A Publication of North Central Florida Intergroup

Volume 27, Issue 3 March 2022

#### OUR COMMON WELFARE

# should come first

When I crawled into AA in 1980 I was in very bad shape. By the end of my drinking I had reached that point of incomprehensible demoralization so clearly described in our literature.

Somehow in the midst of my despair I found AA, stumbled into my first meeting, and realized that the answer to my life's problem was in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. I also knew with absolute certainty that AA was the last house on the block for me. If I was to live I needed to remain sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

One day when I was still very new I attended a meeting at which a speaker explained the 12 traditions of AA. As I sat at that meeting, still so sick, so broken, so very close to the despair that haunted me toward the end of my drinking, I realized that if it were not for the 12 traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, AA would not exist. Since my life depends on AA, from that moment until this moment I have believed that the 12 traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous are as important, as vital, as the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Like every other adult person I know, I have been affected by the deep political divisions that exist in our country. Sometimes I have felt very angry, and at times it has been difficult for me to exercise restraint of tongue and pen.

However, I do believe in my deepest being that it is of vital importance to the survival of Alcoholics Anonymous that I not discuss or argue political topics at AA meetings on any level, and so I do not discuss or argue them.

(The following quotes are from the AA preamble and from the books Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.)

"AA is not allied with any...politics...neither endorses nor opposes any causes."

"We must avoid quick-tempered criticism and furious, power-driven argument."

"Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

"The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it."

"Realization dawns...that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship...the clamor of desires and ambitions...must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not."

"Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

I still believe, as I did at my first tradition meeting years ago, that the 12 traditions are of vital importance. I MUST adhere to them if I hope that Alcoholics Anonymous will continue to exist in my life and in the lives of alcoholics yet unborn, and for that I am responsible. –SS



# COMMUNITY NEWS

- The A.A. Hotline and Intergroup received 39 calls in January.
- ◆ The newly updated Hardcopy of the Where and When is now available.
- ◆ Intergroup is fully stocked for your personal or groups Literature needs
- ◆ Lets welcome Mark R. as our new Alternate Treasurer
- ♦ Any suggestions for Intergroup email them to gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com

### Tradition 3

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

#### "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."

I believe Tradition Three is the reason AA has survived and thrives today. I believe it is the reason I and many other alcoholics are alive today. The early AAs were very fearful that the wrong kind of member might spoil or ruin AA because the organization was so new and they understood their lives depended upon the existence of AA. Thus each AA group put many restrictions on about who was allowed to join. They did not want to be associated with undesirables who would give AA a bad reputation, they were respectable alcoholics. It seems difficult to believe now. Eventually the he restrictions began to be lifted after the first "drug addict" and the first "non-believer" were admitted. Both these men proved to be great AAs who helped many people during their recovery.

I am a member of AA because I say I am a member. I was dying when I came to AA. What if I had been told women weren't allowed, old people couldn't join, Northerners weren't welcome, Catholics weren't allowed, and I talked too much. Thank God none of that happened. I was welcomed with open arms. No one said "you haven't hit your bottom yet." I had found my tribe, a family who understood me better than my family of origin. I am forever grateful.

Now I must give what was given freely to me. I actively welcome all new members. It doesn't matter who they are, where they came from, we do not discuss their religion, their politics. These issues are irrelevant in AA. I only need to know that this person is another suffering alcoholic like me. I reach out my hand and say Welcome to AA, I'm... -PB

#### HEARD IN A MEETING:

"I knew I was an alcoholic by the way I felt sober."

# FEBRUARY Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup> Dimension **YPG** Women's Step Study

DW - 13 yrs MO-6 yrs HA - 3 yrs

MC-3 yrs JH - 8 yrs DA - 30 yrs

Wholesale Miracle Free to Be **Gratitude Group** 

**CE - 5** BS - 31 yrs EJ - 2 yrs

> OQ - 2 yrs AA - 32 yrs

SA - 41 yrs KV - 14 yrs**Downtown Group** 

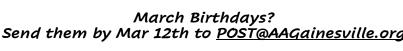
SG - 9 yrsDH - 9 yrs

Starke Happy Hour Eye Opener

ST - 7 yrsLP - 33 yrs

EH - 4 yrs

EJ - 2 yrs**TNSS** 



### 7th Tradition Addresses

#### **North Central Florida Intergroup**

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

#### **District 14**

TR - 20 yrs

LC - 4 years

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



#### **North Florida Area Assembly**

PO Box 226 DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 (Checks payable to NFAC)

