

## Importance of a Home Group

First of all, I never liked being a part of ANY organization, particularly one that had rules and regulations, policies and procedures. Liked to call myself a "lone wolf", my own man. I found out that most of my brothers and sisters in recovery have had that same arrogant attitude. When I first read that "defiance is the outstanding characteristic of many an alcoholic" I took it as a compliment. My sponsor, of course, asked me how that was working for me. For once I was speechless.

As my sobriety progressed it was suggested that I get real familiar with the traditions- how to play well with others. The home group became the key in my progress, and a very important part of my survival. My active participation in my home group gives me a huge bundle of gifts. First, that sense of belonging ends my (default) isolation, that lonely poison that kills so many of us.. Secondly, rotating positions of service within the group cause me to be accountable to the group as a whole, and the individual members. Finally, being a part of my group allows that spirit of love and service to flow through me. Perhaps I am becoming a participating member of society after all!

I have never been particularly religious, but I strongly believe that I have thus far survived the ravishes of alcoholism due to that "Grace of God" so many old-timers talk about. These are the same people that suggested that service work is the main factor that will keep me "usefully whole" and fully engaged in recovery. Being ACTIVE in a home group is one sure way to keep this normally reclusive alcoholic accountable, to save me from the bondage of self.

- Anonymous

## Step 7 *"Humbly asked HIM to remove our shortcomings."*

Coming into AA and finding the acceptance and love I'd sought in a bottle was a relief beyond description, but reading the Steps was a shock. Fortunately for me, my home group did not hammer the Steps into newcomers. Rather, they talked a lot about the Slogans and the need to not drink a day at a time. I needed that.

During a discussion of Step Seven, I made the statement, "If my shortcomings and character defects are removed, there will be nothing left!" I need not have feared. What I've learned since then is that I have more than a lifetime's supply of character defects. My Higher Power and I can't get rid of them all in my allotted time on this earth.

-- C.

Kathmandu, Nepal

*From the July 1995 Grapevine*



# Community News

This year's Founder's Day Celebration was a huge success! It was held, as usual, at Trinity Methodist Church, on NW 53<sup>rd</sup> St, Gainesville. Festivities began at 4 p.m. followed by two excellent speakers, dinner and dancing. There was plenty of food with sides and desserts brought by attendees and meat and beverages provided. It was a wonderful sober event.

The 61<sup>st</sup> **Florida State Convention** will be held in Jacksonville from July 27-30. Celebrate our recovery with outstanding AA and Alanon speakers, panels, our banquet, entertainment, great fellowship and more. It is a time to strengthen and unify us. Don't miss it!

**Back-to-Basics** Enclosed here are flyers on two new series fo Back to Basics. This series has proved to be very popular and helpful to those in any year of sobriety. If you have questions, contact info is provided.

**SERENITY BY THE SEA**, August 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Naples Grande Resort Hotel and Spa in Naples, FL. For more information visit our website at <http://www.serenityclubswfl.org>, or call 844.210.5931

**Please update!** Please be sure that your group's "birthday" person's information is correct in our records. Many groups have changed their reps over the last couple of years and I know that, for some groups, we are contacting the wrong person.

**THANKS!**

## My First Lifeline in AA

No one ever comes dancing and signing a happy tune into AA. At least that is NOT the way I arrived to the rooms. I didn't want to drink anymore, I didn't want to live the life I had anymore, BUT I didn't want to become part of AA. I didn't want to get to know anyone, I didn't want any new friends. I wanted my old friends, and I wanted to hang out at all my old 'holes'.

I was willing to take a few of the suggestions, like go to meetings and I did get a sponsor. I had no intention of staying long term. I figured I'd do these 12 step things and graduate and return to my life. The first thing my sponsor "suggested" I do was join a home group. I asked if it was absolutely necessary and her answer was "only if I didn't want to die". Pretty extreme, I thought., but I did it.

