



ADD-A-LINE



Published for AA Members in Northeast Florida Since November 1962

Northeast Florida

Intergroup

3128 Beach Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Tel. 399-8535 Fax 399-8537

Website: www.neflaa.org

E-mail:

neflintergroup@gmail.com

9 am to 5 pm Mon.- Fri.

Alcoholics Anonymous is Celebrating 80 years in Jacksonville

Part Time As Needed Position Open

NEFL Intergroup has an opening for a part time as needed employee.

- Hours as needed
- Customer oriented
- Basic Word, Excel, and Email skills
- Must have 6 months of sobriety

If you are interested, please call Mike at the Intergroup office: 904-399-4939

Committee Meetings

Via Zoom

Intergroup Steering Committee,
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:30

Intergroup Business
Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 9:45

Contact the IG Office for
Zoom Information

Meeting Guide

Please remember to update the IG Office as to reopening and closing of face to face meetings and zoom meetings. Email changes to neflintergroup@gmail.com.

As information, Hybrid meetings (in person and simultaneously zooming) can be distinguished on our website and the "Meeting Guide" app with the zoom access information.

ATTENTION GROUPS

If you are searching for a new meeting location, Riverside Park United Methodist Church has availability Wednesday Evenings. Contact the Intergroup office for contact information at 904-399-8535.

ing
be



The follow-
member will
fondly re-
membered
and sadly
missed.

"Miss Betty"
Callahan

To Thine Own Self Be True

Step One

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol- that our lives had become unmanageable"

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TRADITION ONE:

"Our Common Welfare Should come first, Personal recovery Depends on A. A. Unity"

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Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is a but a small part of the great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare must come first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Concept ONE:

Final Responsibility And Ultimate Authority for A.A. World Services Should Always reside In the Collective of Our whole Fellowship

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Ask Dr. Serenity
(A non-advice column)

Dear Dr. Serenity,
Now That I have a year in recovery, am I really supposed to get up in front of people and chair meetings? It's hard enough to make myself share at a meeting! Without alcohol, I'm really a shy, private person. I don't like it when people look at me. I don't know how to make people laugh. And I don't think I know enough about AA to chair a meeting. Signed, Reluctant

Dear Reluctant,
Leading a meeting is not the same as public speaking: it is a tool that we use to stay sober. We don't have to impress or save anyone when we lead a meeting. We don't have to spout principles or explain steps we haven't taken yet. We just have to be willing to share what we know to be true for each of us. We have to set aside the eos, and the baggage of fear and pride, so we can talk honestly about our own experiences. The truth is always the thing that helps me the most in meetings.
Signed, Dr. Serenity

**Big Book, "Dr. Bob's Nightmare",
pages 180-181**

"It is a most wonderful blessing to be relieved of the terrible curse with which I was afflicted.
My health is good and I have regained my self-respect and the respect of my colleagues. My home life is ideal and my business is as good as can be expected in these uncertain times.
I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:
1. Sense of duty.
2. It is a pleasure.
3. Because in so doing I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip.
Unlike most of our crowd, I di not get over my craving for liquor much during the first two and one-half years of abstinence. It was almost always with me.
But at no time have I been anywhere near yielding. I used to get terribly upset when I saw my friends drink and knew I could not, but I schooled myself to believe that though I had once had the same privilege, I had abused it so frightfully that it was with drawn.
So it doesn't behoove me to squawk about it for, after all, nobody ever had to throw me down and pour liquor down my throat."

