Add - A - Line

SEPTEMBER 2019, Volume 59 Issue 9
Northeast Florida Intergroup Newsletter
Published in Northeast Florida Since Nov. 1962

NORTHEAST FLORIDA INTERGROUP

3128 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Tel. 399-8535 Fax 399-8537

Website: www.neflaa.org
E-mail: neflintergroup@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 5 pm 1st Saturday of the Month 1 pm - 4 pm

Our Most Up To Date Meeting Listings Can Be Found Under Meeting Search on our website.







"Save The Date"
2019 FLORIDA
UNITY ROUNDUP
October 4, 5 & 6th

Bringing North Florida Together for Recovery

and Fellowship

The 6th Annual Florida Unity Roundup Will be held at the **Lexington Hotel** on the Southbank Riverwalk
1515 Prudential Drive. Jacksonville FL

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 October 4, 5 & 6, 2019. We will celebrate our recovery with outstanding AA and Alanon speakers, panels, a Saturday night banquet, entertainment, great fellowship and more!

Please register: and pay securely at www.floridaunityroundup.com the link to reserve your hotel room and banquet choices are on the website!

Book your Lexington Hotel and Conference Center accommodations directly at the Roundup Rooms

<u>Link https://floridaunityroundup.com/hotel/</u>

A limited number of rooms have been reserved for Round Up at special rates. Parking available for cost per day. (The link is also on the Round Up Website)

Lexington Hotel and Conference Center 904-396-5100 1515 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207

INTERGROUP OFFICE LOG

July	2019	July 2018
A. A. Information	449	226
Admin & Other Info.	70	49
12 Step Calls	8	8
Visitors to the Offic	166	145

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Step Nine

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

Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid. For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

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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."

- 1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
- 2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
- 3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program even
- if no one makes me do so with a sense of personal responsibility?
- 4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
- 5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
- 6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
- 7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully and profit thereby when the time comes?
- 8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Reprinted from the book Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book) with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

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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INTERGROUP FALL BANQUET AND CAKE AUTION



Saturday, November 16, 2019

Ramallah American Club 3130 Parental Home Road

November is a month of Thanksgiving, so let's all come together and share our Gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous for giving us a Design for Living a new and useful life!

And what better way to show our gratitude than by service work! We will need many volunteers to help with ticket sales, the cake auction, decorations, set up, cooking, keeping the buffet line full, beverages, and clean up.

Intergroup Representatives have \$15 tickets for sale staring in September 2019 (Reserved Tables will be available), and we will offer a delicious dinner and a dynamic speaker in return.

For More information please call:

Debbie C. Co Chair 904-556-4669 or
John C. Co Chair 757-977-4351

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS
Remember, what we cannot do alone, we can do together!

The next banquet planning meeting will be at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019,



Speaker Meeting

October 12, 2019
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 ????



INTERGROUP
BUSINESS
MEETING 9:45 AM
Sat. Oct. 12, 2019
555 Stockton Street
Gateway Back
Conference Room



<u>Committee</u>	<u>Time / Date</u>	<u>Location / Notes</u>
Accessibility	12:15PM, Sat, Sept. 14, 2019	Grace House 2904 Ionic St 32210. (Ortega on the Westside.)
Archives	Noon, Mon., SEPT 9, 2019	Intergroup Office, 3128 Beach Blvd. 1st Monday of the Month
Finance	5:30 pm , Tues., SEPT. 17, 2019	Intergroup Office, 3128 Beach Blvd. Please call the IG office at 399-8535 for more information.
Corrections	6:00 PM, Thur. , OCTOBER 24, 2019	Intergroup Office, 3128 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL
CPC/PI	1:00 PM, Sat., SEPT 5, 2019	Intergroup Office, 3128 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL
Intergroup Steering Committee	5:30 PM, Tues., SEPT. 24, 2019	Intergroup Office, 3128 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL All AA Members are welcome to attend.
Website	6:00 PM, Thur., SEPT 26, 2019	Intergroup Office 3128 Beach Blvd, 1st Thursday of the Month

2019-2020 District Committee Contact and Meeting Info **Position & Name** E mail Phone Monthly Meeting District 1: 3rd Tuesday @ 6:45 pm, Intergroup Office, DCM - Evonne H. DCMDist1@gmail.com 904-307-2279 3128 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207 District 3: 3rd Sunday @ 2:30 pm, DCM- Lyndy J. 832-306-1950 District3Area14DCM@gmail.com 1835 Smith Street, Orange Park, FL 32073 District 4: 3rd Thursday @ 7:45 pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, DCM - Bob C. cookpr11@att.net 904-860-9356 801 Atlantic Ave, Room 204, Fernandina Bch, FL 32034 District 6: 1st Monday @ 6:00 pm, Flager Hospital-Osceola Room, DCM- Whitney B. 603-969-8506 dcmdist6@gmail.com 400 Health Park Blvd, St Augustine, FL 32086 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30 pm, St. Marks Episcopal Church, District 24: DCM - Tim S. 97roadking@gmail.com 408-263-1172 200 Main Street, Palatka, FL 32177 2nd Tuesday @ 6:45 pm, Neptune Beach Library, District 25: DCM - Glenn G. 904-233-6258 justgg@aol.com 600 3rd St, Neptune Beach, FL 32266 (3rd Street) District 30: 4th Saturday @ 9:00 am, Fruit Cove Baptist Church, DCM - Rita H. flrita@comcast.net 904-703-3655 210 Ridgecrest Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32259

PRAYER & MEDITATION WORKSHOP On the 11th Step of AA

1:00 PM—3:00 PM Sat. Sept. 21st

First Christian Church of Mandarin
11924 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville,
FL 32223
Food Will Be Provided

Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and power to carry that out.

