

"Living Life on Life's Terms"

EVERY THING HAPPENS FOR A REASON

"Nothing, absolutely nothing, happens in God's world by mistake." These were the first words that raced through my mind after realizing I was going to have to take my youngest son off of life support. Standing numb, I recalled years before when my oldest boy ran away from home. I called my sponsor. "Danny, what if something happens to him? What if he gets drunk and killed in a car crash?"

My sponsor replied: "It's not so much about what happens to him, as to what would happen with you. Remember, God loves him more than you. Would you start drinking again or would you accept life completely on life's terms? We're all in the palm of His hand." The paragraph about acceptance on page 417 became my credo.

Now, years later, I had to let go of my beloved child. At the same time, I had to let go and let God-allow myself to fall into the loving arms of my AA friends. They enveloped me like giant angel wings until I was strong enough to work on acceptance. Complete acceptance.

And so it came to be. I now know, if I cling to my program, there is nothing in this world that can make me take a drink if I don't want to. Not the loss of a job, a relationship, or even the tragic death of one's child. AA has helped to bring me from suicidal grief to unexplainable joy, and for that I am forever grateful.

~Mike H.



For me, "living life on life's terms" is only possible if I try to "live life on God's terms." I don't know if I heard this idea expressed by someone in recovery or if the thought was a direct inspiration from God. Regardless, living life on life's terms forces me to rely on God for my hope, my strength and my courage to keep trudging this road.

The Big Book talks about being maladjusted to life. Frankly, I think I was born maladjusted to life. I once heard a speaker at a women's conference say "my life hurt." That statement resonated with me; I could relate. My life no longer hurts today but I am guaranteed to have trials in my life.

The only chance I have of navigating through this world is by taking the hand of God and letting Him lead the way. I am grateful for Alcoholics Anonymous for leading me back to God.

~ Karen C.



Our Community News

Preparations are underway for this year's **Gratitude Dinner** sponsored by Intergroup. It will be held on Saturday, November 7th at Holy Trinity Church. Many hands are needed to help make this event as successful as it has been in the past. The time of the next meeting will be announced at meetings, or call the Intergroup office.

The Good Morning God group of the **Primary Purpose Club** will be hosting a celebration for the 5th year anniversary of the founding of the club. This will take place on Saturday, September 12th beginning at 11:00 a.m., with "Food, Fun and Fellowship." The club's address is 1329 NW 6th Street. Flyer enclosed.

Other Dates to Remember for 2015:

September 3-6:

57th ICYPAA, Miami, FL
57thICYPAA.org

October 3-4:

Unity Roundup*, Jacksonville, FL
www.floridaunityroundup.com

September 18-20:

Women in Recovery, Delray Beach, FL
www.http://thewomeninrecovery.com

*The Florida Unity Roundup is a newly created yearly event to strengthen and unify our area AAs and AFGs. All of the recovery community is invited to join us in Jacksonville for our inaugural event in October 2015. We will celebrate our recovery with outstanding AA and Alanon speakers, a Red Ball meeting, Old Timers Panel, a Saturday night banquet, dancing, AA play, great fellowship and more!

September 4-7:

Summer Serenity at the Beach, Sandestin, FL
www.sandestinbeachhilton.com

September 18-20:

AIAnon Convention, St. Pete Beach, FL
www.TakingCareofBusiness2015.com



Reminder: **Promises Group** will be holding Saturday meetings at Highlands Presbyterian, 1001 NE 16th Ave on home game nights. Flyer enclosed.

Upcoming Topics in the P.O.S.T.:

October: "**Grappling with Grudges**"

November: "**Progressive Gratitude**"

December: "**How Do We Give It Away?**"

Thought for the Day

"You can take the brandy out of the fruitcake, but you are still left with the fruitcake."
-- Anonymous

Get yourself published! Entry deadline is the 15th of each month. Send your topic articles, op-eds, cartoons to post@northcentralflaa.org.

Congratulations!

August Anniversaries



BYOB

JS - 31 yrs

K - 13 yrs

Downtown Group

JO - 8 yrs

LE - 10 yrs

Eye Opener

J - 26 yrs

N - 4 yrs

PA - 12 yrs

SW - 25 yrs

Free To Be

BB - 2 yrs

EF - 3 yrs

Gratitude

N - 12 yrs

Hawthorne Group

P - 19 yrs

C - 15 yrs

Sat. 10th & 11th Step

MR - 5 yrs

Tuesday Night Step Study

P - 12 yrs

Women's Step Study

BH - 14 yrs

BS - 30 yrs

MA - 21 yrs

MR - 5 yrs

SC - 32 yrs

SS - 28 yrs

Micanopy Group

KM - 12 yrs

Fourth Dimension

MC - 2 yrs (July)

Women's Serenity Seekers

LA - 1 yr (July)



September Anniversaries? Send them by Sept. 15th to: post@northcentralfla.org

Everyone has one . . .

