# POST

# Power of Sober Thinking

Volume 30, Issue 11 November 2025

# The Power of Gratitude in Our Recovery



Gratitude is often described as an attitude, a practice, or even a way of life. In Alcoholics Anonymous, it is something more. It is a spiritual tool. Long before many of us understood what it meant to live by spiritual principles, we were told to start with gratitude. It sounded simple, but in practice, it was transformative.

In early sobriety, feeling grateful did not come easily. We were facing consequences, repairing relationships, and learning to live without alcohol. Gratitude felt far away. But something shifted when we started making gratitude lists, saying thank you before bed, or simply noticing small blessings in our daily lives. Whether we believed it or not, the action of gratitude began to change us.

Gratitude is more than being thankful for the good things. It is about shifting our perspective. We begin to see life as something that is happening for us, not to us. The things we once saw as problems -like making amends, attending meetings, or doing service work - start to become opportunities for growth. With time, we become grateful even for the hard parts of recovery, because they show us how far we have come.

When we focus on what we have, rather than what we lack, fear and resentment lose their grip. Gratitude pulls us out of the past and the future and anchors us in the present. It opens the door to humility, connection, and peace.

As the Big Book says, "We are sure God wants us to be happy, joyous, and free." Gratitude helps us get there. It turns our attention away from what we want and toward what we have already been given. It invites us to see others more generously and to treat ourselves with kindness. It reminds us that sobriety is a gift, not a punishment or a burden.

In this season of thanks, we remember that gratitude is not just something we feel. It is something we do. We show it by showing up, by helping others, by reaching out when someone is hurting. We practice it when we pause to say grace over a meal, when we appreciate the quiet of a morning meeting, or when we reflect on a year that looks very different from the life we once lived.

Many of us will attend our local Gratitude Dinner this month, surrounded by fellow travelers on this path. Whether you are brand new or many years sober, it is a chance to celebrate the miracle of recovery. It is a time to say thank you to our Higher Power, to the program, and to the people who helped us stay sober one more day.

Gratitude does not erase hardship, but it makes space for joy. It softens the edges of our experience and helps us meet the world with grace. When we practice gratitude, we connect more deeply to the heart of AA: love, service, and the hope of a better way.

This November, may we all find new ways to practice gratitude. May it guide our thoughts, our actions, and our relationships. And may it remind us, no matter where we are in the journey, that recovery is a gift worth celebrating.

(Anonymous, Gainesville)

# November Birthdays

# **Eye Opener Group**

LH - 1 yr

# Free to Be

KV - 16 yrs LS - 10 yrs

GB - 3 yrs

LS - 2 yrs

# **Hampton Hole in the Wall**

KB - 18 yrs

KH - 4 yrs

EG - 1 yr

# **New Freedom**

FM - 11 yrs

JP - 11 yrs

MD - 11 yrs

LF - 13 yrs

SD - 2yrs

# **Women's Serenity Seekers**

BC - 24 yrs

JC - 11 yrs

LS - 10 yrs

V - 2 yrs

## Aloha, District 14

This month we focus on Gratitude. I never thought I would say the words, "I am a Grateful Alcoholic!" Without admitting I was an alcoholic, I would not have found a freedom and happiness I have now. I am sober because somebody sober helped me.

The Gratitude Dinner on November 22 was a sold out event to celebrate the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous, which continues to move forward in its 90th year of Unity, Recovery and Service.

The 68th Florida State Convention in Orlando will take place August 6-9, 2026. Register now while rooms are still available! As a reminder, don't forget to start off 2026 with Area Assembly January 2-4, 2026.

Right here in Gainesville, we will have a Fellowship of the Spirit Group starting Dec 4th. This will be a speaker meeting taking place every Thursday at 530pm. Then, December 13th at the Triangle Club from 2-4pm, a GSR workshop will be put on by Friday Night Lights Group.

Again, we are active within District 14 with plenty of opportunities to fellowship. If you would like to see or put on a workshop, let us know. We are more than happy to set it in motion.

If anyone is interested in learning the position of Alt-DCM which leads into the DCM position, contact <a href="mailto:dcm@aagainesville.org">dcm@aagainesville.org</a>

Thank you for your support and service. CD, DCM for District 14, Area 14 & Panel 75



# Community News

November 2025 Community News

We had around 38 visitors and sales at the Intergroup office in October.