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Committee Chairs

Chairman: Jack G. 714-661-3918

Vice Chair: Dan. B. 904-737-7532



Steering Committee Chair Preston W.	914-882-9373
Accessibility Committee Maggie R. E Mail: tothineownself3693@gmail.com	904-707-6125
Add-A-line Committee- Mike M.	904-399-8535
Contact Mike for information on participat committee. All articles due to Intergroup teach month. E Mail: nefladdaline@gr	by the 18th of

Archives Committee- Charlie M. E Mail: ggmoyer@aol.com	904-247-3421
Banquet Committee- Co-Chair: Debbie C. E Mail: debbiecarter9966@gmail.com Co-Chair: John C.	904-556-4669 757-977-4351
Corrections Committee - Men — Clayton D. E Mail: Claytondavis9333@gmail.com Women — Gayle E. E Mail: notefromgayle@gmail.com	904-832-2120 904-655-3881

CPC/PI - Mike S.	850-628-3123
O	

Cooperation With The Professional

Community and Public Information Committee-

E Mail: diyornot@gmail.com

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Finance Committee- Bryant G. E Mail: financeNEFLIG@gmail.com	352-575-4005
<u>Grapevine-</u> Roger L. E Mail: rlehman25@yahoo.com	904-318-8535
Phone Army- Kara B. E Mail: klk82@live.com	904-402-1920
Treatment Facility Committee-Paul H. For E Mail call the IG office.	904-759-3211
Website Committee- Brian C E Mail: nefl.ig.website@gmail.com	415-513-2248

ACCOUNT BALANCES July 31, 2019	AMOUNT
Checking/Savings	
1021 · Cash - Regions Bank	\$15,279.71
1024 · Cash in Drawer	\$191.86
Total Checking/Savings	\$15,471.57
1360 · Inventory	\$18,182.99
1400 · Prudent Reserve	
1476 · Regions Bank - CD #001	\$20,249.55
1481 · Regions Bank - CD #002	\$10,174.51
Total 1400 · Prudent Reserve	\$30,424.06

S	HOLD-ON PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP'S INAUGURAL DINNER	
P		
A		D
G		/
Н	Saturday, Sept. 14th	N
E	6 pm - 9 pm Baymeadows Baptist Church	N
r	4826 Baymeadows Rd. Jacksonville, Fl 32217	Ε
$\mid \tau \mid$	*** FREE *** Speaker @ 8 pm	R
/	50/50 Raffle Meal includes Spaghetti,	

RSVP FOR DINNER AT: www.evenbrite.com/e/hold-on-ppg-tickets-66740435439

<u>NEW MEETING</u>

A.A. Service Manual
Combined With Twelve
Concepts for World Service

STUDY GROUP

4:15 PM Westside Club 4615 Lexington Ave, Jacksonville SEPTEMBER 2019 ADD-A-LINE Page 5



2nd Annual Anonymous, But not Invisible

Masquerade



October 26th, 2019 6 PM to 9 PM On AA, AL-ANON, "OPEN EVENT, ALL ARE INVITED

Guest Speaker is Bob D., from Las Vegas, Nevada

- Be Creative and wear fancy or any costume!
 There will be a Costume Contest
- 50/50 Raffle
- Dancing
- Skit by the Al=Anon "Anonymity Players"

Dinner is included! seats are limited to the first 200. To reserve yours...visit Eventbrite.com.....Only \$10 to registerbring your receipt to the event.

REGISTER AT:

2nd-annual-nefl-cpcpi-masquerade-ball.evenbrite.com

First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd, 32223 For more info, email: abnimasqball@gmail.com

Applications Being Taken For the Add-A-Line Editor

SKILLS REQUIRED:

Good to Excellent use of Microsoft Publisher, Excel, Word and some PowerPoint usage.

<u>Publisher</u> – for the publication of the 8 or 12 page Add A Line, all aspects ex, phots., clip art. Text boxes etc.

<u>Excel</u> -- formulas, add, delete or add lines while maintaining the integrity of totals and categories

<u>Word</u> – all aspects, fonts, formatting, tables, formulas, character spacing, etc.,

E Mail neflintergroup@gmail.com at the IG office for a detailed requirements list.

Go Call Your Sponsor!





Learn More About the History of AA in North Florida

Go to the Intergroup website at neflaa.org Click on Intergroup Information

Click on committees Click on Archives

Choose your topic

Early history of AA in Jacksonville Picture of first meeting place on Riverside Ave.

Picture of plaque on meeting house Long timers stories – there are 18 stories from interviews with old timers from our intergroup area.

Group histories – there are 10 group histories posted on the website, there will shortly be more than 90 group histories.

There is a wealth of local history here for your enlightenment and enjoyment.

