

*New Beginnings Group
Archives Report
District 48*

It is not known to the exact date but somewhere between 1982 and 1983 the group called 'New Beginnings' began meeting in Montoursville, Pa. The early members of the group were residents of the local halfway house known as 'Snyder's Recovery House.'

To get to meetings the residents had to go to Williamsport as time allowed. As the house residents had no transportation of their own and public transportation was limited it became apparent that there was a need for local meetings at least one night of the week. The house members and the occasional 'Friend of Bill' thusly began meeting every Tuesday night in the Montoursville Borough building on the second floor above the police headquarters.

While we do not have any original minutes to the meetings it is thought that because there were never any more than 3 to 5 people at most meetings the format was 'round robin' so as to occupy the allotted hour. It is probable that a lot of meetings went around more than one time.

As time went by the local population began to feel uncomfortable with the growing presence of recovering people in their sleepy little town. The 'House' became the center of controversy. Soon the meeting (which was perhaps considered affiliated with the 'House') was told they could no longer meet in the Borough Building. What reasons were given is not known at this writing but it is conceivable that to local perception this was a conflict of interest. It has also been rumored that somewhere along the line a set of initials was found carved into the borough building's meeting table. At any rate some of the residents who attended the local catholic church suggested asking the Priest for haven and it was done. Somewhere in 1986-7 the House manager asked the priest at O.S.O.L church for and received permission for the group to meet in the church's rectory basement.

As time and recovery went by the group began to grow as members of District 48 began showing interest in the little meeting. Soon AA's from the house, their sponsors and even the occasional female member had the group over-flowing into the hallway and in 1992 the group moved over into the bingo hall where it still meets today.

The meeting that started with 3-5 people is now regularly attended by fifty or more people every week.