My sincerest thanks to the crowd of volunteers who made the Gratitude dinner happen on November 22. The Gratitude planning committee met since September, then weekly in November, to prepare for our largest fund raiser of the year. Committee chairs and participants cannot be adequately recognized: Chairperson, A. Alt, M. Secretary, C. Tickets, B.; working closely with M our volunteer treasurer. Site and main dishes, G. M/C, J. Speaker and gifts, L. Cake Auction, S-G. Auctioneer, J. 50/50 raffle, S. Setup and Cleanup, S. Decoration, P. Kitchen/Potluck, M. Desserts, N. Beverages, A and G. Welcome table, M. Young people, M. They were each charged with rounding up volunteers to work with them to make the event a success.Many thanks to our inspiring speaker PG.

The Alkathon is coming up on New Year's Eve. Please support our all night meetings. Thanks for supporting your local Intergroup office; and keep coming back!

In love and service,

AO. (gainesville.intergroup@gmail.com)



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

Anonymity is one of the guiding principles that protects the heart of Alcoholics Anonymous. Tradition Eleven reminds us that AA is not something to be sold or promoted like a product. Instead, it grows through quiet attraction, through one alcoholic sharing honestly with another.

In the world outside AA, attention often comes through self-promotion, branding, and personal visibility. But in AA, the message is more powerful when the individual messenger steps aside. Our program spreads not because we advertise it, but because people see something in our lives that they want for themselves. It may be the way we carry ourselves, how we respond to hardship, or the peace we seem to have in our recovery. That is what draws people in.

This tradition also protects the spiritual foundation of our fellowship. When individuals seek attention or speak publicly as members of AA, it puts the group at risk. If that person later relapses or behaves in a way that conflicts with our principles, the reputation of AA could be harmed. Maintaining personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films ensures that no one person becomes the face of the program. AA is a collective effort, built on shared experience and mutual support.

Today, new forms of media like social networks and podcasts present challenges we couldn't have imagined in the early days of the fellowship. Still, the spirit of Tradition Eleven holds. We remain anonymous because humility and attraction are far more powerful than promotion.

Let the program speak through your actions, your serenity, and your willingness to help. That's the kind of message that reaches hearts.

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



Step 11 invites us to go deeper. After building a foundation through the earlier steps, we arrive at a place where simply staying sober is not enough. We begin to seek something more, a spiritual connection that brings depth, stability, and guidance into our lives. Step 11 asks us to pause and listen, to develop a quiet place within ourselves where we can receive direction and strength from a power greater than ourselves. This step moves us from reacting to life to responding with intention and grace.

For many of us, prayer came more easily than meditation. In early sobriety, my prayers were desperate and one-sided. I asked for help, for relief, for answers. It took time and practice to realize that prayer is not just about talking to my Higher Power; it is about listening. Meditation became the way I created space to hear what I had been too busy or afraid to notice.

At first, I thought meditation had to look a certain way: silent, cross-legged, and with an empty mind. But I learned that meditation could also be more flexible and approachable. It might be found in a morning walk where I pay attention to each step and breath, a quiet cup of coffee where I notice the warmth and aroma, or a few moments at a stoplight where I focus on my breath instead of my worries. These small acts of mindfulness, gently bringing my attention back to the present, became a form of meditation that felt natural and grounding. The key was willingness. When I became willing to slow down, listen, and let go of control, I began to feel something I had long missed: a sense of peace and direction.

Prayer and meditation do not guarantee comfort or easy answers. But they keep me grounded in the present. They help me remember that I am not in charge, and that I do not have to figure everything out on my own. Step 11 reminds me that a power greater than myself is always available, and that my only job is to seek that connection with honesty and consistency.

Sometimes that connection feels strong, other times distant. What matters is that I keep showing up. When I make time for quiet reflection, my decisions become clearer, my reactions softer, and my relationships healthier. When I ask for knowledge of God's will, I begin to care more about doing the next right thing than about getting my own way. When I ask for the power to carry it out, I trust that I will be given the strength and courage I need - one day at a time.

Today, I do not practice Step 11 perfectly. But I practice it consistently. I have a short daily routine that centers me: a written prayer in the morning, a few quiet moments during the day, and gratitude at night. Sometimes I light a candle, sometimes I walk the dog. These simple acts remind me that recovery is not just about not drinking. It is about becoming the person I was meant to be.

Step 11 is not a destination, but a daily opportunity to grow. It invites me to live with more intention, more humility, and more faith. It reminds me that spiritual progress is always possible, even when life is messy or uncertain. As long as I keep seeking, I stay on the path.

