



ADD - A - LINE

September 2016

Volume 55

Issue 9

Northeast Florida Intergroup Newsletter

Published in Northeast Florida Since Nov. 1962

Northeast Florida

Intergroup Services

3128 Beach Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL 32207

Store Hours 9 am–5 pm Mon–Fri.

1 pm–4 pm Sat.

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neflintergroup@gmail.com

Web Site: neflaa.org

Serving the Greater

Jacksonville Area

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Folkston & Kingsland, GA.

For Flagler County go to

www.AAFLAGLER.org

or call (386) 445-4357

FALL BANQUET

RAMALLAH CLUB

3130 Parental

Home Road

SATURDAY

NOV. 12 TH

2016

DOORS

OPEN

AT 5:00 pm

> > CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS < <

Time to get ready for our annual Fall Gratitude Banquet and a great time again for the Fellowship we share with each other. Many Volunteers are needed to make this Banquet a success for Intergroup. Please attend our Banquet Committee Planning Meetings at 6:00 p.m., Mondays, Sept 12th, & Oct. 12th, and Oct. 24th as well as Nov. 7th. at the Intergroup Office — 3128 Beach Blvd. Service work also available at The Ramallah Club the morning of the Banquet at 8:30a.m., all the way 'til the Banquet is over!

We need help with: Set-Up, Cooking, Decorations, Coffee & Iced Tea, Cake Auction, Cake Ladies, Ticket Sales!!!, Raffle, Food Line and Clean-Up! To Volunteer, call Holly C. 662-0646, Linda G. 608-1634, Banquet Co-Chairs, or the Intergroup Office 399-8535. Thank you!



**Banquet
Cake
Auction
Calling All
Cake Bakers**

Please contact
the IG office at 904-399-8535
to notify them of your very
creative cake for auction.

(Cake Plates will not be returned
so please plan accordingly)



**Dessert
Table**

REQUESTING DESSERTS FOR
THE DESSERT TABLES!

If you are not baking a cake for the
Cake Auction, PLEASE help us out by
donating a dessert for the dessert
tables. These items can store bought
for your convenience.

SPECIAL ARCHIVES

ADDITION:

ADD-A-LINE

Pages 1–8

ARCHIVES NEWS

LETTER

Pages 9–12

GREAT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The morning of the Banquet, we need help for two different work shifts. The 1st shift is from 8:30 am to Noon, and the 2nd shift is from Noon to 4 pm. Call any of the contacts on the list above to offer your time for service work or JUST SHOW UP and offer assistance where you can!!!

THIS IS YOUR
BANQUET
THIS IS AN
OPPORTUNITY
DO YOUR
SERVICE WORK

**YOU CAN
RUN FOR
ELECTION**

INTERGROUP CHAIRMAN ELECTION IN NOVEMBER

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STANDING FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

SEVERAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS ALSO WILL BE AVAILABLE. YOU CAN CALL THE OFFICE AT 399-8535 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THESE COMMITTEES RESPONSIBILITIES.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NAMES FOR CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO AND/OR AT THE OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE ELECTION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. TERMS ARE 2-YEARS WITH A (SUGGESTED) MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS

OF CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY AND PREVIOUS INTERGROUP EXPERIENCE. PLEASE FURNISH A SHORT RESUME LISTING YOUR VARIOUS TYPES OF INTERGROUP SERVICE.

The Principal of Rotation: Anonymity in Service

For many of us in the fellowship, service work is an integral part of our individual programs. Service work takes many simple forms, from reading at meetings, to making coffee after meetings, to sponsorship. There are also more formal kinds of volunteer service work, such as speaking at treatment centers, becoming a group officer, or being involved in the behind the scenes running of the fellowship at the intergroup, district, or area level. In my last 8 years around the program my experience has brought me into many arenas of service. Today my service commitment involves taking meetings into an institution where the residents otherwise would have no access to our program.

One aspect of service work which is often overlooked, but suggested by our literature in order to incorporate the idea of anonymity in service is called the "principal of rotation". There is some written guidance on this idea contained in the AA pamphlet The AA Group: Where it all begins. On page 26 of that pamphlet it says:

The Principle of Rotation Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities."

Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

The idea is simple: People should rotate in and out of service in whatever capacity they serve, at the intergroup level, the group level or even simply chairing or speaking at meetings on a regular basis. It is easy to give in to the idea that "No one else will do it if I don't" or even more dangerous, "No one else will do it as well as me". The fact is that there are a multitude of people who are willing to provide service and they come with varying degrees of ability. To deny individuals opportunities to serve by holding on to a particular service tasks can be selfish and egotistical, even if it *appears* there are no other qualified candidates. The fellowship and service structure will run with or without any one particular individual. My first sponsor used to tell me that in the grand scheme of things my life is about as significant as a grain of sand on the beach. It was my first insight into the meaning of anonymity. In the Twelve Steps Illustrated it further defines Anonymity as; "Sacrificing personal ambition for the common good." It can be easy to get caught up in self when performing service work and that is where the principal of rotation come into play.. Lest our individual ego's become inflated with the notion that we are better than, we should always remember that we are simply drunks in AA; simply one of the many.

In the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" it is written: Anonymity, as we observe it in AA, is at root a simple expression of humility. When we use the Twelve Steps to recover from alcoholism, we are *each* trying to achieve real humility, to put our self-respect on a solid basis of truth, rather than on fantasies about ourselves. When we use the Twelve Traditions to work together in AA, we are *all* trying to achieve humility: as individual members, by recognizing our true place in AA.

