

INTERGROUP NEWS

November 2018

Published by Intergroup Central Office

SERVICE IN SOBRIETY

What is service work? Why should I be involved in AA functions? Why is it important for contented sobriety? Service work helps me get out of me, to focus on others. AA is a volunteer driven community of selfish, lonely, and often, discontented individuals. Every time you work on a team project it creates bonding. It allows you to apply the principles of the program and forges nurturing, healthy relationships. Working together to put on an event provides opportunities that help the newcomers, the young sobriety, and the old timers by bringing them together to share their unique perspective on sobriety.

AA may be loosely organized, but it is dependent upon every member to make decisions about resources. Become your group's Intergroup Representative. Come find out what activities are being planned and get involved. Many of our Intergroup functions are quite large and require several people to organize, set up, and clean up. It often requires large amounts of money that comes from group donations. The Intergroup votes on which events to plan and a budget for that function. If you want to know where some of the dollars in your 7th tradition basket wind up, be a part of the voting block of Intergroup!

Chairpersons who donate their time and energy to order AA literature, pay the bills, and provide administrative support are elected from among the Intergroup Representatives. It is difficult to practice the spirit of rotation when there is such a small pool of willing individuals. The monthly Intergroup meetings have sadly only been attended by a handful (usually less than 10) of the over 40 groups of District 14.

Intergroup maintains your Central Office. That means the physical space, the equipment, and individuals who want the hand of AA to always be there. Central Office is staffed by Trusted Servants who answer the phone and keep the doors open by working one four-hour shift per week. Coverage 8:00 am to 8:00 pm requires 21 people plus several alternates. When there is no one available, the phones are forwarded to an answering service, and the office is locked. At the present there are several gaps in coverage between 8am and 8pm.

The monthly Speaker Breakfast and quarterly Alkathon speaking-eating meetings need host groups. Two or more small groups can co-host to share the work (and reward!) of an Intergroup Alkathon. There is a stipend to cover the cost of the main dish of the Alkathon. There are dedicated and knowledgeable people and written instructions to help any group successfully host these events!

Every time I give back to the Fellowship of AA, I receive a level of contentment and quality sobriety that is truly beyond expression. If you want what I have found through service to others, start serving others.

Judy C.,
Intergroup
Office Coordinator



The Intergroup Newsletter is published periodically for your enjoyment and information. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editorial staff and contributors, not necessarily of the A.A. Fellowship as a whole. A A ® and Alcoholics Anonymous® are registered trademarks of A A World Services, Inc.

November Birthdays

The Care Group

Judy C. 28 years

The Sparkle Group

Lynn B. 5 years

*Please email us with your group birthdays at aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com by the 20th of the each month.



Intergroup Meeting

3rd Monday of the month 6:30 pm
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

District 14 GSR Meeting

1st Monday of the month 6:30 pm
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

Intergroup Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month
9:30 Fellowship 11:00 Speaker
Amvets Post 78 910 Valastics Ave., Valparaiso

District 14 Corrections Meeting

1st Saturday of the month 9:30 am
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

Chili Cookoff/Christmas in Nov

November 10, 2018 6:00pm
Mossyhead Community Center

District 14 Treatment Meeting

2nd Saturday of the month 10:30 am
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

Fliers for upcoming events are available at Central Office and www.fortwaltonbeachaa.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

District 14 Intergroup

24 Hollywood SW, Ste 3,
Fort Walton Beach, FL
(850) 244-2421
aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com
www.fortwaltonbeachaa.org

Our book, Alcoholics Anonymous, tells us "our stories disclose in a general way what it used to be like, what happened, and what is like now." Our most powerful tool in the fellowship is how we relate to each other through story telling.

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to) your personal story, mental illness and sobriety, relationships, friendships, finding a higher power, the steps, the traditions, service work, embarrassing moments, funny experiences, and sponsorship.

We would like to invite you to share your experience, strength, and hope in this newsletter. Please email your submissions to aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com.

OCTOBER INTERGROUP COMMITTEE GROUP MINUTES

Intergroup Committee Meeting October 15, 2018

Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority- a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Tradition 9: AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

In Attendance:

Wes P.	Chairman	Diana C.	Rule 62 Group
Bob G.	Treasurer	Bob McC.	DCM Elect
Michael D.	DCM	Ben C.	Straight Up Group
Judy C.	Office Coordinator	Chris R.	Mossyhead Group
Johnnie C.	Secretary	Tom R.	Men's Group

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer, Traditions 2 and 9.

Treasurer's report given by Bob and accepted.

Meeting schedules have been updated.

Judy asked if we could get a sign for Central Office.

Also a buzzer for the front door. Approved.

Ticket prices for Alkathon book raffle will increase from 25 cent to 50 cent.

Answering service went out of service due to Hurricane. Wes is looking into a different service if they aren't able to get up and running.

Bob McC. will be our new District Committee Member. Thank You Bob.

Intergroup Committee officer elections were discussed. No changes for now.

Respectfully Submitted. Johnnie C.

Intergroup Committee Secretary

GRATEFULLY CONNECTED

I feel so GRATEFUL!

When Hurricane Michael hit our beautiful coast, people's lives were devastated. Buildings were gone, possessions were destroyed, and comfort was a thing of the past. But because of everyone's compassion and help, there was hope for the future. These are the times as human beings we feel connected.

As an Alcoholic, this is what I felt like when I finally meet the people of AA who offered me the hope of sobriety. Because of the destruction of my life, I had to put my ego aside and except your help if I wanted to survive. You showed me for the first time that there is no separation between my "source" and me, OR from one another. And together we could do this; stay sober and help other do the same. We were connected.