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Call your Sponsor



Committee Chair Positions	
Intergroup Chair Kevin G., Jr. email: Kevin.Gartland08@comcast.net	904-614-7480
Intergroup Vice Chair Paul C. email: pacman257@gmail.com	904-855-5934
Intergroup Treasurer Rita H. email: flrita@comcast.net	904-703-3655
Steering Committee Chair Maggie R. email: mbmrowe@icloud.com	904-707-6125
Accessibility Committee Nanci S. email: sandnanci@gmail.com	239-603-1662
Add-A-Line Editor Angie B email: nefladdaline@gmail.com	904-655-8471
Archives Committee Charlie M. email: ggmoyer@aol.com	904-247-3421
Archivist Tom W email: twicks41fl@gmail.com	201-424-3827
Corrections Co-Chair Steve C. email: cgull24@comcast.net Kathy D. email: kadaider@yahoo.com	904-449-6210 602-820-6644
CPC/PI Chair Stephanie S. email: sandybrown215@gmail.com	904-343-2489
Grapevine Chair Angie B. email: neflintergroup@gmail.com	904-655-8471
Parliamentarian Linda G. email: sassym1953@gmail.com	904-608-1634
Phone Army Chair Kara B. email: karabphonearmy@gmail.com	904-402-1920
Secretary Regina A. email: ralai@comcast.net	904-994-6061
Social Events Chair John C. email: jcorprew10@gmail.com	757-977-4351
Treatment Chair Carl G. email: cgian9@gmail.com	904-497-9769
Zoom Host Andrew M. email: asmarch89@gmail.com	904-760-2009

INTERGROUP OFFICE LOG		
DESCRIPTION	Nov-20	Nov-19
AA Information	188	363
Phone Army	208	N/A
Admin & Other Info	74	117
12 Step	1	13
Visitors	91	190

FAITHFUL FIVERS

Anonymous	Mich W.
Barbara M.	Michael I.
Carl G.	Maggie R.
Cynthia G.	Mark Van E.
Charlie M.	Peter C.
Debra W.	Rick T.
Faith I.	Sally F.
Jean O'C.	Samantha L.
John D.	Samuel O.L.
June C.	Sue G.
Holly G.	Susan I
Jonathan B.	Susanne B.
Linda G.	Theresa M.
Lon L.	Wendy H.

The Add-A-Line welcomes your thoughts and experiences with A.A. We love to run articles written by local people in A.A. so, let us know about your experiences with Alcoholics Anonymous, or in your local home-group.
Contact us at nefladdaline@gmail.com



"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible".

North Florida Area Conference
 Area 14 Assembly
 January 8-10 VIA Zoom
 See

https://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda.asp

for schedule and zoom information.

Starting January 13th...

Area 14 North Florida

will host a
workshop on Zoom
 every
WEDNESDAY 6PM
ID 828 5682 4762
PWD 88665328
PHONE 646 558 8656

Check aanorthflorida.org
 for weekly agenda

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the Serenity
 To accept the things I cannot change...
 Courage to change the things I can,
 And Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
 Enjoying one moment at a time,
 Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
 Taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is,
 Not as I would have it.
 Trusting that he will make all things right
 if I surrender to his will.
 That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
 And supremely happy with him
 forever in the next.
 Amen.

AA in the Time of the Covid19 Virus

The events of 2020 have required a major shift in the fellowship of the AA community. This has presented many problems as well unique opportunities for all of us. We started the year with over 600 meetings per week in the Northeast Florida area. By early March all face to face meetings were shut down and we rapidly shifted to online meetings. We currently have over 110 local online meetings (see neflaa.org for list). While some groups have recently begun to have face to face meetings, online meeting will continue to be an important venue to carry the message for some time.

The members of the NEFL Archives Committee want to preserve the observations and experiences of members of the Northeast Florida community to give all of us a personal understanding of these times and provide future generations an accurate accounting of what we "old timers" experienced." The goal of the Archives committee is to develop a journal which includes the experiences of many interested members.

The Archival Committee started the project in mid-March. We began to journal the impact of Zoom meetings here in the NEFL area, and around the country. We hope you will join us in this historical moment for AA. We hope you will share your experience(s). As you participate in Zoom AA meetings take a few notes to summarize your impressions and what impact the meeting had on you. What have you learned?