# North Central Florida INTERGROUP

### Located in the:

# **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

### **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.



Continuing to take life one day at a time.

The competition for the logo for Intergroup has been launched and the winner will be announced soon! Contact Annie O. if you are interested in entering the competition. Anyone interested in working on the phone committee please reach out to Ellen for information about available slots. The sobriety requirement is six months. As a way to generate more income for Intergroup, books were sold during the Service Fair. The Intergroup committee will continue selling literature during AA events if people are interested.

A and SG continue to work on the folders for the Intergroup representatives and will include a copy of the Intergroup By-Laws so all Intergroup reps can have easy access to them. A is looking for someone to train to be the next office manager (an officer-manager-in-waiting), who can support her and take over the role when she needs to step down. Please let A know if you are interested. The Florida State Convention will be held in Orlando Aug 6-9, 2026. The main hotel is sold out, but the Rosen Centre and Hyatt Place Orlando / I-Drive / Convention Center hotels have availability. So far, there are 1,001 registrants. If you are interested in participating, please register soon.

If you want your flyer or on the Intergroup website, please send it to <a href="webmaster@aagainesville.org">webmaster@aagainesville.org</a> as soon as possible to ensure it's posted!

Love and Service,

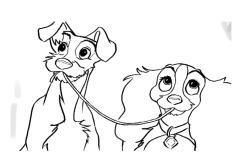
AB 5

# **Monthly Group Contributions**









Valentine's Day Speaker Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 14th

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Tickets \$10.00 each

Triangle Club

1005 SE 4th Avenue. Gainesville, FL



# North Central Florida Intergroup Monthly Meeting Minutes October 2025



Meeting Opened with Serenity Prayer

Welcome to new Intergroup Reps:

<u>Chair Report:</u> Continues to visit groups and share about Intergroup. Has been encouraging people to participate inthe Gratitude dinner planning meetings and selling tickets for the Gratitude Dinner.

<u>Alt-chair Report:</u> Has been announcing Intergroup meetings at meetings she's been going to. Launched the competition for the logo for Intergroup and winner will be announced soon!

Secretary Report: Minutes for September were reviewed and accepted, with a corrected date.

<u>Treasurer Report:</u> Report for September was reviewed and accepted.

<u>Phone Committee:</u> Not present. The list of volunteers has been shared with the Intergroup office, so anyone working or volunteering at the Intergroup Office has the list of people who will be handling the phone. A reminder that the sobriety requirement is six months. Please reach out to E for information about available slots.

<u>POST</u>, <u>Alt POST</u>: Not Present. The POST and its layout looks great! A will follow up with M to correct the months under reports. Please send emails to <u>POST@aagainesville.org</u> A shared the Venmo QR code for Intergroup donations and should be in the next POST.

Office Manager's Report: A shared about the Intergroup/ Central Office of AA(ICOAA) Seminar that she was able to participate in. One idea was piloted to generate more income for Intergroup; books were sold during the Service Fair. The Intergroup committee will see how to be able to continue selling literature during AA events. A and SG continue to work on the folders for the Intergroup representatives and will include a copy of the By-Laws so all Intergroup reps can have easy access to them. A is also looking at training someone to be the next office manager (an officer-manager-in-waiting), who can support her and take over the role when she needs to step down. Please let A know if you are interested.

<u>Website Report:</u> Not present. B will make sure that R has access to all the website components to be able to update information. It will take on a new look, in order to make it more eye-catching. If you want your flyer on the Intergroup website, please send it to webmaster@aagainesville.org as soon as possible to ensure it's posted!

<u>DCM Report, Alt DCM</u>: Thank you to everyone that contributed to the success of the Service Fair! At least 60 people participated in the fair! The Florida State Convention will be held in Orlando Aug 6-9, 2026. The main hotel is sold out, but the Rosen Centre and Hyatt Place Orlando / I-Drive / Convention Center hotels have availability. So far, there are 1,001 registrants. If you are interested in participating, please register soon. The Assembly was held on Oct 3-5 at Lake Mary and it was a success!

Old Business: None

New Business: Elections! Please welcome your 2026 elected officers and directors of Intergroup!

Chair: SGW
Alt Chair: JP
Secretary: JG
Treasurer: MR
Alt Treasurer, GD
Board member: AR

Thank you to BB for his years of service as a member of the board of directors.

Positions that still need to be filled: Alt Secretary.

Discussion and election of committee members will be postponed until November 30, 2025.



