

nA

July 27th - 30th, 2017

ACKSON

Our Merchandising Committee is in Need of Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FLORIDASTATECONVENTI

HYATT REGENCY RIVERFRONT

to take One or More Two Hour Shifts at Our Sales Table During The Convention.

Beginning 3pm Thursday thru 8pm Saturday Night. Contact: Ken C. kckennyc@aol.com (845)800-1054

For other Volunteer Positions during the convention: Contact: debbiecarter9966@gmail.com Or: kganderson12@gmail.com

JULY 2017 Add A Line— Page 2 **NEFL INTERGROUP** NEFL INTERGROUP OFFICE 3128 Beach Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207 Tel: 904-399-8535 Fax: 904-399-8537 Website: www.neflaa.org E-mail: neflintergroup@gmail.com Am Responsible Office Open: Mon—Fri 9 am - 5 pm 1st Sat. of the month 1 pm— 4 pm n anyone, anywhere aches out for help, ant the hand of A.A. All ADD-A-LINE submissions due to Intergroup by the 18th of each month. ays to be there VOLUNTEEF In the case of large orders or severe weather, And for that: Am Responsibl please call ahead to make sure we are open! May 2017 I.G. OFFICE LOG May 2016 MUCH THANKS TO MIKE M. A.A. INFORMATION 188 169 ADMIN/OTHER 50 45 FOR HIS 3 YEARS OF SERVICE 15 STEP CALLS ۵ 10 VISITORS AS ADD A LINE EDITOR IN CHIEF! 🔊 1,29 Α4 CHAIRCONTACTINFO Steering Committee **Intergroup Breakfast** Beth J. 904-962-8000, E Mail: bethjoyce07@Comcast.net and Speaker Meeting

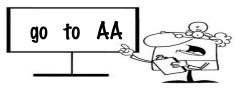
> Saturday, July 1st, 2017 Gateway's Dining Room 555 Stockton St. 8 :00 am ~ All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet \$4 per person

8:30 am ~ Speaker Meeting Speaker — Mystery Speaker (Your name could be here) Intergroup Business Meeting Sat. July 1st, 2017, 9:45 am Meeting in the Back Conference Room



WORKSHOP SO YOUR DOCTOR WILL REFER STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC PATIENTS TO AA

YOURDOGTOR



1 TO 3 PM ON SUNDAY AUGUST 13 3645 SPRING PARK ROAD, JACKSONVILLE, FL THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP IN SUPPORT OF OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE! HOSTED BY DISTRICTS 1, 3, 4, 6, 24, 25 AND 30 ADD-A-LINE Editor/Committee Luke S. 904-360-9080 E Mail: nefladdaline@gmail.com All articles due to Intergroup by the 18th of each month!

Archives Committee- Tom W. 201-424-3827 E Mail the IG office neflintergroup@gmail.com

 Banquet Committee

 Holly C. Co-Chair
 904-662-0646

 Linda G. Co-Chair
 904-608-1634

Corrections Committee – For women in Jail: Monique S. 904-210-8111 E Mail: monique95@att.net For Men for men in Jail: Freddy S. 904-226-3712 E Mail: AA@mustangmasters.com

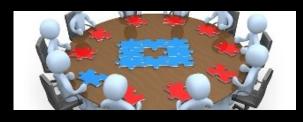
CPC/PI – Cooperation with the Professional Community & Public Information Committee Christopher G. 772-475-3583 E Mail: Service4unity@gmail.com

> Finance Committee: Bill R. 904-313-5113 E Mail: financeNEFLIG@gmail.com

> > Grapevine Committee. Cheryl Ann L. 904-401-6412 E Mail: chilly5555@gmail.com

Phone Army: Holly C. 904-662-0646 E Mail: hollyjowhatchaknow@yahoo.com

Treatment Facility Committee: Paul H. 904-759-3211 For E Mail call the IG office at 399-8535



The JULY IG Steering Committee will meet at 5:30 pm, Tues. June 25th, 2017 At the Intergroup Office. Any member is welcome to attend!



