A Publication of North Central Florida Intergroup

Volume 27, Issue 7 July 2022

# THE PURSUIT OF BOLLONGE

Life is difficult, at least up to the point where we can accept that as fact and get on with it. So what is all of this talk about "balance?" If sobriety is working, we find that life becomes fast, expansive, and rich. Then we are faced with "management problems." Life is about to become unmanageable yet again! Keeping balance between the many components of sober life seems like a cosmic existential game of whack-a-mole. Thank God we have sponsors and peers to help us sort it out. I have found that it really comes down to the practice and art of cultivating discipline. That's the good news! It is also the bad news. Coming from a rather Germanic (alcoholic) family, I would have told you that I have fantastic discipline.

DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH WORDPRESS?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
PLEASE CONSIDER
SUPPORTING THE
ADMINISTRATION OF
OUR NEW
INTERGROUP
WEBSITE.

Service Opportunity

contact: gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com

Various inventories have shown me that my favorite positive attribute just isn't so. It turns out that I have the inherent discipline of a pre-adolescent teenager, that my willful whims and quirky feelings push me in all kinds of self-centered directions throughout each day. Sure gets in the way of anything that looks like discipline!

As fate would have it, we have a textbook that helps us master ourselves. Specifically, it's chapter 6 "Into

Action"- 16 fast-paced pages that cover steps five through eleven. The Promises on pages 83-84 guarantee the results we can expect from following the spiritual path outlined in the book, and then the description of steps 10 and 11 tell me how to handle everyday life as a disciplined sober person. It emphasizes asking for God's help, often saying "thy will



be done" throughout the day. The chapter ends by saying that "we alcoholics are undisciplined" and that we should allow God to work on that.

At first, it looked hopeless. As the years pass by, I find that life is smoother, more consistent, less chaotic, and more disciplined, but not rigid. It has required ongoing inventories, good sponsorship, prayer, meditation, and a lot of patience. Furthermore, it's practicing steps 3, 7, and 11 that brings me in harmony with my loving Creator. I just can't wait to see how I turn out when I grow up!

~Anonymous

## COMMUNITY NEWS

- ♦ Intergroup and the Hotline received 37 phone calls in May.
- Work on our new Website has begun. Anyone familiar with WordPress, please contact gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com
- ♦ The office is stocked for all your individual or group needs. Call ahead during office hours to place an order in advance.
- ♦ The office will be closed Monday, July 4th.
- ♦ Intergroup is looking for volunteers to staff the office, contact Fred at 386-628-2541 for further information
- Starke Happy Hour Group is having a "Eatin' Meeting" on July 30th. Group is providing the main dish. Food at 6:30, speaker at 7:30. Bring a side dish if you can. Come join us for food and fellowship!
- District 14 will begin having workshops the first Saturday of every month at 10am at the Triangle Club. The first one will be August 6th on the topic of "Sponsorship"
- The Treatment Committee meets the last Thursday of every month at 6pm at the Triangle Club. Send your homegroup's Treatment Chair to sign your group up to sponsor meeting at a treatment facility! Contact treatmentd14@gmail.com for more info.



### Tradition 7

The Steps are HOW IT WORKS.
The Traditions are <u>WHY IT WORKS</u>.

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

It would be easy to expound on the history of Alcoholics Anonymous, with regard to mixing money and A.A. The early days of the society were filled with problems with money; both the lack of it and then the potential for huge amounts in the form of donations, wills, etc. that were earmarked for A.A. Thankfully, the fellowship during that era survived the turmoil of that time and came out the other side with an understanding that for A.A. to survive and prosper spiritually, we must avoid "futile disputes over property, money and authority". But we have a responsibility to pay our own way. That's why we pass the hat. Unfortunately, too many of the membership seem to think that someone other than themselves should foot the bill when the time comes for "passing the basket". Or we think that that dollar that we put in the basket 5 or more years ago still has the same purchasing power today that it did back then. I see people at meetings with \$5.00 Starbucks drinks who can't put a few dollars in the hat. We'll go out for Coldstone ice cream after the meeting, but won't spare an extra dollar for our home group. I know that in these tough economic times many people are strapped for money, but there are many of us who can afford to "go a little heavier in the hat" in order to keep our group self-supporting. And I for one know that the reason I enjoy the life of freedom that I have today is because of the blessings I've received through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. When we see so many meetings struggling to get by, we need to ask ourselves "am I doing my part?". We need to insure that when the next suffering alcoholic who wants to quit drinking looks for a meeting he doesn't have to search far to find one. And if you're a newcomer and you're a little short of funds, don't worry. Just keep coming back. Hopefully, when you've recovered and are on your feet again, you'll remember those times that you weren't able to Contribute, and you can help pay the way for some newcomer just finding his way. Ben P

### HEARD IN A MEETING:

"If pain doesn't lead to humility, you have wasted your suffering."



