

Why Principles Before Personalities?

One member's take on the Essential Nature of the Twelve Traditions...the Traditions keep us from becoming totally dysfunctional as people and as groups.

Tradition one is all about unity- our value as individuals is multiplied as we form a group, and the health of the group is essential. In **tradition two** perhaps we keep conscious of the fact that God is in charge - there is Divine intervention at work in the group's consciousness. **Tradition three** guides us to recognize our like mindedness, that we are all here for the same reason. **Tradition 4** says that each group can be autonomous unto itself, as long as we do no harm to other groups or AA as a whole. **Tradition 5** reminds us that we are actually a spiritual entity, that our primary purpose is to spread our gratitude to the suffering alcoholic. **Tradition 6** helps us to keep our spiritual "eye on the ball" and not get distracted by the worldly issues of money, property, and authority . **Tradition 7** suggests that being self-supporting keeps our motives in the right place. **Tradition 8** is essential- that one alcoholic helping another without thought of payment or reward is the cornerstone of our success. In **tradition 9** we realize that we serve each other and the whole, and that formal organization simply gets in the way. The **tenth tradition** says that, as a group, we have no opinion on outside issues. With **tradition 11** we decide to simply be humble anonymous good examples of sobriety, thus eliminating the need for sensational advertising . **Tradition twelve** is where it all comes together. Bill Wilson knew that it is very difficult for any human being to consistently put spiritual principles ahead of his or her opinions and prejudices. Humility, as expressed by anonymity is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous could have.

Sandy B. used to say that "humble servant" is the highest rank in AA. From tradition one (unity) to tradition twelve he gave us guidelines with which to coexist in peace and to practice a genuine humility: "this to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all".

~ Anonymous

Tradition 11

The Steps are HOW IT WORKS.

The Traditions are WHY IT WORKS.

*“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion;
we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films”*

Social media was not invented when this tradition was written, but today I frankly worry that I am not careful enough of practicing anonymity at the level of social media.

It is difficult not to celebrate sobriety on social media, it is difficult not to share thoughts and readings which mean something to me and which I think might help someone else. I try to do this only on “private groups.” But there are times when I communicate with others in sobriety I realize that by “liking” the item, I am potentially breaking my anonymity.

AA has survived and succeeded for all these years because no one person has become the face of AA or a face of AA. I do not want my “social media stream” to become the reason an outsider thinks less of AA. I will be asking my HP for help with this as I go forward.

~ Anonymous



Community News

The **26th Annual Gratitude Dinner**, sponsored by Intregroup, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 11th, at Holy Trinity Church, 100 NE 1st Street, beginning at 4:30p.m. Tickets are available from community members throughout the area. Tickets are \$15. There will be no tickets sold at the door. As always, help is needed to make the event a success. Potential volunteers may attend the next meeting, or call intergroup at (352) 372-8091. Flyer enclosed.

Promises Group: This football season, on **HOME GAME WEEKENDS**, beginners and speakers meeting will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1521 NW 34th St., on home game weekends. Flyer enclosed. Note that this is a change from previous years where they were held at the Highlands Presbyterian Church. A flyer with the dates is enclosed.

Heard in a Meeting... **I Drank So Much My Blood Type is AA**

SOBER = Son Of a Bitch Everythings REAL!

My two favorite words in AA is "Me, too".

Think twice before saying **NOTHING!**



Step 11 Benefits for One Alcoholic

I never thought prayer would work for me. Certainly my fox-hole prayers weren't - even if I escaped the "pending doom" I was facing while praying, I figured it was my good luck, not GOD. My sponsor told me I had to pray. I explained I didn't believe in God, she replied she didn't ask, because what I believed didn't matter. So I prayed, to a God I didn't believe in. She said I had to pray every morning for strength and guidance during the day to keep me away from a drink, and at night I prayed "thank you" for keeping me sober. I didn't get it, but I did it. I was desperate. I went to a meditation meeting and didn't understand what being still and quiet could do for me. They told me it didn't matter if I didn't understand, I just needed to try. In time it got easier to quiet the chatter in my head.

