

A Publication of North Central Florida Intergroup



Volume 28, Issue 13 December 2023



I sobered up in September of 1982. Immediately I began worrying about how I was going to get through Thanksgiving and Christmas with my family, without my reliable crutch of the previous 25 years. Habitually, my father and I would get drunk at holiday get-togethers and end up with hurtful words in both directions. The booze always helped me get through the day. I especially remember agonizing about my office Christmas party. I always had a great time at this annual event at which I got totally hammered, of course and then I could chat, laugh, dance, and close out the evening with inappropriate behavior with inappropriate people.

From day one in AA, I attended three meetings a day, beginning with the 7:30 A.M. Mustard Seed meeting—now my home group—just two blocks from my apartment in New York City. One morning at that meeting, I voiced my concerns about my office party, and the advice I got was, "Don't go this year."

Not go? What? How could I not go? I was the life of the party. "Don't go," they repeated, ignoring my concerns about all the questions I would get from my drinking buddies at work. I didn't want my coworkers to know that I was in AA, at least not yet. When December arrived, Sally, our office secretary, started making the rounds at work, clipboard in hand, asking, "Will you be coming to the Christmas party? Bringing a guest?" I had my fictional story all prepared. Instead of going to the office party, I would be going to a family event that I simply couldn't get out of. So I said, "No, I won't be able to make it this year, because..."

Sally cut me off. "OK, maybe next year," she said and moved on to the next desk. Sally didn't urge me to attend. She didn't say, "Why not?" or "But you have to come!" The good news was that I didn't have to lie my way through an invented excuse. The bad news was that she couldn't care less whether I came to the party. I was crushed. What a lesson in humility.

As reality set in, I had more lessons like this both at work and at home. I was not the star of anyone's team. I was not chosen for the employee-of-the-year award. I was not everyone's favorite. In the end, I stayed sober and life got easier and easier as I settled into just being "another bozo on the bus." Thanks again AA, for another eye-opening life lesson!

- by NW (Grapevine, December 2022)





Once again a *HUGE THANK YOU* to the Gratitude Dinner planning committee. Our net proceeds were over \$11,000; over \$9000 from the cake auction.

The Alkathon is coming up, starting New Year's Eve after the 11:00 am New Life meeting at the Triangle Club. Meetings will be held all night long, ending with the New Life group on New Year's day. Coffee is provided without charge. Rent is covered by Intergroup and the Eye Opener group. Our sincere gratitude for Eye Opener's steadfast support.

Service is critical to ongoing sobriety. Please consider standing for a position at Intergroup. We still need an Alternate Chairperson, Alternate Phone Committee Chair and Alternate Webmaster. One year sobriety is recommended. Attendance at Intergroup monthly meetings is required.

The Intergroup office can always use more help. Volunteers need a minimum of two year's sobriety. They work at least one shift (3 hours) per month on the Intergroup schedule. Meet new people and be of service. Email me if interested.

SALE SALE SALE

Intergroup is having a sale on a few items. We have increased stock of the Alcoholics Anonymous First Edition facsimile for a special price of **\$5.00** each. These usually sell for **\$13.75**. What a great gift for someone in recovery! Other items on sale include the Service Manual, pocket size 12&12 and Big Book, and the gift edition of the 12&12. All are on sale for \$5.00 each. We're working on sale prices for all soft cover Grapevine books. Stop by Intergroup to see what we come up with.

The Intergroup office will be closed on Christmas, Monday, 12/25/23, and New Year's, Monday 01/01/24.

Happy Holidays!

