

ADD-A-LINE

PUBLISHED IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA SINCE 1962

GRATITUDE IN ACTION



Tickets still only \$15
Fall Gratitude Banquet
Saturday, November 11, 2017
To benefit Northeast Florida Intergroup Services
"FALL INTO SOBRIETY"
SPEAKER: Chip B. (Destin)
TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Attitude of Gratitude by Larry R.

They say a grateful alcoholic never takes a drink
I've wondered if that's really so, it made me start to think
If it is true the way they say, I question how it be
That I've much to be thankful for, but didn't work for me

I've had so many good things, that's happened in my life
The first and most important is the woman that's my wife
The odds that our two paths would cross so many years ago
Were higher than extremely thin, like Key West ice and snow

We've been together all this time for over on 40 years
And had our share of ups and downs, with laughter and some tears

The kids are grown, the girls are wed, with children of their own
The family in a picture frame, yet I can feel alone
I've had success in business, been rewarded for my work
Still often times those fears would come, and dreadful feelings lurk
I'd see my glass half empty, instead of it half full
And at these times to find relief, the cork I'd have to pull

Our home is in a lovely place, the mortgage fully paid
Both cars are new, our health is good, we even have a maid
So why is it I overlook the good and start to think
That I can make it better if I only take a drink

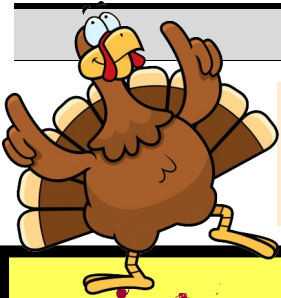
So, drink I do and for a while, I feel that friendly glow

But soon enough that feeling's gone, replaced by feeling low

I ask myself, just what the hell, has made me act this way
I've so much to be grateful for, yet choose to waste away

Gratitude's an attitude, I've heard that often said
But there are other attitudes can make you end up dead
Self-loathing, desolation, are only just a few
That lead us back, away from God, alone and feeling blue

It's at these times I need to stop, reflect and start to pray
Remembering the joyous time, I've had throughout my days
And understand that I'm the one must change my attitude
Life has much, much more to give, when lived with gratitude.



NEFL INTERGROUP INFO

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

Office Open: Mon—Fri 9 am - 5 pm
 1st Sat. of the month 1 pm— 4 pm
 All ADD-A-LINE submissions due
 by the 18th of each month.

**The IG office will be closed Thanksgiving Day
 November 23rd and Friday November 24th**

CHAIR CONTACTS

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

CHAIR: DON P. 904-303-0628
 VICE-CHAIR: LINDA G. 904-608-1634
 TREASURER: DAN B. 904-737-7532

STEERING COMMITTEE:

PRESTON W. 914-882-9373

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:

ERIC K. CO-CHAIR 626-234-0746
 FRANK H. CO-CHAIR 904-400-1382

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE :

FOR WOMEN IN JAIL:
 GAYLE E. 904-655-3881
 E MAIL: NOTEFROMGAYLE@GMAIL.COM
 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

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

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

ALLISON R. 904-806-7266
 ALLISONMROGERS@GMAIL.COM



OFFICE LOGBOOK

CATEGORY	SEPT 2017	SEPT 2016
AA CALLS	139	178
ADMIN / OTHER	68	68
12th STEP CALLS	4	1
OFFICE VISITORS	86	122

4th Annual Florida Archives Workshop

9am to 4 pm February 24, 2018 at
 Redeemer Lutheran Church
 3377 Aloma Ave, Winter Park Fl 32792

\$15 / person registration fee
 includes lunch

Presentations include:

- Interviewing, recording and sharing Florida oldtimer stories (print, audio, video)

- Digitizing Florida Archives material

Documenting and sharing Florida Group Histories

On-Line Quarterly Florida Archives Newsletter

Please Send your Registration information and check to

District 30 Treasurer PO Box 24223, Jacksonville, Fl 32257 by February 1



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

**WELCOME OUR NEW
 GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE
 CHAIR, Allison R. !!!**



SERVICE MEETINGS



FINANCE COMMITTEE



MEETS 5:30 PM AT I.G. OFFICE
SEEKING NEW MEMBER



INTERGROUP FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST & MEETING

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
GATEWAY'S DINING ROOM
555 STOCKTON ST.

8:00 AM ~BREAKFAST BUFFET
ONLY \$4 PER PERSON

8:30 AM ~SPEAKER MEETING
BUSINESS MEETING 9:45 AM

MEETING IN THE BACK CONFERENCE ROOM.

STEERING COMMITTEE



Meets at 5:30 PM Tuesday, November 28

At The I.G. Office . Any AA member is welcome!

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

MEETS EVERY FIRST THURSDAY

(after our monthly Saturday. I.G. meeting)

6pm @ 711 St. Johns Bluff Road

NEW VOLUNTEER

ORIENTATION 9-11 6PM

500 E Bay St.

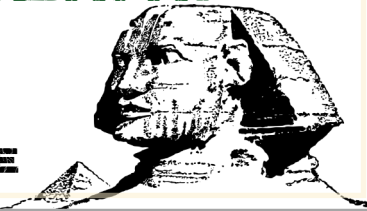
For Info and qualifications,
Call Freddy S. 904-226-3712



ARCHIVES COMMITTEE MEETS SATURDAY AT NOON

ON MONDAY,
NOV SIX

AT THE IG OFFICE



CLAY COUNTY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

A new committee has formed!