I remember the first time I was invited to dinner a few home group members after the meeting ... It was so awkward, but they accepted me and invited me to the next time out. I got a position within that homegroup, I now had a reason that I had to show up - people depended on me. I had not been dependable in a very long time, and it felt good.

In the beginning of my sobriety, this home group - this group of women - were my life line. IF I didn't show up, they called to check on me. They made me feel worthy. They loved me until ... until I was able to accept their love and friendship.

How important is having a homegroup? In my opinion, it is the difference to learning to live or being able to slip through the cracks of recovery and die.

- An Alcoholic who has gratefully caught recovery.

# Congratulations!



## June Anniversaries

### Women's Serenity Seekers

S.S. - 2 yrs  
M.S. - 3 yrs  
L.A. - 7 yrs  
A.S. - 7 yrs  
B.S. - 29 yrs

### Gratitude Group

J.J. - 24 yrs  
R.D. - 28 yrs  
E.M. - 44 yrs

### Hawthorne Group

S.P. - 2 yrs  
J.D. - 9 yrs

### 4th Dimension

C.G. - 47 yrs

### Women's Step Study

C - 10 yrs

### BYOB of High Springs

B.W. - 6 yrs  
P.S. - 30 yrs

### Promises

J.M. - 49 yrs

### Saturday 10th/11th Step

E.H. - 26 yrs  
H.D. - 28 yrs  
K.O. - 1 yr

### Free to Be

I - 5 yrs  
K - 1 yr  
P - 1 yr  
D - 8 yrs

### Melrose Happy Hour Group

P.G. - 24 yrs  
J.S. - 11 yrs  
B - 1 yr

### New Freedom

J.V. - 36 yrs  
K - 4 yrs  
P - 41 yrs

### Language of the Heart Group

D.E. - 2 yrs

### All Inclusive Solutions

P.D. - 1 yr  
C.P. - 2 yrs  
A.W. - 1 yr (May)  
J.J. - 1 yr (May)  
M.Y. - 3 yrs (May)  
J.S. - 2 yrs (May)

### Big Book Basics

K.M. - 4 yrs

### Tuesday Night Step Study

J.H. - 33 yrs  
P.B. - 2 yrs  
J.K. - 4 yrs

### Eye Opener

C - 1 yr  
B - 8 yrs  
Z - 11 yrs  
J.H. - 20 yrs  
D.S. - 2 yrs  
S.W. - 16 yrs

**July Birthdays?**  
**Send them by July 15th to the**  
**Post@NorthCentralFLAA.org**

## **DISTRICT 27**

*(Serving Dixie, Levy & Gilchrist Counties)*

### District 27 Business Meeting:

3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
St. Alban Episcopal Church  
7550 NW 149th Place, Chiefland

### District 27 Hotline:

(352) 949-2239

### Contributions Address:

District 27 AA  
PO Box 1257  
Bronson, FL 32621

### Website Address:

[www.District27aa.org](http://www.District27aa.org)



## NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA INTERGROUP MINUTES

May 28, 2017

Suzanne opened the meeting at 1pm with the Serenity Prayer.

**Attendance:** Alex W, Student Group; Christine H, All Inclusive Solution; Crill H, Solutions; Donna L, Keystone Heights; Fred S, Faith Hope strength, IG Treasurer; Jay M, IG Office Manager; Jim VB, New Freedom, Alt IG Chair; Kristin C, 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension; Marilyn P, Eye Opener; Murray R, Wholesale Miracle; Nyree N, YPG; Sheila C, New Freedom; Suzanne R, Sat 10/11<sup>th</sup> Step, IG Chair.

The minutes were read and Jim VB made a motion to accept as read. Motion seconded by Sheila. Passed.

Treasurers report was read and Donna made a motion to accept as read. Motion seconded by Marilyn. Passed.

**Phone Committee:** Chuck brought up that there are two slots open. Please think volunteering for service on the Hotline. It's an easy way to do service.