Your Archive Committee

Grapevine Quote

"Now that we no longer patronize bars and bordellos; now that we bring home the pay checks; now that we are so very active in AA; and



now that people congratulate us on these signs of progress -- well, we naturally proceed to congratulate ourselves. Yet we may not be within hailing distance of humility. Meaning well, yet doing badly, how often have I said or thought, 'I am right and you are wrong,' 'My plan is correct and yours is faulty,' 'Thank God your sins are not my sins,' 'You are hurting AA and I'm going to stop you cold,' 'I have God's guidance, so He is on my side.' And so on, indefinitely. "The alarming thing about such prideblindness is the ease with which it is justified."

—AA Co-Founder, Bill W.,

June 1961 "Humility for Today,"

The Language of the Heart
(reprinted with permission of the Grapevine)



Happy Sobriety Birthday

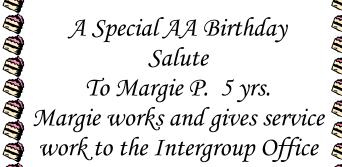


<u>AUGUST</u>		<u>AUGUST</u>		<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	
BEACHES UNITY		CENTRAL		ST NICHOLAS (con't)	
George L.	41 yrs.	Pam J.	42 yrs.	Chico	3 yrs.
Stewart W.	41 yrs.	Malkah	37 yrs.	Kelsey Ann J.	2 yrs.
Lynn K.	37 yrs.	Mike D.	34 yrs.	Bob C.	2 yrs.
Jim L.	33 yrs.	Sheila O.	27 yrs.		
Denise	31 yrs.	Linda D.	24 yrs.	<u>SWITZERLAND</u>	
Joe B.	31 yrs.	Don Lynn	22 yrs.	Tom Mc.	11 yrs.
Tony H.	30 yrs.	Randy O.	12 yrs.	Mike G.	5 yrs.
Morgan	28 yrs.	Mike M.	8 yrs.		
Kristen	25 yrs.	Ed B.	6 yrs.	WINNERS	
Bonnie R.	24 yrs.	Lisa H.	2 yrs.	Jim S.	47 yrs.
Glad H.	23 yrs.	Steve C.	1 yr.	Carla G.	8 yrs.
Carl	18 yrs.				
Julie	17 yrs.	I AM RESPONSIBLE		BILLY GOAT HILL	
Fred K.	14 yrs.	Joanne M.	37 yrs.	Allen P.	31 yrs
Suzanne M.	12 yrs.	Fred W.	20 yrs.	Buddy R.	17 yrs.
Suki	11 yrs.	Mike C.	6 yrs.		
Patrick O.	10 yrs.			<u>EASTSIDE</u>	
Laura T.	9 yrs.	ST NICHOLAS		Basie W.	2 yrs.
Erik	9 yrs.	Atwood F.	37 yrs.		
Ed B.	6 yrs.	Robbie C.	30 yrs.	<u>SWITZERLAND</u>	
Jodi S.	5 yrs.	Carry B.	28 yrs.	Jack B.	33 yrs.
Jonna M.	4 yrs.	Vicki T.	27 yrs.	Nycole P.	31 yrs.
Matthew S	4 yrs.	Forrest A.	22 yrs.	Mike G.	16 yrs.
Martha	2 yrs.	Dean E.	22 yrs.	Tom Mc.	11 yrs.
Beth B.	2 yrs.	Jason B.	18 yrs.	Bill D.	10 yrs.
JR	2 yrs.	Rocky S .	17 yrs.	Brent M.	2 yrs.
Chris R.	2 yrs.	Michael S .	13 yrs.	Mike G.	5 yrs.
Terri La R.	2 yrs.	Jeff K.	12 yrs.	Jon M.	2 yrs.
Bethany C.	1 yr.	Cindy R.	12 yrs.	Chirs D.	1 yr.
Josey L.	1 yr.	Kit L.	11 yrs.	Susan J.	1 yr.
Scott W.	1 yr.	Cindy S.	10 yrs.		
Vanessa	1 yr.	Michael C.	8 yrs.	THIS TOO SHALL PASS	
Molly	1 yr.	Mike B	5 yrs.	Thomas Y.	7 yrs.
Kevin E.	1 yr.	Ann S .	5 yrs.		
		Michael B.	5 yrs.		
		Brad C.	3 yrs.		



The Birthday Club is a show of gratitude by AA members who contribute \$1.00 or more for each year of sobriety during the month they became sober. These funds are used to help support IG office and to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Please contact the IG office for how to enroll for the Birthday Club
Call 904-399-8575