# North Central Florida Intergroup <u>Treasurer's Report</u> October 2025



	Current	Y.T.D.		Current	Y.T.D.
Sales	\$786.9	5 \$14,037.10	Committee Expenses	\$40.00	\$80.00
Sales Tax Collected	\$59.0	8 \$1,093.70	•		
Card Convenience Fees	\$13.5	\$142.00			
Activities Revenues	\$1,300.0	\$1,300.00			
Total Revenues	\$2,159.5	\$16,572.80	Activity Expenses	\$312.03	\$312.03
Contributions					
Faithful Fivers	\$165.0	00 \$1,380.00	Purchases	\$5.80	\$11,453.42
Group Contributions	\$1,161.5	\$8,993.46			
Other Contribution	\$222.8	6 \$1,626.83			
Total Contributions	\$1,549.3	6 \$12,000.29			
Interest	\$37.5	\$362.55			
			Total Deposits	\$3,708.89	
Overhead Expenses					
Intergroup Monthly meeting	\$20.0		Total Combined Expenses	\$3,960.72	
Internet	\$87.1	0 \$821.60			
Office Expenses	\$589.6	3 \$1,549.29	Gain/Loss	-\$251.83	
Rent	\$350.0	\$3,500.00			
Office Manager Salary	\$825.6	\$9,825.67	Checking, End of Month	\$3,103.26	
Electronic Payment Fees	\$12.8	\$141.29	Business Shares	\$1,507.43	
Payroll Taxes	\$0.0	\$688.50	Certificate of Deposit	\$10,198.51	
Postage	\$66.8	88 🚩 \$421.32			
Printing POST	\$131.3	\$1,232.80			
Printing Other	\$0.0	\$816.30			
State Sales Tax	\$68.6	\$1,014.61			
Telephone	\$286.5	\$2,866.02			
Other Expenses	\$1,164.2	26 \$1,577.48			
Total Overhead Expenses	\$3,602.8	9 \$24,654.88			

# **New AA Meetings in North Central Florida**

Fellowship of the Spirit Speaker Meeting will begin starting December 4, 2025. This meeting will take place at the Triangle Club in the Gratitude Room. They will meet every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm. Contact James for more information.

The group members of the 7:00pm "AAA Group" that meets Mondays at the Abiding Savior Luthern Church 9700 West Newberry Road, have changed the meeting format from a CLOSED meeting to an OPEN meeting.

# DISTRICT



# **OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES**

Date: October 2025

Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church

Meeting Opened: 6:30 PM

## **Treasurer's Report**

Opening \$12,139.73 | Contributions \$392 | Expenses \$76.92 | Closing \$12,428.32

# **DCM Report**

Area Assembly: Strong turnout; early-bird meetings hosted; 216 votes total. District Inventory: Surveys due December — focus on outreach & communication. Admin Updates: Mailing addresses requested; QR code for Area budget/contributions; review Area structure ("upside-down triangle").

# **Committee Reports**

Accessibilities: No updates.

**Corrections**: Volunteers needed (Lancaster Mon / Cross City Fri). Badge delays follow-up; Corrections Workshop planned Jan w/ chaplains & Area Chair.

**CPC/PI:** "Adopt-A-Doc" page live; monthly Zoom (2nd Thu 8:30 PM). Active in Run for Recovery & Zero Hour events; PSA ideas for holidays.

**Grapevine/La Viña:** Focus on subscriptions & Early AA Stories theme; next meeting Nov 3 (6:30 PM Triangle Club).

**Literature**: First Edition Big Book reprint \$2; 10% discount through Jan 15; meeting Nov 6 (5:45 PM Spirit of Truth Church).

**Treatment**: Nine members, 42 facility meetings; Bridge the Gap QR in development; monthly meeting last Thu 5:45 PM Triangle Club.

**Intergroup**: Officer elections this month; paid office manager trainee needed; Gratitude Dinner planning (Oct 19 1 PM Triangle Club); flyers → webmaster@aagainesville.org.

#### **New Business**

Quarterly New GSR Orientation proposal approved (model Area 14). Include Service Sponsorship education at Service Fair and resource packets for new GSRs. Zoom Training Workshop planned Dec for GSRs/Alt GSRs; recorded module under review for area adoption.

