

**MONDAY
NIGHT
DUBOISTOWN**



DUBOISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Archives

"Monday Night Duboistown" Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

District 48

(originally "The Linden Group")

The "Linden Monday Night Group" began sometime in the summer of 1983. Lindenites wanted a meeting closer to home other than the Williamsport meetings they sometimes had to walk to. Vicki B. contacted the General Service Office and found out how to get a meeting started. Besides Vicki B., the charter members included Sherry, Warren M., Mike B., and "Big Ed" who later moved to Florida (see "enthusiastic man", *District Diary*, next page). Other early members were Dale D., Ben C., Andy H., Kate P., and Bill Mc C. The first meetings were held at the church in the east side of the Village of Linden.

The initial group conscience chose an *open discussion* format and also realized the importance of a period at the beginning of the meeting for those who were "jammed-up". For a while, the last meeting of the month was a *speaker meeting*, but this was dropped in favor of keeping the fellowship flowing week-by-week.

Shortly after it started, the group moved out of the church and into the Woodward Township Building, due in large part through the efforts of Dale D. The meeting grew in attendance and for various reasons of group consciences, split into two meetings with a *men's meeting* on Thursday. The Thursday meeting did not stay stag for long and, with some failed attempts to change the format over the years, both meetings are now and have been devoted to the members of the group in *open discussion*. The group stayed in Linden for almost ten years until the local powers decided to perform major renovations on the township building. In the Spring of 1994, Charlie M.'s efforts enabled the group to move out of Linden and into the basement of the Duboistown United Methodist Church. On rare occasions,

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when the church has special events, the group meets at the Wings of Love Community Church in east South Williamsport.

The group retains a down-to-earth honesty and openness about it, not only from the characters that call it "home", but perhaps also due to the atmosphere created by the old tables everyone sits around, which the group was allowed to bring with them from Linden. The tables have their own lore and history, first built for an ice skating rink, then adopted by the Woodward Township Building, then again adopted by the group. Warren M. tells a story of the "magical" beginnings of the tables (see District 48 Newsletter, December 1997, *District Diary*, at right) which no one cares to dispute, since any home group member will tell you that the tables do possess an "aura" of some sort.

A few other old stories come from the Linden days. The Woodward Township Building was a local gathering place for many activities. One night, a fellow wandered through the door of the AA meeting room, grabbed a cup of coffee, and took a chair. It didn't take him long to realize it wasn't the township meeting. Good coffee, nice people, wrong door.

"DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?"

This tale comes from Warren of the old Linden Group, (now Monday night at Duboistown).

"There's magic in these trees," the old log skidder told him. "When I have problems I come here and ask the trees. The answers are always here if you listen." Warren didn't hear nuthin'. For years he listened, but only heard the trees fall and the horses haul them to the saw mill(now F&S) where the blades would cry-out their own questions to the unyielding wood, and silently, the boards laid, for years. Then the township of Linden built a skating rink and the boards were used to make some tables for the skates to be rented from. The tables were used for other functions and saw a lot of life and lives go by. They became such dependable pieces of furniture that they were nearly spirited away to Florida with one enthusiastic man who claimed that the tables had a certain "magic" about them. Fortunately, the Linden Group had to move from their first home at the Linden Church and take-up residence at the Township Building, where they found the tables to be remarkably amiable to hosting a collection of lost souls and hearing their problems. When, once again the group had to move, they took the tables with them to the Duboistown United Methodist Church. And on Monday and Thursday nights, sitting at those tables, if you listen, you can hear the answers to your problems.

Click on the text box at left for a the table story and picture

The Christmas party of 1986 was a memorable experience. It was very cold outside, but warmth and fellowship abounded inside. There was lots of food and refreshments and the back part of the hall had to be opened to accommodate everyone. But all that warmth and fellowship couldn't keep the pipes from freezing and the toilet backed up. A few unnamed heroes found gratitude in cleaning-up the mess.

Gratitude in the home group breeds good commitment takers and in 1997 Cheryl B. made Monday Night Duboistown her home group. The group traditionally has a cake the first Monday of every month in celebration of anniversaries. Cheryl took the commitment and baked a cake *so good* that became the topic of the "meeting after the meeting". However, the next week Cheryl brought another cake. And the next week, another. For two months, Cheryl brought a cake every Monday night. No one had the heart, or stomach, to explain to her it was only a one-week per one-month commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally A. and Mike K.

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It's been a long time (at least 20 years) since this was updated. Many of the original member have passed on, some of which left their marks on our revered table. (See <https://www.district48aa.org/table.html>)

A lot of things have happened. The internet and cell phones became available to the public, New York's twin towers were destroyed (9/11/01), Barack Obama served two terms as the first black President of the United States, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series for the first time in 108 years and I got sober.

Other things have happened of course; but those are the ones that immediately come to mind. 😊

More recently, we have lived with the Covid 19 pandemic, infecting 505,000,000 people worldwide, and killing 6,200,000 to date.

Locally, this plague has adversely affected our meeting attendance for the past two years – closing several of the meetings in our district and forcing others to make use of the internet for virtual meetings.

Like most meetings, Monday night Duboistown has suffered significantly in meeting attendance. From a high water mark of 40 to 50 attendees, we're now down to an average of 12 to 20; though attendance is slowly improving since mask mandates have largely been lifted and most people have been vaccinated.

We continue to carry the message of AA to all and are rejoicing at the appearance of newcomers coming through our door.

We look forward with anticipation to the next chapter in sobriety as we trudge the road to happy destiny.

David Bailey, GSR

April 19, 2022