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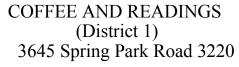
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		Jan. Jul 40	11.40	lam hul do
Ordinary Income/Expense	<u>Jul 19</u>	<u>Jan - Jul 19</u>	Jul 18	Jan - Jul 18
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4002 · Groups 4003 · Pink Can Contribution	\$4,454.21 \$117.91	\$30,779.13 \$634.00	\$6,390.74 \$165.38	\$29,845.58 \$170.34
4005 · Faithful Five	\$45.00	\$474.74	\$20.00	\$185.00
4006 · Birthdays	\$13.00	\$113.00	\$36.00	\$99.00
4007 · Other Contributions	\$50.00	\$1,195.00	\$150.00	\$310.35
4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg 4011 - Florida AA Archives Workshop	\$72.00	\$541.90	\$33.00	\$411.75 \$426.81
4012 · Donations - Website				
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	\$4,752.12	\$33,737.77	\$6,795.12	\$31,448.83
4020 · Retail Income 4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr	\$3,754.55	\$40,918.11	\$7,982.87	\$35,175.34
4040 · Monthly IG Mitg / Otr	\$38.00	\$258.00	\$28.25	\$277.50
4044 · Memoriam	*			*=
4048 · Miscellaneous				
Total 4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr 4060 · Income - Special Events	\$38.00	\$258.00	\$28.25	\$277.50
4062 · Banquet		\$7,181.00		\$7,500.00
4064 - Spring Banqquet Donations				\$60.00
4065 · Cake Auction Total 4067 · Raffle Tickets		\$4,920.00		\$6,495.00
Total 4060 · Income - Special Events		\$1,357.00 \$13,458.00		\$744.00 \$14,799.00
Total Income	\$8,544.67	\$88,371.88	\$14,806.24	\$81,700.67
Cost of Goods Sold				
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	\$1,308.07	\$27,769.54	\$6,655.88	\$25,833.17
5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other 4540 · Cost of Event - Banquet Expense		\$7,761.73		\$6,836.75
4530 · Cost of Event - Breakfast		\$37.64		φο,οσο.7ο
5005 - S & H				\$28.36
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense	\$38.00	\$258.00	\$28.25	\$277.50
5070 · Cost of Sales - Inventory Sales 5195 · CC Fees	\$93.85	\$432.37 \$1,085.21	\$183.47	\$1,151.49
5290 · IG Breakfast Expense	\$38.80	\$155.74	\$40.87	\$157.12
59900 · POS Inventory Adjustments	\$98.18	\$74.67	(\$138.49)	\$403.69
Total 5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other	\$268.83	\$9,805.36	\$114.10	\$8,854.91
Total COGS Gross Profit	\$1,576.90 \$6,967.77	\$37,574.90 \$50,796.98	\$6,769.98 \$8,036.26	\$34,688.08 \$47,012.59
Expense	ψ0,507.77	\$30,730.30	ψ0,030.20	ψ 4 7,012.55
60000 · Salaries and Benefits				
6560 · Wages				
Voided checks 6560 · Wages - Other	\$1,578.75	\$12,669.79	\$1,943.51	\$13,355.51
Total 6560 · Wages	\$1,578.75	\$12,669.79	\$1,943.51	\$13,355.51
6561 · PTO		\$210.00		\$200.00
6565 · Payroll Taxes	\$236.35	\$1,840.69	\$187.21	\$1,306.72
Total 60000 · Salaries and Benefits 61000 · Office Expense	\$1,815.10	\$14,720.48	\$2,130.72	\$14,862.23
Total 61000 · Office Expense	\$517.23	\$7,057.25	\$611.23	\$6,899.97
62000 · Facilities and maintenance			*	*
5140 · Utilities	\$179.09	\$964.86	\$196.15	\$1,267.35
5150 · Insurance 5160 · Repairs & Maintanence	\$152.41	\$914.41 \$78.67	\$349.60 \$15.00	\$1,048.80 \$105.00
5210 · Repairs & Maintainerice	(\$26.33) \$1,100.00	\$7,400.00	\$1,000.00	\$6,700.00
5265 · Security	\$27.40	\$316.80		\$164.40
Total 62000 · Facilities and maintenance	\$1,432.57	\$9,674.74	\$1,560.75	\$9,285.55
5300 · When & Where Cost 55000 · Committees Expense	\$1,963.75	\$2,630.75		\$2,280.00
5520 · Archives				
5521 · Archives - General Budget		\$86.96	\$206.25	\$565.64
5522 · Archives Workshop Expenses		\$426.81 \$513.77	****	# 505.01
Total 5520 · Archives 5530 · CPC/PI	<u>\$426.81</u> \$20.48	<u>\$513.77</u> \$3,655.81	\$206.25 \$35.42	\$565.64 \$665.32
5540 · Corrections	Ψ20.40	\$5,071.88	ψ55.4Z	\$4,500.00
5560 · Newsletter	\$374.99	\$2,131.23	\$229.00	\$1,717.49
5570 · Phone Army	\$79.95	\$39.13		\$122.97
5590 · Treatment		\$252.90	\$2.80	\$76.98 \$189.00
5595 · Website Total 55000 · Committees Expense	\$902.23	\$600.00 \$12,264.72	\$189.00 \$662.47	\$189.00 \$7,837.40
60300 · Awards and Grants				. ,==
60360 · Donations		\$222.05		
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants 70900 · Business Expenses		\$222.05		
5145 · Advertising		\$387.12	\$51.00	\$357.00
5220 · Dues/Fees/Licenses		\$61.25		\$61.25
Total 70900 · Business Expenses		\$448.37	\$51.00	\$418.25
62100 · Contract Services 5200 · Professional Fees	\$300.00	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	\$3,300.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	\$300.00	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	\$3,300.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings	-		•	
5235 · Training				\$30.00
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings 65100 · Other Expenses				\$30.00
5190 · Other Expenses 5190 · Bank Charges	\$5.00	\$37.16		
Total 65100 · Other Expenses	\$5.00	\$37.16		
Total Expense	\$6,935.88	\$48,555.52	\$5,266.17	\$44,913.40
Net Ordinary Income	\$31.89	\$2,241.46	\$2,770.09	\$2,099.19
Other Income/Expense To 73050 · Interest Income	\$106.30	\$317.74	\$0.92	\$10.87
6310 · Sales Tax Collection Allowance	\$7.82	\$46.70	φ0.92	\$24.76
6301 · Cash Short/Over POS		\$57.74		
Total Other Income	\$114.12	\$422.18	\$0.92	\$35.63
Net Other Income Net Income	\$114.12 \$146.01	\$422.18 \$2,663.64	\$0.92 \$2,771.01	\$35.63 \$2,134.82
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JULY 2019 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