# DISTRICT 14

#### **Treasurer Report November 2025 Meeting Report on September Financial Activity** Fiscal Year April 2025-March 2026 (Beginning Fiscal Year Balance = \$12,775.60) Year to Date Amount Opening Bank Balance \$ 12,427.81 Group and Individual Contributions D14 434.08 \$ 3,101.32 Founders Day Ticket Sales/Contributions 100.00 \$ 3,663.00 Committee Expenses (169.71) \$ (4,229.66)D14 Expenses (includes rent/PO Box/sponsored events/website) (638.31) \$ (2,561.63) Founders Day Debits (2,860.00) Earned Interest Total Expenses (808.02) \$ (9,651.29) **Closing Bank Balance** \$ 12,154.37 (273.44) Money Held in Reserve: Founders' Day Seed Money 2026 1,544.50 Service Fair - Reserve for 2025 600.00 \$ Prudent Reserve 7,500.00 Operating Cash (bank balance minus reserves) \$ 2,509.87

October District & Committee Expenses								
			Year to Date		Annual		Remaining	
		Spent		Spent	Budget		Budget Avail.	
D14-Rent/PO Box/POST	\$	(27.00)	\$	(399.00)	\$	1,100.00	\$	701.00
D14 Sponsored Events/Area	\$	(611.31)	\$	(2,296.41)	\$	3,000.00	\$	703.59
Accessibilities			\$	(287.39)	\$	500.00	\$	212.61
Archives				\$ -	\$	400.00	\$	400.00
Corrections			\$	(916.91)	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,283.09
CPC/PI	\$	(169.71)	\$	(242.97)	\$	600.00	\$	357.03
Grapevine			\$	(40.34)	\$	200.00	\$	159.66
Literature			\$	(29.61)	\$	150.00	\$	120.39
Treatment			\$	(416.03)	\$	1,800.00	\$	1,383.97
Zoom				\$ -	\$	200.00	\$	200.00
Website				\$ -	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
Service Fair				\$ -				
Founders Day			\$	(2,860.00)				
Total	\$	(808.02)	\$	(7,488.66)	\$	10,250.00	\$	5,621.34

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

Breakdown of Month Expenses					
D14-Rent/PO Box/POST	WPC Meeting Room	\$	(27.00)		
D14 Sponsored Events/Area	DCM Reimbursement	\$	(611.31)		
CPC/PI	CPCPI Reimbursement	\$	(169.71)		
Total Expenditures		\$	(808.02)		

District 14
October
Contributors:

Free2Be
Tues. Night Step Study
The Loft
Serenity Sisters
10/11 Step Study

District 14 Service Committees					
Committee	When	Where			
Accessibilities	6:00 PM 3rd Thursday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave			
Archives	6:00 PM 1st Tuesday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave			
CPC / PI	8:30 PM 2nd Thursday of every month	Contact: cpcpi@aagainesville.org			
Corrections	6:00 PM 3rd Tuesday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave			
District 14	6:30 PM 2nd Wednesday of every month	Westminster Presbyterian 1521 NW 34th St			
Grapevine	6:30 PM 1st 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			
Literature	545pm 1st Thursday of every month	Spirit of Truth 4055 NW 43rd Street			
Treatment	5:45 PM Last Thursday of every month	Triangle Club 1005 SE 4th Ave			

# POST Articles Needed

- Do you enjoy sharing about your experiences in AA?
- Would you like to share nuggets of hope and strength about your sobriety with our local AA community?
- Do you enjoy writing?
- Do you need to amp up your AA service contribution?



#### **Contact:**

post@aagainesville.org to get involved!

# CONTRIBUTIONS

# Become a GRATEFUL GIVER



A **Grateful Giver** is an AA member who contributes monthly to North Central Florida Intergroup with grateful memory of just how much was spent on alcohol at the bar or liquor store.

By making automatic payments through the bank, Venmo or paypal we don't even have to think about it! It couldn't be easier!





## **Accepted Payments:**

Check payable to NCFI, Cash, Credit Card (fee waived), PayPal, or Venmo

# 7th Tradition Addresses

### **North Central Florida Intergroup**

2632 NW 43rd St, Suite 1182 Gainesville, FL 32606-7551

(Checks payable to NCFI)



# **North Florida District 14**

P.O. Box 357254 Gainesville FL 32635-7254

(Checks payable to North Florida District 14)

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

PO Box 840066 St Augustine, FL 32080 <a href="https://www.aanorthflorida.org">https://www.aanorthflorida.org</a>

(Checks payable to NFAC)

#### **General Service Office**

PO Box 2407 James A Farley Station NY, NY 10116

(Checks payable to GSO)