So for those in service to the fellowship please consider the spirit of rotation and how growth in humility can be attained by stepping aside and letting others take the reigns.. Even our founder Bill Wilson, wrote of his own personal struggles with this ego inflating pitfall in Pass It On . We should remember our slogan " Let go and let God".

JG --St. Nicholas Group



BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP

Speaker Meeting

October 8, 2016 Gateway's Dining Room 555 Stockton St.

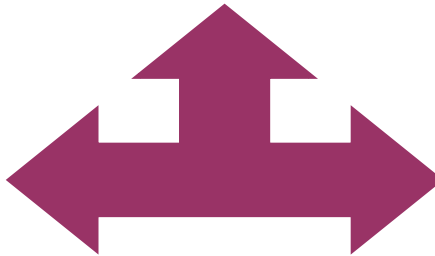
8:00 am All You Can

Eat Breakfast — \$4.00

8:30 am Speaker Meeting

Speaker — Mystery Speaker ????

NORTH EAST FLORIDA INTERGROUP



INTERGROUP BUSINESS MEETING

9:45 AM

Saturday October 8, 2016

Gateway Front

Conference Room

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Time / Date</u>	<u>Location / Notes</u>
<i>Archives</i>	Noon, Mon., September 11, 2016 and October 03, 2016	Intergroup office. 1st Monday of the Month
<i>Finance</i>	5:30 pm , Tues., October 17, 2016	Intergroup office. Please call the IG office at 399-8535 for more information.
<i>Intergroup Steering Committee</i>	5:30 PM, Tues., Sept. 27th , 2016	Intergroup Office. All members are welcome to attend.
<i>New Intergroup Rep Orientation</i>	8:30 AM January 7, 2016	Front Conference Room (Gateway, 555 Stockton St.) To familiarize the new IG Reps with the Intergroup Business Meeting, Parliamentary Procedures, Robert's Rules of Order, etc.

<u>2015-2017 District Committee Contact and Meeting Info</u>			
<u>Position & Name</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Day, Time & Location</u>
DCM - Steve H.	secretarydistrict1@gmail.com	904-307-5518	3rd Tuesday of month @ NEFL Intergroup Office
DCM - Deb B	deb_deb2@msn.com	904-314-7155	7:45pm Every 3rd Thursday @The Amelia Room 906 S 7th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
DCM- Anthony S.	rackmeister@bellsouth.net	904-302-1907	2nd Monday 6:30pm @ Anthony's house
DCM- Chris B	dcmdist6@gmail.com	904-501-0043	1st Monday of month 6:00pm @Flagler Hospital-Osceola Rm
DCM-Amy W.	awheat567@gmail.com	386-538-2028	2nd Wed of month 6:30pm @ Lion's Club-318 Oseola Ave, Palatka
DCM-Chris P	neflaadistrict25@gmail.com	352-209-1904	2nd Wed 7:00pm @ Neptune Beach Library (3rd Street)
DCM - Jack G.	jack_vgarrison@hotmail.com	714-661-3918	3rd Friday of month 6:30pm @ First Christian 11924 San Jose Blvd

NEW MEETING: New Oceans, 6:00 AM, Mon. & Fri., Mandarin Holiday Marina, 12795 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32223

MEETING CHANGE RIVERSIDE YPG
 Tuesday Night Meeting
 New Location is 3519 Herschel Street
 Avondale Baptist Church
 7:00 PM (no change)



Annual Florida Corrections Workshop
 Areas 14 and 15 Sunday
 September 18, 2016
 1 pm to 4 pm at the Eastside Club, Winter Park, Florida
 Speaker Area 14 will have a panel of former inmates to speak
PARTICIPANTS: All who Carry the Message Behind the Walls and those interested.
 At 2 PM Free Lunch, Snacks and Coffee
 Eastside Club, 2017 N Goldenrod Rd, Orlando, 32807. If there are any questions please contact: Jay., Area 15 Corrections Alternate Chairperson 561-674-6200 J4a@bellsouth.net



INTERGROUP OFFICERS

Chairman:

Carl G. Phone: 904-497-9769
Email: cgian9@gmail.com

Vice Chair / Treasurer:

Dan. B. Phone 904-737-7532.

ADD-A-LINE

Mike M. 904-807-8750
nefladdaline@gmail.com
All articles due to Intergroup by
the 18th of the month

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Chaz H. 904-568-4836
4chacon@att.net

BANQUET CHAIRS

Holly C. 904-662-0646
Linda G. 904-608-1634
Banquet Volunteers Please
Call The Intergroup Office

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Mike M. (men in jail)
904-294-5064
Monique S. (women in jail)
904-210-8111

CPC/ PI

Cooperation with the Professional
Community & Public Information.

Maggie R. 904-707-6125

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

Cheryl Ann L. 904-401-6412
chilly5555@gmail.com

PHONE ARMY

Holly C. 9046620646
hollyjowhatchaknow@yahoo.com

TREATMENT FACILITY

COMMITTEE

Craig W. 904-238-3333

YOUNG PEOPLE IN
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

904-712-0096

Step Nine

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

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Tradition Nine

"A.A. as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

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Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

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DISTRICT 1

'FALL FAMILY PICNIC'

Saturday Sept 10th

12:00 PM — 4:00 PM

Tree Hill Nature Center (Amphitheater)
7152 Lone Star Road, East Gate

District 1 will provide burgers & hot dogs on the grill and we are requesting everyone to bring a side dish and / or dessert.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

PLEASE JOIN US!!