At The Intergroup Office New Members Welcome! Any AA member may attend!



NEFL INTERGROUP



WEBSITE UPGRADE

Bids are requested to upgrade the design of the Northeast Florida Intergroup website http://neflaa.org. Please contact the Intergroup Ad Hoc Website Committee at email nefl.ig.website@gmail.com to obtain the scope of work and ask technical questions. Bids are to be submitted by the close of business of June 30, 2017 and include the bidder's qualifications including references as well as bids to upgrade and then maintain the website



4/27/2017

3		Position & Name	<u>e-mail</u>	Phone	Day, Time & Location/
2	District 1:	DCM-Lon L.	lon@rpmautomotive.com	904-710-7201	3rd Tuesday of month @ NEFL Intergroup Office
3	District 4:	DCM-Peter C.	ppjtcart@gmail.com	516-521-6830	7:45pm Every 3rd Thursday @The Amelia Room
2		<u> </u>			906 S 7th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
ð	District 3:	DCM- Maggie R	tothineownself3693@gmail.com	904-707-6125	3rd Sunday 2:30PM @ Clay County Club
	District 6:	DCM- Marty C.	dcmdist6@gmail.com	919-622-4010	1st Monday of month 6:00pm @Flagler Hospital-Osceola Rm
R	District 24:	DCM-Diane S.	diane.taurus@gmail.com	386-546-3404	2nd Wed of month 6:30pm @ Lion's Club-318 Oseola Ave, Palatka
S	District 25:	DCM-Gavin M.	neflaadistrict25@gmail.com	904-613-7605	2nd Wed 7:00pm @ Neptune Beach Library (3rd Street)
	District 30:	DCM-Jack G.	Call IG office for address	714-661-3918	3rd Friday of month 6:30pm @ First Christian 11924 San Jose Blvd
53	ALC: CONTRACTOR	2012 2019 101		a distant and	a a white solution as a white solution that



SPONSORED BY "AS MEN SEE IT" GROUP

100% FREE EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Doors will open at 3:00pm, Food served at 3:30pm.

Let us know if you want a turn at the microphone, and we'll make sure it happens. Just contact Jeff Deck at 904-885-5386 to reserve a spot!

FREE!!!!!! DONATIONS WELCOMED

3645 Spring Park Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207

JULY 1 2017

AUCTION PREVIEW AT 4 PM

DINNER AT 5 PM

AUCTION AT 5:45 PM

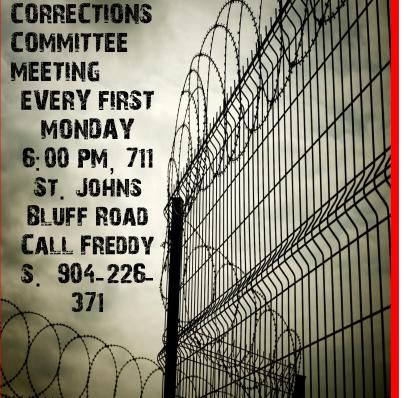
4615 LEXINGTON AVE, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL 804-60-7231









STEP SEVEN

"Humbly asked him to remove our short comings." "...The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to

sanity." Reprinted with permission from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions set * Alcoholics Anonymous World Ser

TRADITION SEVEN

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

CONCEPT SEVEN

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

JULY 2017 Add A Line— Page 6





Winners Group

John B	1
Lucas	2
David C	4
Steve C	2

Fiesta Group

Dick s.	32
Wayne E.	27
Tim M	15
Tim P.	14
Shannon K.	12
Sandy S.	10
Todd L.	8
Brad A.	7
Kelly A.	7
Sam A.	6
Steve L.	3
Buster M.	3
Brandi S.	2
James M.	1



I Am Responsible

Chris F.2Steve I.26Georgette T.11Jason F.2

Westside Group

Allyson W	42
James R.	35
Howard Y	35
Flip	26
Ron N.	24
Anne H.	21
Beth P.	20
Mike M.	12
Mike E.	11
Don C.	5
Anne B.	4
Nancy M.	3
Rebecca R.	3