Some people may share about their home group and its evolution into the Zoom format and how they have progressed these last seven months. This is new territory to all in AA. We have always been face to face when we make our contacts with a cup of coffee in hand and a table to lean on. Now Zoom has put us on a PC (alcoholic square screen) or our i-phones. A very different approach to sponsorship and service is required. Have we succeeded in maintaining our health and ability to reach out and help those still suffering and needing help? GSO has been highly supportive of the switch to Zoom meetings. The Grapevine Magazine published two articles focusing on Zoom meetings in the October 2020 issue.

We are preparing a journal of impressions and experiences from personal points of view throughout this period. It is our hope to understand and document how we AA's lived in the time of Covid-19. How did it impact your program, what changed, what are you doing differently to "work" your program?

Please send your comments to twicks41fl@gmail.com

2020 District Committee Contact and Meeting Info updated 12/20/2020				
	Position & Name	E mail	Phone	Monthly Meeting
District 1:	DCM - Roger L.	DCM.District.1NFL@gmail.com	904-318-8535	3rd Thursday@ 6:45 pm on Zoom: ID 481 684 9778, PWD: 752099
District 3:	DCM- Lyndy J.	District3Area14DCM@gmail.com	832-306-1950	Zoom Meeting, 3rd Sunday, 1 pm. Call DCM for Zoom Codes
District 4:	DCM - Bob C.	cookpr11@att.net	904-860-9356	3rd Thursday @ 7:45 pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 801 Atlantic Ave, Room 204, Fernandina
District 6:	DCM- Jeanne W.	dcmdist6@gmail.com	904-252-4560	1st Monday @ 6:00 pm, Flager Hospital-Osceola Room, 400 Health Park Blvd, St Augustine, FL 32086
District 24:	DCM - 'beth E.	egeserviceaddress@outlook.com	386-259-8724	1st Wednesday @ 6:30 pm, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 200 Main Street, Palatka, FL 32177
District 25:	DCM - Sarah P.	sarahestes20@hotmail.com	407-865-4861	Zoom Meeting, Biweekly, Sunday at 6 PM, meeting id: 225-410-100, password: 1234
District 30:	DCM - Bryant G.	ggram1701aa@gmail.com	352-575-4005	4th Saturday @ 9:30 am, Fruit Cove Baptist Church, 210 Ridgecrest Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32259

Service Opportunity

The Intergroup Office needs volunteers Time slots are 2-4 hours on a regular schedule. Duties include answering the phone, assisting customers, counting inventory, and light cleaning. You must have at least six months of sobriety.



Service Opportunity

The Phone Army is currently in need of volunteers. Please contact NEFL Intergroup Office if Interested. 904-399-8535

GOODFELLAS GROUP
MEN'S MEETING



322 Penman Road,
Jacksonville Beach, FL
8:30 AM, Saturdays,
Main Meeting Room



OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING

Great for New Comers and Old Timers
Come Share Your Courage,
Strength, and Hope

Saturday Night Speaker Meeting

The Switzerland Group is resuming its Speaker Meetings at **7:30 pm Saturday nights. Masks are required**

The group meets at the "Cove"

Fruit Coast Baptist Church
210 N Ridgecrest Lane
St Johns FL 32259

This meeting is open to all

Celebrating AA Birthdays

October

Coffee and Readings

Jonathan C 20 years
 Dan H 18 years
 Eric K 8 years
 Steve C 4 years
 Dave T 1 year

Eastside Group

Janice R 7 years

November

Coffee and Readings

Ruth H 26 years
 Bill B 23 years
 Austin B 10 years
 Amy L 3years
 Ashley H 2 years
 Joseph H 1 year

Eastside Group

Jacqueline H 2 years
 Russell G 2 years

December

Central Group

Selecia 17 years
 Autumn W 4 years
 Sam 3 years
 Kimberly K 1 year
 Mallory B 1 year