I didn't understand the connection between Prayer & Meditation and sobriety, but now after staying sober a little while, I get it. I didn't understand the connection between Prayer & Meditation and the concept of Principles before Personalities - but now realizing this simple concept that "there is a GOD and I'm not it!", and "I have a new employer today", I have an ego that is becoming right-sized (most of the time) . I'm no longer needing to be in charge, I am no longer better or worse than any other person (inside or outside the rooms of AA). It really is following the principles - taking ACTION, not worrying about what I believe or understand that keeps me happy, joyous and free!

~Anonymous

Congratulations!



October Anniversaries

All Inclusive Solution

M.S. - 1 yr

BYOB

K.K. - 5 yrs

W-1 yr

Eyeopener

A - 1 yr

D.H. - 34 yrs

P.S. - 15 yrs

S.L. - 31 yrs

Downtown

C.P. - 18 yrs

J.H. - 42 yrs (Sept)

Fourth Dimension

J.C. - 9 yrs

R.B. - 29 yrs

Free To Be

A - 5 yrs

D.K. - 9 yrs

R.R. - 41 yrs

T.S. - 10 yrs

Gratitude Group

B.B. - 2 yrs

G.M. - 5 yrs

H.C. - 1 yr

R.K. - 8 yrs

S.G.W. - 15 yrs

Hole in the Wall - Hampton

R.M. 31

Happy Hour Group - Starke

L.M. - 30yrs

Tuesday Night Step Study

D.O. - 6 yrs

L.D. - 19 yrs

Women's Serenity Seekers

L.M. - 1 yr

M.E.C. - 24 yrs

T.T. - 4 yrs

Women's Step Study

D.S. - 2

L.B. - 6

P.M. - 29

S.M. - 6 (Sept)

T.T. - 4



November Birthdays? Send them by Nov. 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



NORTH CENTRAL INTERGROUP MINUTES

September 24, 2017

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

In attendance: AG, Every Step We Take; BK, Free To Be; BF, By The Book; CH, All Inclusive Solution; CH, Solutions; DL, Keystone Heights; GN, Downtown; TR, 4th Dimension, visitor; JM, Office Manager; JVB, New Freedom, Alt Chair; MB, Keystone Heights; MR, Wholesale Miracle; PB, Tuesday Night Step Study; PM, IG Secretary, Thursday Women's Step Study; RG, Unity; SC, New Freedom; SR, Sat AM 10/11th Step, IG Chair.

Minutes were read and a motion was made by DL to accept as read. Seconded by CH, motion passed.

Treasurers report was read by Alt Treasurer and a motion to accept was made by BK, seconded by JVB. Motion passed.

Phone committee: AG reported the Hotline is all filled up at this time. Volunteers are always welcome.

POST: JM reported they can always use our thoughts on the topics which are listed in the publication. Anything relating to AA is always welcome.

Literature & Merchandise: The IG Office is well stocked with recovery related items.

Where & When: The online information is up to date. The paper copy has some errors that need to be corrected. The listing for Saturday meeting at 7pm is not correct.

Activities: All current activities are in the POST in the form of fliers or under Community News. The Gratitude Dinner plans are well under way and anyone wanting to do service work can stop by the IG office on 10-18 at 5:30pm. We need volunteers to cook turkeys, contact PM at 352-318-8914 if you wish to cook one (or two).

Old Business: Elections for Chair/Alt Chair will be held June 2018. If you would like to stand for one of these positions, join us at the monthly meeting. Location is in the POST. SR offered an apology for her behavior at Sept's meeting. The apology was accepted by all. Any changes to the by-laws need to be brought to the monthly meeting to be discussed. The discussion to change the ticket prices for the Gratitude Dinner was brought up again and it was determined the prices were the responsibility of IG or the Gratitude Dinner committee. The next election for Secretary and Treasurer will be held in Dec 2017. Anyone willing to stand for these positions should attend the monthly meeting. K offered to contact WM and SGW about the W&W discrepancies. She has not had a chance to do so. She will have a report by October's meeting.