#### **General Service Office**

PO Box 2407 James A. Farley Station NY, NY 10116 (Checks payable to GSO)

# Step 3

### "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

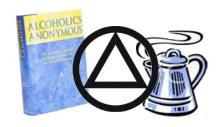
Oh no! What does this mean? Am I going to be consigned to being some kind of goodie two shoes, some Pollyanna? One of those people that make the top of your mouth tingle because they are so sweet? Absolutely not! Step Three is a logical step and is the culmination of the first two steps. Step One brought me to the realization of my need for God as a result of my powerlessness and my unmanageable spirit. It showed me that I have no control once I put any mood-altering chemicals in my body and how I have lost the power of choice in alcohol and drugs and do not have the needed power to stop and stay stopped. Step Two gave me the solution to my problem—the need for a Power greater than myself. It gave me a direction to go in—to have a willingness to believe there is a Power greater than myself and to create my own conception of this Power. It helped me understand that this Power is all or nothing. Step Three asks me to consider turning all outcomes over to this Power; to live in the reality that I am not in control of how things work out in my life. I make choices and take action and leave the results to God. When I stop and think, I realize I am turning my will and my life over to the care of people I have never met. Yet, I did this on a daily basis while I was drinking and using with no thought of the consequences to myself or others. Turning my life over to the care of the Power of the Universe seems like a no brainer. I demonstrate my commitment to Step 3—my willingness to live in this Power's will—by doing Steps 4-9. This Step is the beginning of a prayer of action that starts when I take the Step Three prayer and ends when I do the Seventh Step Prayer. I ask for this Power to care for me in a way I cannot care for myself, to relieve me of my little mindedness so that I have the needed power to work Step Four. This Third Step is so powerful, immense and pervasive because God takes it seriously even if I don't. Even if I wander down a dark path, this Power remains steady and true to the decision I made. It was not until after taking this step that I became aware of all the things that I made higher powers in my life: money, the pursuit of money, having a relationship, sex, material possessions, what I thought, how I felt, what others did or did not do, etc.

So if you have done a Third Step and are wondering if what you are doing is in God's will, if you are writing Fourth Step inventory, you can rest assured that you are, in fact, doing your Higher Power's will. This Third Step is the beginning of a lifelong relationship with God as the keystone of the arch through which you will walk into a life beyond anything you can have imagine. -Charlotte S

"The only problem we ever really have is separation from God."







### North Central Florida

# Intergroup

Our office is located at:

#### **Land Title Plaza**

2632 NW 43rd Street
Building 1000, around back at suite 1182
Gainesville, FL 32606-7551
Telephone: 352-372-8091

#### Office hours:

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:

March 27th @ 1:00

Check out our website at

### www.AAGainesville.org



If you would like to be on the 12 step list - the list of persons willing to give information and support to a caller to the AA hotline - please call the AA Intergroup hotline at 352-372-8091 and give your name and phone number to the person who answers. Your name will be added to the 12 step list. Then in the future if someone calls the AA hotline in need of information and support, the person who answers the phone for AA can call you and ask if you will be willing to call the person who needs information and support.



#### **POST Submissions**

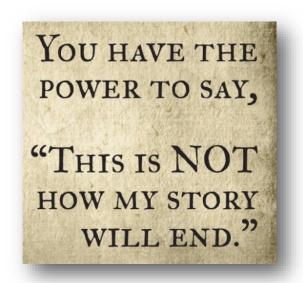
Send articles and anniversaries to <u>Post@AAGainesville.org</u> or mail them to the NCFI office no later than the 12th of each month.

#### **Activities Submissions**

Send information for all activities in the AA community to Activities@AAGainesville.org. 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@AAGainesville.org** with requests.