**POST:** Debra O has taken over for Karen in editing the POST and is doing a great job!

**Literature & Merchandise:** IG office has a wonderful supply of all things recovery.

**Where & When:** Suzanne has discovered that the website has two different meeting listings and she is going to look into it for next meeting.

**Activities:** District 27 is having a Tradition Workshop on June 24 starting at 10am. Check with the Intergroup office for more information. Founders Day committee will meet at 6:30pm at the Triangle Club on June 6.

There being no old or new business, motion to adjourn was made.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm with the Responsibility Pledge.

# Tradition 7

The Steps are HOW IT WORKS.  
The Traditions are WHY IT WORKS.

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

*"The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contribution of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve its 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."*

When reflecting on these things, why should not each of us tell himself, "Yes, we A.A.s were once a burden on everybody. We were 'takers.' Now that we are sober, and by the Grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about face and become 'thankful givers'! Yes, it is high time we did!"

Bill W. The AA Grapevine, June, 1948

# 7th Tradition Addresses

**North Central Florida Intergroup**

2632 NW 43rd Street, Suite 1182  
 Gainesville FL 32606-7551  
 (Checks payable to: NCFI)

**District 14**

PO Box 357254  
 Gainesville, FL 32635-7254  
 (Checks payable to District 14)



**North Florida Area Assembly**

5703 Red Bug Lake Road, Unit 241  
 Winter Springs, FL 32708  
 (Checks payable to NFAC)

**General Service Office**

PO Box 459, Grand Central Station  
 NY, NY 10163  
 (Checks payable to GSO)

***Self-support: Where money and spirituality mix!***

## Humility

(Inscription on desk plaque of Dr. Bob's)

*Humility is perpetual quietness of heart.*

*It is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore; to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised, it is to have a blessed home in myself where I can go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and about is seeming trouble.*

I thought that becoming HUMBLE would mean wearing the same uniform that everyone else had, showing no personality, wearing no make up, nothing to call attention to myself.

My sponsor gave me a seemingly easy assignment. Do acts of anonymous kindness. This is when I found out how much of my good deeds was for recognition. This was the beginning of truly becoming humble... and it was also the way I started to build my self-esteem. I learned that self-esteem was not dependent upon what others thought of me. It is so much more than that, it is what I THINK OF ME.

Today I'm starting a new journey. Through these 12 steps, getting to become an ACTIVE part of this fellowship, and showing up for my own life, I am finally becoming the person I always wanted to be.

Success is not longer measured by awards, acknowledgements, bank accounts and "things".

Success for me today is being happy and usefully whole. Helping others whether it is convenient or not, and becoming consistently willing to do my God's will, not mine.

~ Anonymous



Dr. Bob

Bill W.

### Upcoming topics:

- August: Attitude/Perspective
- September: Amends – Beyond "I'm Sorry"
- October – "Aligning My Will"

Get yourself published! Entry deadline is the 15th of each month. Send your topic articles, op-eds, opinions or cartoons to [Post@NorthCentralFLAA.org](mailto:Post@NorthCentralFLAA.org).

**DISTRICT 14***Serving Alachua County***DCM Corner**

Hello everyone,

Congratulations to the *District 14 Archives Committee* and all the volunteers who came together to make this year's **Founder's Day** celebration a most enjoyable event. Terrance H and Roger M were both excellent as our feature and history speakers. A big thank you to all the home groups whose contributions helped sponsor the event: *By the Book, Downtown, Eye Opener, 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension, Gratitude, HALT, Melrose No Name Yet, New Freedom, TILIS Men's Group, Tuesday Night Step Study, Women's Serenity Seekers, Women's Step Study and The Way Out Group*. Your support is very much appreciated!

Kudos also to our *FCYPAA* members who held **FCYFEST 352**, another fun-filled fundraiser for the 352 Bid at the *Triangle Club* which included Kirk M as the speaker and lots of great food, face-painting, water games and even a dunking booth. Thank you for continuing to bring the fun to sobriety!