New Business: It was brought up for discussion that the by-laws were not being followed. Part of the discussion was to add office Manager to the Board of Directors. Currently that is not the case. After CH suggested there were too many topics up for discussion concerning the by-laws, it was agreed that PB go over them to discern what needs to be done to bring them up to date. The treasurer has been added to the bank account. There are people buying items for the office and submitting a request for reimbursement, the office does not have a petty cash fund for reimbursement. It was discussed to get a debit/credit card for the office, JM declined the offer.

A motion to adjourn by PM, seconded by SC at 1:50pm. Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.

Step 11

“Sought through prayer & meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

There is a direct linkage among self-examination, meditation, and prayer. Take separately, these practices can bring much relief and benefit. BUT when they are logically related and interwoven, the result is an unshakable foundation for life. Twelve and Twelve page 98. ▲▼

Perhaps one of the greatest rewards of meditation and prayer is the sense of belonging that comes to us. We no longer live in a completely hostile world. We are no longer lost and frightened and purposeless. Twelve and Twelve page 105.

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!

Mom Was Right Afterall

Long ago, years before I became a member of this fellowship, my mother became very active in another 12 Step program. She was a true believer in whatever organization she supported. Her membership list was fairly short, and was topped by her religion and her 12-Step work. As was her way, she always wanted her children to understand and become believers. She had some successes, but I was not one of them.

“Principles before Personalities” sounded great in theory, but really? You haven’t worked in the “real” world, driven in DC traffic or been back-bitten by coworkers. Now, I realize what she meant. How much more restful and pleasant it is to put principles before personalities.

A bit of acceptance, knowing a few things about myself and not always living by the measuring stick is so much easier. Looking at and living with others in light of principles and acceptance is a blessing.

Mom is long gone and I bet she is somewhere smiling and saying, “See, I told you so!”, in a spiritual way, of course! ~Anonymous

Oh, dear ...
I told you so!



Upcoming topics:

- December: “Being in the Present”
- January: “Turn it Over”
- February: “Relation-slips”

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

Post@NorthCentralFLAA.org

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

Hi everybody,

Area Assembly was the weekend of October 20th and, once again, our District was well represented. Many thank to all our GSRs and Alternate GSRs for their support. The Area 15 Delegate, AC, attended our Assembly as a guest and oversaw the Area inventory on Saturday afternoon. At the Sunday morning business meeting, we voted on several motions and tabled one for the January meeting in addition to electing a new Archivist as our Area Archivist, SB who has served our fellowship for several years, had to step down for personal reasons. SB is an exceptional Archivist who is respected and loved by all. He will be sorely missed but has promised to remain active and continue to work on a couple of projects he began for Area, including a history of AA in Florida.

On the District level, we are still in need of a new **Alternate Secretary** who can fill in when our regular **Secretary** is unable to attend. Our **Grapevine Chair** has also had to step down so we are looking for someone willing to serve in this capacity as well. Both are wonderful opportunities for you or your sponsees to get involved in service. For more information, please contact me at my email and phone number below or attend our next District meeting in November.

Our monthly **District 14 meetings** are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at *Westminster Presbyterian Church* on the corner of NW 34th Street and NW 16th Avenue. The **District 14 Service Committee** meeting schedules can be found in the **P.O.S.T.** All are welcome to attend and see if this type of service might be for you!

Any questions or concerns, please contact me. I am here to serve in any way I can.

In love and service,

Pati C, DCM for District 14, (352) 281-5751 qvillepati@cox.net

District 14 Service Committee Meetings

District 14 Business Meeting

2nd Wednesday, 6:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Accessibilities

2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm

Books a Million (Newberry Rd)

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

TBD

Contact Lynn E at maggoblynn@gmail.com for information.