\$5.00 FAITHFUL FIVERS \$5.00

Charlie M. Christopher G. Ernie K. Faith L.
Fred H. Holly C. John G. Randy O. Rick T.
Ski V. Susan I. Tim L.

< < < < < < < < \$5.00 > > > > > > > >

JOIN THE FAITHFUL FIVERS — Contribute \$5.00 per month to the NEFL Intergroup. Your contribution will help carry the message. Call the Intergroup Office for more information 904-399-8535

CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO MEETING SCHEDULE SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE 2016 WHEN AND WHERE'S

For the most current meeting information, see our website at: www.NEFLAA.org

TIME / DAY	AREA	GROUP ADDRESS CITY ZIP OTHER NOTES	MEETING TYPE
7:00pm Mon	E	Men's Hooked on Sobriety2 2125 Oceanfront Neptune Beach	M-C-D
7:00pm Mon	B	Wesconnett Group 3889 Eloise St Jacksonville 32210	O-D-HF
7:15am Wed	C	Drop the Rock 12001 Mandarin Rd Jacksonville	O-OL-HF
10:00am Wed	E	Beaches Unity Group 322 Penman Rd Jacksonville Beach	O-D-BS-HF
11:00am Wed	C	New Life Group 3810-3 Williamsburg Park Blvd Jax	O-D
12:00pm Wed	E	Beaches Unity Group 322 Penman Rd Jacksonville Beach	L-C-BS-HF
12:00pm Wed	H	Other Side of the Bridge 686 S Hwy 17 San Mateo 32187	O-BS
4:00pm Wed	E	Beaches Unity Group 322 Penman Rd Jacksonville Beach	O-D-HF
7:00pm Wed	A	Fourth Street Group 20 W 4th St Jacksonville 32206	O-S
7:00pm Wed	H	Liar's Paradise Group 3574 US-1 St Augustine 32086	O-S-D
7:00pm Wed	H	Sand Dollar Group 2200 A1A South St Augustine 32080	O-S-HF
8:00pm Wed	D	Grupo Vida Y Esperanza 4040 Sunbeam Rd, Ste 4 Jacksonville	C-D-SP-2hrs
8:00pm Wed	B	MacClenny Group 8981 S SR 228 MacClenny 32063	O-D-HF
8:00pm Wed	B	West Jax Mens Group 940 Talbot Ave Jacksonville 32205	C-D-HF
8:00pm Wed	B	Westside Group 4615 Lexington Ave Jacksonville	O-SS-HF
8:00pm Wed	B	Winners 1400 Cassat Ave Jacksonville 32205	O-BS-HF
8:15pm Wed	F	Downtown Group 32 N 3rd St Fernandina Beach 32034	M-C-D-HF
8:30pm Wed	G	Orange Park Group 1835 Smith St Orange Park 32073	O-BS-D-H (SD, FI Wed)
8:30pm Wed	C	Switzerland Group 210 N Ridgecrest Lane St Johns	C-D-HF
6:30pm Thr	D	New Dawn of Greater Jacksonville 1345 Nira St Jacksonville 32207	O-D-LGBT
8:00pm Thr	F	5th Tradition Group 801 Atlantic Ave Fernandina Beach	C-BBS
8:00pm Thr	G	Happy Hour Group 212 N Church St Starke 32091	O-S-CC-HF
8:00pm Thr	A	Helping Hands Group 2625 N Market St Jacksonville 32206	O-BS-SM
8:00pm Thr	E	Jax Beaches YPG 2125 Oceanfront Neptune Beach	C-BS-YP
8:00pm Thr	F	Kingsland Recovery Group 313 Central Ave Kingsland, Ga 31548	C-D
8:00pm Thr	B	MacClenny Group 8981 S SR 228 MacClenny 32063	O-D-HF
8:00pm Thr	C	Mandarin Group 12001 Mandarin Rd Jacksonville	C-BS
8:00pm Thr	H	Moving On 1111 Francis Interlachen 32148	O-D
8:00pm Thr	H	Oyster Creek Group 18 S Dixie Hwy St Augustine 32084	O-BBS-HF
8:00pm Thr	A	Riverview Study Group 7944 Smyrna St Jacksonville 32208	O-D-Beg
8:00pm Thr	G	Sojourn Group 557 Madison Orange Park 32065	O-TBS_HF
8:00pm Thr	H	Student Group 26 Artillery Lane St Augustine 32084	O-D-HF
8:00pm Thr	A	Trout River Group 9745 Lem Turner Rd Jacksonville	O-D
8:00pm Thr	H	Way Out Group 3375 US 1 St Augustine 32086	C-D-HF
8:00pm Thr	B	Westside Group 4615 Lexington Ave Jacksonville	O-D-HF
8:00pm Thr	B	Westside Group 4615 Lexington Ave Jacksonville	O-SM-HF
8:30pm Thr	G	Orange Park Group 1835 Smith St Orange Park 32073	O-BS-HF
10:30am Sat		Orange Park Group 1835 Smith St Orange Park 32073	L-O-D-HF

The Florida Unity Roundup is our annual roundup to strengthen And unify our area AAs and AFGs. All of the recovery community is invited to join us in Jacksonville for our annual event this Sept. 23, 24, & 25th, 2016. Al-anon speakers, panels, a Sat. night banquet, entertainment, great fellowship and more!



