fernley: Lucy Conner – 2 members and Ray Brady, loner

Henderson: Pearl Thanel – 10 members

Las Vegas: David Hawthorne – 150 members

Lovelock: M.E. Fayhe – 2 members

Reno: Group #1, Richard Kelly (30 members), Reno-Sparks Rebound Group, Jim Dougherty (15 minutes), Reno-Sparks Stag Group, Box 395 (11 members), Alano Club, 403 Hill

Sparks: Sparks Family Group, Box 395 (25 members), Washoe Saturday Night Group, Box 395 (20 members)

Winnemucca: Group #1, Homer Medford (10 members), V.B. Borden, loner.

1958

Nevada membership – 425. Total Groups – 17. Total contributions 1957 - \$629. New Listings:

Nellis AFB: C/O the Chaplain

All others are essentially the same as 1957 listings.

1959

Nevada membership – 373. Total Groups – 23. Total contributions 1958 - \$648.50. New listings shown for:

McGill: Dodie Tilson – 4 members

Las Vegas: Five Groups now shown: Downbeat Group (Stag) – Donald Nagely or Sam Moats, Fremont Group – 1623 Fremont, Friendly Group – 1623 Fremont, Las Vegas Group – Box 2 and Women's Discussion Group, Marilyn Mercer

Reno: Five Groups now shown: First Step Group – 789 So. Center, Group #1 – Box 1188, Reno- Sparks Saturday Night Intergroup – Ed Nance or Bill Harling, Reno-Sparks Stag Group – Box 395, Sunday Afternoon Group – Ed Nance

All other listings similar to 1957 and 1958.

1960

Nevada membership – 455. Total Groups 29. Total contributions 1959 - \$812.24. New listings:

Las Vegas: 4-2 Day Group, 306 ½ No. 9th St. Nite Owl Group, Sandra Lichtenfeld

Sunday Breakfast Group, John Wanamaker

Reno: After Hours Group, Box 1774

Independent Group, Box 1774

Sunday Breakfast Group, 22 E. 8th St.

Stateline: South Shore Lake Tahoe Group, George or Janie Sere

1961

Nevada membership – 560. Total Groups – 29. Total contributions 1960-\$783. New groups listed:

Babbitt: Milton Powell, loner

Las Vegas: The 12 Group, Kathy Appelt

We Care Group, Ethel O'Neill

Young People's, Group Box 2

Club: TIE, 306 No. 9th St.

Owyhee Group, Arther Manning

Las Vegas did have functioning P.I.C.

Reno: Women's Harmony Group, Margaret Kain

Tonopah: Gene Owens, Box 685 – Ioner

Delegate: Dick Williams Las Vegas

1962

Nevada membership – 528. Total Groups – 31. Total contributions 1961 - \$842.75 New listings shown:

Reno: Hour and A Half Group, Gerald Hodges

Club: Driars, 345 So. Wells

Delegate: Dick Williams, Las Vegas

1963

Nevada membership – 600. Total Groups – 31. Total contributions 1962 - \$1,440.65

New Listings:

Las Vegas: Intergroup Committee, Kathryn Appelt

Ala-Tots Group, Kelly Ryan

Fellowship Group, Loyd Young

Friday Night Group, Patty Woodard

Misfits Group, Mary Lou Everback

West Charleston Group, Jas Reeves

Reno: 12 x 12 Group, Anne Bough

Our Delegate and Area Chairman for 1963 was listed as Kathryn Appelt, Las Vegas

1964

Nevada Membership – 583. Total Groups – 40. Total contributions 1963 - \$1,177.00 (including \$75 from "Area Meeting" and \$100 from "State Conference"). Area Delegate: Kathryn Appelt; Area Chairman: Bud Bryant, Elko

Several new groups were listed in the Directory and many of the contact's names changed. Some still familiar ones were D.L. Coffee, Helen Weyerman, Dan Kitchens, Joe McClain, Irene Cunningham, Opal Bradley and Rose Marie Gordon, all of Las Vegas; Irene Onufrock of Reno.

Las Vegas Central Office opened on Stewart Street with volunteer help.

1965

Nevada Membership – 769. Total Groups – 49. Total contributions 1964 - \$1,249.00. Delegate: Ray Free, Fallon; Chairman: Les Echols, Las Vegas.

Some more still familiar names appeared as contacts for different groups: Doug Rather, Joanne Kraft, Charles Britton, Helen Hutchinson – all of Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Central Office moved to 711 Fremont.

1966

Nevada Membership – 887. Total Groups – 57. Total contributions 1965 - \$1,135.46. Delegate and Area Chairman were same as 1965 listing. Groups becoming too numerous to list.

1967

Nevada Membership – 880. Total Groups – 40. Total contributions 1966 - \$1,0934.00. Delegate: Les Echols, Las Vegas. Chairman: Bob Roberts, Reno.

1968

Nevada Membership – 718. Total Groups – 52. Total contributions 1967 - \$1,124.96 (including \$100 from the first So. Nevada Round-up). The Delegate and Area Chairman were same as listed for 1967.

1969

Nevada Membership – 756. Total Groups – 51. Total contributions 1968 - \$1,519.75 (including \$150 from “Panel 17 Delegate Round-up”). Area Delegate: Bob Rogers, Reno Area Chairman: Kathy Appelt, Las Vegas.

1970

Nevada Membership – 776. Total Groups – 51. Total contributions 1969 - \$2,072.10 (including \$200 from S. Nevada Round-up). The Delegate and Area Chairman were same as listed for 1967.

Beatty and Fernley listed loners in the Directory and the following locations listed Groups:

- Carson City: Four groups (36 members)
- Elko: One group (15 members)
- Ely: One group
- Fallon: One group (20 members)
- Henderson: Two groups (14 members)
- Las Vegas: Nineteen groups (304 members)
- Lovelock: One group (7 members)
- Minden: One group (6 members)
- Panaca: One group (4 members)
- North Las Vegas: One group (30 members)
- Owyhee: One group (3 members)
- Reno: Fourteen groups (223 members)
- Searchlight: One group (2 members)
- Sparks: Two groups (28 members)
- Winnemucca: One group (4 members)

Reno was site for International Young Peoples Conference.