

A.A. Group # 4 The New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



On May 14, 1939, a Sunday afternoon, the very first meeting of what was to become the New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous took place in the home of Hank and Kathleen P. in Upper Montclair. Meetings that had been formerly held in Brooklyn were held in New Jersey for the next 5 or 6 weeks. The meetings began at 4:00 PM and went most of the night. They rotated speakers for the first portion according to Jimmy B. who was living at Hank and Kathleen's home at that time. These were dinner meetings with Herb D. of South Orange paying for a "big spread". The wives always attended these meetings along with their spouses. At the May 14th meeting the attendees voted in the Bill and Lois Home Replacement Fund and each pledged different amounts of support. Bill and Lois were doing an errand when they voted on this. They arrived shortly thereafter and Lois wrote in her diary that they were thrilled. Marty M., a Blythewood Sanitarium patient at the time, took the train from Connecticut to this historical event of Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Group of A.A. was later renamed the South Orange Sunday Night Group