P.O.S.T.

Power of Sober Thinking

A Publication of North Central Florida Intergroup

Volume 25, Issue 7 July2020

How to Build Integrity

Building integrity. Different that what I thought it was. It is more than having people think highly of me (or not). Integrity is HARD! At least it was for me. I asked my first sponsor - How do I get it? She said you have to "do what you say, and say what you do. It is about showing up - on time, *consistently*."

Consistently. Consistently? That has been my problem my entire life. Consistency. So building integrity is not something I can do quickly. I like instant gratification. Integrity isn't like that. It is slow, sometimes painful, always CONSISTANT. Just like sobriety.

How to start building the elusive Integrity? Simply one day at a time, doing the next right thing, staying disciplined to the principals of this program. Do what I say I'm going to do. Be humble. Be honest. Watch my motives. But most of all DO THIS EVERY DAY.

I cannot tell, even today, if I have integrity. Others tell me. I've worked hard at building it, keeping it. I hope I have it. I know one thing for sure - I can lose it in a heart beat. When I forget to pause when emotional. When I decide to blow off a meeting I told someone I would meet them at. When I get too lazy to do the next right thing. When that happens, I start over - rebuilding integrity is harder than building it initially.

I do not think it is overstated that the most valuable thing I own, besides my sobriety is my integrity. And integrity is not possible without my sobriety.

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Beginning June 2nd, meetings may notify us that they are resuming in-person assembly, and we will re-activate their online listing.

Notification may be sent to the Webmaster through the link at the bottom of this page. Please include the name, day, and time of the meeting(s) affected, as well your contact information. If your online meeting is cancelled, please notify us of that, too, so that we do not send members to a dead Zoom-address.

Thank you all for your continued service in this extraordinary time

webmaster@aagainesville.org

NOT FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT, IT'S FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT IT

~Anonymous

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Community News

The AA Hotline and Intergroup received 49 phone calls in May 2020

Intergroup is closed on Monday's till further notice. Intergroup now accepts PayPal and Venmo for group or individual donations, send to gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com

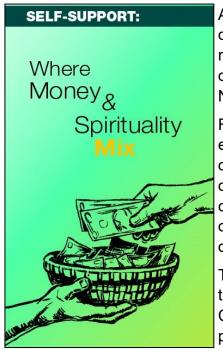
Has your group re-opened? Contact our webmaster@aagainesville.org and we will re-activate their online listing.

March's new updated hard copy of the Where and When are available at the office. Copies of this month's Post will be available at Intergroup.

'It is never too late to be what you might have been.' - T.S. Eliot

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

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



Active alcoholism inhabits the same part of my brain that is a "money drunk". I relied on other people's money to finance my life. I would be resentful when the money ran out and would only feel the warm fuzzy of money drunkenness when I could somehow procure more funds. Not work, not earn, not save.

Financial amends are a part of our recovery as alcoholics. By extension, it is logical to not allow any AA group to get drunk on outside contributions. Like active alcoholism, we cannot allow ourselves to get "drunk" on other people's money. It comes with a cost. We are not free; we would inevitably find ourselves beholden to outsiders' influence. Lives are at stake. It is for this reason we must decline outside contributions.

The sovereignty that AA maintains through the adherence of this tradition is sizable. Would there even be an AA of this magnitude? Certainly, these are the dangers the founders hoped to avoid with the practice of this tradition. Time had proven its effectiveness.

Congratulations!



June

Anniversaries

Starke Happy Hour Group

BW - 9 yrs

Everything or Nothing

AJ - 2 yrs

Women's Step Study

BS - 32 yrs

Eye Opener

SW - 19 yrs

JH - 23 yrs

SS - 2 yrs

Language of the Heart

BS - 2 vrs

DE - 5 yrs

JE - 5 yrs

Hawthorne Group

JL - 9 yrs

CR - 34 yrs

BYOB High Springs

PS - 33 yrs

RD - 5 yrs

PC - 7 yrs

Micanopy Group

S - 5 yrs

Women's Serenity Seekers

ST - 1 yr

M-6 yrs

BS - 32 yrs

Gratitude Group

CB - 15 yrs (May)

CG - 8 yrs (May)

EM - 47 yrs

JJ - 7 yrs

RD - 31 yrs

WB - 2 vrs

MT - 4 yrs

SBM - 3 yrs

Tuesday Night Step Study

JH - 36 yrs

BH - 5 yrs

July Birthdays?