For More Information and Registration the web site is:

[www.http://floridaunityroundup.com/](http://floridaunityroundup.com/)



**DISTRICT 4
CHANGE OF
MAILING ADDRESS**

Please mail district contributions, events, etc. to the new address listed below:

**District 4
P.O. Box 15273
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035**

INTERGROUP OFFICE LOG

DESCRIPTION	July 2016	July 2015
A. A. Information	177	154
Admin. & Other Information	48	34
12 Step Calls	2	0
Visitors to the Office	92	90

"HEARD AT MEETINGS"

CENTRAL "An alcoholic is a man with two feet firmly planted in mid-air."

WESTSIDE: "A.A. is like an umbrella. It won't work unless you put it up."

TROUT RIVER "An alcoholic is a person who finds he has nothing in common with himself."

FROM A FRIEND IN AA: "I knew I was an alcoholic when I gave up giving myself permission to drink and drank anyway"

CELEBRATING SOBRIETY



<u>AUGUST GROUP</u>		<u>AUGUST GROUP</u>		<u>AUGUST GROUP</u>	
<u>BEACHES UNITY</u>		<u>FIESTA</u>		<u>MANDARIN WOMEN'S</u>	
N/a	Joe McD .	6 yrs.	Martha	37 yrs.	Sharon A.
N/a	Suki	3 yrs.	Randy Z.	24 yrs.	Sheila O.
38 yrs.	George L.	2 yrs.	David H.	9 yrs.	Caty V.
34 yrs.	Lynn K.	1 yr.	Nathan B.	2 yrs.	Jodi S.
30 yrs.	Tim L.	<u>DISTRICT 6</u>		<u>WESTSIDE</u>	
29 yrs.	Tony H.	<u>ST. AUGUSTINE</u>		40 yrs.	Dan H.
28 yrs.	Denise L .	36 yrs.	George G.	36 yrs.	Patrick P.
21 yrs.	Bonnie R.	34 yrs.	Billy D.	34 yrs.	James A.
21 yrs.	Linda P.	32 yrs.	Hana	33 yrs.	Michael G.
20 yrs.	Glad H.	30 yrs.	Kathy	27 yrs.	Pat S.
16 yrs.	Laura K.	19 yrs.	David	23 yrs.	Jeff C.
15 yrs.	Carl L.	19 yrs.	Bob S	14 yrs.	Ric. V.
14 yrs.	Julie	19 yrs.	Nanci R	4 yrs.	Jane S.
11 yrs.	Fred K	12 yrs.	Kathleen S.	4 yrs.	Jay B.
11 yrs.	Linda A	7 yrs.	Jem F.	2 yrs.	Maggie C.
9 yrs.	Suzanne M.	6 yrs.	TJ H.	1 yr.	Kim P.
7 yrs.	Patrick O.	4 yrs.	Pat G.	1 yr.	Merry C.
6 yrs.	Laura T.	3 yrs.	Tommy L.	<u>TROUT RIVER</u>	
6 yrs.	Erik	3 yrs.	Ellis	21 yrs.	Robert L.
4 yrs.	Robert T.	<u>FREE TO BE</u>		25 yrs.	Pat S.
3 yrs.	Mike C.	15 yrs.	Brian A.	15 yrs.	Lloyd N.
1 yr.	Tracee T.R.	6 yrs.	Carol R.	29 yrs.	Richard G.
1 yr.	Jonna	3 yrs.	Kimberlye T.	4 yrs.	Shayna K.
1 yr.	Shelly	3 yrs.	Amanda P.	1 yr.	Dennis H.
1 yr.	Matthew S.	3 yrs.	Jake S.	<u>BIRTHDAY CLUB</u>	
1 yr.	Bill S.	<u>LANGUAGE OF THE HEART</u>		Steve V. 40 yrs.	
<u>FERNANDIN A BEACH</u>		32 yrs.	Mike G.	Holly C. 10 yrs.	
30 yrs.	Jack R.			Mary D. 9 yrs.	
29 yrs.	Bill F.				
28 yrs.	John S.				
11 yrs.	K. C. J. S.				
3 yrs.	Sue L.				

S E R V I C E W O R K

COMMITTEE CHAIRS OPEN FOR 2017-2019

In the spirit of rotation, volunteer to chair a committee for your Northeast Florida Intergroup

Archives — Corrections Committee — CPC / PI (Cooperation with the Professional Community and Public Information)

Grapevine — Phone Army — Treatment Facilities

Further information about committee responsibilities can be obtained by calling the Intergroup Office at 904-399-8535

ADD A LINE

Our Monthly Newsletter

VITAL SERVICE POSITION FOR


NEFL INTERGROUP

ADD A LINE (Current editor only has **four (4)** issues left to do on this term) Will help train new editor Call IG office 399-8535 for more details.