Eye Opener	Sick as Our Secrets	Free to Be	
AC – 1 yr	KL – 6 yrs	TH – 4 yrs	
GH – 3 yrs	MS – 8 yrs	KM – 9 yrs	
JH – 25 yrs	IE – 10 yrs	MM – 15 yrs	

Siren of Serenity	Women's Serenity Seekers	Hole in the Wall (Hampton)		
SW – 21 yrs	ST – 3 yrs	KN – 5 yrs		
	IV = 12 yrs			

Everything or Nothing	BS – 34 yrs

<u>Tuesday Night Step Study</u>

<u>Gratitude Group</u>

BH – 7 yrs

BH – 7 yrs

JH – 38 yrs

July Birthdays? Send them by July 12th to <u>POST@AAGainesville.org</u>



TRUE HUMILITY IS
NOT THINKING LESS
OF YOURSELF; IT IS
THINKING OF YOURSELF
LESS.
-c.s. Lewis

### 7th Tradition Addresses

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

KM - 3 yrs

GH - 1 yr

GH - 3 yrs

WB - 4 yrs

SW - 21 yrs

JJ - 29 yrs

EM - 49 yrs

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 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)



### "Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings."

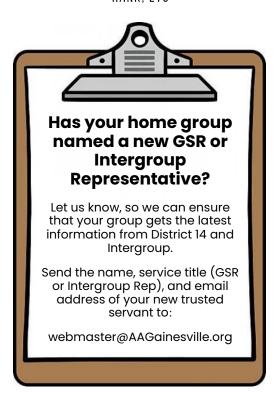
After doing the first six steps and reviewing my written inventory, it became very clear that on my own power I am unable to change my basic nature. At the point where I am humbled enough for God to have all of me, "good and bad," is where I make a commitment to a spiritual way of life. Again and again, I am required to turn to a Higher Power for help with those flaws that continue to dog my every move. This step changed by attitude toward God, as I became aware that when I managed my own life, drunk or sober, my life remained unmanageable. As with all the steps, as I practice this new way of life I am reminded how human I really am. A lifetime of selfishness and ego cannot be erased in a moment, in a year, in ten years. Over time though I am taught that I can act differently than I feel. I can practice a level of humility that I never thought possible. As I practice Step 7 on a daily basis by saying the 7th Step Prayer, I begin to have some relief from the defects that have caused me so much trouble. As I say the 7th Step Prayer, I oftentimes add a request, "God, if this troublesome defect cannot be completely removed, then please allow the defect to be used for good rather than selfish and self-centered purposes." I pray that the defect that is troubling me can be used to benefit those around me and in turn, God. I know how much this step has changed my attitude toward God. I know without a doubt that anger, frustration and self centered fear can only be removed or diminished if I ask for help. I ask God to help me look beyond my nose to all that I have, to look at those around me from a different point of view, and to act grateful even on those days I do not feel grateful. All in all, I know that something more

powerful than me has made everything possible in my life. Pam S

### **PRINCIPLE SEVEN**

-HUMILITY-

THE QUALITY OR CONDITION OF BEING NOT PROUD OR ARROGANT; MODEST OPINION OR ESTIMATE OF ONE'S OWN IMPORTANCE, RANK, ETC



### SEVENTH STEP PRAYER

MY CREATOR, I AM NOW WILLING THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL OF ME, GOOD AND BAD. I PRAY THAT YOU NOW REMOVE FROM ME EVERY SINGLE DEFECT OF CHARACTER WHICH STANDS IN THE WAY OF MY USEFULNESS TO YOU AND MY FELLOWS. GRANT ME STRENGTH AS I GO OUT FROM HERE TO DO YOUR BIDDING.





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:

July 31st @ 1:00

Check out our website at

### 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 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 gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com with requests.