Send them by July 12th to POST@AAGainesville.org



"It came to me that every time I lose a dog; they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog that comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and maybe I will become as generous and loving as they are."

~Unknown

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

PO Box 10094

Jacksonville, FL 32247

(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!

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Step 7 "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

Let's start with two fun facts that distinguish Step 7. Firstly, it is the shortest step as far as number of words go. It is the only step that takes up only one line. And perhaps the coolest fact is that the seventh step consists of exactly seven words.

I took my first seventh step a mere six months ago. Counter to my expectations, this was not a quickie step with my sponsor especially since I had a huge resistance to step six. Thank god the Big Book mentions "willingness" as a perfect starting point for the sixth step. My experience was that once I had the readiness, which took weeks, for step six I could get on with the humility required for seven.

This step strays slightly from the imperative to not pray for ourselves. Allowing for the caveat that we are praying to help others, this is the only step in which we are told to speak directly to our higher power in pursuit of something. But man, what a thing! All I *knew* of myself before recovery were my defects. Frankly, I saw them as assets: Resentments were my badge of possessing a long memory, my fears were healthy, I opined, and self-dependence (independence) was an adulting goal, no?

You can see the trouble I was in. This is still trouble in which, as of this writing, I can get into if I do not include the seventh step prayer on the daily. The removal of these defects of character is lifelong. I will probably ask my higher power to also give me the humility to ask for removal of my defects.



Future Topics

"Live and Let Live" August

"Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude"
September

"Staying Away from the First Drink" - August

Get Published!

Entry deadline is the 12th of each month
Send your topic articles, op-eds,

Post@AAGainesville.org

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NCFI



North Central Florida Intergroup

Our office is located in

Land Title Plaza

2632 NW 43rd Street

Building 1000, around back to 1182

Gainesville, FL 32606-7551

Telephone: 352-372-8091

Our office hours are:

Monday - Wednesday: 2:00 - 5:00 pm Thursday - Friday: 12:00 - 6:00 pm

> Saturday: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Sunday: Closed

Our next Intergroup meeting

will be held on the last

Sunday of the month:

July 29 @ 1:00

via ZOOM

Check out our new website @ www.AAGainesville.org



POST Submissions

Send articles and anniversaries to <u>Post@AAGainesville.org</u> or mail them to the NCFI office no later than the 12th of each month.

Activities Submissions

Send information for all activities in the AA community to <u>Activities@AAGainesville.org</u>. If you want them to be announced in the POST they must be submitted by no later than the 12th of the month.

Intergroup

Questions about AA in North Central Florida or to order large quantities of literature please contact **office.manager**(a)AAGainesville.org with requests.

Intergroup Chairperson's Corner

Hi everyone! Hope you're doing well during these interesting times. And thanks to everyone who attended our first ever online monthly meeting May 31st!

As things start to slowly open up, you will want your meeting reactivated ONLINE for In-Person meetings at some point. Notice was sent out to all GSR's and Intergroup Reps about that process. All meetings were taken off the websites when this all started. So to get them back online when you go live again, you must contact our webmaster! Info is on the website (aagainesville.org) and in this issue of the POST. Thanks for your patience!

The Integroup office is open again - normal hours. If you need any literature, chips, medallions, etc... come on by! One person at a time, and wear a mask. Any support is greatly appreciated, as all AA service organizations are not doing as well financially as they were before all this occurred.

Founder's Day will be in the fall (November 7th), and will be combined with the Gratitude Dinner! It will be held at Trinity United Methodist. More info coming soon. Should be a great event!

Thank you all for your patience and service as we try to get back to normal. Contact me with any questions/concerns

Greg N. Intergroup Chair gregnorm5@aol.com (352) 283 2648

Thanks to the following 4 Groups and Individuals who sent in a donation to Intergroup in May 2020

Everything or Nothing \$54.85
Hampton Hole in the Wall \$59.35
Individuals \$200.32
New Freedom Group \$270.00
The Geezers \$60.00
Total Contributions \$664.52





In November 1957, Bill wrote a Grapevine article entitled "Respecting Money", in which he juxtaposed outside contributions and self-support: "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility - one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and our bills paid."

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA INTERGROUP MAY 31, 2020

On May 31, 2020, North Central Florida Intergroup successfully held its first monthly meeting via Zoom! Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the last meeting was February 23, 2020 with no meetings held in March or April.

ATTENDANCE – 5 Officers, our IG Office Manager, and approximately 12 Intergroup Representatives attended the meeting, led by our Intergroup Chair, G.N.