Coffee and Readings

Hunter C 6 years
 Sam M 2 years
 Casey N 1 years
 Keith L 1 years

Eastside Group

Theodore N 42 years
 Loretta K 38 years

Mandarin Women

Alice 26 years
 Nicole 13 years

January

Billy Goat Hill

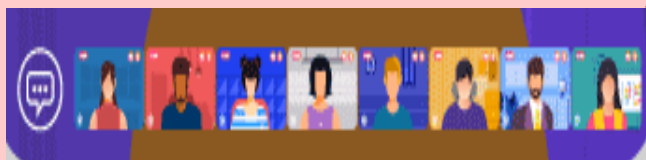
James H 27years

I Am Responsible Group

Sylvia P 46 years
 Greg B 42 years
 Jo Ann R 32 years
 Charlie M 31 years

This Too Shall Pass

Shannon H 7 years
 Clint B 2 years



New Online Virtual Group
 "Early Sobriety" Group
 Saturdays @ 9:30am EST

Zoom Meeting ID: 823 5985 8994
 Password: New2AA

How can we properly
 "Carry the Message"
 unless we know what the AA message is?

Birthday Club

Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude by joining the AA Birthday Club? Donations are suggested \$1.00 for each year of sobriety. Call IG office at 904-399-8535 for information.

ACCOUNT BALANCES		Nov. 30, 2020
Checking/Savings		
1021 · Cash - Regions Bank		\$10,914.39
1024 · Cash in Drawer		\$160.10
Total Checking/Savings		\$11,074.49
1360 · Inventory		\$14,739.45
1400 · Prudent Reserve		
1476 · Regions Bank 5982- CD #001		\$10,112.17
1481 · Regions Bank 6794- CD #002		\$10,397.40
1486 · Regions Bank - CD #003		\$10,081.98
Total 1400 · Prudent Reserve		\$30,591.55