		JULY				JULY				JUNE 2019	
GROUP NAME	JULY 2019	2019 YTD	Att.	GROUP NAME	JULY 2019	2019 YTD	Att.	GROUP NAME	JUNE 2019	YTD	Att.
7/11 Meditation Group		\$150.00		Island Serenity Group		\$40.00		Seascape		\$300.86	
11th Step Meeting		\$25.00		It's Come To This		\$57.50		Serenity At Noon		\$168.00	X
A Design for Living	\$348.22	\$1,014.12		I've Come To Believe		\$32.00		Sojourn			X
A Way Out		\$73.80	X	It's In The Book		\$90.00		Solutions Group		\$90.00	
Alexis	\$15.00	\$105.00		Jax Mens Group		\$125.00		Sons of Spirit			
Anonymous Contribution -1				Jax YPG				S.O.S	\$61.20	\$135.36	
Arlington		\$400.00	X	Joy	\$86.80	\$86.80		Sounds of Sobriety		\$150.00	
As Bill Sees It		\$205.00		Jumping Off Place		\$70.85		St. Nicholas	\$200.00	\$300.00	X
Atlantic Beach Men's		\$250.00		K.I.S	\$212.90	\$630.08		Step A Month		\$114.00	
BAA	\$20.00	\$40.00		Ladies Unity		\$64.00		Step Sisters of Grace			
BLISS		\$125.00		Language of the Heart	\$266.50	\$583.95	_	Step Sisters of Ortega		\$163.32	_
Beaches Agnostic & FT			X	Lest We Forget		\$150.00		Stepping In Sobriety		\$40.00	
Beaches Unity (BUG)		\$2,160.00	X	Liars Paradise		\$140.00		Stepping Up Group Mandarin		\$166.00	
Big Book Field Study		\$100.00	X	Living In the Light		\$2,012.51	X	Student Group		\$149.02	
Central		\$650.00		Los Lobos Men's	\$72.00	\$242.00		Sunday Morning	\$50.00	\$161.00	
Clean And Free				Mandarin Big Book Study	\$120.00	\$180.00		Sunday Morning Meeting Group		\$160.00	X
Coffee and Readings		\$999.50	Χ	Mandarin Sunset Group				Sunset Group		\$650.00	
Conscious Contact		\$581.00	Χ	Mandarin Women in Recovery	\$100.00	\$300.00	X	Surrender To Win		\$20.00	X
Coyote Men's Group		\$500.00		Men Hooked on Sobriety				Switzerland	\$325.00	\$680.00	Х
Day One Club		\$50.00		Men's Red Eye		\$666.20	X	The Alcoholics Group		\$875.00	
District 6 - St. Augustine		\$100.00		Middleburg	\$100.00	\$200.00		Third Street Third Tradition		\$240.00	
Diverse Views	\$17.50	\$64.44		More About Alcoholism		\$90.00		This Too Shall Pass		\$441.26	X
Downtown Group		\$1,000.00		Murray Hill		\$60.45		Thursday Nite PPG			
Drop The Rock		\$0.00		New Beginnings			Х	Timiquana Ladies of Grace		\$225.00	
Eastside	\$25.00	\$50.00		Nocatee Promises	\$58.05	\$376.55	_	Trout River		\$272.00	X
Evergreen		\$50.00		Nocatee Sobriety		\$116.50		Triangle Men's		\$80.00	
Fernandina Beach		\$455.80		Oldest City Mens Group		\$404.16		Unity Meditation (St. Augustine)		\$198.10	
Fernandina Beach PPG				Orange Park	\$400.00	\$800.00		Village Women's	\$30.00	\$111.57	
Fiesta	\$532.95	\$1,152.20		Orange Park Step Sisters		\$98.45	X	Villagers Group	\$79.20	\$122.64	
Free Men's	\$228.00	\$555.75		Ortega	\$86.00	\$201.00		We Agnostics		\$33.30	
Free To Be		\$279.04		Other Side of the Bridge		\$75.41		Wesconnett	\$375.00	\$744.33	X
Freedom Group		\$40.00		Pass It On		\$63.21		Westside		\$188.00	X
Fresh Start Group		\$210.00		Phoenix Men's		\$100.00	X	What's the Point	\$25.00	\$25.00	
Friends of Bill			Χ	Ponte Vedra Men's	\$57.00	\$123.00		Winners		\$810.64	X
From The Heart		\$350.00		Primary Purpose Group				Women Enjoying Sobriety	\$127.39	\$498.01	X
Fruit Cove 11th Step Meditation			X	Reborn		\$200.00		Women Speak	\$23.00	\$60.00	
Fruit Cove Literature		\$210.00		Riverside (Tom S)	\$78.00	\$163.00		Women Upstart	\$62.50	\$137.50	Х
Fruit Cove Women	\$78.25	\$325.30		Riverside Ortega	\$41.65	\$121.79	-	Women's Candlelight	752.00	\$172.37	
Green Cove Springs	, , , , ,	\$100.00		Riverside Study Group		\$20.00	-	Women's YPG (St. Nick's)	\$5.00	\$5.00	_
Greenland Road		\$116.00	Х	Salisbury Men's	\$10.00	\$20.00	-	Young Peoples Group (St. Aug)	,	\$81.00	_
Half Way Through		\$135.90		San Pablo Sober Sisters	Ţ.s. s	\$32.36	-	Yulee		\$60.66	-
Heart To Heart		ψ100.90		Saturday Night Live (St. Aug.)	\$137.10	\$349.17	_	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$4,454,21		\vdash
Hold On Group				Jacarday Hight Live (St. Aug.)	ψ107.10	Ψ 040.17		10 TAL CONTRIBUTIONS	ψ+,+υ+.21	400,110.10	
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IG Reps Represented at the Aug Business Meeting 31 Total Signed In 43 Groups Contributing in July 2019 = 35 July Groups = 110