Here's your chance to get involved with Corrections in District 3 -
Clay County Corrections Committee
MEETS THE 1st SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH AT CLAY COUNTY CLUB
HOUSE AT 3PM 1835 SMITH STREET ORANGE PARK, FL
CONTACT : ccccdistrict3@gmail.com Kat 828.284.4646

DISTRICT MEETING INFO

2017-2019 District Committee Contact and Meeting Info

	Position & Name	E-mail	Phone	Day, Time & Location
District 1:	DCM-Lon L.	lon@rpmautomotive.com	904-710-7201	3rd Tuesday of month @ NEFL Intergroup Office
District 4:	DCM-Peter C.	ppjcart@gmail.com	516-521-6830	7:45pm Every 3rd Thursday @The Amelia Room 906 S 7th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
District 3:	DCM- Maggie R.	thineownself3693@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
District 24:	DCM-Vacant			2nd Wed of month 6:30pm @ Lion's Club-318 Oseola Ave, Palatka
District 25:	DCM-Glenn G.	justgg@aol.com	904-233-6258	2nd Wed 7:00pm @ Neptune Beach Library (3rd Street)
District 30:	DCM-Jack G.	Call IG office for address	714-661-3918	Meets Monthly at 9 am, 4th Sat of the month, Fruit Cove Baptist Church 210 Ridgecrest Lane, Jax, FL

FALL INTO SOBRIETY

FALL GRATITUDE BANQUET

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11

To benefit NEFL Intergroup Services
 Tickets Still Only \$15 or table of 10 for \$150

SPEAKER: CHIP B.

Cake Auction-Dinner-Sobriety Countdown-Speaker
 Banquet Tickets Available from Eric at 626-234-0746 or
 from the Intergroup Office
 (Cash, Credit or Debit Cards only at the IG Office)
 Fall Banquet Planning Meetings
 November 8 (final Planning Meeting)

Tickets still only \$15

Doors Open at 5pm!

Fall Gratitude Banquet
Saturday, November 11, 2017

To benefit Northeast Florida Intergroup Services
"FALL INTO SOBRIETY"

SPEAKER: Chip B. (Destin)

Ramallah American Club - 3130 Parental Home Rd. - Jacksonville, FL 32216
 Dinner @ 5:00 p.m. for Fellowship and Cake Preview
 Cake Auction @ 6:30 - Dinner @ 8:30 - Sobriety Countdown/Speaker Mtg @ 7:45

CAKE AUCTION

All Cake Bakers: Please contact Jennifer D. at 626-673-1080 or the IG office at 904-399-8535 to notify them of your creative cake available for auction." Cake Plates will not be returned so please plan accordingly **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 be store-bought for your convenience.

GREAT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY We need help with: Set-Up, Cooking, Decorations, Coffee & Iced Tea, Cake Auction, Cake People, Ticket Sales!!!, Raffle, Food Line and Clean-Up!



DROP THE ROCK-RELOCATION

Due to flooding DTR has moved from room G-711 into room A851 (building A). It's upstairs over the gymnasium. It's still at 7 on Tuesdays at Mandarin United Methodist Church 11270 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville Florida 32257.

The Following Member Will Be Fondly Remembered and Sadly Missed.

Bennye M. -- Alexis Group
Burton Tbo (T-bo) -- Central Group

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!
HELP! HELP! HELP!

BAKER COUNTY JAIL HAS NO AA MTG!
LET THE HAND OF AA ALWAYS BE THERE!
FOR THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE!

PLEASE CONTACT:
SAM KITCHING
904.259.5893
SKITCHING@BAKERCO.COM
HE DOES HIS OWN ORIENTATIONS

THE BIG BOOK COMES ALIVE 2018

SPONSORED BY THE FERNANDINA BEACH PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP

at the **RAMADA JACKSONVILLE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**
 3130 Hartley Road • Jacksonville, FL 32257 FREE PARKING 904-268-8080

Charlie & Katie P. (Austin, TX)

March 2 & 3, 2018

Friday, March 2: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. • Saturday, March 3: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$25.00 per person;
 \$30.00 at the door
 Register Early - Seating is Limited

HOTEL ROOM RATE
 2 Queen Beds - \$91.00 plus 13% tax 1 King Bed - \$81.00 plus 13% tax
 FREE WI-FI - FREE BREAKFAST - FREE PARKING
 Mention Big Book Comes Alive to get rate

REGISTER on our Website:
jaxaaseminars.com

SOBRIETY



BIRTHDAYS

Fiesta Group

Eddie H. 12
Daryl. 9
George. 6
Rebekah A. 3
Mike J. 1
Jayson 1
SEPTEMBER
Don B. 16
Margie P. 3

Debbie 21
Paul Mc 16
Dan H 15
Susan F 14
Tarry G 6
Meryl A 3
James I 12
David A 1
Steve C 1

Adam K 4
OCTOBER:
Rob C 27
Deb B 22
Jayson E 6
Terez O 3

Mandarin Women

Holly D. 1
Holly H. 1
Laurel 10
Jan 21
De'la 23

Mandarin High Noon

Melissa R 4

Central Group

SEPTEMBER
Pat P 37
Tom M 30
Donald B 16
John L 8
Cat. T 8
CPDF 4
Jeremy 4
Maggie P. 3
Dee F 1
OCTOBER
Deb B 22
Eddie H 12
Darryl 9
Jack H 2
JD 2
Mike S 2
Melissa 1