Ordinary Income/Expense	Jul 16	Jan - Jul 16
Income		
4000 · Contribution Income		
4002 · Groups	\$4,214.08	\$35,021.98
4003 · Pink Can Contribution	\$31.00	\$1,430.28
4005 · Faithful Five	\$25.00	\$530.00
4006 · Birthdays	\$55.00	\$84.00
4007 · Other Contributions		\$202.20
4008 · Anonymous		\$454.51
4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg	\$84.00	\$765.55
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	\$4,409.08	\$38,488.52
4020 · Retail Income	\$3,738.31	\$29,684.00
4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr		
4042 · Business Meeting	\$38.00	\$38.00
Total 4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr	\$38.00	\$38.00
4060 · Income - Special Events		
4062 · Banquet		\$6,810.00
4065 · Cake Auction		\$3,224.00
4067 · Raffle Tickets		\$841.00
4069 · Spring Picnic		\$80.00
Total 4060 · Income - Special Events		\$10,955.00
Total Income	\$8,185.39	\$79,165.52
Cost of Goods Sold		
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	\$3,083.73	\$22,037.65
4540 · Cost of Event - Banquet Expense		\$5,529.87
4550 · Cost of Event - Spring Picnic		\$1,160.00
Total COGS	\$3,083.73	\$28,727.52
Gross Profit	\$5,101.66	\$50,438.00
Expense		
Total 5100 · Office Expense	\$206.75	\$3,906.05
5110 · Telephone	\$193.51	\$1,354.06
5120 · Telephone Answering Service	\$80.00	\$560.00
5130 · Postage - Freight	\$25.00	\$224.29
5140 · Utilities	\$230.21	\$1,217.72
5145 · Advertising	\$51.12	\$357.12
5195 · CC Fees	\$107.15	\$702.09
5200 · Professional Fees	\$50.00	\$400.00
5210 · Building Rent	\$900.00	\$6,300.00
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense	\$38.00	\$286.05
5220 · Dues/Fees/Licenses		\$61.25
5265 · Security	\$27.40	\$191.80
5280 · Pink Can Expense	\$207.27	\$1,206.87
5290 · IG Breakfast Expense	\$16.68	\$113.76
5300 · When & Where Cost	\$1,016.77	\$2,384.86
5500 · Committees Expense		
5520 · Archives		\$334.92
5530 · CPC/PI		\$215.31
5540 · Corrections	\$306.66	\$3,432.03
5560 · Newsletter	\$229.00	\$1,831.98
5590 · Treatment		\$198.38
5595 · Website		\$134.91
Total 5500 · Committees Expense	\$535.66	\$6,147.53
Total 6555 · Wages Total	\$3,219.43	\$23,053.70
Total Expense	\$6,904.95	\$48,467.15
Net Ordinary Income or (Loss)	(\$1,803.29)	\$1,970.85
Total Other Income	\$32.83	\$218.87
Net Income of (Loss)	(\$1,770.46)	\$2,189.72

Account Balances as of July 31, 2016	
Petty Cash	\$100.00
Checking Account	\$12,024.00
Saving Account	\$10.00
Total	\$12,134.00
CD 12 Month 51	\$20,333.86
CD 18 Month 52	\$11,768.66
CD 18 Month 42	\$10,162.53
Total Prudent Reserve	\$42,265.05
Inventory Asset Value	\$14,929.74



An alcoholic was at a town meeting held to decide whether liquor sales should be illegal in the village. Our man was against it, prohibition, we mean. "I tell you," he said, "whiskey once saved my life!" "How could that be?" someone asked. "Well, I was livin' on a farm over in the next county, back then," he replied. "One day, I was settin' in the house when I got such a overpowerin' thirst for a drink of booze that I hitched up my mare and went into town to the tavern. And y'know, while I was there, a cyclone come through my farm and smashed my house to bits!"

CLEANING OUT CLOSETS ??



Find any extra old AA books, pamphlets, literature in that closet. Some committees can make use of those items in helping other alcoholics. Bring them to the IG office instead of putting them out for disposal.

Cleaning Closets

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

The Following Member Will Be Fondly Remembered And Sadly Missed.....