- Early Members: Michael G., Cindy S., Dan H.,
- Group was started for the men in the ½ house, before they go to work.
- 40 members

\$221.40

\$20.00

- Type of meetings: Open Literature Discussion
- Special Events for JABA and Alco House
- 7 meetings per week



I Am Responsible

Intensive Care



SEPTEMBER 2019 ADD A LINE SPECIAL ARCHITYCE TOTAL

Steve V. is one of our AA pioneers. He got sober on June 27, 1976 and has 43 years of sobriety. He is a vital presence in the AA community in Jacksonville. He recorded his story in 2018 and the following has been excerpted from that tape with his permission. (Interviewed by Tom F., transcribed by Rhonda B. and edited by Charlie M.)

Tom: Tell us a little about yourself. What was your childhood like, where were you were born, when did you start drinking, and when did it became a problem for you?

Steve: I was born in Brooklyn, New York, but I have been down here in Jacksonville since I was an infant. I never knew my father or my mother. I was raised by my step-father. I took my first drink when I was around 14 or 15 years old. I had run away from home and was on a buddy of mine's boat and I drank my first drink which was Black and White Scotch Whiskey and Colt 45 Malt Liquor mixed together, perfect. I knew from that moment that I had found the secret of living for me. It changed my whole perception and I was pretty thrilled about it. Of course I didn't tell anybody that but I just knew if I could keep drinking I was going to be okay. That first time removed all the anxieties and fears in my life. Up until then I was terrified that I was not capable of surviving.



Tom: When did your drinking begin to get out of control?

S: When I was 14 years old (laughter). At that particular moment I was willing to go to any length to continue to drink. I got sick that first night and I thought to myself it is worth it. For what I got out of this thing I was willing to get sick. It did not hinder me whatsoever. I got sick many nights after that and got in a lot of trouble after that but I certainly wasn't willing to give up the magic of alcohol.

T: What is your sobriety date?

S: June 27, 1976.

T: That means you've been sober 42 years next month. How old were you when you finally hit bottom?

S: Are you asking my opinion of when I hit bottom or what other people around me thought when I hit bottom? The first time I had an opportunity to come to Alcoholics Anonymous was in 1974. I was 23 years old and facing 5 years in prison. I had had more DUIs than you can count on both hands and my license was permanently revoked by the state of Florida. I had been in and out jail numerous times, been married and divorced 3 times, and had never kept a job for over 3 or 4 months at the most but I



worked consistently, I just worked in different places. I called my mother in 1974 because I was facing 5 years in prison and she for the first time said, "I think you're an alcoholic." That would be unusual today because today if you get one DUI you go to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. It almost goes hand-in-hand. Back then I had 10 DUIs and no one ever said to me, "I think you're alcoholic" until that day. I didn't think I was an alcoholic at all. The first guy that actually 12-stepped me was Sam. Sam had been sober for a long time. He talked to me on the phone for a shot time and then he had one of his sponsees call me and his name was Marty. Marty talked to me on the phone for quite some time and asked me if he could come out to see me and he did. He came out to my office to see me and he asked me questions and I was sure at that

point that I was an alcoholic. Because now I'm getting ready to go to prison and I'm terrified. I just thought if I could just get them to think that I am an alcoholic maybe I won't have to go to prison. I asked Marty after he asked me questions for about 10 or 15 minutes, "Do you think I am an alcoholic?" He said, "Steve, normally, we would allow you to make that decision but in your case I'll make an exception. Yes you are an alcoholic." I thought I had really manipulated this guy. I didn't realize until years later that I had come as close to telling him the truth about me as I had anybody in my entire life. It didn't dawn on me. I thought I was manipulating him but what I was really doing was telling the absolute truth about what was going on. I ended up only going to jail for 30 days. I saw a psychiatrist and he recommended I be sent to a treatment center in Avon Park. I don't even know if it is there anymore but back then it was kind of a big thing. The judge said, "Okay, everybody here seems to think you are an alcoholic but I don't think you're an alcoholic, I think you're crazy." He was right. I knew I was not a drunk, I knew I was crazy. He said, "If you come back in front of me I don't care if it is for jay walking you're going up for 5 years."