***Group, Name and number of blue chips**

Beachside Step Study

George M. 10
Nicole 3
Louise S 21
Lily L. 3
Allison M 4
Matt E 4

Beaches Unity

Jim G 38
Peter C 32
Jackie H 27
Fitz 22
Amy M 11
Joni 6
David S 5
Logan I 4
Kyle M 3
Shelia 3
Scooter 2
Curtis 1
"Gamecock" Ken 1

Billy Goat Hill Group

Andy J 35

Winners Group

Ron M 20

Arlington Group

Chuck B 44
Lisa G 35
Mike B 28
Steve H 27
Jennifer K 10
Sarah F 3
Stan B 1

Eastside Group

Kenneth B 35
Patricia W 13
Ja'Nice R 4
Carlos S 2

Free To Be Group

SEPTEMBER:
Steve C 29
Dawn L 15
Sharon P 10
Lise E 8
Chuck W 7
Kristin M 7

St. Nicholas Group

Rebeka A 1
Britt M 5
Di 12



Please consider joining our

Intergroup Birthday Club.

In the month of your AA Sobriety Birthday donate \$1.00 for every year of your sobriety! Contact the IG office at 399-8535 for more information.

Marilyn G. 28 yrs.
Your Name Here



STEP 11:

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.

TRADITION 11:

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.

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CONCEPT XI:

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties shall always be matters of serious concern.

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5 FAITHFUL FIVERS

- Fred H.**
- Rick T.**
- Christopher G.**
- Susan I.**
- Nadia G.**
- Jane L.**
- Anonymous 1**
- Anonymous 2**

JOIN THE FAITHFUL FIVERS !

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who choose to contribute five dollars each month to support Central Office in its efforts to carry the A.A. message of hope and recovery to those alcoholics who still suffer in the Jacksonville Area. As a Faithful Fiver, your personal contribution will help Northeast Florida Intergroup Services provide the services necessary to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. For more information please contact the IG office

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

	Sept 2017	Sept. 2017 YTD	Sept 2016	Sept 2016 YTD
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 - Contribution Income				
4002 - Groups	\$2,431.17	\$34,743.25	\$3,952.97	\$42,241.17
4003 - Pink Can Contribution	\$237.97	\$1,363.65	\$72.08	\$1,677.86
4005 - Faithful Five	\$25.00	\$330.00	\$25.00	\$590.00
4006 - Birthdays		\$89.00	\$41.00	\$144.00
4007 - Other Contributions	\$204.00	\$535.98		\$202.20
4008 - Anonymous	\$2.14	\$441.43		\$507.39
4010 - IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg	\$94.00	\$533.63	\$41.00	\$885.30
Total 4000 - Contribution Income	\$2,994.28	\$38,036.94	\$4,132.05	\$46,247.92
4020 - Retail Income	\$2,618.23	\$42,097.39	\$4,370.42	\$38,328.52
4040 - Monthly IG Mtg / Otr				
4042 - Business Meeting	\$60.00	\$392.90	\$36.09	\$122.09
Total 4040 - Monthly IG Mtg / Otr	\$60.00	\$392.90	\$36.09	\$122.09
4060 - Income - Special Events				
4062 - Banquet	\$600.00	\$6,351.00	\$2,565.00	\$9,375.00
4065 - Cake Auction		\$2,480.00		\$3,224.00
4067 - Raffle Tickets		\$725.00		\$841.00
4069 - Spring Picnic				\$80.00
Total 4060 - Income - Special Events	\$600.00	\$9,556.00	\$2,565.00	\$13,520.00
Total Income	\$6,272.51	\$90,083.23	\$11,103.56	\$98,218.53
Cost of Goods Sold				
4510 - Cost of Retail Sales	\$1,730.50	\$31,338.83	\$3,722.43	\$28,867.03
4540 - Cost of Event - Banquet Expe	\$2,355.00	\$8,652.09	\$412.00	\$5,996.87
4550 - Cost of Event - Spring Picnic				\$1,160.00
5001 - Cost of Goods Sold				\$19.60
5005 - S & H				\$19.60
Total COGS	\$4,085.50	\$39,990.92	\$4,134.43	\$36,043.50
Gross Profit	\$2,187.01	\$50,092.31	\$6,969.13	\$62,175.03
Expense				
5100 - Office Expense				
5101 - Copier Expense		\$130.46		\$614.93
5102 - Office Supplies	\$42.91	\$1,514.17	\$83.16	\$1,521.59
5105 - Misc. Office		\$17.98		(\$78.06)
5107 - Fire Inspection		\$56.18	\$27.00	\$27.00
5109 - Data Processing			\$19.95	\$2,587.07
Total 5100 - Office Expense	\$42.91	\$1,718.79	\$130.11	\$4,672.53
5110 - Telephone	\$173.46	\$1,570.93	\$173.53	\$1,716.65
5120 - Telephone Answering Service	\$30.00	\$570.00	\$80.00	\$720.00
5130 - Postage - Freight		\$38.82		\$353.99
5140 - Utilities	\$216.84	\$1,595.26	\$268.80	\$1,773.70
5145 - Advertising	\$51.00	\$459.00	\$51.00	\$459.12
5150 - Insurance		\$1,064.57		
5160 - Repairs & Maintenance	\$15.00	\$599.00		
5170 - Property/Misc. Taxes		\$41.30		
5195 - CC Fees	\$81.96	\$916.94	\$133.72	\$950.78
5200 - Professional Fees		\$225.00		\$400.00
5210 - Building Rent	\$900.00	\$8,100.00	\$900.00	\$8,100.00
5215 - IG Business Meeting Expense	\$60.00	\$392.90	\$36.09	\$370.14
5220 - Dues/Fees/Licenses		\$61.25		\$61.25
5230 - Travel		\$262.40		
5235 - Training		\$30.00	\$402.70	402.70
5265 - Security	\$50.40	\$269.60	\$27.40	\$246.60
5280 - Pink Can Expense		\$512.84	\$281.02	\$1,487.89
5290 - IG Breakfast Expense		\$131.06	\$16.72	\$147.16
5300 - When & Where Cost		\$1,091.93		\$2,799.20
5500 - Committees Expense				
5520 - Archives	\$561.75	\$1,957.27		\$438.76
5530 - CPC/PI		\$409.68		\$215.31
5540 - Corrections		\$6,574.19	\$234.20	\$4,233.30
5560 - Newsletter	\$229.00	\$3,040.45	\$343.49	\$2,404.47
5590 - Treatment		\$28.45		\$198.38
5595 - Website				\$134.91
Total 5500 - Committees Expense	\$790.75	\$12,010.04	\$577.69	\$7,625.13
59900 - POS Inventory Adjustments	(\$1,046.31)	(\$1,114.28)		
6150 - Bad Debt		\$25.00		
6555 - Wages Total				
6560 - Wages	\$2,516.64	\$21,075.28	\$3,873.27	28293.28
6565 - Payroll Taxes	\$194.97	\$1,600.64	\$292.87	2099.71
Total 6555 - Wages Total	\$2,711.61	\$22,675.92	\$4,166.14	\$30,392.99
Total Expense	\$4,077.62	\$53,248.27	\$7,244.92	\$62,679.83
Net Ordinary Income	(\$1,890.61)	(\$3,156.96)	(\$275.79)	(\$504.80)
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
6300 - Other Income				
6301 - Cash Short/Over POS	\$2.92	(\$2.27)		
6300 - Other Income - Other	\$5.59	\$78.20		38.58
Total 6300 - Other Income	\$8.51	\$75.93		\$38.58
6305 - Interest Income	\$20.84	\$187.67	\$26.39	\$237.41
Net Other Income	\$29.35	\$263.60	\$26.39	\$275.99
Net Income	(\$1,861.26)	(\$2,892.36)	(\$249.40)	(\$228.81)