MINUTES – J.W. reviewed the Minutes for the last meeting held in February, which were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – P.B. presented the most recent Treasurer's Report for April, 2020 (published in the June edition of the POST). It was explained that office expenses for Office Manager's salary and Payroll Taxes were higher than some months due to the fact that the April Report includes quarterly payroll taxes which do not appear in the months in which those quarterly payments are not paid. It was also noted that due to the office reserve being held in CD's, to avoid paying penalties from cashing CD's for needed expenses, some of the Gratitude Dinner reserve was utilized to meet expenses, still leaving a sufficient reserve for the Gratitude Dinner of \$3,000.00. The Report was approved.

PHONE COMMITTEE – It was reported that all 24 hour phone service slots are currently filled.

POST – D.O. reported on her joint efforts with T.S. to prepare the POST. A., K., & P. were commended for their efforts in redacting the POST for display, now in color, on the website where it can be read, printed, or downloaded. Due to the economical benefit of website posting rather than printing, additional pages were easily included, for example the reprint of a recent GSO letter explaining use of GSO reserve funds needed to function through economic difficulties incurred through the COVID-19 restrictions. It was recognized that, as fellowship members, we need to remember that GSO, District, Area, and Intergroup still need our support through difficult times.

LITERATURE & MERCHANDISE/WHERE & WHEN – F.S. reported that the Intergroup Office is now open with schedule posted on the website. Number of people in the office at the same time is limited and wearing a mask is required. Big Books are currently in stock.

WEBSITE – Groups should inform Intergroup when they resume meetings and if they discontinue Zoom meetings to avoid listing "dead" Zoom meeting links. Some meetings are reopening. The website will caution to let common sense prevail under the current conditions for attendance. The website has attracted a number of people from out of our area who found easy access to Zoom meetings due our website's user friendly layout. There was a request to continue listing Zoom meetings on the website and general agreement to discuss with our webmaster the potential for creating a Zoom meeting section on the site.

ACTIVITIES – The Emotional Sobriety Workshop will be held 6/27 & 6/28 via Zoom at no cost to attend this year. More information can be found on the Intergroup and Emotional Sobriety Workshop websites.

DCM REPORT – There have been no District meetings for the last 2 – 3 months.

NEW BUSINESS – There was discussion about finding in-person meetings and being aware that meetings are reopening at a different pace, so beware that the meeting you go to may not be reopened yet. Our 2 Clubs have remained open and more meeting information may also be obtained from the Clubs. Benefits of Zoom meetings was discussed and reiterated the continuation of some Zoom meetings. It was announced that the jails are again allowing meetings and there are openings to participate in taking meetings to the women's jail. There was mention of efforts toward the Gratitude Dinner this fall with the possibility of some type of combination of Founders Day and Gratitude Dinner this year. There was also mention to consider at a future meeting a possible amendment to the Bylaws to make the election dates of Officers and Alternate Officers more efficient than the staggered election dates currently in place. There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Responsibility Pledge.