S. (con't) I got out of jail. Marty called me and wanted to know if I wanted to go to an AA meeting and I didn't. I thanked him for his help, and I said to him, "If I could ever help you please feel free to call me." He said some things to me that day that I never forgot. He said, "Steve, Alcoholics Anonymous is not a game and we don't come here to play." He said, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a way of life and you get out of it exactly what you put into it." He said, "People come in here and they play around with this and they die or go insane because of the use of alcohol and drugs." I thought to myself who is he trying to scare. When I was sober 3 years I came back to Jacksonville. I looked for Marty because I wanted to tell him that I had gotten the message that when alcohol quit working for me and I was ready I knew where to go because he carried the message to me. What I found out was that after about 5 or 6 years of sobriety Marty had gone

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back out and drank again and he took a gun and blew his brains out and all I could hear him saying was "Alcoholics Anonymous is not a game, people go back out and drink." He actually 12-stepped me twice. I got the message the second time loud and clear.



That experience in Jacksonville was the beginning of me coming into AA. I didn't stay sober. What happened was I violated my probation and the probation office called me and they wanted me to come down and see them and I was sure they were going to send me to jail. What I did instead of that was I wrote a bad check to Delta Airlines and got on a plane and flew to California. Back then there were no computers so they really couldn't track you down. Delta couldn't tell that the check didn't have any money. I flew out on a Saturday. I got to Santa Barbara and I stayed there. I didn't come back to Jacksonville at all for 3 years but I lived out in California for the next 10 years. I ended up on the streets, and I ended up all alone, and alcohol quit working for me. All I could remember was Marty in Jacksonville telling me it was going be okay. On June 17, 1976, I called the Intergroup Office. Back then it was not called Intergroup. It was called Cen-

tral Office. I called the Central Office and Katie was working in the Central Office and she told me to come in. I went up there that day and Jim F. was there. I met him the first day I came in and he became my sponsor and was my sponsor for over 41 years until he died. God bless him.

T: How many meetings were going on when you first got sober?

S: When I got sober there were no noon meetings. All of the meetings were an hour and a half long and that was in California. When you came to Alcoholics Anonymous part of the introduction was that if you had less than 30 days of sobriety they asked you not to share at those meetings. If you needed to share they wanted you to share with your sponsor one-on-one. They did not want anybody with less than 30 days to share at meetings. So, you just could not share. What that actually did was it forced you to listen because you did not have to figure out what you were going to have to say to impress everybody. You could just listen. Of course I figured back then that they did not want me to do it because they realized how brilliant I was and they didn't want me to take over AA. I listened and I am so grateful. I am grateful for the fact that they knew exactly what they were getting and that was a guy with a big ego with an inferiority complex that had no idea what to do.

Tom: Tell us about early sobriety. Where did you go to your first meeting? What kind of issues or problems did you have when you started working the steps with Jim?

S: The first meeting I went to in Jacksonville was at the Baptist church on Atlantic Boulevard. I went to that meeting several times. I went to Central Group one night and that was about it. I went to only about 5 or 6 meetings. When I got sober in Santa Barbara I went to a meeting at a care unit there in Santa Barbara and I was living on the streets at the time so I would have to walk to the meeting. The main reason I kept going initially was because they had donuts and I could steal them and so I would put them in my pocket and I would sit there. I went to Alcoholics Anonymous June 17, 1976, and every day when I would leave the meeting I would smoke marijuana from June 17th to June 27th. I never told anybody until Jim said to me, "It's time for you to pick up your 90-day chip." I said, "I can't do that, I have been using marijuana." That's how my sobriety date became June 27th. Every meeting started either at 8:00 or 8:30 and didn't get over until around 10:00 at night. I was grateful for that because I hated being at home by myself. You have to remember back then television would go off at midnight so you couldn't watch TV all night. Of course back then I would tell them, "I can't sleep at night," and they would say, "Nobody died from lack of sleep



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T: What were the meeting formats like?

S: My home group was a speaker meeting. The meeting would start at 8:00 at night and they would have two 10-minute speakers. These would be people that would have had more than 30 days but less than a year of sobriety. You would have two 10-minute speakers and then they would take a coffee break. Then, they would have a main speaker and this person would be somebody who had about 10 years of sobriety. There were also discussion meetings and there was one meeting that I started going to that I carried around every community that I went to and that was a roving men's meeting. I started going to that meeting in Santa Barbara and every place I have ever moved to I have been able to start a roving men's meeting. It has always been

very good. I enjoy that and I enjoy men's meetings because I believe that a lot of guys can get more honest in those than they do in mixed meetings.

T: What kind of group issues did you see back in the 1970's when you were getting into AA?

Steve: There weren't as many groups and there were no cell phones. So, meetings were a lot more disciplined back then. It was the job of newcomers to set up the meetings and break down the meetings. While we were breaking down the meetings and setting up, all of the old timers (the old timers would be anybody with a year or more of sobriety) would be sitting around and talking to each other and taking our inventory because that was their job. You had a job to make the coffee and all of a sudden when it got time for you to move on and do something else you resented the fact that they were taking away your job. What happens is when we did that kind of stuff I think we got more unity. Although I think clubs are a tremendous asset, I also think they can be a detriment. AA members don't participate in making the coffee and cleaning up. Of course back then everybody smoked at meetings. So, it didn't matter if you actually smoked or not you got to smoke if you went to a meeting because the rooms were full of smoke. Today there are no ashtrays to clean.



T: How did the group relate to newcomers? How did they treat newcomers when new people were coming into the meetings?