Mandarin WomenBrandy2

Arlington Group

Dana H. 8 Lynn W. 2

Central Group

Debbie G.	35
Martha W.	34
Dick S.	32
Joyce S.	29
Tim M.	15
Tod C.	8
Bill H.	1

Beaches Unity

Jean D

Laura C

Debbie H

Corby G

Steve I

Phil V

Mike K

John B

John B

Curt P

Susan S

Mark L

Bill T

Tim H

Paul E

Diana B

Tanya P

Chris F

Matt R

Sam S

Jason M

Ronnie B.

Alexis Group

TLC Group

Stefanie H.

Tina G.

Jeremiah B

Wendy N

Bobby H

43

37

35

30

26

26

16

14

9

9

7

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4

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1

1

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1

Winners Group

Nancy M	3
Michael S	2
Melissa B	1
Joey M	9
Allison	42

Fiesta Group

Charles S27Steve W.27Tom G.10Christy R.6Maria H.5Jeff G.4Luke S.1

Eastside Group

Barbara B.4Willie J.3

This Too Shall Pass

Scott B.	19
Chuck M.	28
James R.	35

Billy Goat Hill Group Chuck M. 28

FAITHFUL FIVERS Fred H. Rick T. Walter S. Christopher G. Susan I.

*EDITORS NOTE: GROUP REPS, PLEASE HELP!WHEN SUBMITTING BIRTHDAYS TO ADD-A-LINE PLEASE JUST INCLUDE THE NAME AND NUMBER WITHOUT (-) OR (YRS.) NEXT TO IT. THANK YOU!