Current Assets **September 2017**

Checking/Savings	
1020 - Vystar - Checking	8,978.24
1022 - Vystar Savings	10.00
1024 - Cash in Drawer	181.00
Total Checking/Savings	9,169.24
1360 - Inventory	13,175.82
1400 - Prudent Reserve	
1475 - Vystar CD 51	20,478.55
1480 - Vystar CD 52	11,858.44
1485 - Vystar CD 42	10,219.83
Total 1400 - Prudent Reserve	42,556.82

Is your group represented At InterGroup? Make sure you know the happenings and the business of the North East Florida InterGroup. Attend the InterGroup business meeting for your group and keep them informed!



The WHO-lidays are fast approaching ...

Will your group have special marathon or eating meetings? Be sure to notify us by Nov.18th so we can advertise them!



Email Luke (Editor) nefladdaline@gmail.com or Mike/Stefanie at neflintergroup@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 2017 Group Contributions

GROUP	MONTH	SEPT YTD	Att.	GROUP	MONTH	SEPT YTD	Att.	GROUP	MONTH	SEPT YTD	Att.
A Design for Living		\$490.39		Joy		\$190.00		San Man Group	\$100.00	\$400.00	
Alexis	\$30.00	\$135.00		Keep It Simple (Fern. Bch.)	\$40.00	\$120.00	X	San Pablo Sober Sisters		\$103.87	X
Arlington		\$594.00	X	Language of the Heart		\$654.46		St. Nicholas		\$250.00	
As Bill See's It (St. Aug)		\$193.00		Lest We Forget		\$225.00		Saturday Night Live St Aug.		\$613.20	
Azalea City		\$600.00		Liars Paradise		\$411.08		Seascape St. Aug.		\$186.00	
BAA	\$60.00	\$541.00		Living In The Light		\$1,273.64		Serenity at Noon		\$305.00	
Barney Q		\$50.00		Los Lobos Men's		\$318.00		Sober Sisters - St Aug		\$257.06	
Baymeadows		\$50.00		Macclenny		\$50.00		Sojourn			X
Beaches Agnostics & Free Thk		\$229.00		Mandrain Big Book				Solutions Group		\$178.05	
Beachside Step Stuy		\$185.50		Mandarin Coyote Men's		\$800.00		Sons of the Spirit		\$107.70	
Beaches Unity	\$360.00	\$3,240.00	X	Mandarin Fruit Cove Women		\$120.00		Sounds of Sobriety		\$103.80	
BLISS		\$221.02		Mandarin Hi-Noon		\$807.36		Step A Month		\$122.95	
Central		\$687.22	X	Mandarin Monday Night BBS				Step Into Tradition			
Conscious Contact				Mandarin Stepping Up		\$248.00		Stepping in Sobriety			
Clean and Free				Mandarin Women in Recovery		\$300.00		Step Sisters Grace Group			X
Day One Club		\$50.00		Mandrain YPG		\$270.00		Student Group-St. Aug		\$458.35	
District 6		\$248.38		Men's Redeye	\$115.00	\$463.40	X	Stepping Stones P.V.		\$50.00	
Drop The Rock				Middleburg		\$200.00	X	Stepping Stones St. Aug		\$102.30	
Dutch Group		\$50.00		Monday Villages Group		\$61.80		Sunday Morning St. Aug		\$400.00	
Eastside	\$15.00	\$120.00	X	More About Alcoholism		\$180.00		Sunrise Breakfast Group	\$140.00	\$140.00	
Evergreen Group		\$70.00		Morning After St. Aug		\$62.50		Surrender to Win			X
Fernandina Beach		\$365.35		Neptune Beach Book Study		\$80.00		Switzerland		\$685.00	X
Fernandina Bch. Primay Purpose		\$8.00		New Beginnings			X	The Crux of the Problem	\$200.00	\$650.00	
Folkston GA		\$39.06		Nocatee Sobriety		\$210.00		The James Gang	\$400.00	\$950.00	
Fiesta		\$438.53	X	Northside TLC		\$55.00		Thirsty Thursday		\$100.00	X
Florida Unity Roundup		\$500.00		Oldest City Men's St. Aug		\$265.94		This Too Shall Pass		\$150.00	