Literature

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm

Intergroup Office

Phones (NCFI Committee)

2nd Tuesday, 5:00 pm

Intergroup Office

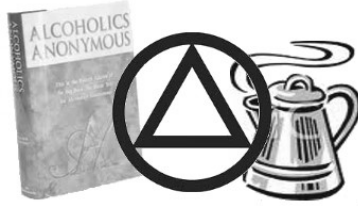
Treatment

1st Monday, 6:30 pm

Triangle Club

Visit our new District 14 website @
www.AAGainesville.org for more information!

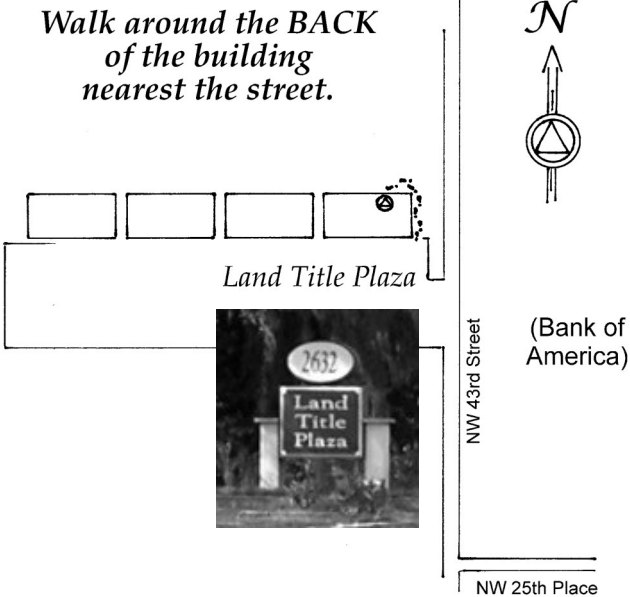
NCFI



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

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,
November 26th @ 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.

Intergroup Treasurer's Report: September 2017

Sales	Current	Y.T.D.	Cost of Sales	Current	Y.T.D.
Chips/Medallions	208.00	2,466.00	Chips/Medallions	684.50	983.55
AA Literature	427.00	8,419.00	Literature	489.55	8,790.19
General merchandise	22.00	644.55	General merchandise		157.67
Miscellaneous		0.00	Miscellaneous		28.00
Sub-total Sales	657.00	11,529.55	Sub-total Cost of Sales	1,174.05	9,959.41
Activities Revenues			Activities Expenses		
Picnic		0.00	Hawthorne Picnic Donation		212.25
Gratitude Dinner		0.00	Gratitude Dinner		0.00
Sub-total Activities	0.00	0.00	Alkathon		156.83
Group Contributions	276.00	5,238.61	Phone Workshop		0.00
			Other Workshop contributions		0.00
			Sub-total Activities Expense	0.00	369.08
Fund Balances			Office/Operating Expenses		
Checking @ 1st of mo.	2,922.12	2,922.12	Office Manager consultant fee	650.00	5,850.00
Current deposits	974.00		Insurance	510.12	510.12
Current expenditures	3,156.34	24,876.57	IRS forms preparation		0.00
Ending balance, checking		739.78	Taxes & Registration Fees	42.71	749.44
Savings/CDs 1st of mo.	6,191.07		Corporate Annual Report fee		0.00
Current deposits			Office rent	190.00	1,610.00
Current withdrawals			Rent for monthly meeting		340.00
Interest earned			Telephone	147.02	1,330.72
Ending balance, savings & CDs		6,191.07	Office supplies	128.94	534.01
Total cash on hand:		6,930.85	Printing: POST	212.25	1,773.05
General prudent reserve		5,076.17	Printing: Phone volunteer packets		72.70
Reserve for Gratitude Dinner		1,114.90	Printing & copying, general		405.13
Operating funds available		739.78	Postage	101.25	797.98
			Computer software		0.00
			Computer: Website		331.93
			Grapevine subscriptions		243.00
			Bank charges & cash discrepancy		0.00
			Sub-total Overhead Expenses	1,982.29	14,548.08



Contributions are credited for the month they are deposited, hence some contributions received may not be credited until next month