### Intergroup Chairperson's Corner

Hello everyone,

I hope sobriety finds you well. Just a quick reminder that there are service positions available, so drop by the Triangle Club the last Sunday of every month to find out more. Also we ask that Intergroup Reps for our area's homegroups to come on by to keep up-to-date on any upcoming events and/or happenings. Thank you.

MatthewC.IntergoupChair@Outlook.com

352-682-6728

### Thanks to the following 6 Groups and Individuals who sent in a donation to Intergroup in May 2022

Individuals \$119.00 Alachua Thursday \$160.00 Gratitude Group \$359.80 Geezers \$100.00 Survivors Group \$15.00 TGIF \$75.00 Tell It Like It Is \$125.00



May's total contributions \$953.80



### WHAT IF TODAY, WE WERE JUST GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING?



### **How is Intergroup Funded?**

North Central Florida Intergroup receives the majority of its operating funds from group contributions. Other funding is derived from: personal contributions, Faithful Tenner's, Faithful Fiver's and the annual Gratitude Dinner. The number of Groups and absolute number of AA's has dramatically increased in the past several years in Alachua County and surrounding areas in part due to the continued growth in the number of treatment facilities. The cost to support our groups continue to grow and we are grateful for their continued support.

### Intergroup Treasurer's Report: May 2022

Sales	Current	Y.T.D.	Purchases	Current	Y.T.D.
A.A. Literature & Misc.	1,624.25	5,343.60	A.A. Literature & Misc.	571.61	3,996.32
Chips	103.50	494.50	Chips	0.00	254.96
Medallions	240.00	657.50	Medallions	0.00	327.20
Where and Whens	55.50	264.00	Where and Whens	0.00	337.50
Total Sales	2,023.25	6,759.60	Total Purchases	571.61	4,915.98
Sales Tax Collected	118.71	407.42			
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	67.00
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	67.00
Contributions			Committee Expenses		
Faithful Fivers and Tenners	74.00	525.00	Phone Committee	0.00	0.00
Group Contributions	953.80	4,850.71	Steering Committee	0.00	0.00
Total Contributions	1,027.80	5,375.71	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	0.00	131.25	·		
Insurance	0.00	0.00	Fund Balance		
Intergroup's Monthly Meeting	31.98	159.09	Checking		
Internet	77.17	373.85	Checking @ 1st of Mo.	3,302.35	
Office Expenses	600.49	943.27	Current Deposits	3,169.76	
Office Rent	190.00	950.00	Current Expenditures	2,802.28	
Office Manager Salary	825.67	4,103.90	Ending Balance, Checking	,	3,669.83
Paypal & Square Fees	42.43	138.13	, ,		•
Payroll Taxes	0.00	187.62			
Postage	76.08	142.85			
Printing: Other	0.00	0.00			
Printing: Phone Volunteer Packets	0.00	0.00			
Printing: POST	132.30	599.60			
State Sales Tax	82.29	394.59			
Telephone	172.26	863.42			
Total Overhead Expenses	2,230.67	8,987.57			
Reserves					
Gratitude Dinner Reserve		3,500.00			
Office Reserve Available		10,000.00			
		•			
Office Reserve CD		4,845.27			

"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 MAY 29, 2022 MINUTES

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

In Attendance (22 Live; 2 Zoom\*) MC (Chair); PB (Treasurer); MR (Alt Treasurer); DK (Secretary); FS (I/G Office Mgr); TS (POST), SS, in absentia (Phone Committee). I/G Board members: AO (Wholesale Miracle) and BB. District 14 (D14): TD (DCM). IG Reps/Alts: AW (Happy Hour Group); BK (Alt/Afternoon Reflections); BF (Afternoon Reflections); GH (Gratitude Group); GN (Downtown Group); JH\* (New Life); JS (Fresh Start Group); JP (Solutions Group); MR (Eye Opener); NF (Kanapaha Open Discussion); PC (Women's Serenity Seekers); SS (New Freedom) and TE\* (Sat. Morning 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> Steps). Guests: BM (Eye Opener & Triangle Club President) and SG

Chair Report – MC: No report. Alt I/G Chair Report – Position vacant: No report.