Fourth Street		\$0.00		On The Way Home	\$220.00	\$669.44		Timiquana Ladies of Grace		\$262.00	
Free Men's		\$875.00		Orange Park Stepsisters		\$212.00		Tradition Group		\$100.00	
Free To Be				Ortega		\$253.00		Triangle Grp	\$60.00	\$180.00	
Freedom Grp.		\$80.00		Palatka		\$65.00		Tuesday Night Step		\$50.00	
Fresh Start		\$528.09		Phoneix Men's	\$50.00	\$100.00	X	Vilano Beach Combers		\$30.00	
From the Heart Mens		\$200.00	X	Primay Purpose				Villagers St. Aug		\$107.40	
Fruit Cove Literature		\$989.00		Primay Purpose Mandarin				Way Out		\$39.60	
Fruit Cove 11th Step Med.		\$72.50		Ponte Vedra Mens		\$100.00	X	Wednesday Night Book Sty		\$15.00	
FCYPAA	\$212.06	\$212.06		Q Branch	\$300.00	\$2,350.00		Wesconnett		\$113.25	
Green Cove Springs		\$650.00	X	Reborn	\$50.00	\$500.00	X	West Jax Men's		\$200.00	
Greenland Road Mandarin				Riverside/Ortega	\$29.11	\$173.35		Westside			
Half Way Through		\$80.75		Riverside (Tom S)		\$133.00		Wiley Beginners Group	\$50.00	\$90.00	
I Am Responsible		\$150.00		Riverview Study		\$30.00		Winners			
It's Come to This		\$225.00		Riverside Tradition House		\$300.00		Women Enjoying Sobriety		\$747.81	
I've Come To Believe - St. Aug		\$11.60		Riverside YPG		\$337.79		Women Speak		\$38.00	
It's in the Book St. Aug		\$210.00		Salisbury Road Men's		\$25.00		Women's Upstart		\$145.00	
James Gang II		\$50.00						Young Peoples Group St. Aug		\$257.70	
Jax Men's Group			X					Total Contributions	\$2,431.17	\$34,743.25	

Represented at the OCT 2017 IG Business Meeting: IG Reps = 22 Total signed in = 32
 Contributing in Sept 2017 - 18 (YTD 108)



ARLINGTON GROUP

1343 Cesery Terrace 32211

First Meeting: January 10, 1955

Group Started: To avoid a long trip to the Central Group

Founders: Mary A., Buck R., Lou M., Thad W. Sr. & Jr.

Home of 3 Area 14 Delegates: Sam I., Buck R., and Jimmy G.

Meeting Types: Open and Closed Discussion, Open 12 & 12 Study, Beginners Smoking, Open Big Book Study, Closed Book Study (AAWS) Smoking, Open Speaker, Open Discussion Smoking and Open Candlelight Discussion Smoking 21 meetings per week





STORIES FROM THE

A.A. ARCHIVES

Tom W. is one of our AA pioneers. His sobriety date is July 17, 1971, he just celebrated 46 sober years. He taped his story in 2016 and the following has been excerpted from his tape with his permission.

(Interviewed by Charles H. transcribed by Rhonda B. and edited by Charlie M.)

Interviewer: Tell me a little about your life before you found AA.

Tom: I was born in Brooklyn, New York. My entry into the world was a traumatic event. My mother died an hour after I was born. I was put in a foster home and I was there until I was 4 when my father came back from the Second World War and I was introduced to him and to the woman that would become my step-mother. That time in the foster home defined how I fit into the world: "I would make the decisions on what would go on in my life, what I would tolerate, and what I would do." So, if you told me to do something I normally rebelled against it if I chose not to do it. That was the groundwork for my personality, someone who was set up to drink.

I: What kind of a childhood did you have?