Steve: Well, they treated me okay but there was no discussion. They were pretty clear on the fact that my best thinking got me to Alcoholics Anonymous and if they were interested they would let me know. There were specific things they wanted me to do and there was no room for error. They were not interested in my side of the story. They didn't like that. They were just interested in what I wanted to do. If I wanted to get into a long, meaningful conversation I could talk to my sponsor later but he usually didn't want to talk about it. They made it very clear they were just interested in what we were doing. They said things like, "We know what you're thinking. We don't need to know what you're thinking. What you're thinking got you here, so why don't you just do what we ask you to do and see how that works for you." So, I was so grateful that I was willing to do whatever they asked me to do.



T: What was the public's view of AA back then?

S: AA was pretty well known. I didn't go out and advertise that I am in recovery but I didn't want to hide it either. I never said to anybody, "I'm in Alcoholics Anonymous," unless they asked me. I would tell them I'm in the program. In southern California it was pretty well accepted. There were actually some treatment centers and things there that were not here at that time but they did have them there. I would say overall it's not like it is today, where the court sends you to Alcoholics Anonymous if you have one DUI. It wasn't that. It was starting to get better known, and California was right behind New York in the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous.

T: What is your view on how AA is doing today?

S: I think that Alcoholics Anonymous today is better than it's ever been. One of the reasons I think that is because it doesn't matter why you get here. It does not matter why you come to Alcoholics Anonymous. If we said, "You've got to have your motives right before you get here", we would have very few people. The fact that there are so many different facets of recovery that people get exposed to in Alcoholics Anonymous I think is tremendous. If they come in, go to meetings, and stay sober, they will eventually understand the significance of Alcoholics Anonymous. In that aspect I would say that Alcoholics Anonymous has so much going for it today. On the other side of the coin, I see a lot disruptions and distractions at meetings. People come to meetings and they are on their phones. I think that is a real detriment. I think it is important that members with some sobriety set an example. If I get off track and I start doing those things and get distracted at meetings, then I think it gives the newcomers authorization to do that and I don't want to do that.

T: When did you start doing service work in AA?

S: Immediately. Service work has all kinds of aspects. Service work begins by getting involved initially in taking care of the meetings, setting up the meetings and taking the responsibility for the coffee. You know it was really critical that you get involved in the aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous. I have been chairman for Intergroup. I was on the Gateway board. Anytime you get an opportunity to get involved in service work it allows you to feel like you are in the middle of Alcoholics Anonymous. You are in the middle of recovery. You know that you are actually part of the solution. That is so critical. I think anybody that wants to grow in sobriety really needs to get involved in service work. The key is that it is work. It's not pleasant all the time but it is always rewarding.

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T: What kind of things are you doing in your service work today?

S: I sponsor a lot of guys and as you know I had the same sponsor for 41 years. I just accepted a position on the board of Alco House. I have served on the committee for the Florida State Roundup. I don't want to get in a situa-



tion where I think I need to be involved in everything but I want to be available when I am asked and that is what I try to do. I do a lot of speaking which is not something that I really love to do but I am willing to do it whenever I get asked. I have had the privilege of speaking in Canada, all over the United States, and I am still grateful for that. It's amazing to me when you go to these other communities to see how Alcoholics Anonymous works. I would say to people even if you are not speaking at a conference you can go to conferences. If you are in a situation you can visit outside conferences, you should do that just to get a perspective. This thing works everywhere. It is incredible.

T: Thanks for that. During your AA journey what would you say are your failures that have spurred you on to really take the next step in your spiritual journey?

S: We come to Alcoholics Anonymous and we surrender. Our primary defect was drinking but I carried every single defect that I had when I was drinking and using into Alcoholics Anonymous. When we come to Alcoholics Anonymous we are beat up, we throw in the towel, and we surrender, right? The only problem is that we take the towel back and then the longer we stay sober we start pulling pieces of that towel. It has been my experience that I surren-

dered different areas of my life the longer I stay sober and the catalyst to that has been the pain. God has been very gentle with me. He has tried to get my attention every way he possibly can and unfortunately sometimes the pain has gotten to be excruciating before I have surrendered. I'm a guy that came to Alcoholics Anonymous and I was married and divorced 3 times by the time I was 23 years old, and now I am a guy that has been married to the same woman for 29 years. Now, that is impossible. That is what Alcoholics Anonymous is. My sponsor said, "Leaving is not an option for you. You made a commitment you're going to honor the commitment." Boy, I didn't want to hear that. The pain I was in because I couldn't surrender that defect, I was terrified. That is how Alcoholics Anonymous teaches us to grow up and to trust in God. One of the things I hear tossed around a lot is, "I'm grateful I trust in God." It is one thing to say that you trust God; it's another thing to really trust God. That is a



tough, tough deal but that is where all the reward comes from. When I can truly trust God then I'm free and when I don't trust God I'm living in self-will and I don't want to be there.

T: In closing what message would you like to leave us with.

S: If you are an alcoholic like I'm an alcoholic, your disease requires that it be treated. We are either going to treat it with alcohol or drugs or we are going to treat it with tools of Alcoholics Anonymous. The difference is of course if you treat it with alcohol or drugs you die one day at a time and the thing that we learn here in Alcoholics Anonymous is we truly can do this one day at a time. You think that is just a flippant statement but it's not. The reality of it is what I can't do forever I can do one day at a time if I surrender today and that's the deal.

T: Thank you Steve.

S: My pleasure