In grateful service,

AO (gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com)





10th and 11th Step group

BB - 15 yrs SB - 1 yr DM - 2 yrs LM - 16 yrs

By the Book

WD - 41 yrs RM - 5 yrs

Eye Opener Group

JA - 2 yrs EL - 2 yrs DB - 12 yrs

Free to Be

DN - 17 yrs MA - 34 yrs KK - 29 yrs JG - 2 yrs JH - 2 yrs

Gratitude Group

HC - 19 years RG - 7 years R - 1 year M - 1 year

Hampton Hole in the Wall

Ole J - 27 yrs J - 2 yrs AH - 1 yrs

Lawtey Primary Purpose Group

TH - 9yrs JW - 1 yr

<u>Jonesville AA Group</u> RB - 1 yr

<u>Sisters in Sobriety</u> JG - 12 yrs <u>Starke Happy Hour Group</u> JL - 27 yrs PK -12 yrs AH - 1yr

Tuesday Night Step Study BR - 3 yrs

<u>The Way Out Group, High</u> <u>Springs</u> JC - 5 yrs KT - 2 yrs KH - 12 yrs

<u>Wholesale Miracle Group</u> DN - 17 yrs KH - 12 yrs

<u>YPG</u> MW - 2 yrs

7th Tradition Addresses

North Central Florida Intergroup

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

North Florida District 14

4111 NW 16th Blvd PO Box 357254 Gainesville, FL 32605–9998 (Checks payable to North Florida District 14)



North Florida Area Assembly

PO Box 6301 Jacksonville, FL 32205 *(Checks payable to NFAC)*

General Service Office

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

DISTRICT



Treasurer Report November 2023 Meeting

Report on October Financial Activity Fiscal Year April 2023-March 2024 (Beginning Fiscal Year Balance = \$15,539.84)

		Amount	Year to Date		
Opening Bank Balance	\$	15,300.04			
Group and Individual Contributions	\$	900.00			
Committee Expenses	\$	(122.65)	\$ (2,416.47)		
D14 Expenses (includes rent/PO Box/sponsored events/website)	\$	(27.00)	\$ (2,689.06)		
Service Fair	\$	(229.87)			
Earned Interest	\$	1.27			
Total Expenses	\$	(379.52)	\$ (5,105.53)		
Closing Bank Balance	\$	15,821.79			
One Month Difference in Bank Balance	\$	521.75			
Money Held in Reserve:					
Founders' Day Seed Money 2024	\$	1,536.50			
Service Fair - Reserve for 2023	\$	370.13	**\$229.87 spent		
Prudent Reserve	\$	5,000.00			
Operating Cash (bank balance minus reserves)	\$	8,915.16			
*Note - Please indicate Group Name & Number on Contributions					
October 2023 District & Committee Expenses					
Year to Date		Annual	Remaining		
Spont Spont		Budget	Budget Avail		

	Year to Date			Annual		Remaining	
	Spent		Spent		Budget	Budget Avail.	
D14-Rent/PO Box/POST	\$ (27.00)	\$	(637.64)	\$	600.00	\$	(37.64)
D14 Sponsored Events/Area	\$ (229.87)	\$	(2,051.42)	\$	2,700.00	\$	648.58
Accessibilities	\$ (24.48)	\$	(66.07)	\$	300.00	\$	233.93
Archives	\$ -	\$	-	\$	600.00	\$	600.00
Corrections	\$ -	\$	(1,443.65)	\$	2,200.00	\$	756.35
CPC/PI	\$ (98.17)	\$	(229.74)	\$	200.00	\$	(29.74)
Grapevine	\$ -	\$	-	\$	200.00	\$	200.00
Literature	\$ -	\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
Treatment	\$ -	\$	(677.01)	\$	1,200.00	\$	522.99
Website	\$ -	\$	-	\$	750.00	\$	750.00
Total	\$ (379.52)	\$	(5,105.53)	\$	9,250.00	\$	4,144.47

D14 Service Committees				
Name	When	Where		
Archives	6:30 PM 1 st Tuesday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave		
Corrections	6:00 PM 3 rd Tuesday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave		
District 14	6:30 PM 2 nd Wednesday of every month	Westminster Presbyterian Church 1521 NW 34th St		
Grapevine	6:30 PM 3 rd Monday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave		
Intergroup	1:00 PM Last Sunday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave		
Treatment	5:45 PM Last Thursday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave		
Accessibilities	6:00 PM 3rd Thursday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave		

Hello friends!