T: I was treated pretty well in the foster home but when it came to the authority idea I rebelled. Following directions and playing nice in the sandbox didn't seem to work for me. The woman, Mrs. B, who ran the foster home, must have been a pretty kind person because I have good thoughts about that time in my life.

I: As a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

Tom: Unfortunately, I had no dream (s) of the future. I always existed in a lot of fear as a young child. My fear was expressed as a bad temper. I just wanted to get through that day. I had no dream of being anything special you know, like an airplane pilot. If I was going to be anything I wanted to be a soldier. If I could fight, if I could be a combat soldier, I'd be all right. Not a bright outlook on life.

I: How did you start drinking?

T: My introduction to alcohol came from my European background. My mother's step-father and that whole family was German-Hungarian and when they got together they drank a lot of whiskey. They also drank some beer and they gave the children these small jelly jars filled with half wine and half water. That was how they did it and it wasn't anything special. It was a normal way to have dinner with the family. At 13 I was introduced to my first Manhattan. It was given to me. I didn't have to take it. I took a lot after that. The first drink was very, very warm, almost hot going down through my esophagus and it filled my chest. Within a minute or two it affected my brain and there was a euphoric feeling that set me aside from everything physical and emotional. I really had found something that made me feel good as a person, not connected but calm. Again, not thinking deeply about it, it made me feel good. Like many other people who someday become alcoholics, I chased the feeling of that first drink for the rest of my life until I came into the program.



I: When and how did your drinking get out of control?

T: My drinking was out of control by the time I was 16 and I was drinking anytime I could. In the summer of my 16th year I was working at a YMCA camp in the kitchen. I wound up drinking with the two chefs. One night I drank a lot of shots and some beer and was dead drunk. I leaned against the wall and slid down to the floor. That was my first blackout, many more were to follow. At some point I walked down to where the kids were and I started to throw people around, clothes around, lockers around and I got in a bunch of trouble for that. That incident didn't stop my drinking and for the rest of that summer I went out drinking with those two men. At that age, drinking was important to me, not for social reasons but to feel OK.



They say alcoholism is a family disease. It certainly was in my family. My grandfather died at 42. My father had 2 brothers and a sister and a single German mother who raised them. They said that my grandfather died of consumption but they never talked about their father, ever, no stories. I asked them when I was a kid about grandpa and I asked again when they were in their 80s and still of sound mind, "What about your father?" The answer from the two brothers was, "We knew nothing about our father." My mother never said a word about him. Many years later I did a genealogy search and I found the New York City death certificate of my grandfather, George Valentine

W. He died in 1914. The death certificate said the cause of death was acute alcoholism. My wife had always said alcoholism is genetic. Helen was in the fellowship and died with 31 years of sobriety. Back to my story. At 16 my drinking was very important to me. It wasn't just a passing thing. It definitely helped me through my adolescence, "I didn't feel like I fit in." So, the more I could drink the more "I don't fit in" feeling was pushed aside. When I was 18 years old I was in a bar in New York City and I was by myself coming from my job back to New Jersey. I was drinking shots and beers in Washington Heights, New York. I said to myself, "If I could sit here the rest of my life, I would be happy." Looking back now many years later I think that was alcoholism at its rawest, if there is a raw measure for alcohol. I was chemically addicted to it and psychologically I was also addicted to drinking because it was the only thing I wanted to do. It made me feel good and that is how I wanted to be – in a state of feeling good. It made no difference that it came with throwing up, hugging the toilet and lying on the bathroom floor with my head on a cast-iron bathtub so my head didn't explode. Those things made no difference.

I: When did you hit bottom?

T: I hit bottom when I was 30 years old. It was the christening day of my third child. The day of the christening I went into a blackout. It was an October day and I wound up starting a fire in my fireplace. It was my house and I wanted a fire. Unfortunately for my family it was a hot day and I guess it didn't occur to me. I made the fire. I was in a blackout the rest of the time. At about 9:30 at night I came out of that blackout and I was in my living room and I realized where I was. That was the first time I ever remember coming out of a blackout. At that moment there was a noise on our screen porch, like an acorn that fell from a tree and hit it gently. To me it was as if a boulder had hit the house, almost knocked it off the foundation, so I had to go out and find out what happened, and the truth was a young boy threw something at a light just to see if he could hit it, and whatever it was went past the light, hit the screen porch, and now I was off on a mission. I wound up catching this kid and began beating him. I'm here in AA today sober and a free man because a neighbor was walking his dog and jumped on me, pulled me off, sent me home, and I guess sent the young boy home. That night, maybe 12:30 or later, I received call and it was the family of the boy. They said they were having a family meeting and deciding what they were going to do. I asked if I could come over there to see them. They only lived a couple of blocks away. I went there and I talked to them and the father offered me a drink and that was the first time in my life that I ever refused a drink. In that conversation I said to the father, "I'm going to AA tomorrow." I don't know where that came from. I had never thought I was an alcoholic in my whole life, never. I drank because I drank and because I liked to drink. Truthfully, I had to drink, I had no choice. The consequences didn't really bother me. I had a bunch but they didn't bother me. The father said, "We're going to make a decision to have you arrested or not, whether we're going to call the police." So, I went home, not knowing what the outcome was going to be the next morning. When I got home and I got into bed I looked out of the window and I said out loud, "God if I wasn't drinking I wouldn't have done this." That was it. That was my moment of clarity, my moment of alcoholic desperation. It was the first time ever that I thought I had a problem with drinking.