This separation is what I think is the spiritual malady that is the third leg of the disease of Alcoholism, but probable the most important one. Before I drank it was there. When I drank, it was covered up for a while. As I continued to drink alcoholically the separation became desperately apparent and the drink was no longer covering up that emptiness.

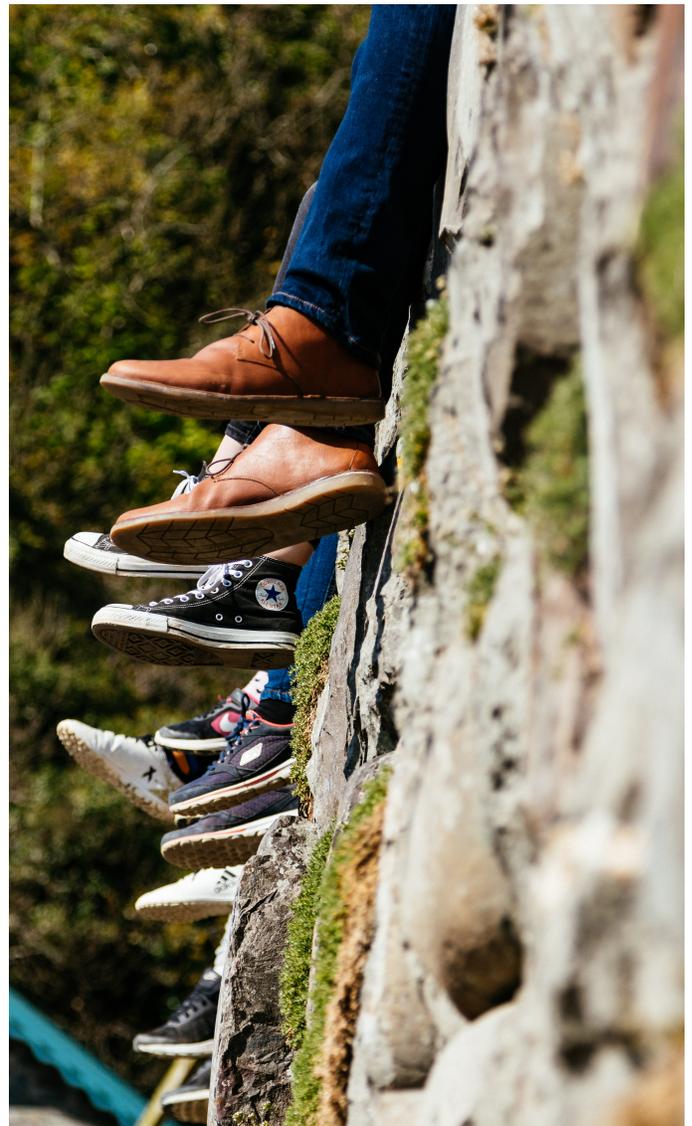
When I got to the rooms of AA, I was shown a way through the steps, to connect with my Higher Power and each of you. No matter how long I stay sober I must always keep seeking God and keep that connection open. It is what I have been looking for my whole life, even though I didn't know it.

As the years pass this Spiritual malady can be forgotten as part of my disease. My ego can slip back in and say, "Hey, we got this -we have achieved things that we never thought we would, survived things that we thought would devastate us and stayed sober for several decades. We MUST have this figured out. We are doing great, we sure don't need anyone else." This is very dangerous thinking for an alcoholic like me.

This is where the rest of my symptoms reappear, irritable, restless and discontent. I forget that this is a daily reprieve based on my conscious contact with my "source". I forget the joy and comfort of when I first came to AA and felt connected and had hope, if only for that day.

It only takes me a second to forget the fatal disaster I have escaped, or to think that I have accomplished this rebound on my own. I never want to forget! How you gave me hope, a relationship with my higher power and a design for living.

Darrie E.
Serenity By The Sea Women's Meeting



CARRYING THE MESSAGE

District 14 members have formed a Treatment Committee to help coordinate service work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested or actively carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment and outpatient settings. This committee meets at Central Office at 10:30 am, on the second Saturday of each month; address is 24 Hollywood SW, Suite 3, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Our purpose is to help AA members get the necessary resources needed to set up means to bridge the gap from the facility to an A.A. group in the individual's community. The Committee also works with Area Treatment Facilities and Special Needs Committees as well as with General Service Office (GSO) in New York, when requested.

The Treatment Committee mission is to help members carry the AA message of recovery when requested by Intergroup or District committees as allowed to do so by the local facilities. The basic function of the committee is to be available to take regular AA meeting into facilities. Encourage AA groups and local Intergroup/District committee participation. Provide a liaison between Treatment/Special Needs-Accessible facilities' meetings and groups on the outside. Coordinate temporary contacts with individuals and AA groups to ensure that individuals can find an AA meeting at the time of their release. The Committee can also arrange purchase and distribution of literature for these AA groups and meetings.

Lastly, the Committee can meet with administrators of institutions in coordination with the Public Information-Corporation for



Professionals Community (PI-CPC) committee when available and agencies dealing with alcoholism to share information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you or your group is carrying the message of recovery into a facility, we would be happy to hear your experience in doing so and welcome you are to join our committee. For those of you looking to perform service work in facilities. The committee is currently working with several facilities to carry the message of recovery, such as, Twelve Oaks, Fort Walton Beach Medical Center's Behavioral Health, One Hopeful Place Homeless Shelter, and Bridgeway of Fort Walton Beach's DUI and Substance Abuse course. For more information, you can contact Central Office at 850-244-2421 or you may send an email to district14centraloffice@centurylink.net (please add Treatment Committee to the subject line).

Jerome
Treatment Committee Chairperson