My home group has been essential to my recovery. Over the years the group has changed in many ways: people have moved, people have died and newcomers have joined. The group has waxed and waned in size; the personality of the group has changed. The group will go on without me, but will I stay sober without the group? I haven't left when the group conscience didn't match mine. I have put principles before personalities, because I have learned how to trudge the road of happy destiny there.

~ Anonymous



~ Anonymous

North Central Florida Intergroup Minutes July 26, 2015

The meeting opened at 1:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

Attendance: BK, Free to Be; BB, A Vision for You; BM, Eye Opener; CH, By the Book; DE, BYOB; EB, Downtown Group; HB, YPG, Gifts of Sobriety; IW, All Inclusive Solution; JS, HALT; LD, Tuesday Night Step Study; MV, Promises; EM, Good Morning God; PM, IG Secretary, Women's Thursday Step Study; RG, Unity, T.I.L.I.S; SR, IG Chair, Sat 10/11th Step.

Secretary's Report: A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by EB, seconded by BK. The motion passed

Treasurer's Report: After a discussion regarding where the group contributions were located, a motion was made to accept the report by EB and seconded by LD. The motion passed.

Phone Committee: All slots are covered as of July 26th, but there is always a need for volunteers. The only requirement is 6 months sobriety.

P.O.S.T.: Submissions for articles are always welcomed, see the P.O.S.T. for upcoming topics. If your birthday is not published, you may resubmit it for publication.

Literature/Merchandise: There is a supply shortage of many of the pamphlets at the IG Office. Orders are being placed to restock the supply.

Where & When: The Where & When has been updated and new copies are ready for distribution.

Activities: There is a lot going on during the month of August. The **Hawthorne Group/IG Picnic** is scheduled for August 22nd at Luther Springs. See the flyer for details. The **59th Florida State Convention** is the weekend of August 14-16th. See the flyer for details. "**Back To Basics**" is beginning again at the Triangle Club on August 8th. The **Gratitude Dinner** is scheduled for November 7th at the usual location. The first committee meeting is August 19th at the IG Office at 5:30 p.m. The **Gratitude Group** is hosting a picnic on Labor Day, Sept 7th at the Triangle Club. The **Primary Purpose Club** is having a celebration on Sept 12th for its 5-Year Anniversary.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn made by HB, seconded by LD. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. with the Responsibility Pledge.



Each year, Grapevine holds an **Annual Photo Contest** for photographs to be featured in our Wall Calendar. We'd love to see your photographs that reflect the joy of living, serenity and other sobriety themes. Contributors of selected photos will receive complimentary copies of the 2017 Calendar and Pocket Planner. Entries must be received by December 1, 2015. They cannot be returned, and may be considered for magazine illustrations. Digital files must be high-resolution—300 dpi minimum. Go to www.aagrapevine.org for details.

The Magic Carpet Meeting

a Grapevine-based meeting
6:30 p.m. Tuesday – Room 204
Trinity United Methodist Church

For more information: Grapevine@AAnfIDistrict14.org

Treatment Corner

We all know the Serenity Prayer because we say it at basically every meeting. It is important, but this part of the second verse gives me personal inspiration: "Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as a pathway to peace." In the beginning, I didn't understand it. How can all the crap that happened to me make me peaceful? It only makes me angry, and fills me with self-pity.

I started taking meetings into detox and residential treatment facilities where I found a purpose for my suffering. I realized that my "bottom" and "incomprehensible demoralization" have given me a unique opportunity to relate to others still struggling with the concept of never being able to "have fun" again. Every single time I leave those meetings, I can see how very blessed I am to have somehow caught sobriety; the real stuff, not the con game I had played with myself for so long. I see my "yets" on a regular basis, so when life throws me a sucker punch it is easier for me to NOT reach for a drink. ACCEPTING life on life's terms is the key for this drunk to stay sober. And just maybe, I can offer hope for a better life for someone I meet along the way. Many did that for me, and that is why I am still here.

~ DO, Treatment Chair

FCYPAA

The 352 Bid for FCYPAA is excited to start the new bidding season. FCYPAA is the Florida Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. The conference is full of service, sobriety, spirituality, and friendship. In 2012, several local members of Alcoholics Anonymous attended the conference in Ft Myers. That experience truly touched those members and fired them up to start a bid in Gainesville. With the help of our community, a lot of hard work, and AA, we have completed two years of bidding. Bidding entails getting a group of members to plan a conference, carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, and create bonds with other alcoholics that we call family today. The bid will be having business meetings every Sunday at the Triangle club at 5:00 p.m. Every other week will be main business meetings, with subcommittee meetings every other Sunday. We welcome all with open arms, and still have positions open for service. We hope to see you soon!