I: When did you first hear of AA and from what source?

T: The first time I heard of AA was in college. In one of the sociology classes a professor brought in somebody as an AA speaker. He talked about his drinking and he talked about missing two days of work and that he realized that he had a problem and he went to AA. I heard that and I was quite unimpressed. I had lost so much time because of my drinking, worked so poorly at the jobs I had, and I thought how can you lose two days of work and go into this AA program. That was the extent of my knowledge of AA and I would have none of it. Thank you very much. It may be good for some people whoever they are.

I: How and when did you get started in AA?

T: That October night when I committed physical violence towards that boy. Sadly he was my paperboy. The next morning I tore out an ad for AA from our local newspaper and about 1:30 in the afternoon I went into a public telephone booth called this number that was on this piece of paper that had been in my pocket since probably 8am that morning and when they answered the phone the greatest thing happened in my life. A man answered it and I said my name and then he said, "I've been waiting for your call" "boy" in a Texan accent. Well, up North you don't call people "boy." It just didn't happen. It didn't offend me but it was kind of different. He talked to me but after a couple of minutes he said to me, "I know about you." I asked hesitantly, "How do you know about me?" He said, "Your wife called me and told me about you." She had gone into the newspaper and found the number that was missing. She had called and told this guy all about me, all about my alcohol problems and everything. So, when I called I was a sitting duck. So, this wonderful guy, Lou M. from Isabella, Texas, said, "Do you think you cannot drink between now and 7:30? We'll pick you up and take you to a meeting. Would you like to go?" I said, "Yes" immediately because I still had in my mind what had happened the night before and my revelation to myself that if I hadn't been drinking I wouldn't have committed that particular act of violence. I finally connected that alcohol was a problem. I don't think I drank between then and the time they came to pick me up. We went to a 9pm meeting in Rutherford, New Jersey. I think it was, an open speaker meeting, lots of people. I got a cup of coffee because they said, "Get a cup of coffee," and I carried it to the table and as I was putting it down I started to shake. I spilled the coffee all over the table. They didn't look at me like I was crazy or anything. They said, "Don't worry." They cleaned it up. They got me another cup of coffee but they filled it halfway. They sat me down in front and there were two speakers and a leader. I remember a lot of what they said and I understood emotionally and it blew my mind. I could not believe that I was hearing people talk about exact the same experiences I had had. I heard every word they said and everything they said I identified with without knowing the jargon of AA. You know, "identify don't compare." I identified. I heard my story. I heard my feelings. I heard my fears. That was what happened to me at my first meeting. It was unbelievable. I went there wanting to be sober but not knowing a thing about AA. I say this with humility. "I'm lucky that I came into AA as a desperate alcoholic." I had no fight left. I was finished. I didn't know it. When I sat down in that chair and heard those people, the grace of God washed over me. The fight was gone. The intellectual stuff was gone. In its place was a sliver of hope and a strong desire that I would be able to do this program of AA. Without it I was hopeless.



That first night when they brought me home and Lou said, "We have a Tuesday meeting in the town of Ridgewood," which was only 2 miles away. He told me the name of the church and the location. The next thing he said was, "Do you think you can get there at 8:00?" It was an 8:30 meeting. Timidly I said, "Yes, I can." I got there the next night and there they were, Lou M. was 3 year sober and the other guy that was in the front seat of the car was George C. and George was also 3 years sober. They were to be my saviors, my AA guys. They did that every night. Lou would say, "Tomorrow we're going to Hope Street, the oldest group in Ridgewood, would you be able to get there tomorrow?" They kept inviting me and for me that approach was important. They did not mandate me. They didn't demand anything. They saw that I was still pretty shaky. I should have gone to a detox but it was \$165 cash and at that point I couldn't pay my bills and I didn't have \$165 cash to pay for it. I shook and sweated at night because of the withdrawal and maybe a lot of you can identify with that.

I: What about step work?

T: Step work came as a natural part of being introduced to AA. The key thing George and Lou did for me was to say, "Go to lots of meetings, go to different types of meetings." There is a dual speaker meeting, go to at least one of those a week. Also, go to a step meeting where they read about a step and then talk about it. Then you go to a discussion meeting where a topic is thrown out and you keep mixing your meetings. Don't be one of those I only go to step meetings or I only go to something else. This was their experience so it became mine because I followed their way of getting sober. I believe it helped me because I was exposed then to the Big Book, to the 12 and 12, to step studying, to open speaker, and I love open speaker meetings because number one it's a time I go to a meeting where I keep my mouth shut and I listen to other alcoholics share their experience, strength and hope, which is so important for me. It keeps the program fresh. One of the things that they said to me early on and I think about it constantly is, "Keep your memory green," and the same thing they say in another form, "Remember your last drunk." I keep my memory green by remembering that last violent episode that I had that October night. It's important for me to remember that forever. When I go to AA, this is for real. This is not a passing fancy or something I just do because I have nothing better to do. This is something I have to do, but more importantly something I want to do.