	Nov 20	Jan - Nov 20	Nov 19	Jan - Nov 19
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4002 · Groups	\$4,684.58	\$45,084.42	\$3,878.97	\$46,762.18
4003 · Pink Can Contribution	\$47.00	\$685.54	\$62.00	\$763.00
4005 · Faithful Five	\$150.50	\$1,985.12		\$709.74
4006 · Birthdays	\$69.00	\$127.00	\$30.00	\$143.00
4007 · Other Contributions	\$1,477.00	\$3,134.75		\$1,320.00
4008 · Anonymous				
4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg		\$128.00	\$59.00	\$733.90
4000 · Contribution Income - Other				
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	\$6,428.08	\$51,144.83	\$4,029.97	\$50,431.82
4020 · Retail Income	\$3,375.21	\$37,411.63	\$3,620.73	\$58,692.50
4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr				
4042 · Business Meeting		\$92.00	\$34.00	\$377.00
4044 · Memoriam		\$500.00		
Total 4040 · Monthly IG Mtg / Otr		\$592.00	\$34.00	\$377.00
4060 · Income - Special Events				
4062 · Banquet			\$3,165.00	\$14,426.00
4065 · Cake Auction			\$7,626.00	\$12,546.00
4067 · Raffle Tickets				\$1,357.00
Total 4060 · Income - Special Events			\$10,791.00	\$28,329.00
Total Income	\$9,803.29	\$89,148.46	\$18,475.70	\$137,830.32
Cost of Goods Sold				
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	\$2,604.12	\$27,719.33	\$2,608.52	\$40,865.86
5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other				
4540 · Cost of Event - Banquet Expense		\$594.31	\$2,802.16	\$12,996.89
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense		\$92.00	\$34.00	\$417.00
5195 · CC Fees	\$140.56	\$1,624.89	\$261.01	\$1,495.06
5290 · IG Breakfast Expense		\$208.34		\$246.15
59900 · POS Inventory Adjustments	-\$7.47	\$731.35	-\$89.07	-\$233.68
Total 5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other	\$133.09	\$3,250.89	\$3,008.10	\$14,921.42
Total COGS	\$2,737.21	\$30,970.22	\$5,616.62	\$55,787.28
Gross Profit	\$7,066.08	\$58,178.24	\$12,859.08	\$82,043.04
Expense				
60000 · Salaries and Benefits				
6560 · Wages				
6560 · Wages - Other	\$1,895.76	\$21,958.79	\$1,746.63	\$20,253.93
Total 6560 · Wages	\$1,895.76	\$21,958.79	\$1,746.63	\$20,253.93
6561 · PTO		\$230.00		\$210.00
6565 · Payroll Taxes	\$155.91	\$2,726.40	\$184.06	\$2,760.75
Total 60000 · Salaries and Benefits	\$2,051.67	\$24,915.19	\$1,930.69	\$23,224.68
61000 · Office Expense				
Total 61000 · Office Expense	\$211.69	\$6,365.00	\$1,095.31	\$10,962.74
62000 · Facilities and maintenance				
Total 62000 · Facilities and maintenance	\$1,305.69	\$15,303.74	\$1,309.70	\$15,210.66
51100 · Freight and Shipping Costs		\$74.95		
5300 · When & Where Cost				\$2,630.75
55000 · Committees Expense				
5520 · Archives				
5521 · Archives - General Budget		\$69.54		\$86.96
5522 · Archives - Workshop Expenses				\$426.81
Total 5520 · Archives		\$69.54		\$513.77
5530 · CPC/PI		\$379.03	\$1.90	\$5,111.67
5540 · Corrections	\$626.71	\$4,964.31	\$2,134.31	\$9,595.29
5560 · Newsletter	\$263.61	\$3,671.74	\$52.50	\$3,290.85
5570 · Phone Army	\$24.95	\$304.45	\$79.95	\$358.93
5585 · Accessibility		\$90.43	\$43.76	\$43.76
5590 · Treatment	\$125.39	\$155.88		\$252.90
5595 · Website	\$100.00	\$1,642.00		\$1,000.00
Total 55000 · Committees Expense	\$1,140.66	\$11,277.38	\$2,312.42	\$20,167.17
60300 · Awards and Grants				
60360 · Donations			\$12.00	\$234.05
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants			\$12.00	\$234.05
70900 · Business Expenses				
5145 · Advertising				\$387.12
5220 · Dues/Fees/Licenses		\$230.67		\$61.25
Total 70900 · Business Expenses		\$230.67		\$448.37
62100 · Contract Services				
5200 · Professional Fees	\$259.00	\$1,759.00	\$559.00	\$2,659.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	\$259.00	\$1,759.00	\$559.00	\$2,659.00
65100 · Other Expenses				
5190 · Bank Charges	\$5.00	\$55.00	\$5.00	\$57.16
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O				
Total 65100 · Other Expenses	\$5.00	\$55.00	\$5.00	\$57.16
Total Expense	\$4,973.71	\$59,980.93	\$7,224.12	\$75,594.58
Net Ordinary Income	\$2,092.37	-\$1,802.69	\$5,634.96	\$6,448.46
SBA-PPP Loan		\$0.00		
73000 · Other Income				
73050 · Interest Income		\$433.78		\$425.88
6310 · Sales Tax Collection Allowance	\$4.89	\$59.79	\$6.68	\$149.12
6301 · Cash Short/Over POS	\$15.41	\$199.41		\$49.42
Total 73000 · Other Income	\$20.30	\$692.98	\$6.68	\$624.42
Total Other Income	\$20.30	\$692.98	\$6.68	\$624.42
Net Other Income	\$20.30	\$692.98	\$6.68	\$624.42
Net Income	\$2,112.67	-\$1,109.71	\$5,641.64	\$7,072.88