NALY PINANCIAILS

	Current Month May 2017	Year To Date 2017	Current Month May 2016	Year To Date 2016
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income	¢2.060.24	¢21 100 25	¢0.050.07	¢07.404.44
4002 · Groups 4003 · Pink Can Contribution	\$3,068.31 \$218.86	\$21,199.25 \$857.38	\$2,853.27 \$272.25	\$27,184.44 \$565.22
4005 · Faithful Five	\$30.00	\$180.00	\$40.00	\$420.00
4006 · Birthdays		\$78.00	\$3.00	\$29.00
4007 · Other Contributions	040.00	\$100.00	\$2.20	\$202.20
4008 · Anonymous 4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg	\$40.00 \$36.20	\$358.00 \$272.65	\$101.00	\$454.51 \$531.00
4000 · Contribution Income - Other	φ00.20	ψ212.00	¢101.00	\$001.00
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	\$3,393.37	\$23,045.28	\$3,271.72	\$29,386.37
4020 · Retail Income	\$4,219.47	\$23,080.49	\$5,003.88	\$21,182.26
4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr 4042 · Business Meeting	\$36.75	\$204.75		
Total 4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr	\$36.75	\$204.75		
4060 · Income - Special Events				
4062 · Banquet	\$975.00	\$5,751.00		\$6,810.00
4065 · Cake Auction		\$2,480.00		\$3,224.00
4067 · Raffle Tickets 4069 · Spring Picnic		\$725.00	\$80.00	\$841.00 \$80.00
Total 4060 · Income · Special Events	\$975.00	\$8,956.00	\$80.00	\$10,955.00
Total Income	\$8,624.59	\$55,286.52	\$8,355.60	\$61,523.63
Cost of Goods Sold	AD 071 07	010.070 50	AD 000 05	MAE 400 **
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales 4540 · Cost of Event - Banquet Expense	\$3,271.99	\$16,979.59 \$6.276.20	\$3,692.68	\$15,408.11 \$5,529.87
4540 · Cost of Event - Banquet Expense 4550 · Cost of Event - Spring Picnic	(\$128.80)	\$6,276.20	\$240.70	\$5,529.87 \$1,160.00
Total COGS	\$3,143.19	\$23,255.79	\$3,933.38	\$22,097.98
Gross Profit	\$5,481.40	\$32,030.73	\$4,422.22	\$39,425.65
Expense				
5100 · Office Expense 5101 · Copier Expense		\$130.46		\$103.91
5102 · Office Supplies	\$325.66	\$985.00	\$180.23	\$1,025.51
5105 - Misc. Office				(\$78.06)
5109 · Data Processing	0005.00	AL 115 10	\$2,507.27	\$2,507.27
Total 5100 · Office Expense 5110 · Telephone	\$325.66 \$173.48	\$1,115.46 \$876.45	\$2,687.50 \$193.42	\$3,558.63 \$967.13
5120 · Telephone Answering Service	\$173.40	\$400.00	\$193.42	\$400.00
5130 · Postage - Freight	\$ 00.00	\$9.42	\$26.00	\$160.74
5140 · Utilities	\$156.30	\$808.76	\$170.89	\$782.80
5145 · Advertising	\$51.00	\$255.00	\$51.00	\$255.00
5150 · Insurance 5160 · Repairs & Maintanence	\$265.00	\$709.71 \$295.00		
5195 · CC Fees	\$107.75	\$527.12	\$116.45	\$512.20
5200 · Professional Fees	\$50.00	\$225.00		\$350.00
5210 · Building Rent	\$900.00	\$4,500.00	\$900.00	\$4,500.00
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense 5220 · Dues/Fees/Licenses		\$116.00 \$61.25	\$36.00	\$200.50 \$61.25
5265 · Security	\$27.40	\$137.00	\$27.40	\$137.00
5280 · Pink Can Expense		\$512.84		\$201.34
5290 · IG Breakfast Expense	¢405.75	\$51.40	\$16.22	\$80.46
5300 ⋅ When & Where Cost 5500 ⋅ Committees Expense	\$125.75	\$1,075.43	\$330.14	\$1,236.09
5520 · Archives		\$1,145.52		\$334.92
5530 · CPC/PI		\$127.68	\$105.90	\$215.31
5540 · Corrections	\$666.78	\$2,887.48	\$454.86	\$2,531.59
5560 · Newsletter 5590 · Treatment	\$539.11	\$2,009.96 \$9.75	\$229.00 \$116.52	\$1,373.98 \$160.53
5595 - Website		\$0.10	¢110.02	\$134.91
Total 5500 · Committees Expense	\$1,205.89	\$6,180.39	\$906.28	\$4,751.24
61200 · Cash Drawer Payouts		¢05.00		
6150 · Bad Debt 65100 · Other Types of Expenses		\$25.00		
65160 · Other Costs				
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses				
6555 · Wages Total				
6560 · Wages	\$2,319.50 \$182.87	\$14,149.50 \$076.00	\$4,454.25 \$334.78	\$15,642.68
6565 ⋅ Payroll Taxes Tc Total 6555 ⋅ Wages Total	\$2,502.37	\$976.89 \$15,126.39	\$4,789.03	\$1,146.54 \$16,789.22
Net Ordinary Income	\$5,970.60	\$33,007.62	\$10,330.33	\$34,943.60
Other Income/Expense	(\$489.20)	(\$976.89)	(\$5,908.11)	\$4,482.05
Other Income				
6300 · Other Income 6301 · Cash Short/Over POS	(\$29.36)	(\$29.36)		
Tc 6300 · Other Income - Other	\$6.61	\$33.14	\$4.62	\$21.80
Total Other Income	(\$22.75)	\$3.78	\$4.62	\$21.80
6305 · Interest Income	\$21.55	\$122.83	\$28.57	\$130.99
Other Expense				
Other Expense Total Other Expense				
Net Other Income	(\$1.20)	\$126.61	\$33.19	\$152.79
Net Income	(\$490.40)	(\$850.28)	(\$5,874.92)	\$4,634.84