Intergroup Treasurer's Report: April 2020

| Sales | Current | Y.T.D. | Purchases | Current | Y.T.D. |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|---|------------------|----------|
| A.A. Literature | 517.90 | 3,333.50 | A.A. Literature | 0.00 | 1,604.28 |
| Chips | 90.00 | 421.65 | Chips | 0.00 | 314.96 |
| Medallions | 24.00 | 368.00 | Medallions | 0.00 | 122.70 |
| Other Merchandise | 0.00 | 100.35 | Other Merchandise | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Where and Whens | 4.40 | 186.80 | Where and Whens | 0.00 | 380.00 |
| Total Sales | 636.30 | 4,410.30 | Total Purchases | 0.00 | 2,421.94 |
| Sales Tax Collected | 38.26 | 302.52 | | | |
| Activities Revenues | | | Activities Expenses | | |
| Gratitude Dinner Cake Auction | 0.00 | 0.00 | Alkathon | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | Emotional Sobriety Workshop | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner 50/50 Raffle | 0.00 | 0.00 | Gratitude Dinner | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner Tickets | 0.00 | 0.00 | Hawthorne Picnic Donation | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Activities Revenues | 0.00 | 0.00 | Total Activities Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Contributions | | | Committee Expenses | | |
| Faithful Fivers and Tenners | 140.00 | 435.00 | Phone Committee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Group Contributions | 927.55 | 3,607.04 | Steering Committee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Contributions | 1,067.55 | 4,042.04 | The Post | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| , otal continuono | 1,001.00 | 7,0-12.0-1 | Website Committee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Overhead Expenses | | | Total Committee Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Annual Corp Filing Fee | 0.00 | 122.50 | | | |
| Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | Fund Balance | | |
| Intergroup's Monthly Meeting | 0.00 | 85.22 | Checking | | |
| Internet | 65.68 | 262.72 | Checking @ 1st of Mo. | 816.51 | |
| Office Expenses | 33.70 | 74.45 | Current Deposits | 1,742.11 | |
| Office Rent | 190.00 | 760.00 | Current Expenditures | 2,095.69 | |
| Office Manager Salary | 1,280.31 | 4,147.20 | Loan from Grat. Din. Res. | 500.00 | |
| Paypal & Square Fees | 17.92 | 35.72 | Transfer FF & T to Office Reserve | 140.00 | |
| Payroll Taxes | 265.62 | 265.62 | Ending Balance, Checking | | 822.93 |
| Postage | 0.00 | 51.90 | Contributions are credited for the m | onth they are de | posited. |
| Printing: Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | hence some contributions may not b | | |
| Printing: Phone Volunteer Packets | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| Printing: POST | 0.00 | 471.05 | Annual POST Sub | ecrintion | į |
| State Sales Tax | 84.09 | 340.94 | Annual POST Subscription \$11 = 12 POSTs delivered to your door monthly! | | |
| Telephone | 158.37 | 634.19 | i Please make checks payable to: NCFI along with this information: | | |
| Website Fees | 0.00 | 32.87 | | | |
| Total Overhead Expenses | 2,095.69 | 7,284.38 | Name: | | |
| Ending Balance, Grat. Din. Res. | | 3,000.00 | Address: | | |
| Ending Balance, Off. Res. | | 11,338.72 | City/Zip: | | |

DISTRICT 14

Serving Alachua County

DCM Corner

Dear Friends.

For those of you who can and are willing, it is time to get back to work; with AA service. I reached out to the committee chairpersons for District 14 (Alachua county and some surrounding areas) and they are excited to get back to work. We are trying to have committee meetings beginning in July, we have service opportunities within Corrections, currently. Treatment is reaching out to our local facilities to ascertain when we can begin taking meetings back in to their facilities and are planning their first committee meeting, along with Literature. Intergroup is attempting to get an up to date schedule of in person meetings and zoom meetings, please visit the district website for the most up to date updates.

Area assembly will be happening the weekend of 07/11/2020 via Zoom (in person July assembly has been cancelled). We desperately need a secretary for the District at this time. The Grapevine committee and accessibilities committee are also vacant and have no chairperson at this time. The District 14 Business meeting to be held in July as regularly scheduled. This meeting is completely 100% optional to attend; HOWEVER, if you do decide to attend masks/facial coverings and social distancing are mandatory due to hosting church policy.

Now comes the fun part where I get to beg those of you whom are reading this, that are able and willing to please step up and help us open the doors of our fellowship. The time has finally arrived, some churches and both recovery club houses have begun allowing meetings to meet in their facilities again. Committee chairpersons are excited to get back to work, we still have new comers we can help. The only thing that can stop us, is a lack of participation. We understand that there are those that do not feel safe going out right now and we absolutely respect that. But there are those too who are able and willing. Please join us in reopening this fellowship to all that want to attend and help us to be the hand of aa, so that the next newcomer can be afforded the opportunity most of us took for granted.

Things will probably never be the same again after this Covid-19 lock down situation. But we can and we should strive to reach out the hand of AA, in whatever capacity that we can. I cannot and will not force anyone to do anything that they are uncomfortable with. But I can do this! Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help; I want my hand or the hand of my friends to be there and for that I AM RESPONSIBLE.

I look forward to see you all trudging the happy road of destiny with me, either in person or via zoom.

Always grateful to be of service, Chris M. (Grateful Chris) DCM District 14 (954) 540-8046

District 14 Service Committee Meetings

District 14 Business Meeting

2nd Wednesday, 6:00 pm Westminster Presbyterian Church

Accessibilities

1st Saturday, 5:00 pm Triangle Club

Archives

1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm Triangle Club

Corrections

3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm Triangle Club

CPC/PI

1st Thursday, 6:30 pm Triangle Club

Grapevine

3rd Monday @ 6:30 Triangle Club

Literature

1st Saturday, 5:00 pm Triangle Club

Phones (NCFI Committee)

2nd Tuesday, 5:00 pm Intergroup Office

Treatment

1st Monday, 6:30 pm Triangle Club

Visit our combined District 14 & Intergroup website @ www.AAGainesville.org for more information!