Those of us who serve the Alcoholics in District 14 would like to take this time to thank those groups who heard the call that contributions had dropped significantly since we changed over to checks and money orders. Thank you so much for funding the efforts of our committees who serve the still suffering alcoholics in Gainesville and surrounding areas. This month, we will be discussing two important items from GSO: a) a Call for Story submission by a North American Native American alcoholic and b) the literature price drop (10% off for both Big Books and 12 & 12's) in time for Holiday gift-giving. Plus, the Big Book Facsimile Edition is only \$3.00! (regularly \$12). More information is available at aa.org. Our next Area Assembly for North Florida is on January 5-7th at the Howey-in-the-Hills Mission Inn. Everyone is welcome! (However, only GSRs and DCMS and/or their alternates can vote at the business meeting.) Here's a special wish and prayer that your holiday season is a safe, warm, loving and sober one!

In loving service,

EC, DCM for District 14



November Contributions

Alachua Tuesday	\$20
Eyeopener	\$124
Starke Happy Hour	\$141
Survivors	\$20
Faithfuls/Individuals	\$155.00

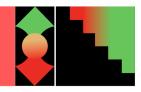
If your group isn't listed it may be because we got the contribution in December. We'll do our best to have you in our next post. If you don't see it please email Annie at gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com

Consider becoming a Faithful 5er, 10er, or more by making an automatic monthly contribution from your PayPal, Venmo or bank account.

Thank you for helping Intergroup to carry the message!







Open the meeting with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer - MC, Chair.

Chair Report - MC: Going to meetings to encourage the Alkathon

Alt Chair Report - AB: "Ditto." Still spreading word about the Intergroup meeting being available via Zoom.

Secretary report–KM, Secretary; JG, Alt Secretary: Please check with me after the meeting to ensure that I have your correct email address if you aren't receiving the emails. If your Intergroup Rep needs to receive the Intergroup minutes via email, please send me an email at <u>kristinamuzzey@gmail.com</u>. MG motions to approve minutes, N second. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report – MR, Treasurer: 'Not present' Treasurer's report read from the POST. Over \$11K brought in from the Gratitude dinner. \$9K just from the cake auction. The Gratitude dinner numbers will be posted with the treasurer's report in next month's POST. JG motion to accept the Treasurer's report, N second

Phone Committee – E has a family matter and S has graciously agreed to step up until the family matter is resolved. E will pick up in January. E inquired if the Sunday night time slot 12 noon to 4pm on /Sunday has been filled. 352-301-0354 is S's number. S's email address is also <u>suepenny71@gmail.com</u>.

P.O.S.T. - Macy: <u>post@aagainesville.org</u> - Thank you to A for helping her.Looking for people to contribute for an article for the front page. 300-600 words. Topic focused on the holidays, being with family and other people that might not have a program or Step 12. Motion for the POST edition # to reflect the month it is published (not the future month), second by G. POST is also available online at <u>www.aagainesville.org</u>. Any flyers, events and information need to be submitted by the 12th of the month.

Intergroup Office Manager - AO: <u>gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com</u> - AO needs to make an amends to the Dinner committee - regarding the sobriety countdown. She created confusion and recognized that she was trying to take over and she will seek out K to make a person amends. Plans to stock items to the amount that the "closet" will allow her to stock. Ordered 20 "AA in prison" and they sell for \$3, would Intergroup be OK with us donating those books to the treatment committee. Also have a large quantity of soft cover big books, can we contribute them. Get the money to the District treasurer and they will purchase and donate them. District gets a discount. GN makes a motion to donate the books. Second by N. Motion passed.

Website - TC, Webmaster; Not present. Items posted to the website need a one-month lead time.

DCM Report – EMH; Alt DCM - S: was present: Posted in the POST. Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm at Westminster Presbyterian. Funds are needed - Lake Butler and other Districts have their own funds. Corrections - 28 meetings going on. Monday night meeting at 6:30 has 40 inmates. More male volunteers needed to go to meetings. Treatment Committee - New meeting at the VA Wednesday's at 1pm. Accessibilities - 321-437-3281 Transplant patients. Archives - still collecting history from the groups. Seeking North Florida area archives, so that when you visit area assembly, you can learn things that are current and relevant. New email address for the Public Information and Public Cooperation - cpcpi@aagainesville.org. Area Assembly is January 5-7, 2024 at Howey-In-the-Hills.

