

Spiritual Guide - Our Sponsor

There seems to be quite a variety of opinions about sponsorship in AA. Is it a mentor, an advisor, or instructor? How about a counselor, consultant, or coach? Maybe a trainer, teacher, or tutor? I would have to say *yes*, and more. As a spiritual guide and role model, my sponsor shows me how to live, one day at a time, with the principles of the steps. It's his gift of love and service and it's my job to pass it on in gratitude.

Keeping in mind that the word "sponsor" does not appear at all in the first 164 pages (the Basic Text) of the Big Book and only occurs 13 times in the 12 & 12, it may be important to keep this person's role in perspective. A sponsor's job is to take us through the steps, and then help us take others through the steps, while we all make an honest and concerted effort to live by those principles. It is not a sponsor's duty to manage medical, psychological, or financial matters.

The idea of one alcoholic working with another alcoholic is mentioned over 100 times in our basic text. Bill Wilson thought it was so important that he made a separate chapter for "Working With Others." The estimated recovery rate of 75% listed in the forward for the 2nd and

3rd editions seems to have dropped to about 10% in the last sixty years or so. Are we that bad at sponsoring? Have we lost touch with Big Book sponsorship? Perhaps.

The "style" of sponsorship that seems to work best is the "peer-to-peer" approach where the sponsor humbly presents this material to a fellow sufferer, offers a solution, and takes that person through the steps. This establishes a trusting relationship which, in my case, has not only saved my life, but also has resulted in peace of mind and a useful existence as a member of our society. There is a saying that "to whom much is given much shall be required." This process of giving back is not only an expression of gratitude, but also keeps me sober and usefully whole.

I'm so grateful that our mentoring system in AA was in place when I got here as a broken person. I've been blessed to have several spiritual role models to give me good guidance and encouragement. It's a debt that I couldn't possibly live long enough to repay!

~Anonymous

"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail."

~ Big Book, page 89



Community News

Founders Day, held on June 11th was a great success again! Many thanks to our District 14 Archives Committee, the Founders Day Committee, and all the groups that helped sponsor this huge event. We had over 350 people attend. There was some great food, a history of District 14, an excellent main speaker, and a dance to end the night. Thanks to all those who helped!!!

PLEASE READ...We need you!

We need your help in recruiting 12 Step volunteers for the phones and for going on 12th Step calls. We are in the process of updating our Telephone Volunteers' Guide for our volunteers' use in answering phone calls from fellow alcoholics. If you, your program friends, sponsees, or sponsor have 6 months or more sobriety and are interested in doing this valuable service, or would like to know more about it, call C S-H at (919) 601-9522 or B B. at (352) 318 -1423.

The **60th Florida State Convention** "New Freedom New Happiness" will be held at Innisbrook Golf Resort and Spa in Palm Harbor, FL, August 3rd-7th, 2016. Palm Harbor is centrally located on the Gulf Coast and is easily accessible from all parts of Area 1, Area 14, Area 15 and Georgia. Flyers are included here. If you would like to register or just find out more, please visit: www.60.flstateconvention.com

Back to Basics

The next program will be run Saturdays in August, beginning at 8:30 a.m., at the Triangle Club. For RSVP or further information please email T@gmail.com. A flyer is enclosed here.

Serenity in the Scenic City, Chattanooga Tennessee, August 19-21, 2016. Email or call us at: sschostcommittee@gmail.com (423) 316-8333 (See flyer)

The fourth annual **Women in Recovery Conference** will be held August 26-28th at the Delray Marriott, in Delray, Fl. For more information or to register go to: www.thewomeninrecovery.com There is a flyer at the Intergroup Office.

District 27

(Serving Dixie, Levy & Gilchrist Counties)

District 27 Business Meeting

3rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.
St. Albans Episcopal Church
7550 NW 149th Place, Chiefland

District 27 Hotline:

(352) 949-2239

Contributions Address:

District 27 A.A.
P.O. Box 1257
Bronson, FL 32621

Website Address:

www.District27aa.org



Congratulations!

June Anniversaries

Big Book Basics

K M - 3 yrs

Everything or Nothing

S S - 1 yr

Eye Opener

B - 7 yrs

D - 1 yr

J - 19 yrs

S - 15 yrs

Fourth Dimension

C G - 46 yrs

Free to Be

K K - 3 yrs

I F - 4 yrs

Gifts of Sobriety

J V - 35 yrs

T M - 15 yrs

Gratitude

H W - 2 yrs

B A - 3 yrs

J J - 25 yrs

R D - 25 yrs

E M - 33 yrs

Hawthorne Group

D M - 54 yrs

J D - 8 yrs

Melrose Happy Hour Group

S P - 1 yr

J S - 10 yrs

P G - 23 yrs

Promises

J M - 48 yrs

Saturday 10th & 11th Step

E H - 25 yrs

R - 1 yr

S T - 30 yrs

S M - 16 yrs

Tuesday Night Step Study

B P - 7 yrs

B H - 1 yr

J K - 3 yrs

J H - 32 yrs

Women's Serenity Seekers

A C - 2 yrs

A S - 6 yrs

L A - 6 yrs

M S - 2 yrs

N D - 1 yr

B S - 28 yrs



July Anniversaries? Send them by July 15th to: post@northcentralflaa.org

Eye Opener Group Sponsors Back to Basics

Back to Basics is nothing more than an AA meeting format from the mid 1940's. It was used by many of the AA Pioneers to take newcomers through all 12 Steps in 4 one hour sessions. It is a format that was approved by many thousands of AA Groups in the 1940's and 1950's and by 5,000 meetings today

"Sobriety - freedom from alcohol - through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an AA Group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities and they have always failed... If we don't stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And, if we collapse we cannot help anyone."