~ I, Secretary, 352 Bid for FCYPAA

District 14

DCM* Corner

Hi everybody! We had our monthly District 14 meeting on August 12th. As always, we had a great turnout. I appreciate all the GSRs, committee chairs, and visitors who are involved in our effort to carry the message! Please get in touch with me if you or your home group want to be a part of this rewarding service.

We have a great opportunity coming up to learn more about all the service committees at the district level - our annual Service Workshop will be October 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. at Parkview Baptist Church. All of our district committees will have information tables set up as well as games to play. Intergroup and the 352 Bid for FCYPAA will also be represented. Breakfast will be served and our Area Delegate and Alt Delegate will give a presentation near the end of the workshop. There is no Gator game that day and it's free! It's a great time to pick out something you like and get involved. Thank you for helping me stay sober.

GN, DCM, District 14, (352) 283-2648

*DCM: The District Committee Member is the link between GSRs and the Area Delegate, and serves as Chairperson for District business meetings. Want to know more? Ask your sponsor.

District Service Committee Meetings

District 14 Business Meeting

Second Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Grapevine

Second Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 204

Accessibilities

Second Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Triangle Club

Literature

Second Monday, 6:30 p.m., Intergroup Office

Archives

First Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Triangle Club

Phones (NCFI Committee)

Second Tuesday, 5:00 p.m., Intergroup Office

Corrections

Third Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Triangle Club

Treatment

First Monday, 6:30 p.m., Triangle Club

CPC/PI

First Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Triangle Club

Visit the District 14 website at
www.aanfldistrict14.org for more information.

7th Tradition Addresses



Self-support: Where money and spirituality mix.

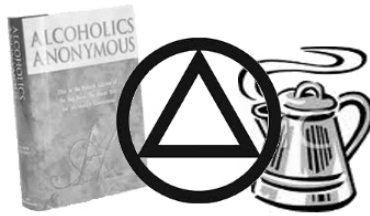
North Central Florida Intergroup
2632 NW 43rd Street, Suite 1182
Gainesville, FL 32606-7551
[Checks payable to: NCFI]

North Florida Area Assembly
P.O. Box 291634
Port Orange, FL 32129-1634
[Checks payable to NFAC]

District 14
P.O. Box 357254
Gainesville, FL 32635-7254
[Checks payable to District 14]

General Services Office
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central
Station, NY, NY 10163
[Checks payable to GSO]

NCFI



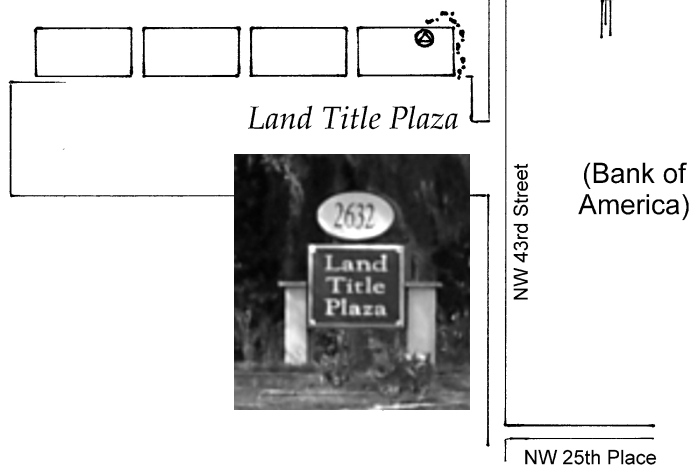
North Central Florida INTERGROUP

Our office is located in
Land Title Plaza

2632 NW 43rd Street, Suite 1182
 (Same office. New number on the door.)
 Gainesville, FL 32606-7551
 Telephone: 352-372-8091

Our office hours are:
 Monday - Friday: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday: Closed

Walk around the **BACK**
 of the building
 nearest the street.



Meetings Schedule

The *Where and When* is available at our office, and online at our website:
www.northcentralflaa.org/wandw.html

P.O.S.T. Submissions

Send articles and anniversaries to:
post@northcentralflaa.org
 or mail them to the NCFI office.

To add, change, or delete meetings listings,
 please use "*Meetings Change Form*," also available at our office, and online at
www.northcentralflaa.org/mtg-change/mtg-change-form-options.html,
 or follow the link from the Intergroup home page: www.northcentralflaa.org.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on the last Sunday of the month, September 27th at 1:00 p.m. at Schaffer Hall 2505 NE 9th Street

The P.O.S.T. (and more) in Cyberspace

The *Power of Sober Thinking* can now be found online. You can find the current and past issues (back to January of 2014) at <http://www.northcentralflaa.org/d.post/post.html>.

Our home-page, <http://www.northcentralflaa.org>, has links to the *Where and When* (our schedule of meetings), notices of special events, and more.