Old Business: Alkathon - is coming up New Year's Eve and groups needed to hold meetings at the Triangle Club starting at 11am (12/31) and ending with the (1/1) 12:30 pm New Life meeting. 10 openings for meetings. If your group would like to hold a meeting during the Alkathon, please contact GN. The spots are chosen via a super secret drawing from a hat for spots. Need two more groups to fill the 10 slots. GN will then organize the drawing and get everyone in their time slots. Intergroup pays the rent, so no basket passing and SG has donated the coffee for the meetings.

New Business:

- 1. Matthew brought up that the lintergroup meeting for December would be on NYE. Motion made to have it on the 17th. Motion made by MG. Seconded by S. Motion passed.
- 2. Alternate Chairperson needed. Also need an Alternate Webmaster and Alternate Phone committee person.

Close Meeting with Responsibility Declaration. Date of next meeting: Sunday, December 17th at 1:00pm



District 14 Business Meeting Minutes - November 8, 2023

Call to order with Serenity Prayer; Introductions

Treasurer Report- DC Group and Individual contributions increased this month. Thanks, everyone, for getting the word out!

DCM report- EC Shared the voting results from the last meeting on how to serve District 14 groups (84). Organizing volunteers to visit was the clear winner. The planning for this will begin at the January District meeting; SSAASA7: November 17 -19 <u>www.ssaasa7.org</u>; Next Area Assembly: January 5-7, 2024, at Howie in the Hills, Mission Inn; shared "Group Inventory Worksheet" from GSO. District 14 Inventory: discuss in January District meeting; Passed out handout "Accessibilities Checklist for Meetings and Groups;" Meeting Exchange- put together a list of groups who would like to visit other groups for support. Further details in the January District Meeting

Alt DCM Report- SF, absent Tradition of the Month and concept of the month; Consensus of Service fairpeople had fun, great representation, and materials provided to inform all about service were abundant...a successful service fair!

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibilities- SS, absent (from a report) Accessibilities Checklist (Service Material from GSO) handed out as a guide to reduce physically based access barriers that a person may encounter when attending meetings; MC is contact for AA meetings at Shands (321)437-3281

Archives- RG Continue getting histories of groups to complete District 14 history book; Will be attending an Archives workshop in St. Petersburg in January.

Corrections- NO, absent (from report). We are providing 28 meetings a month, including Lawtey CI and Baker Re-entry. Forty inmates attended the Lawtey CI meeting. Another meeting on Wednesdays at 1:30 P.M. needs male volunteers. Researching funding for facilities we are servicing which are outside our district. (i.e., Lake Butler)

CPC/PI- R, absent (from report). Submitted committee description to Webmaster for aagainesville.org, along with new email: <u>cpcpi@aagainesville.org</u>; Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 P.M. via Zoom. Contact <u>cpcpi@aagainesville.org</u> for info. We are working to refill literature racks maintained by CPCPI throughout our district. Ideas for racks at libraries, North Florida Safety Council, Peaceful Paths, and Helping Hands.

Grapevine- BR Free shipping from November through December 2023 for all Grapevine purchases, including books, 2024 calendars, and planners.

Literature- JW Identified 3 new groups that needed pamphlets, and provided them. 75th Anniversary of the Big Book; an approved facsimile of the 1st Edition is \$12.00.

Treatment- KN, absent; K gave report. Meetings at Meridian are on Sundays and Wednesdays with flexible times: 1pm, 2 pm, or 7pm. Currently, available openings are on the first Wednesday of the month. When there is a 5th Sunday/Wednesday month, J gets it covered; New Meeting at VA, Wednesday at 1:00.