We are fortunate that **Area Assembly** is held quarterly right here in Gainesville at the Wyndham Hotel. Our next assembly is July 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and is open to all. This is a terrific opportunity to come together with about 400 fellow AA members from throughout North and Central Florida and learn more about service and how Alcoholics Anonymous works from the home group on up! All the service committees have workshops where you can learn more about what they do and help you find your niche in service.

Our **District 14 meetings** are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at *Westminster Presbyterian Church* on the corner of NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All committee chairs attend and are happy to answer your questions and welcome all who care to volunteer to serve on a committee. As always, please feel free to contact me with any suggestions of how we can better serve our fellowship.

*In love and service,  
Pati C, DCM for District 14*

# District 14 Service Committee Meetings

## District 14 Business Meeting

2nd Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

## Accessibilities

3rd Saturday, 11:00 am  
Triangle Club

## Archives

1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
Triangle Club

## Corrections

3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
Triangle Club

## CPC/PI

1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
Triangle Club

## Grapevine

2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
Trinity United Methodist Church, Room 204

## Literature

2nd Monday, 6:30 pm  
Intergroup Office

## Phones (NCFI Committee)

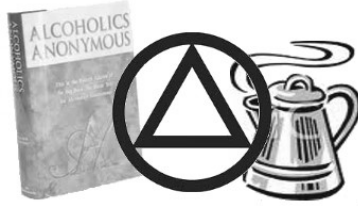
2nd Tuesday, 5:00 pm  
Intergroup Office

## Treatment

1st Monday, 6:30 pm  
Triangle Club

Visit our new District 14 website @  
[www.AAGainesville.org](http://www.AAGainesville.org) for more information!

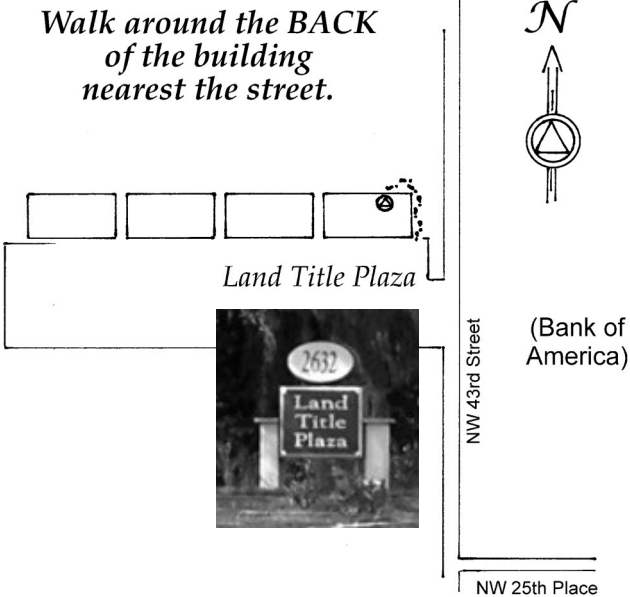
# NCFI



# North Central Florida Intergroup

Our office is located in  
**Land Title Plaza**  
 2632 NW 43rd Street, Suite 1182  
 Gainesville, FL 32606-7551  
 Telephone: 352-372-8091

Our office hours are:  
 Monday - Friday: 2:00 - 5:00 pm  
 Saturday: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Sunday: Closed



## Meetings Schedule

The *Where & When* is available at our office, and online at our website:  
[www.NorthCentralFLAA.org/wandw.html](http://www.NorthCentralFLAA.org/wandw.html)

## P.O.S.T Submissions

Send articles and anniversaries to:  
[Post@NorthCentralFLAA.org](mailto: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](http://www.NorthCentralFLAA.org)

### Our next Intergroup meeting

will be held on the last  
 Sunday of the month,  
**July 30 @ 1:00 pm**  
 At Schaffer Hall

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

The Power of Sober Thinking can now be found online:  
<http://www.NorthCentralFLAA.org/d.post/post.html>  
 Our home-page, <http://www.NorthCentralFLAA.org>  
 has links to the Where and When and more.