Secretary Report – DK: The April 22, 2022 minutes were approved as distributed before the meeting. Motion to accept by GN. 2<sup>nd</sup> by PC. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – 1) PB reviewed the April report on page 7 of the June P.O.S.T. Group contributions were \$864.12, up from last month; 2) He noted a \$67.00 contribution for the Emotional Sobriety Workshop; and 3) The Office Mgr salary expense of \$825.67 reflects FS new salary for the first time. Motion to accept by MR. 2<sup>nd</sup> by GN. Passed unanimously. Alt Treasurer Report – MR: No report.

Phone Committee – 1) MC read SS's report: All hotline volunteer positions are filled! Members should have at least 6 months of sobriety. One-on-one training provided. 2) AO announced a June 30th goal to complete the revised hotline handbook. For more info, call SS. at 352.301.0354.

P.O.S.T. – No report. SG asked how to submit flyers for publication. Fred said to send them to gainesvilleintergroup@gmail.com.

Intergroup Office - FS: 1) The office is fully stocked. 2) Some literature is on back order. 3) Plenty of Where and When's are available at cost, or \$0.75 each.

**Website:** FS generally explained the status of the NCFI/D14 website. The web developer company that succeeded our previous webmaster has stepped down. FS and TD, DCM, have been researching companies and believe they have found one we can afford. The cost to convert the website to WordPress is \$1,000. The first month, NCFI will pay \$500, and the second D14 will pay \$500. Look for an announcement on the website when the contract is finalized. NCFI is paying for NL to take a 12-week, \$119-course in WordPress. WordPress is a website building software platform.

**Activities Committee:** Several events were announced: Memorial Day celebration and speaker on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Triangle Club; Founder's Day on June 11<sup>th</sup>; Emotional Sobriety Virtual Conference on June 24-25.

**D14 DCM Report – TD: 1)** D14 seeks two committee Chairs: Accessibilities and CPC/PI. The latter may be split into two separate committees. Two years of sobriety are recommended to chair a service committee. **2)** The next **Area Assembly** will be held July 8-10. It will **not** be hybrid. Flyers with Assembly details and GSR scholarships were provided. **3)** The Post-Conference Report will be presented by RR, our Area 14 Delegate, on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Triangle Club. Go to our website for details on Donuts with the Delegate. **4)** The Archives and Treatment Committees are actively seeking volunteers. Meeting times are in every P.O.S.T.

Old Business –1) AO, Chair of NCFI Board of Directors, announced the revised Bylaws should be complete and ready for review and approval at the July meeting.

New Business -1) PC will collaborate with NL in getting activities flyers submitted to the P.O.S.T.

PC moved to adjourn the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by AO. Passed unanimously.

**MC** closed the meeting at 1:26 PM with the Responsibility Declaration.

Respectfully submitted: DK, Secretary

### District 14 Business Meeting Minutes May 11, 2022

### Meeting called to order with Serenity Prayer – 6:30 pm

In Attendance:

Officers: TD, DCM; EC, Alt DCM; KP, Treasurer

Committee Chairs: BF.- Literature; RG.- Archives; JW.- Grapevine, GSR 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension; KN.-

Treatment; JS-Treatment Alt. Chair, GSR Fresh Start Beginners; MC-Intergroup Chair

**GSRs/Alts:** BM, Eye Opener; DG, Gratitude; GM, New Freedom; JA, Lawtey PPG; LM, Free to Be; MR, Tuesday Night Step Study; VP, Tuesday Alachua; PR, Happy Hour; CD, Lawtey PPG Alt GSR;

GN, Archives Committee Member

### Minutes from April meeting – Accepted

Treasurer's report – Report accepted

Alt DCM's Report – Intergroup update; Area Assembly coming up

### **Service Committee Reports:**

Accessibilities – Position Open

Archives – RG. – Founder's Day is June 11 - Going well. Need updates for group histories.

Corrections – BB – We could use a few men at the Alachua County Jail- the meeting is every Monday @ 6. Corrections meets on the Third Tues at Triangle @ 6. Visitors are welcome.

CPC / PI –Position Open

Grapevine – JW –Will have Grapevine table at Founder's Day. Meet in-person the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Triangle Club. Met in April

Literature – BF – Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at the Triangle Club at 6:30 with no meeting in June due to travel. Don will set up a Literature display at Founder's Day.

Treatment – KN. – Meet the last Thursday of the month. Working on getting into Treatment facilities. Very active – See attached report.

Website – NL – Not present.