Website- TC, absent (from report). We are working on a new district page that will have a section listing all District 14 service committee meetings in one place, along with a link to go to the section of the site for a specific committee. Our website disk space is running low, may need to purge old issues of the P.O.S.T.

Intergroup- A for MC Need new phone chair; Gratitude Dinner Saturday, November 18th at Trinity United Methodist Church; Alkathon at Triangle Club, continuous AA meetings December 31-January 1. For groups who want to participate, get in touch with GN gregnorm5@aol.com.

Old Business- MC volunteered to be secretary for District 14 meetings and was voted into this position with a big YES. Welcome! District Zoom Account Manager continues to stay open. The literature committee wants the budget reduced to \$150.00. Approved. Website Budget-tabled until next District Meeting **New Business-** District 14 inventory (January); Meeting Exchange (January)

Adjourn with AA's Responsibility Pledge

North Central Florida Intergroup Treasurer's Report -<u>November 2023</u>

	Current	Y.T.D.		Current	Y.T.D.
Sales	\$851.46	\$15,708.73	Committee Expenses	\$206.99	\$286.99
Sales Tax Collected	\$63.90	\$1,093.06		\$200.33	\$200.38
Card Convenience Fees	\$4.00	\$79.50			
Activities Revenues	\$12,647.00	\$14,801.64			
Activities Revenues	\$12,647.00	\$14,601.64			
Total Revenues	\$13,566.36	\$31,682.93	Activity Expenses	\$3,020.44	\$3,418.09
Contributions					
Faithful Fivers	\$169.00	\$1,129.00	Purchases	\$0.00	\$12,989.32
Group Donations	\$164.00	\$9,707.55			
Other Dontion	\$156.36	\$1,985.83			
Total Donations	\$489.36	\$12,822.38			
Interest	\$42.02	\$391.68			
			Total Deposits	\$14,055.72	
Overhead Expenses					
Intergroup Monthly meeting	\$20.00	\$220.00	Total Combined Expenses	\$5,045.84	
Internet	\$77.22	\$849.37			
Office Expenses	\$58.99	\$529.71	Gain/Loss	\$9,009.88	
Rent	\$275.00	\$2,600.00			
Office Manager Salary	\$825.67	\$10,651.34	Checking, End of Month	\$13,441.38	
Paypal and Square Fees	\$186.08	\$377.17	Business Shares	\$6,998.72	
Payroll Taxes	\$0.00	\$688.50	Certificate of Deposit	\$9,281.75	
Postage	\$27.66	\$370.53			
Printing POST	\$110.55	\$1,331.29			
Printing Other	\$0.00	\$687.60			
State Sales Tax	\$59.03	\$1,079.72			
Telephone	\$178.21	\$2,197.28			
OtherExpenses	\$0.00	\$912.32			
Total Overhead Expenses	\$1,818.41	\$22,694.83			

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John F Kennedy

INTERGROUP Alkathon MEETING SCHEDULE

*Meetings around the clock @ the Triangle Club! *Groups covering Alkathon - rent is paid! (Don't pass the basket) *Free Coffee @ the Coffee Bar

<u>Sunday, 12/31/23</u>	<u>Monday, 1/1/24</u>
11:00 am New Life	12:30 am AAA
12:30 pm 4 th Dimension	2:00 am Sisters in Sobriety
2:00 pm Free to Be	3:30 am 10 th and 11 th Step Meeting
3:30 pm Gratitude Group	5:00 am Next Right Thing
5:30 pm Afternoon Reflections	7:00 am Eye Opener
7:00 pm Candlelight Meeting	8:30 am By the Book
8:30 pm Downtown Group	10:00 am TILIS
(Birthday Night!)	12:30 pm New Life
9:30 pm Unity (Fun & fellowship until <u>12:30 am</u>)	

Intergroup Chairperson's Corner

Hello everyone,

I hope sobriety finds you all well. Our Intergroup has done a spectacular job getting ready for our "Spirit of Rotation". There are a few Alternate positions still available. ie Alternate Phone Committee, Alternate Intergroup Chair. Come on by on the last Sunday at 1pm at our local Triangle Club for details. Coming up to the end of 2023, our community has gotten so much done. It has been a pleasure to see the hard work of you all carrying the message. In honor of our Spirit of Rotation, our friend A will be serving as our Intergroup Chair. With my stepping down, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as our Intergroup Chairperson. I have learned so much from you all. A special thanks to our Friend in Spirit, BC for allowing me to serve as your Alternate. Thank you again everyone. I will see you all in my next service commitment.