~Bill W., The AA Grapevine, February 1958

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA INTERGROUP MINUTES

May 29, 2016



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

Attendance: A R, Everything or Nothing; C J, Accessibility Chair, New Hope; C H, By The Book; C H, Solutions; D L, Keystone Heights; F S, Faith Hope Strength, IG Treasurer; J M, IG Office Manager; J S, HALT; J V, New Freedom, Alt Geezers, Alt IG Chair; E M, Good Morning God; P B, Tuesday Night Step Study; P M, Thursday Women's Step Study, IG secretary; R G, Unity, TILIS; S R, Saturday 10/11th Step, IG Chair. T S, Visitor.

The minutes were read and motion to accept by J V, seconded by J S. Motion passed.

The Treasurers Report was read and motion to accept made by J V, seconded by C J.

Phone Hotline report by J V in B's absence. J stated a need for 12th step volunteers, which are only called when there is a need. The requirements are 6 months' sobriety and it is recommended taking along another AA. There were a couple of changes to the grid with an opening on Thursday morning.

P.O.S.T.: As J said: "Here it is!" referring to the copies we all had in front of us. He went on to say the editors are doing an excellent job putting it together every month. Submissions are always welcomed and should be submitted by the 15th of the month. The address for submissions is on page 5 of the P.O.S.T. K is stepping down from her position as layout editor and looking for a volunteer to fill the position. Anyone can volunteer and she will help get the new person familiar with the procedure.

Literature & Merchandise: The office is well stocked with all kinds of recovery items.

Where & When: It seems that the PDF format on the website is not updated: however, the web version is current.

Activities: The Back to Basics workshops are still going on and doing well. They are held at the Triangle Club. Please call the club for details. Everything or Nothing group will be hosting a workshop on Emotional Sobriety in Nov, details to follow.

Old Business: There being no other nominations for IG chair and Alt, S R and J V agreed to stay in the positions.

New Business: The Health Street AA meeting on Archer Rd has moved to the Sunshine Inn on NW 13th St.

There being no more business, motion to adjourn by J, seconded by P.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. with the Responsibility Pledge.

The next Intergroup meeting will be held on Sunday, July 31st at 1:00 p.m.

7th Tradition Addresses

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]

Self-support: Where money and spirituality mix.

Food for Thought ...

*"Sometimes our light goes out,
but is blown again into instant flame
by an encounter with another human
being." — Albert Schweitzer*

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

- August: *"Practicing the Principles"*
- September: *"Have Program Will Travel"*
- October: *"What's Haunting You?"*

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

Tradition of the Month: 7

"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

"The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."

~Twelve and Twelve

District 14*(Serving Alachua County)***DCM Corner**

Hi Everybody!

We had our District service meeting on 6/8, and once again had a great turnout! I appreciate everyone who is involved in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. GSRs, committee chairs, and all those involved in the committees are doing great service work! Come join us at the next District meeting on Wednesday 7/13 at 6:00 p.m. at Westminster Church. It's a great way to help others, and a great way to stay sober by putting step 12 to work! Come visit and see which committee you would like to help out.

Founders Day on June 11th was a great success again! Many thanks to our District 14 Archives committee, the Founders Day committee, and all the groups that helped sponsor this huge event. We had over 350 people attend. There was some great food, a history of District 14, an excellent main speaker, and a dance to end the night. Thanks to all those who helped!

Our next Area Assembly is July 8-10. It starts with a topic meeting at 8:00 p.m. Friday night. On Saturday there are some great workshops and a speaker meeting that night. And GSRs are at the Sunday morning business meeting. Visitors are always welcome. It's right here in Gainesville for the next couple of years. Take advantage of the proximity and see how our north Florida area is carrying the message!

Thanks for allowing me to serve you! Any questions/concerns, please contact me.

G N, DCM, District 14

District 14 Service Committee Meetings



District 14 Business Meeting

2nd Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Accessibilities

2nd Saturday, 11:00 a.m. Primary Purpose Club

Archives

1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Triangle Club

Corrections

3rd Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Triangle Club

CPC/PI

1st Thursday, 6:00 p.m., Triangle Club

Grapevine

2nd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 204

Literature

2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Intergroup Office

Phones (NCFI Committee)

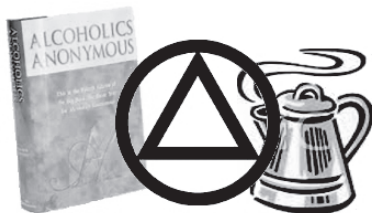
2nd Tuesday, 5:00 p.m., Intergroup Office

Treatment

1st Monday, 6:30 p.m., Triangle Club

Visit www.aanfldistrict14.org for more info

NCFI



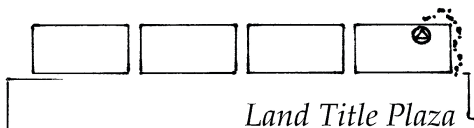
North Central Florida INTERGROUP

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.*



Land Title Plaza



NW 43rd Street

(Bank of America)

NW 25th Place

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 meeting listings,

please use "Meetings Change Form" available at our office, and online at
<http://www.northcentralflaa.org/d.mtg-change/mtg-change-form-options.html>,
or follow the link from the Intergroup home page: www.northcentralflaa.org.

Our next Intergroup meeting will be held on the last Sunday of the month,
July 31st 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 at <http://www.northcentralflaa.org/d.post/post.html>.
Our home-page, <http://www.northcentralflaa.org>, has links to the *Where and When* and more.