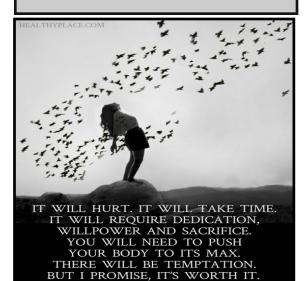
Account Balances As of May 31, 2017						
Cash In Drawer	\$412.78					
Checking	\$7,540.28					
Savings	\$10.00					
Total	\$7,963.06					
CD 12 Month 51	\$20,454.27					
CD 18 Month 52	\$11,843.39					
CD 18 Month 42	\$10,216.81					
Total Prudent Reserve	\$42,514.47					
Inventory Asset Value	\$14,414.43					

RECYCLE YOUR OLD GRAPEVINE MAGAZINES

Send them to Intergroup with your representative !

NEW! Grapevine Magazine is now available as an App on Apple and Android phones. Please consider a personal subscription to the Grapevine Magazine for yourself or a friend. If your group has more than a "prudent reserve" in funds, you may consider buying a few subscriptions for your group to share among members. 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. For more information contact aagrapevine.org or 1-800-631-6025.

Cheryl Lilly, Grapevine Intergroup Chairperson.



JULY 2017 Add A Line— Page 8

GROUP	MONTH	MAY YTD	Att.	MAY 2017 Gr GROUP	MONTH	MAY YTD	Att.	GROUP	MONTH		Att.
A Design for Living		\$223.50		Keep It Simple (Fern. Bch.)	\$40.00	\$80.00		San Man Group		\$200.00	
Alexis		\$60.00	Х	Language of the Heart		\$437.78		San Pablo Sober Sisters		\$103.87	Х
Arlington		\$424.00	Х	Lest We Forget		\$75.00		St. Nicholas			Х
As Bill See's It (St. Aug)		\$193.00		Liars Paradise		\$338.47		Saturday Night Live St Aug.		\$379.20	
Azalea City		\$350.00		Living In The Light	\$90.00	\$995.99	Х	Seascape St. Aug.		\$186.00	
BAA	\$81.00	\$306.00		Los Lobos Men's		\$178.00		Serenity at Noon	\$105.00	\$186.00	
Barney Q		\$50.00		Macclenny		\$50.00		Sober Sisters - St Aug		\$257.06	
Baymeadows	\$50.00	\$50.00	Х	Mandrain Big Book				Sojourn			
Beaches Agnostics & Free Th	\$50.00	\$229.00		Mandarin Coyote Men's		\$450.00		Solutions Group		\$90.00	
Beaches Unity	\$360.00	\$1,800.00	Х	Mandarin Fruit Cove Women	\$72.50	\$192.50		Sons of the Spirit		\$107.70	
BLISS		\$114.79		Mandarin Hi-Noon		\$535.38		Step A Month		\$122.95	
Central		\$437.22	Х	Mandarin Monday Night BBS			Х	Step Sisters Grace Group			Х
Conscious Contact			Х	Mandarin Stepping Up	\$75.00	\$132.00		Stepping in Sobriety			Х
Clean and Free			Х	Mandarin Women in Recovery		\$200.00		Student Group-St. Aug	\$236.32	\$236.32	
District 6		\$248.38		Mandrain YPG	\$270.00	\$270.00	Х	Stepping Stones P.V.		\$50.00	
Drop The Rock			Х	Men's Redeye	\$90.40	\$348.40		Stepping Stones St. Aug	\$102.30	\$102.30	
Dutch Group		\$50.00		Middleburg	\$100.00	\$200.00	Х	Sunday Morning St. Aug		\$400.00	
Eastside		\$60.00	Х	More About Alcoholism		\$180.00		Surrender to Win			Х
Evergreen Group		\$30.00		Morning After St. Aug		\$37.50		Switzerland		\$335.00	Х
Fernandina Beach		\$333.87		Neptune Beach Book Study	\$80.00	\$80.00		The Crux of the Problem	\$250.00	\$450.00	
Fiesta		\$125.08	Х	New Beginnings			Х	The James Gang	\$250.00	\$550.00	
Florida Unity Roundup		\$500.00		Nocatee Sobriety		\$110.00		Thirsty Thursday		\$100.00	Х
Fourth Street			Х	Northside TLC		\$55.00		This Too Shall Pass		\$50.00	
Free Men's		\$450.00		On The Way Home		\$165.44		Timiquana Ladies of Grace		\$262.00	Х
Free To Be				Orange Park Stepsisters	\$70.00	\$120.00	Х	Triangle Grp		\$60.00	
Freedom Grp.		\$40.00		Ortega		\$176.00		Upstart Womans		\$70.00	
Fresh Start	\$128.09	\$528.09		Phoneix Men's		\$50.00		Vilano Beach Combers		\$30.00	
From the Heart Mens			Х	Primay Purpose			Х	Villagers St. Aug		\$107.40	
Fruit Cove Book Study		\$240.00		Primay Purpose Mandarin			Х	Way Out		\$39.60	
Fruit Cove Step Study		\$450.00		Ponte Vedra Mens	\$100.00	\$100.00		Wednesday Night Book Sty		\$15.00	
Green Cove Springs		\$125.00	Х	Q Branch		\$1,150.00		Wesconnett		\$113.25	
Greenland Road Mandarin				Reborn	\$50.00	\$250.00		West Jax Men's			
Half Way Through		\$80.75		Riverside/Ortega		\$106.18		Westside			
I Am Responsible	\$150.00	\$150.00		Riverside (Tom S)		\$95.00		Wiley Beginners Group		\$40.00	
It's Come to This		\$150.00		Riverview Study	\$10.00	\$30.00		Winners			Х
It's in the Book		\$90.00		Riverside Tradition House		\$300.00	-	Women Enjoying Sobriety		\$514.93	_
James Gang II		\$50.00		Riverside YPG		\$167.65		Women Speak		\$38.00	F
Jax Men's Group		÷	Х	Salisbury Road Men's		\$20.00		Women's Upstart		÷••••	X
Joy		\$130.00				+_0100		Young Peoples Group St. Aug	\$257.70	\$257.70	
,		,	l	1				Total Contributions	\$3,068.31	\$21,199.25	<u> </u>

