

History of the Plug in the Jug

History of the Plug in the Jug As the story goes with so many AA meetings, the Plug in the Jug began with a resentment. Many of the Plug's founders were home group members at North Group, a Saturday evening speaker meeting. That meeting held a group conscience vote where they chose to go non-smoking, years before it was popular to do so. This sent a group of disgruntled smokers off to found their own Saturday evening speaker meeting, and the Plug in the Jug was born. **The first meeting of the Plug in the Jug Group of Alcoholics Anonymous took place on Saturday, November 4, 1988, at St. Ann's Episcopal Church at the corner of Indianola Avenue and Wallahalla Road.** The first speaker was Pearl T. and Bill K. served as the group's first secretary.

The Plug in the Jug grew quickly, and those in attendance regularly overflowed from its tiny meeting room. This earned the group the nickname, "The Biggest Little Meeting in Columbus." This rapid growth led to Plug in the Jug changing locations within a year, to Christ Presbyterian Church, located on Cleveland Avenue near Morse Road. However, the Plug would not be at this location, or on Saturday nights, for much longer. At that time, many of the Plug's home group members regularly attended AA conferences on the weekends, leaving just a few home group members back at home to shoulder the responsibility of running the meeting. Yet again, resentment was the catalyst for change. The group voted to move the meeting time to Wednesday night at 7:30, which allowed all the home group members to be in regular attendance. There was also the added benefit that, in those days, there were very few speaker meetings on Wednesday night. The change in meeting time also meant that the group had to find a new location.

In 1990, the Plug in the Jug moved to Holy Name Church on Patterson Avenue in the OSU campus area of Columbus. The group stayed at this location for 30 years until the Covid-19 pandemic struck in March 2020. On March 18, 2020, the Plug in the Jug held its first ever online meeting using Zoom. Like AA groups around the world, the Plug in the Jug had to adapt rapidly, learning how to use this technology to continue to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. In April 2021, while still meeting on Zoom, the group received word that it would not be able to re-open in its previous physical meeting space at Holy Name Church. The hunt for a new home for Plug in the Jug was on! It took a few months, but by late summer 2021, Plug in the Jug found its new location at Central Vineyard Church. The first meeting in the new space, and the first in-person meeting since March 2020, took place on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. As a group, the Plug in the Jug remains committed to service, respect for the Traditions, and fulfilling its primary purpose to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. The attendance ranges from 80 to 180. When it was close to 200, we made some changes because the

distractions were impeding the meeting. We turned the coffee off at 7:30 and a few other changes which has been successful in decreasing distractions but also resulted in attendance hovering around 80 to 100. The Plug in the Jug has also been involved with service outside of the actual meeting, and over the years has supported activities with Area 53, COGF, Spring Round-Up, and the Winter Gathering. Plug members have also brought meetings into treatment centers to introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Submitted by Kathy C.

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