In Love and Service,

MC (Campbellmatthew0723@gmail.com)

Prodigal Sons V Central Florida AA Men's 12-Step Retreat, Spring 2024

The Spring Retreat is once again around the corner!

WHAT: 3-day, 12-Step Men's Retreat welcome to all members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Based on the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, put on by recovered alcoholics for other alcoholics in recovery. The presenters utilize only AA conference approved literature. The events include speakers for each step, buzz group sessions to work the steps, (5) meals, AA speaker meeting, snacks, fellowship, bonfire, lakeside morning meditation. Camp style lodging included with registration fee.

WHEN: Friday May 17 thru Sunday May 19, 2024

WHERE: Lake Yale Baptist Convention Center 39034 County Rd 452, Leesburg, FL 34788

WELCOME: Registration begins 2:00 pm Friday, November 17th Retreat begins at 4:00pm Dinner served at 5:30pm

 COST:
 \$162: Camp lodging and bring your own bedding, towels, pillow

 \$177: Camp lodging with supplied bedding

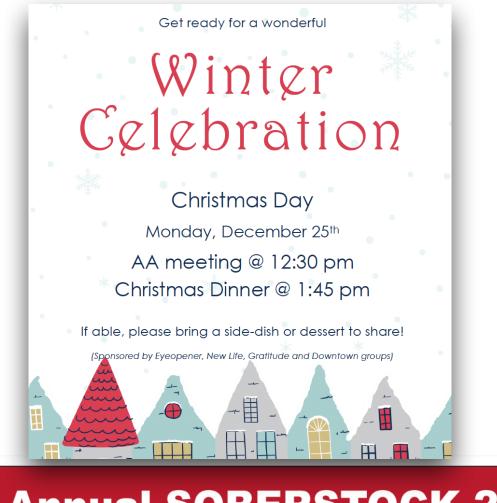
 \$120: All retreat events with no lodging

*Limited hotel room space for additional fee is available. Call for details.

Payment (check money order, PayPal) Due on March 29, 2024

<u>WHO TO CONTACT</u>: For the application form send an email to: prodigalsonsv@gmail.com

or call/text Daniel at 941-730-4274



18th Annual SOBERSTOCK 2024



Soberstock is a 3-day weekend AA/AI-Anon/Alateen event featuring speakers, meetings, bands, food & fellowship.

Soberstock is open to all members of AA/AI-Anon and their families. Proceeds of this function will purchase Big Books and other AA literature for District 2 Jails & Institutions. The remaining profits go to the area pie chart.

Speaker Meetings! Outdoor Meetings! ALL Food & Drinks provided! Tent Camping!

Campfire Meetings!

Live Bands!

When: Friday, March 15th, 2024- Gates open at Noon on Friday! Event ends on Sunday at noon.

Where: "Sand Hill Scout Reservation" - 11210 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34613

Bike Run!

What to bring: Tents, blankets, coolers, chairs, lanterns, bug spray, snacks, NO PETS (except service animals) NO RV's What we provide: Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast, lunch and dinner, & Sunday breakfast.

vw.soberstock.com

LAWTEY PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP 16TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Come Have A Roaring Good Time As We Revisit "A PLAIN ORDINARY WHOOPEE PARTY"

Put On Your BEST 1920's Attire



TICKETS \$10.00

GUEST SPEAKERS:

CASEY T - TAMPA • RICKY M - PALM COAST

JANUARY 13, 2024

Fellowship Begins at 4pm

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY 720 Edwards Road Starke, Florida 32091

Tickets / Information / Contact Johnny T (386) 623-2564 • Cecil D (904) 263-6640