Represented at the May 2017 IG Business Meeting: IG Reps = 33 Total signed in= 42

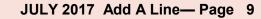
12 Step Program

STMI CZZGI K P H F × 1 N 1 M D u ZP N R MV JMR W K R B 0 T N V 0 Y N G BW V V 0 C 5 L A E 5 E H u K BK E D C 5 WW × H Y N N M Y 5 5 A C 5 AE T 0 5 P 0 L QE 0 M 5 E R R C D G 0 P Y K . 1 H Z 1 E X R 5 H В N GE u C M E Т ZX H Y G 0 H P V J Y 7 G T T N R A 5 u RR E D E R 1 L 1 Z В Y Е H E 5 D Z Q S N Y Т N C W W 5 P × B 5 0 Z Y G B A M B E A B OQ 5 K R V L 0 D × F Т C ZQA FWKI KG C V K VS YPI G DWPOGWB 5

SPONSOR STEPS GRATITUDE PRAYER SURRENDER INVENTORY MEETINGS SERVICE Groups Contributing in May 2017 24 (YTD 94)

AA has a wrench to fit every nut that walks in the door







SUPPLEMENT TO ADD-A-LINE OLD TIMER STORY EDITON

Delphine L. is another of our AA pioneers. She has over 41 years of sobriety (DOS 11/25/1975) She taped her story last year and the following has been excerpted from that tape with her permission.

Interviewed by Mary D., transcribed by Rhonda B. and edited by Charlie M.

Mary: Please tell me a little bit about your life before you found AA; when and where you were born and what kind of childhood did you have?