## Thanks to the following 12 Groups and Individuals who sent in a donation to Intergroup in Jan. 2022

Individuals \$1,090.00, Everything or Nothing \$75.00,
4th. Dimension \$100.00, Free to Be \$150.00, Geezers \$200.00
Haile Freedom \$100.00, Hampton Hole in the Wall \$225.86
Kanapaha OD \$80.00, Keystone Heights Beg. \$70.00
New Freedom \$238.70, Starke Happy Hr. \$281.99
Survivors Group \$15.00

Intergroup Accepts Contributions via Cash Checks made out to NCFI, PayPal, gainesville.intergroup Venmo, Billw1935









#### **Intergroup Treasurer's Report: January 2022**

Sales	Current	Y.T.D.	Purchases	Current	Y.T.D.
A.A. Literature	1,103.85	1,103.85	A.A. Literature	1,316.09	1,316.09
Chips	102.00	102.00	Chips	0.00	0.00
Medallions	117.50	117.50	Medallions	241.86	241.86
Other Merchandise	22.00	22.00	Other Merchandise	0.00	0.00
Where and Whens	44.25	44.25	Where and Whens	0.00	0.00
Total Sales	1,389.60	1,389.60	Total Purchases	1,557.95	1,557.95
Sales Tax Collected	83.56	83.56			
Activities Revenues			Activities Expenses		
Gratitude Dinner Cake Auction	0.00	0.00	Alkathon	0.00	0.00
Gratitude Dinner Contributions	0.00	0.00	Gratitude Dinner	0.00	0.00
Gratitude Dinner 50/50 Raffle	0.00	0.00	Hawthorne Picnic Donation	0.00	0.00
Gratitude Dinner Tickets	0.00	0.00	Phone Workshop	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	94.00	94.00	Phone Committee	0.00	0.00
Group Contributions	2,626.55	2,626.55	Steering Committee	0.00	0.00
Total Contributions	2,720.55	2,720.55	The Post	0.00	0.00
			Website Committee	0.00	0.00
Overhead Expenses			Total Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00
Annual Corp Filing Fee	61.25	61.25			
Insurance	0.00	0.00	Fund Balance		
Intergroup's Monthly Meeting	29.48	29.48	Checking		
Internet	71.17	71.17	Checking @ 1st of Mo.	5,095.98	
Office Expenses	28.25	28.25	Current Deposits	4,193.71	
Office Rent	190.00	190.00	Current Expenditures	3,046.53	
Office Manager Salary	675.00	675.00	Ending Balance, Checking		6,243.16
Paypal & Square Fees	20.97	20.97			
Payroll Taxes	0.00	0.00			
Postage	11.76	11.76			
Printing: Other	0.00	0.00			
Printing: Phone Volunteer Packets	0.00	0.00			
Printing: POST	113.90	113.90			
State Sales Tax	113.31	113.31			
Telephone	173.49	173.49			
Total Overhead Expenses	1,488.58	1,488.58			
Reserves					
Ending Balance, Grat. Din. Res.		3,500.00		7	
Office Reserve Available		10,000.00		7.2	
Office Reserve in CD's		4,834.34			

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference."

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA INTERGROUP MONTHLY HYBRID MEETING AT THE TRIANGLE CLUB & ON ZOOM JANUARY 30, 2022 MINUTES

Opening – MC, Alt Chair, opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer at 1:00 PM.

In Attendance (24 Live; 5 Zoom\*) MC (Alt Chair), DK (Secretary); Fred S (I/G Office Mgr); NL (Webmaster); SS, in absentia (Phone Committee); and TS\*. (P.O.S.T.). I/G Board members: AO (Wholesale Miracle) and BB. District 14 (D14): TD. (DCM). IG Reps/Alts: AW\* (Student Group; Vulnerable Warriors); AW (Happy Hour); BF (Afternoon Reflections); BS\* (Keystone Heights Beginners); CH (Solutions); GAH (Gratitude Group); GN (Downtown Group); JR (Free to Be); JH\* (New Life); JS (Fresh Start Beginners); KP\* (Survivors' Group); MB (Young People's Group); MR (Eye Opener); SS (New Freedom); and TW (Downtown Group). Guests: BM (Eye Opener); BM; KP; MR; MS (New Freedom); and SR.

Alt I/G Chair Report - MC: Matthew announced he was chairing in Bill's absence and had no report.

**Secretary Report – DK:** There were no corrections to the December 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion to accept by BF. 2<sup>nd</sup> by AO. Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report** – FS. reported in PB's absence. He reviewed the December report on page 7 of the February POST. Totals for 2021 were presented. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$2,647. Contributions totaled \$12,852, an all-time record! Motion to accept by MR. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian F. Passed unanimously.