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Intergroup Treasurer's Report: May 2020

| Sales | Current | Y.T.D. | Purchases | Current | Y.T.D. |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| A.A. Literature | 508.90 | 3,842.40 | A.A. Literature | 578.81 | 2,183.09 |
| Chips | 14.40 | 436.05 | Chips | 0.00 | 314.96 |
| Medallions | 98.00 | 466.00 | Medallions | 69.09 | 191.79 |
| Other Merchandise | 42.50 | 142.85 | Other Merchandise | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Where and Whens | 0.80 | 187.60 | Where and Whens | 0.00 | 380.00 |
| Total Sales | 664.60 | 5,074.90 | Total Purchases | 647.90 | 3,069.84 |
| Sales Tax Collected | 46.55 | 349.07 | | | |
| Activities Revenues | | | Activities Expenses | | |
| Gratitude Dinner Cake Auction | 0.00 | 0.00 | Alkathon | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | Emotional Sobriety Workshop | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner 50/50 Raffle | 0.00 | 0.00 | Gratitude Dinner | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner Tickets | 0.00 | 0.00 | Hawthorne Picnic Donation | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Activities Revenues | 0.00 | 0.00 | Total Activities Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Contributions | | | Committee Expenses | | |
| Faithful Fivers and Tenners | 120.00 | 555.00 | Phone Committee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Group Contributions | 644.52 | 4,251.56 | Steering Committee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| SBA Grant | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | The Post | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Contributions | 1,764.52 | 5,806.56 | Website Committee | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | Total Committee Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Overhead Expenses | | | | | |
| Annual Corp Filing Fee | 0.00 | 122.50 | Fund Balance | | |
| Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | Checking | | |
| Intergroup's Monthly Meeting | 0.00 | 85.22 | Checking @ 1st of Mo. | 822.93 | |
| Internet | 65.68 | 328.40 | Current Deposits | 2,475.67 | |
| Office Expenses | -0.24 | 74.21 | Current Expenditures | 1,784.23 | |
| Office Rent | 190.00 | 950.00 | Repay loan from Grat. Din. Res. | 500.00 | |
| Office Manager Salary | 675.00 | 4,822.20 | Transfer FF & T to Office Reserve | 120.00 | |
| Paypal & Square Fees | 10.70 | 46.42 | Ending Balance, Checking | | 894.37 |
| Payroll Taxes | 0.00 | 265.62 | 01 | | |
| Postage | 0.00 | 51.90 | Oh sure, no | w you | |



Total Overhead Expenses

Printing: Phone Volunteer Packets

Printing: Other

Printing: POST

State Sales Tax

Telephone

Website Fees

Ending Balance, Grat. Din. Res. 3,500.00

Ending Balance, Off. Res. 11,472.55

0.00

0.00

0.00

37.28

157.91

1,136.33

0.00

0.00

0.00

471.05

378.22

792.10

8,420.71

32.87



"I simply had to believe in a Spirit of the Universe..."

Faithful Fiver

Faithful Fivers are AA members who graciously choose to contribute five dollars each month to support the Intergroup Office in its efforts to carry the AA message of hope & recovery to those alcoholics who still suffer, in the North Central Florida Intergroup Area. As a Faithful Fiver, your personal contribution will help to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

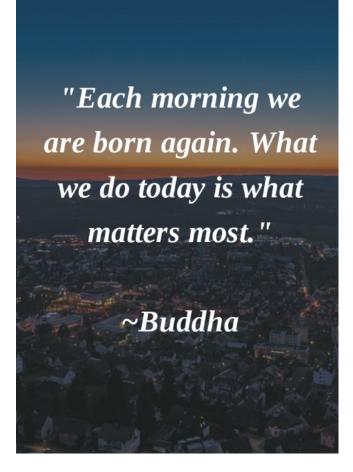
"The Faithful Fiver idea came about when we remembered that we wasted much more than \$5 each month during our drinking careers."

Payment Options: Checks, payable to NCFI, Cash, or Credit

Card (min charge \$25, fees waived).

Email any questions to: Gainesville.Intergroup@gmail.com

or call Fred S. @ 386-628-2541.





Intergroup now accepts PayPal & Venmo for Group, Individual, and Faithful 10er's and Fiver's

Send donations to: gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com

Under Notes: please include Group's name, Anonymous Individual or Faithful 10'er or 5'er Intergroup wishes to thank all who continue to contribute to help us help the still sick and suffering alcoholic