Delphine: I was born in Chicago but moved to Jacksonville at an early age and attended public school here. I lived with foster grandparents and I was the only child in the home, I was a pampered child. I was only exposed to alcohol about once a year at Christmas time when family came. They enjoyed what they called the "spirits" and it was over. So, that's what my childhood was like. I grew up in this area and



went to public school here. My first experience with alcohol came in the middle school years. My aunt that lived next door entertained at a club and they had drinks. I helped set up when they had these affairs and this particular time I asked if I could share what they were drinking and she was very nice about sharing it with me. She fixed such a large glass. She was trying to be certain that I didn't really want to stay with it and she

succeeded with that because I was not able to really handle it. My bed was spinning around and I decided I better stop drinking. Later when I was in the finishing years of high school and beginning college, I decided that I needed to identify with my peers and my peers were able to go out and drink. My early experience warned me about drinking and if I had really listened to that I probably wouldn't have tried again. However I wanted to be a part of the people that I was with and in order to do that you've got to drink, so I learned how to consume alcohol. It was a pleasant experience to begin with because it was a social thing and it was what I thought all Americans should do. I thought that we should be able to sit and have a drink and just laugh and talk and enjoy ourselves. That was short-lived. M.: So that's when your drinking got out of control?

D.: It started I guess several years into it because as I said we were working as groups, having social affairs, and apparently going well, but then I began to have problems as a result of my drinking and I went into serious depression. Depression so serious that I could not identify any of the good things that were happening in my life. I could only see all that did not work. So, depression led me to attempted suicide.

M.: Would you say that was when you hit your bottom?

D.: The first time? No because when I determined that I had a problem I went to a doctor who gave me tranquilizers to get me back on my feet and everything seemed to be back to normal. So then I thought maybe I can socialize some more. So, I tried it again. Again, I had the same result. That's the second time, right, and then I recovered again and I was doing fine. Again I thought I could go back to drinking.

Again I tried drinking to socialize and have that happy life. My bottom came as a result of that third time. I was sitting in my living room and the TV announcer said, "If you think you've got a problem with alcohol, then probably you have," and I'm sitting thinking I've got a job, I'm taking care of my family, but then lurking in my mind, "But you can't stop when you come home from work, you start drinking and you don't stop." So, I pondered it and then I decided to see if I could really stop. I did that test of trying to have me two beers and stop (laughter) and the two beers were all right as long as there was nothing else in the house. I always seemed to need and have an extra supply in the house. That experiment didn't work out very well. Then I decided okay there must be another way. I called the Intergroup Office and they gave me a location that I could find a meeting place and I



went over and it was not too far from my house, right off of Lem Turner, and there was a large group there; ready, willing and able to help this person who has a problem, but to me I felt like they couldn't understand me. The church that I grew up in was opening an AA meeting and I decided I'd be more comfortable there so I came in and I sat. It was a speaker's meeting that night and during that speaker's meeting everything that was said sounded as though it had come out of my history book and I decided that they knew too much about me. I couldn't go back in there. So, I took my little white chip and I went home and this is when I really determined that all had gone. So, I'm looking out of my bathroom window and I'm hearing voices coming from the wires (total insanity). I landed in the hospital and this is when members from the Eastside Group that I had come in to listen to came to the hospital, brought me a Twenty-Four-Hour a Day book, and just told me to, "keep coming back." So, when I got out I did come back and what I found this time was different. I was able to really follow what they were asking me to do. I mean, why not? I had failed at everything else and I'm still saying, "I want this," so this is where I really tried to concentrate.

M.: You said that you called Intergroup and they led you to a meeting. How did you first hear about AA?

D.: That was the television, they said it and when they said, "You may need AA." I looked that up in the telephone book and they directed me to the meeting nearest me.

M.: Can you tell me a little bit about those early days; your step work and any problems you had learning the AA way?