**Phone Committee** – MC read **SS**'s report: The hotline instruction manual is being updated, as is the 12<sup>th</sup> Step list of members willing to talk to callers referred by hotline volunteers. Members should have at least 6 months of sobriety. For more info, call SS. at 352.301.0354.

**P.O.S.T. – TS** reported all was running smoothly at the POST.

Intergroup Office - FS: The latest "Where and When" is at the printer. The office is fully stocked.

**Website – NL** reported all is up to date, including meeting schedules. Groups are urged to use the online forms to update meeting info.

Activities Committee: No report

**D14 DCM Report – TD 1)** announced the Alt DCM position is open; **2)** D14 meetings are now held at 6:30 PM and are held in person on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of each month at Westminster Presbyterian Church; **3)** Volunteers are needed to plan and carry out "Dogs with the Delegate. Chips with the Chair," a picnic scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1 - 4 PM, at Veterans Park pavilion; and that **4)** D14 had the greatest number of GSRs per district at the January Area Conference Assembly in Orlando.

Old Business – FS urged Intergroup Reps to start thinking about what a Service Fair in 2022 would look like.

**New Business – MC** announced that MR would like to stand for the Intergroup Alt Treasurer position. MR introduced himself. MR was voted in unanimously.

**GN** announced that BC passed away last night.

Brian F moved to **adjourn** the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by GN. Passed unanimously.

**MC** closed the meeting at approximately 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: DK, Secretary

#### **District 14 Business Meeting Minutes** January 12, 2022

#### Meeting called to order – 6:30 pm

In Attendance:

Officers: TD.- DCM; KP.-Alt. DCM; AR- Secretary (also GSR 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Step Group); MO.- Treasurer **Committee Chairs:** JW.-Grapevine (also GSR Fourth Dimension Group); Literature – BF.; SP. - Archives;

Corrections – BB.; Website – NL. **Intergroup Reps:** M- Alt. Chair;

GSRs/Alts: MR.- Tues. Night Step Study; DG.- Gratitude Group; Brad- Eye Openers Group; LM.- Free to Be Group; SG, Survivors Group; Gerardo, New Freedom Group

Visitors: GN.- Intergroup Rep & Archives Member; Michael, Alt DC, District 6; Dee Dee, Kanapaha Group, SP., Phone Army

**Minutes of December meeting:** Accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's report:** The submitted report was accepted as written. Michael reported that he wishes to relinguish his role.

**Alt DCM's Report -** KP. reported that the Area Assembly will be hybrid January 21-23, 2022. She plans to step down from her role because she does not plan to be DCM in the near future and wants to give somone the chance to be Alt DCM prior to the October elections.

#### **DCM calls for Service Committee Reports:**

Accessibilities – JR.- not present but Sue P., committee member, gave report. She and JR will attend a workshop at the Assembly to get ideas to help build the Committee.

Archives- SP. stated that a venue has been reserved for Founders' Day 6/11/22. The deteriorated first edition Big Book is in the process of being refurbished.

Corrections – BB.- Jail and Work Release Program shut down due to COVID. Lancaster is still active. CPC / PI – Not present. No report.

Grapevine – JW- no meeting in December. Will attend Assembly and network. Literature – BF- meets live Triangle Club 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 6:30 PM. No December meeting but there are four members who are working on a traveling display and Brian plans to attend a presentation at the Assembly.

Treatment – SD. not present.

Website – NL indicated that things are in transition to new website. The old website still in use but up to date.

**Intergroup:** MC stated that Intergroup met early due to the Holiday. Information on the Gratitude Dinner fund raising is available in the Post. He thanked all who assisted with the Alkathon, which was a great success. Sue is requesting volunteers to be available on call to talk to individuals who call the hotline since the list is being updated.

#### Old business-

TD requested volunteers to work on the upcoming "Dogs with the Delegate" scheduled for Sunday 3/14/22. This event will be combined with Delegate Pre-Conference Workshop at 1 PM. Volunteers so far include Alicia, Gerardo, David, Jennifer, and Brian.

Brian, Brad, Mark and Jennifer will assist with helping to host the Sunday AM meeting at the Assembly.