I: Tell me about some of your experiences in AA

T: Early on I started to go to a beginner's meeting led by Phyllis B. and Pete A. both with about ten years sobriety. The beginners meeting was for people who had less than three months. The reason they had it that way is that new people could ask new people questions and not be embarrassed. Sometimes there were only six of us there. It met for an hour and first thing they would ask you, "How was your week? Were you able to stay sober for the whole week?" If you had a problem or were fighting a drink what was that like? If you didn't drink, what did you do not to drink? I think it was the most basic wonderful way to introduce people to AA. This is before all the rehabs. We didn't call it treatment, we called it AA. I got a tremendous amount out of that beginners group because it was in a very intimate group. I didn't understand the importance of that word then.

Another part of my early sobriety involved the third person who was in that car the first night. His name was Howard D. and he was three days sober. We became inseparable friends for the next five years. If you saw Howard, you saw Tom. We did everything together. We went apple picking with our children. He had three children. I had three children. I was divorced. He was with his wife. We sort of like adopted each other as best buddies. I had dinner there a lot and together we painted the inside of his house. We went to meetings together all the time.

I had never had a best friend. I was a bar drinker. I drank alone. I was there to drink not to talk.

The Big Book was an important part of my sobriety. When I first started to read it I couldn't understand it. I had done so much damage to myself that I would read a paragraph and then I would look at it and look at the words and have no comprehension of what I had read. It took me quite a while to start comprehending what it said but the good part is I kept going back to it little by little. Then, as I read the Big Book, the first 164 pages, every single thing I read was an answer to my recovery, to my alcoholism, to how I felt, how I thought, the way I drank, my rationalizations, my defiance of my life, my minimizing the consequences. All of these things were in the Big Book and obviously the solution. So, you laid out the solution in the Big Book and I never felt it was in a scornful, demeaning way. It was in a way that seemed like you invited me. I felt that I was invited into AA. Now maybe that was what I needed because of my personality and my weaknesses. I needed to be invited, not shoved in or yelled at. Maybe they knew this guy couldn't handle authority well, so, man, stay away from it if you want him to be a member. They did that and that's what worked for me. No authority in my coming into AA, nobody saying, "Get down on your knees and do the third step prayer because you've been in AA three days." Nobody said that to me. They said, "Can you come back tomorrow?" Using that approach kept me here.

I: Did you have a sponsor when you first came in?

Tom: Well, now that you know me a little bit you know about my authority problem. So no I didn't have a sponsor for the first couple of years. I had George and I had Lou. I talked to them a lot. I had "Russian John," they called him. I also talked to him a lot. One night I went to the Paramus Evergreen Group and there was a fellow talking, Jim M. from Morristown, and I liked what he said. I went up to him and asked him to be my sponsor. He said, "Yes." He laid down a couple of non-rules; call me whenever you want and go to meetings. I will meet you at a meeting anytime and anyplace you want me to. That was the end of it. So, I did. I went to a lot of meetings. I called him once in a while in the beginning, but not much. That phone weighed about 5,000 pounds. So that was part of it. Jim was my sponsor for 28 years. I loved him as a human being, as a person, as part of my life, as an intimate thread in my life. Jim set me on the path of my spiritual life. He was at my second wedding to my wife, Helen. We got married in 1980. We were both nine years sober and he was there for us and we were thrilled about that, so that's my sponsorship relationship. I was responsible to call my sponsor. My sponsor did not spoon feed me the program or indoctrinate me into "His Way." I think why AA worked for me specifically is it gave me a choice. It gave me dignity. I was one of those people that did not need to be browbeaten. Some people say, "Well, some people need to get their ass kicked in AA. You got to tell them what to do." Well, I don't know. The program, the way it seems to be written and how I interpret it when I read it is an invitation, "Do you want to get sober? Good." It says in the Big Book if you want to go back out and drink some more that's your choice.



I would call Jim at 6:00 in the morning. We could talk before he was too busy. He would not let me go on and on about some terrible problem of the day. The first thing he would say to me was, "What step are you working on?" We would never discuss the problem.

He would repeat it in a kind way, "What step are you working on?" What is Tom doing to change? Am I being part of my own solution? We stayed in touch and I was at his bedside the night before he died. He was in Intensive Care. I walked up to him, put my hand on his arm and I told him I loved him for the first time. That is what sponsorship can be. In our case it was 28 years of a relationship that meant everything. Sometimes a father figure, because I never had a relationship with my father and so sometimes Jim was that person. He was a person who I wanted to emulate, his spirituality, his way of living, his daily living the program "in all his affairs." That's how our relationship worked.

I: What were your feelings about AA initially and has it changed.

T: The thing that happened to me that first night in AA was that I found hope. I began to feel that maybe this would work and I could stop drinking. That was what I desperately wanted, to stop drinking. I was so enthusiastic about being in AA when I first got here that I could almost jump out of my skin. I had found an answer. I had found out how not to drink. I had many many problems and issues psychologically and emotionally to work through. I had to learn about myself, do an inventory, and work on my anger, which was not easy. I continued having tremendous feelings of joy that I was In AA sober. Now, I have just celebrated 45 years sober on July 17, 2016. I am, and I say this with deepest humility, as enthusiastic about my sobriety and about AA as I was in 1970. AA is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

I'd like to share one last thing. As a daily part of my continuing spiritual life I say a sort of a prayer each morning. Its simple yet keeps me both grounded and grateful. Its very meaningful to my program. I say out loud. "Thank you God I'm sober."

Thank you for letting me share my experience, strength and hope.

I: Thank you Tom.