**Intergroup:** MC

### **Old business**

Donuts with the Delegate - RR Post-Conference Report on Saturday, June 4 10 am – noon, Triangle Club. Need committee members to work with BF.: Decorations, set up, etc. KN will get a certificate or plaque to present to RR in appreciation.

#### **New business-**

PI & CPC – Keep as one committee, or go back to being 2? Discussion. GSR's to discuss with home group about their thoughts.

July Area Assembly (July 8, 9, 10):

**Booking Deadline June 8** 

We will host Saturday Registration 7 – 7:45 pm and Sunday 8 – 8:45 am

### **Adjourned with Responsibility Pledge**



#### Treasurer Report June 2022 Meeting

#### Report on May Financial Activity Fiscal Year April 2021-March 2022

Amount	Year to Date
\$ 14,985.09	
\$ 772.40	
\$ (230.13)	
\$ (24.37)	
\$ -	\$ -
\$ 1.31	
\$ (254.50)	\$ -
\$ 15,504.30	
\$ 677.50	
\$ 300.00	
\$ 5,000.00	
\$ 9,526.80	
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$ 14,985.09 \$ 772.40 \$ (230.13) \$ (24.37) \$ - \$ 1.31 \$ (254.50) \$ 15,504.30 \$ 677.50 \$ 300.00 \$ 5,000.00

\*Note - Please indicate Group Name or Number on Contributions

May 2022 - Group Contributions				
Group Names	Amount			
By The Book - Founders Day Contribution	\$	50.00		
Gratitude Group - Founders Day Contribution	\$	50.00		
Eye Openers - Founders Day Contribution	\$	100.00		
Siren of Serenity - Founders Day Contribution	\$	75.00		
Thursday Alachua Group	\$	160.00		
TGIF Group	\$	75.00		
Gratitude Group	\$	179.90		
TILIS Mens Group	\$	62.50		
Group? -Individual - Samuel B	\$	20.00		
TOTAL FOR MONTH	\$	772.40		

### DCM'S CORNER

Please mark your calendar for the 1st Saturday of each month at the Triangle Club from 10 am to 11:30 am! District 14 will host a workshop at this time, beginning on August 6, 2022. The August workshop will be on Sponsorship and the September workshop will be a Service Fair. The topics for the remaining workshops are yet to be determined, so please give your suggestion to your GSR so we can provide workshops on topics that interest you! Join us as we explore opportunities for service and recovery in AA. Fellowship, snacks, and coffee!

Treatment and corrections facilities are opening up and we need individuals and groups to step up to help carry the message. Please see the aagainesville.org website for committee meeting times or contact information.

We still need Committee Chairs for Accessibilities and PI/CPC. If Accessibilities, PI, or CPC is something you think you can help with, now is a good time to step up and help with this service.

District 14 meets at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Westminster Presbyterian Church. I'm happy to say that we have had many new GSR's join us in the past few months, but there are still groups that are not represented in our quest to carry the AA message of recovery to the sick and suffering alcoholic. If your group doesn't have a GSR, now is a great time to elect one! If you have any questions, you can email me at dcmdistrict14area14@gmail.com and I will be happy to help. Give your group a voice!

In love and service,

Tobi



### 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









# 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

Power of Sober Thinking



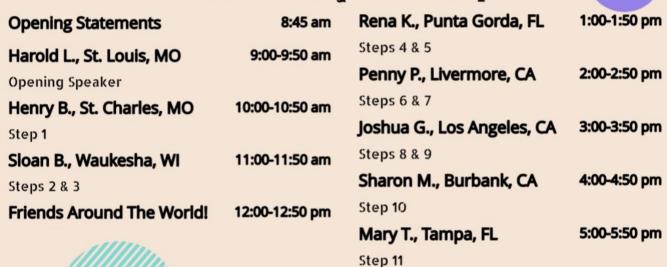
This is a **ZOOM** ONLY event.

Free to attend!!

Meeting ID: 857 8022 4372 Passcode: 1K1z2L

All times shown are in Eastern Standard

### Saturday's Lineup



### Sunday's Lineup

Opening Statements 9:45 am

Jack W., Carbondale, CO 10:00-10:50 am

Step 12

Jennifer H., Plano, TX 11:00-11:50 am

**Closing Speaker** 

Donations Accepted

Venmo: @emotionalsobrietygainesville

PayPal & Zelle: emotionalsobrietygainesville@gmail.com