Greg J. Westside Group

JULY 2016 Group Contributions

GROUP	MONTH	July YTD	Att.	GROUP	MONTH	July YTD	Att.	GROUP	MONTH	July YTD	Att.
A Design for Living	\$15.00	\$60.00		Jax Beach YPG				Saturday Night Live	\$250.00	\$250.00	
A Way Out Group		\$75.00		Joy Group		\$75.00		Sawgrass Dutch Group	\$30.00	\$80.00	
Alexis Group	\$15.00	\$105.00	X	Keep It Simple (Fern. Bch.)	\$200.00	\$400.00		Seascope Group		\$288.00	
Amethyst Group		\$164.00	X	Language of the Heart		\$691.65		Serenity at Noon	\$119.00	\$411.75	
Arlington Group		\$978.39	X	Lest We Forget		\$75.00		Sober Sisters - St Aug	\$111.20	\$383.20	
Azalea City Group		\$450.00		Living In The Light		\$1,130.00	X	Sojourn Group	\$100.00	\$100.00	
BAA	\$200.00	\$1,000.00		Los Lobos Men's Group	\$200.00	\$450.00		Solutions Group		\$210.00	X
Baymeadows Group		\$50.00		Maccleeny Group		\$75.00		St Nicholas		\$220.00	
Beaches Agnostics & Free Thinkers		\$103.00		Mandarin 11th Step Meditation		\$66.00		Step A Month Group		\$50.00	X
Beaches Unity Group	\$360.00	\$2,520.00		Mandarin Big Book Group		\$225.00		Step Sisters Grace Group		\$324.50	
Beachside Step Study		\$85.24	X	Mandarin Hi-Noon	\$117.48	\$1,350.94		Stepping Stones (PV)		\$50.00	X
BLIS		\$93.38		Mandarin Monday Night BBS				Stepping Stones (St Aug)		\$115.18	
Central Group		\$3,153.46	X	Mandarin Sunset Group				Stepping Up	\$15.00	\$393.06	
Clean & Free		\$20.00		Mandarin Women in Recovery	\$100.00	\$300.00	X	Student Group	\$216.16	\$563.55	
Conscious Contact Group		\$403.90	X	Men's Red Eye		\$664.00		Sunday Morning Group	\$379.50	\$379.50	
Contentment Group	\$52.00	\$102.00		Middleburg Group		\$200.00		Surrender To Win		\$100.00	
Coyote Mens Group		\$450.00		Morning After Group	\$25.00	\$75.00	X	Switzerland Group		\$450.00	
District 6: St Augustine	\$150.00	\$450.00		Neptune Beach Book Study		\$85.00		The James Gang		\$1,300.00	
Drop the Rock Group			X	New Beginnings Group				Thirsty Thursday		\$20.00	
Dutch Group		\$50.00		Nocatee Sobriety	\$90.98	\$366.39		This Too Shall Pass	\$40.00	\$70.00	X
Eastside Group	\$15.00	\$185.00	X	Oldest City Men's Group		\$281.96		Timiquana Ladies of Grace			
Evergreen Group	\$30.00	\$30.00		On the Way Home Group	\$188.63	\$528.04		TLC Group	\$50.00	\$100.00	X
Fernandina Beach Group		\$660.96		One Step at a Time		\$88.00		Tradition Group		\$300.00	X
Fiesta Group		\$1,072.38	X	Orange Park Group		\$650.00	X	Triangle Group (Dist 6)		\$105.00	
Florida Unity Roundup		\$500.00	X	Orange Park Step Sisters		\$190.00		Trout River			
Freedom Group		\$20.00		Ortega Group		\$294.00		Truly Blessed		\$100.00	
Free Men's Group	\$210.00	\$1,433.99		Phoenix Men's Group		\$233.80		Tuesday Night Step Group		\$75.00	
Free to Be			X	Ponte Vedra Mens Group		\$100.00		Villagers Group		\$129.06	X
From the Heart		\$150.00		Primary Purpose Group			X	We Agnostics		\$85.00	
Green Cove Springs		\$205.99	X	Q Branch Group	\$300.00	\$1,900.00		Wednesday Night Book Study		\$23.25	
Greenland Road Group		\$145.00	X	Reborn Group	\$100.00	\$100.00		Wesconnett Group		\$363.69	
Half Way Through	\$46.38	\$125.78		Riverside/Ortega Group	\$20.00	\$59.00		West Jax Men's Group			
Happy Destiny Group		\$283.45		Riverside (Tom S) Group		\$86.00	X	Westside			
Happy Hour Group		\$50.00		Riverside YPG		\$105.00		Winners Group			
I Am Responsible		\$300.00		Riverview Study Group		\$30.00		Winning Game Group		\$230.00	
It's Come to This	\$50.00	\$210.75		Salisbury Road Men's Group	\$10.00	\$10.00	X	Women Enjoying Sobriety	\$224.50	\$720.50	X
It's in the Book		\$60.00		San Man Group		\$200.00		Women Speak		\$38.00	
James Gang II		\$50.00		San Pablo Sober Sisters		\$52.29		11th Step Group	\$160.00	\$160.00	
Jax Bid for FCYPAA				Total signed in = 37				Total Contributions	\$4,214.08	\$35,021.98	

Represented at the August 2016 IG Business Meeting: IG Reps=28

Groups Contributing in July 2016 = 35 (YTD July 2016 = 94)

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE *September 2016* —Have you ever shown up for a meeting only to find the lights off, door locked, and no one there? It only happened to me once in my entire sobriety, but I can tell you I was pretty disappointed. I wasn't on the edge of a drink, but I sure could have used some good AA company and fellowship. What I missed was "the message".

A story in the August **Grapevine Magazine** entitled "Strangers in the Night" tells the same story, but from the opposite side of the door. The author faithfully shows up, arranges the chairs, makes the coffee, and waits for someone to hold a meeting with. He writes "Two minutes before the half hour, I gathered my things and filled a cup of coffee for the road. I had wasted two pots of coffee, in addition to the decaf I'd drunk. Just as I reached for the light, I heard the familiar creak of the front door." As the story continues, a stranger had arrived for an AA meeting.

What if they had missed each other? What if mere minutes had separated these two alcoholics from finding one another? While one is waiting another is searching and providence brings them to each other for comfort from their alcoholism. They share the message of their recovery together, just as alcoholics have done for and with each other for decades. Finally the author writes "It doesn't matter how many other drunks are there when you first come in, as long as there is one". Yes, it only takes one.

Please consider a personal subscription to the Grapevine for yourself or a friend. Possibly your group has more than a "prudent reserve" in funds and you may consider buying a few subscriptions for your group to share amongst members. And don't forget that the Grapevine Website also offers extensive achieves on AA's history and writings as well as other books and items not available on AA's Website. To find information on Grapevine Magazine subscriptions or books please go to aagrapevine.org or 1-800-631-6025. — Cheryll Ann, Grapevine Chairman.



NORTHEAST FLORIDA INTERGROUP

Supplement to the September 2016 Add—A—Line

Archives Newsletter



Interview with Jim S.

Jim S. —has been active and sober in AA for 44 years. He first got sober in New York, then moved to Fort Lauderdale and has been a very active member of AA in Jacksonville for the last twenty seven years. He taped his story in 2014 and the following has been excerpted from that tape with his permission. (Interviewed and edited by Charlie M. and transcribed by Rhonda B.)

Charlie: Tell us a little about yourself and how you got to AA.

Jim S.: I got sober June 13, 1972, in New York City. My background is Irish Catholic from Boston. Alcoholism is not a problem where I come from. Getting arrested is a problem but not alcoholism. What was important to me as a kid was to drink with the guys. I grew up where all the neighborhood activities took place in a bar or gin mill. If it was a christening, a marriage, a birth, a priest's birthday or whatever it was, we were always in the gin mill. My father and mother were dead set against any drinking. They did not drink but every one of their 9 children was a drinker. There are 5 of us who eventually got into AA.