D.: Yes, I said that I came in and I listened. I suffered with an ego problem, I always wanted to know what was in it for me. The group was telling me about twelve-step work and how I needed to reach out. At that time we were visiting newcomers who had called in for help. Two of us went to visit with them. We shared our experience, strength and hope. My big thing was, "Okay, suppose I do all of this and they do not hear me and they do not get sober. I'm crushed. I can't accept this." The person that went with me always was the person that really started the Eastside Group, John P., and he kept a big smile on his face all the time and he just kept saying, "You just have to be willing to give it away." I somehow got it in my mind I can say what's going on with me and leave the results to my Higher Power, whom I chose to call God.

M.: Did you have a sponsor when you first came in?

D.: I had no sponsor. I sought one but they told me I really did not need any help, so as I said John was here and there were a lot of us who were just beginning and he just kind of gathered us up like his little children and he kept us moving in the direction we were supposed to go, coming to meetings, going to do step work, sharing with others, and one day at a time even with that type of arrangement, AA began to sink into my mind as something that would work for me.

M.: So, you did step work as a group?

D.: There were at least two of us each time; never alone, and sometimes more of us because it depended on where we went and how many were available because the whole idea was that we would learn to share with others as we sought our own recovery.

M.: Your sobriety date is 1975. How many groups or meetings were there in existence then?

D.: There were a lot of groups. I don't know the exact number at that time, but all of the current groups that we have now, and I think we have 452 in the city. We might not have had quite that many but we had numerous meetings, and they gave me the philosophy 90 meetings in 90 days and I couldn't really make that because I had to work some of those days but every day that I did not have to work I went to a meeting. We had meetings at the Central Group, which was the initial group in Jacksonville. That was one of the groups that I attended regularly. We went to meetings at the JABA Club, Beaches Unity and a group over in Arlington with Mary A. She kind of aligned with John and helped us with this group. We went over to Arlington and they came over here. They were kind of like a mother group to us; just helping us as we went. We also had the Alexis Group that was already functioning. We had a lot of groups available. The idea was to get to the meeting and make sure we followed what we were asked to do.





M.: You mentioned John and Mary; were there any other individuals that were especially prominent in your early sobriety?

D.: Yes, now there were a number of people that were prominent in the city but directly with me it would have been Lynn W., Tom S., Irvin H., and several others that were very instrumental in just staying close enough to share their experience, strength and hope with me that I could glean the idea that it would work if I worked at it.

M.: What kind of twelve-step work was going on during that time?

D.: Twelve-step work was done with the individuals that were requesting help. We went to homes. We made phone calls. We made ourselves available for them to call. We went to prisons. We did all of the things that would allow us to reach out. We even started some new groups and that were outside of the state but we just kept working with the idea of giving it away.

M.: Will you tell me about your experience sponsoring others?

D.: I had a number of people that I sponsored. I think that the thing that I look for most in sponsoring is the ability to share with the individual. I would tell them, "I'm free for you to call me anytime day or night, and what I would like for you to do if you get the urge to have a drink, is call me first." So, I got calls at 2:00 in the morning, and at 2:00 in the morning I would get up and go to that individual and stay with them until I was sure that they had passed that crisis. It was that kind of thing that I felt I needed when I reached out, so I tried to share the same thing with others that were trying to do the same thing, and as I said I had to get over my ego problem because while they expressed great appreciation some of them didn't stay, but they expressed the fact that they realized that what could be done for them was done for them and it was really up to them. Now the ones that I liked best were the ones that would call before they picked up the drink, but if they had already done so, the idea was we can get back up again, dust yourself off and just get back in the race. So, I have had a number of them and a lot of those are still sober and for that I'm truly grateful, and for those that didn't make it, I'm grateful for having had the opportunity to try to work with them.

M.: That's all the questions that I have for you. Is there anything in particular that you would like to share before we close this interview?

D.: I would like to share that I'm grateful to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous because as I look back at where I was when I came in I know that the life that I have now would not exist had I not found this fellowship. So, I'm truly grateful for this fellowship.

M.: Thank you Ms. Delphine and I'm very grateful to have you in my life, you are definitely a shining light and example that this program does work. Thank you so much.

D.: Thank you Mary.

