

# GROUP 86 history

On April 15, 1968, Jack W., Bill B., and Jerry C., started Group 86 of Vacaville, California on after leaving The Vacaville Group which was the first AA group in the city. They first met on Tuesday evenings at the Alamo School, 500 S. Orchard St., Vacaville. The meetings later moved to a church on Elizabeth St. in 1977. It finally moved to the Epiphany Episcopal Church, 300 West St., Vacaville around 1979-1980. Jack was the one who suggested the name of the meeting because of all the places they were “86'd.”

Jack believes the Vacaville meetings were founded on strong adherence to the Twelve Traditions. He felt that the Traditions of AA kept both The Vacaville Meeting and Group 86 solid. He remembers the biggest controversy was about a toy poodle that a member insisted on bringing. The poodle kept fainting and Jack “kindly” remembers the dear dog lifting his leg on his pants.

Gomer R. joined Group 86 in 1977 when it met on Elizabeth St.

and later attended the meetings when they were held Tuesday night at the Episcopal Church at the corner of Buck and West St. At that time, the group had approximately eight members. The meeting was in the same room as now, but they used half the room and only one table. The charter members at that time were Jack W., Jim J., Bob S., and Win and Mary S. He remembers in the early days there were not very many meetings in Vacaville so several members of Group 86 often would get together and travel to out-of-town meetings. Gomer says that AA had a lot more tough love in those days.

Forrest and Gail J. joined Group 86 in 1978. In 1985 they moved to Grass Valley, California and returned to Vacaville and Group 86 in 1998. Forrest remembers that the Vacaville AA meetings in the early days were very small. The members then were Forrest and Gail, Alex and Gloria G., Gomer R., Win and Mary S., Bob S., Jim J., and Sherry and her husband. Doll B. joined Group 86 in 1980.

Art H. joined in 1982 and was a home group member until 1999. The meeting was changed from Tuesday to Thursday evenings due to a conflict of meeting times with the church's schedule in 1983 or 1984. The group treasurer at that time was Pat. There was also a group of people Art

remembers that he was told that came in together in 1981. These members were Suzi P., Shirley R. and Jim Y.

Marie C. came to Vacaville from San Francisco when she was eight years sober about 1984 and made Group 86 her home group. There were only about four meetings in Vacaville then. Marie brought the handclap to the Vacaville meetings and encouraged other members to start clapping.

Tom C.'s first AA meeting was at Group 86 in March of 1983 which became his home group. At that time, it met on Tuesday at the Episcopal Epiphany Church. Win S. was particularly important to him in early sobriety, as was Bill G. from Fairfield. There were only two meetings in Vacaville then; the Thursday Seekers and Group 86 on Tuesday. In 1983 the church needed the meeting room on Tuesday night, so Group 86 changed to Thursday, making two meetings in Vacaville on Thursday night.

About 1996, the group decided to have a 7:00 P.M. Beginner's Meeting. Tom C. was the first secretary of that meeting and developed a format from information received from the New York Office Beginner's

Meeting Format. The Anniversary Meeting of Group 86 was talked about for a long time and finally began in 1996 with the group's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Tradition meeting was sporadically held prior to 1992, and then held every month once a month to the present. The group always had an "Ask It Basket" Meeting. The Ticket Meeting was originally done by handing out tickets to members entering the meeting until one night when a newcomer's number was called. The newcomer thought he had won something and was disappointed to find out that he didn't. After that, the numbers pulled were matched to the number on the meeting attendance list, and that person asked to share.

All of the group's service positions are usually filled and the Agenda Topics are discussed every year. Group 86 continues to believe strongly in following the Twelve Traditions.