When I was in high school I used to sneak out of school with a young teacher from high school. We would go down to this Portuguese bar where no one spoke English and they didn't care how old we were. He was in his early 20s and I was 16. I started drinking whenever the opportunity arose. I knew right from the beginning there was something wrong because I couldn't predict the outcome of having a few beers and that got progressively worse. Blackouts were very common but I thought everyone had them. By the time I was 18 knowing what I know today I was in the full throws of alcoholism. By the time I was 18 I had a lot of alcohol issues, driving issues and police issues. There was not a lot of money in our family so money was hard to come by. I solved that by helping myself. It's called stealing. I suffered a lot from guilt because the way I was brought up did not connect to what I was doing.



By the time I was 19 or 20 years old I had a ton of problems. I was being told by judges, parole officers and family that I was a nice guy but I drank too much. Why don't you smoke pot? If you smoke pot you won't be as crazy. I ended up in front of a judge and was given an option. The option was jail or the US Military. I went into the military and I did very well in the military. Alcoholics love structure and especially structure that allows us to get into trouble. It's called the buddy system.

I was a draftee for two years and they offered me NCO school but I couldn't wait to get out. I wish I could say things went well after I got out of the service. I did well professionally but other things went crazy. I did the worst thing an alcoholic could do. I got married to try to be normal. Guess who we marry? We marry people who enable us or who are just like us. My wife was just like me, she did more with pills and pot while I did more with Chivas Regal and beer. We had a horrendous six years, horrendous. In 1967 I rolled a brand new automobile on the East Side Drive. There were guns. There were crazy things that happened in that marriage. The fact of the matter was that when I put alcohol into my system I was unpredictable and dangerous.

Jim S con't: My last drink consisted of Mad Dog and Vermouth and I weighed 100 pounds. I hadn't worked for two or three months and was living at a men's shelter in the Bowery. I met an AIA lady and she ended up taking me to the Intergroup Office. I fell in love with AA immediately. There was a beautiful girl who was the receptionist and I fell in love with her thinking I was slick and cool at 100 pounds. I was just amazed at the reception I received from total strangers.

They called a guy from Queens and he came in and took me to a meeting and the man invited me to his home group which was in Queens. I went the next day; I think it was, a Sunday afternoon. This particular meeting was a beginner's workshop at the Not Queens Group. The Not Queens Group had 3 meetings a week. They were just unbelievable. I kid about it but I am an Irish Catholic. If you asked me who my Higher Power was at that time I had two; one was Archie Bunker and the other was Howard Cosell. So, you get the mindset of where my spiritual life was. Anyway, these guys welcomed me. Bernie S. was one of them. He is believed to be the first Jewish guy sober in New York.

He used to work at Towns Hospital, got sober in the late 1950s, I believe, or early 1960s at the latest. The groups that I went to were Elmhurst Group, Van Whip Group, and Bay Side Group. These guys all hung around together. I moved from Manhattan to Queens and stayed with a family there to get introduced back to work. My sponsor went with me to the corporation I'd worked for. I believe it was about a week or two after I was stable enough to be able to get on a subway and travel and he made it clear that what we had to do together was to see if: "Did I have a job?" The answer was, "I don't know." "Would they accept me back if they did have a job?"

The answer was, "I don't know." "Is there anything that I should tell him about the job that he should know about?" I said, "I think I owe them a lot of money." Today it's called embezzlement. Long story short, I went back to where I'd worked and I met with the President of the Division. We got everything straightened out. I got a loan from Chemical Bank which took 5 years to pay off. He put me back to work after a major demotion and he said that he understood the disease. I was very fortunate. He had a brother who had a drinking problem. I would be allowed to come back to work but no more expense accounts and no more travel without permission. They put up some boundaries, and they were sane boundaries.

I became part of this home group and I don't believe for the first 3 years I ever went to a meeting alone. They picked us up. Most of them were at night. There were very few daytime meetings. I did go to Mustard Seed meeting every day, 5 days a week. I had lunch there and went back to work. That used to be martini time for me. My continuing education happened as a result of an insistent sponsor; nine credits a semester minimum; seven meetings a week, minimum. You will take the commitment to Riker's Island every Sunday whether you like it or not. We did. We also went to Elmhurst Hospital every Saturday morning with my home group and got a shot of vitamin B12 in the butt. What I remember about was that it stung like heck.



They kept me extremely out of myself and into the group and the group was committed tremendously to helping other groups and exchange meetings. We made meetings in New Jersey. We made meetings in the Bronx. We made meetings in Brooklyn. We made meetings in Manhattan. We made meetings in Connecticut. We went to Suffolk County and Nassau County. We were always on the go. The best AA meeting starts like this: Your sponsor

picks you up in an automobile. You talk recovery. You go to a meeting. At the meeting you talk recovery because you're identifying, identifying with each speaker. Afterwards we would go to a coffee shop and have ice cream or some other dessert. Then you get in the car and talk recovery on the way home. So, that was called 4 meetings in one, all about recovery and some of the funniest things you ever heard in your life. That was my introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous.

I was transferred from New York City from Manhattan to Fort Lauderdale. It was a small town. Here's how AA works. I went to a meeting in Fort Lauderdale and I called my sponsor, Bernie S. I said, "Bernie, you're not going to believe what these guys do in Fort Lauderdale. They read all this stuff which we didn't do in the city; they say the Our Father and guys hold hands with guys." Bernie said to me, "AA don't need you, you need AA" and he hung up on me (click). So, him being Jewish and me being Irish, I called him back collect. Guess what he did again (click). So I found out that I had to adapt.