#### **New business-**

The District needs a new Alternate DCM, who needs to be a GSR or former GSR. Tobi will write an article to encourage participation to go in the Post. She will check the Structure and Guidelines.

KP was thanked for her service.

KP. is willing to take over as Treasurer for the District since Michael O. is stepping down. Vote was unanimous for KP. to become Treasurer. JT will shadow her to learn the mechanics of functioning in that capacity.

Motion was passed unanimously to thank MO. for his service (David/Brian).

Scott bought up the issue of reconsidering hybrid meetings for District 14, but it was deemed out of order.

#### Adjourned with Responsibility Pledge 7:23 PM

Respectfully Submitted: AR., Secretary



Treasurer Report February 2022 Meeting				January 2022 - Group Contributions			
				Group Names		Amount	
				Geezers Group (Thursday Night)	\$	40.00	
Report on January Financial Activity				Kanapaha Open Discussion	\$	59.00	
Fiscal Year April 2021-March 2022			Starke Happy Hour Group	\$	99.47		
				New Freedom	\$	179.03	
		Amount	Year to Date	Hampton Hole In the Wall	\$	25.17	
Opening Bank Balance	\$	14,637.34		Everything or Nothing	\$	75.00	
Group and Individual Contributions	\$	1,169.23		Free to Bee	\$	150.00	
Committee Expenses	\$	(75.44)		Fourth Dimension	\$	100.00	
D14 Expenses	\$	(334.32)		Keystone Heights Group	\$	15.00	
	\$	•	\$ -	Melrose 12 & 12	\$	5.00	
				Survivors Group	\$	15.00	
Total Expenses	\$	(409.76)	\$ -	Individual (DK)	\$	10.00	
				By The Book	\$	267.44	
Closing Bank Balance	\$	15,396.81		Bring Your Own Book	\$	110.00	
Money Held in Reserve:					1 \$	-	
Founders Day Reserve	\$	-			ŝ	-	
Service Fair - Reserve for 2022	\$	300.00			4	_	
Prudent Reserve	\$	5.000.00			Ψ	-	

#### DCM'S CORNER

Operating Cash (bank balance minus reserves) \$

We're very excited about the Dogs with the Delegate, Chips with the Chair picnic that we will be sponsoring along with District 7 from Sumter County on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at the Veteran's Memorial Park, Pavilion 2 here in Gainesville. The address is 7400 SW 41st Place, and it is just east of Tower Road. All AA's are welcome! The fun starts at 1 pm, unless you want to come early and help us set up.

We will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs and ask you to please bring a side dish or dessert. What a great opportunity for outdoor food, fun, and fellowship! The current Area 14 Delegate, Ruth, as well as the current Area 14 Chair, Lori, will be joining us as an opportunity to get to know us better. Ruth will also present a Pre-Conference Report, telling us what business they will address in the upcoming General Service Conference.

We hope to see you there!

In love and service,

Tobi



When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change.



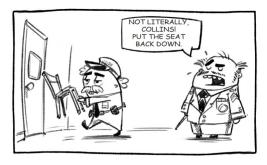
# Faithful Fiver

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 fee waived)

Email any questions to: Gainesville.Intergroup@gmail.com or call Fred S. @ 386-628-2541





#### **Service Positions Available**

Intergroup needs Volunteers! Volunteer 3 hours of your time weekly Mondays or Wednesdays from 2:00 pm till 5:00

Contact Fred @ 386-628-2541

Duties to include; Helping Customers with Literature and Merchandise Answering the A.A. Hotline Familiar with using computer





# Intergroup now accepts PayPal & Venmo for Groups, Individuals and Faithful 10er's and 5er's

Send donations to gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com

Under notes: Please include Group name, Anonymous Individual or Faithful 5'er or 10'er Intergroup wishes to thank all who continue to contribute to help the still sick and suffering JOIN DISTRICT 14 AND DISTRICT 7 FOR



### DOGS WITH THE DELEGATE, CHIPS WITH THE CHAIR

WHEN: SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2022

WHERE: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, PAVILION 2

7400 SW 41ST PLACE (OFF TOWER ROAD)

1 PM HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, CHIPS

BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT

2 PM DELEGATE'S PRE-CONFERENCE REPORT

COME LEARN WHAT THEY WILL BE DOING AT THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE IN APRIL