Jim S. con't: I was almost 4 years sober and my wife had become a member in recovery. So, we started having a family of recovery which makes a big difference. AA in Fort Lauderdale was unbelievable. We were fortunate enough to start a lot of groups. That was the responsibility. I went to Florida Mental Institution, Florida State Prison Forensic Unit for years and years. The same thing I was doing at Riker's Island. It was always service connected. It was never on an individual level. It was always on a group level. Groups survive; individuals run out of gas or disappear.

We call them slips. So, I was taught to maintain that part of the service. My wife was very involved with General Service and Intergroup. I was more Intergroup, she was more General Service. She was District 9 chair for many, many moons. We stayed

In Fort Lauderdale for 17 years and then we moved to Jacksonville. During those 17 years, I spent 7 years in airplanes, 39 countries mostly in Central and South America and the Caribbean. I had groups on boats. I had groups in St. Thomas, St. Johns, and St. Croix. I had a Home Group in Caracas. My Spanish was not bad.



I found out that Jacksonville was very different from Fort Lauderdale. There were a lot of clubs and it confused me. However, everything works when people get sober and anything that helps an alcoholic is good. I got involved with some great people here. We started the Men's Redeye Group. We did some other stuff and it took us away from the clubs and brought us to churches where we had the responsibility of cleaning it and then we had the responsibility of outbound service things like taking meetings to the Salvation Army.



That's basically my AA history. I get involved. I plead guilty to enthusiasm. Some people think that's insanity but I consider it enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, my wife died in 1997 after 31 years of marriage. I believe I had 26 years of sobriety and she had 21 years of sobriety. That was a hard time in my life. I had to begin all over again. Grieving for normal people has got to be unbelievable. Grieving for people in AA is unacceptable. New people do not let you grieve. They are too selfish. I say, "My wife died" and they say, "Can I go out with this girl?" They could care less about you, not that they could care less, the self-centeredness of this disease diverts us from thinking about others and that was a life saver for me and so that was a good experience. Now, I am remarried and educated a couple more kids through college. God had different plans for me than to slip quietly into the night.

Charlie: How many kids do you have?

Jim S.: My oldest son is in his 40s. He does drink. I have 2 step-children, one is 34 and one is 25. I have 4 granddaughters. My mother passed away at 94. Eight of her children were still alive at that time, it's now 7. There are 23 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. I have a brother with 39 years sobriety. I got another brother who has 36 years and a sister who is coming up on 5 years. I have one nephew in the program and I have a brother who comes in and out. He is a Vietnam Vet. There is some schizophrenia there but when he is doing well, he is doing well because he goes to AA. So, we have an AA family.

Charlie: How about sponsees? Have you had a few of those?

Jim S.: I was taught you put your hand out anytime when you are asked but not to babysit. I have a lot of guys I sponsor. We all go to the same groups. We all go to the same place for breakfast on Saturday mornings. We all do things with our families together. I go slowly with people. I believe that the healing is needed. While I sponsor a lot of guys, I don't make that my whole life. I have a bal-

ance. I have a job. I have a family. Balance is critical. I still make at least 5 meetings a week.

Charlie: You now have a second career in the recovery field. How did you get into that and how do you feel about it?

Jim S.: I'm 70 years old. I probably have more energy and more life and more future than I did at 28 or 29 years old and what that is all about is anytime there was any difficulty in my life I always turned to sponsors who would say, "Who you helping? What are you doing for others, etc.?" Now to take that and be paid to do it, that is a blessing. I have seen how this disease continues to destroy lives and families, like never before and so I know that it's going to take a lot of us old-timers who are willing to get out of the mindset that we are old, get out of the mindset we don't have anything to contribute, that the new guy has got to carry the ball, that may be true to a certain degree, but they don't carry the wisdom.

They have no idea how to honor the system any longer. Not because they don't want to do it, but because they have been taught not to do it. When a new man comes into AA, we cover him with love and attention like no other organization. We still do that. We do a good job of that but when an old-timer comes into a meeting, he is just another old-timer. The respect for his recovery has been lost. It's not the individual, it's how did he do it? What he is like today? How did he stay sober when his kids went to jail? How did he stay sober when his kids stole money? How did he stay sober when his job went South because of cutbacks? There is a whole host of answers out there that only the people with the experience can answer. We got to get the people to start asking the questions and stop having these closed meetings where they talk about themselves.

God has a plan though. It is very interesting and I have seen this in recovery. I have lost a lot of people because of my age and time in recovery. Luckily every time I lose someone, God puts a new one in place. So, I don't have time to be grieving about the loss of the other one because you've got a job to do with the new one. So, the numbers are horrible but I believe the oldtimers can change it. We got to go backwards before we go forward. What I mean with that, we got to stop depending on rehab centers and detox centers. We've got to start depending on ourselves. We got to start doing what was done for us. We need to make it a personalized process. Everybody that has ever been sober for any period of time has always had a personal relationship with someone thorough recovery. I want to have a new guy tied up with a guy that has been around for a while. Let the guy that's been around for a while take him and bring him to his home group. Everything should be based on the group. Let them see what AA is all about before they get out of the institution so that when they go there they're prepared. We should be actively involved in Intergroup. We should be actively involved in General Service because these groups are our life blood.

C: Thank you Jim.