GROUP NAME	NOV. 2020	NOV 20 YTD	Att. Nov 2020	GROUP NAME	NOV. 2020	NOV 20 YTD	Att. Nov 2020
11th Step Meeting		\$60.00		New Life Group St. Aug		\$210.00	
A Design for Living		\$337.39		Nocatee Promises Group		\$240.75	
A Way Out		\$20.00		Nocatee Sober Sisters		\$81.50	
AA Group of Crawfordville		\$45.77		Nocatee Sobriety		\$415.00	
Alexis		\$25.00	X	On The Way Home	\$1,548.00	\$1,548.00	
Aloha Step 11 at 7		\$49.92		Orange Park Group		\$3,430.00	
Arlington		\$1,375.94		Orange Park Step Sisters		\$185.62	
As Bill Sees It	\$40.00	\$40.00		Ortega Group		\$164.00	
Baymeadows			X	Other Side of the Bridge		\$66.16	
Beaches Unity Group (BUG)	\$100.00	\$1,810.00	X	Palm Valley		\$57.00	
Big Book Field Study		\$158.00		Peace of Mind Group		\$100.00	
BLIS		\$275.00		Phoenix Mens		\$210.00	
Central Group		\$4,000.00		Primay Purpose Group			X
Coffee and Readings	\$277.00	\$2,464.71		Ponte Vedra Mens Group		\$230.50	X
Coyote Men's Group		\$1,600.00		Reborn		\$300.00	
Daily Reflections Group		\$80.10		Riverside (Tom S) Group		\$300.00	
District 3		\$50.00		Riverside Ortega Group		\$59.00	
District 4		\$500.00		Riverside Pass It On		\$75.46	
District 6		\$200.00		Rule 62			X
District 14		\$100.00		Salisbury Men's Group	\$100.00	\$110.00	X
Diverse Views		\$42.61		Sandpiper Group		\$112.50	
Drop The Rock		\$148.74		San Pablo Sober Sisters		\$3.85	
Durbin 12 & 12		\$174.50		Saturday Night Live - St. Aug.	\$62.00	\$274.62	
Eastside Group	\$30.00	\$165.00		Seascape		\$240.00	
Fernandina Beach		\$703.88		Serenity at Noon Group		\$210.04	
Fernandina Beach Pri Purpose		\$103.50		Sober Sisters		\$156.00	
Fiesta Group	\$557.05	\$4,557.25		Solutions		\$90.00	
Free Mens Group		\$728.67		Sound of Sobriety		\$130.05	
Free To Be		\$223.54		Spiritual Awakeings		\$250.00	
Freedom		\$50.00		Spiritual Knights		\$0.00	
Fresh Start		\$300.00		St Nicholas Group		\$350.00	
From the Heart		\$1,000.00	X	Stepping Stones (PV)	\$100.00	\$150.00	
Fruit Cove Women		\$211.26		Stepping Up Group		\$165.00	
Green Cove Springs		\$497.00		Sunday Morning Group		\$36.00	X
Greenland Road Group		\$109.00		Surrender To Win		\$50.00	
Half Way Through	\$995.62	\$995.62		Switzerland Group		\$268.00	
Heart to Heart		\$0.00		The Cove Step Sisters		\$50.00	
I Am Responsible		\$122.73	X	The Crux of The Problem		\$600.00	
Intensive Care Group		\$10.00		The Herd	\$155.00	\$396.00	
Island Serenity		\$187.50		The James Gang		\$800.00	
Its Come to This		\$40.25		Thirsty Thursdays		\$50.00	
I've Come To Believe	\$22.20	\$87.99		This Too Shall Pass		\$0.00	X
Jax Beaches YPG		\$534.78	X	Trout River		\$359.00	X
Jumping Off Place		\$63.98		Tuesday Night Step Group		\$193.00	
Keep It Simple Group	\$52.71	\$527.29		Villagers		\$197.40	
Ladies Unity		\$48.28		Way Out Group		\$90.00	
Language of the Heart		\$234.35		Wesconnett		\$811.50	X
Lest We Forget		\$317.00		Westminister Group		\$469.00	
Liars Paradise		\$294.01		Westside		\$569.26	X
Living in The Light		\$696.20		Winner's Group		\$150.00	
Living Now Group	\$45.00	\$180.00		Women Enjoying Sobriety		\$860.18	
Los Lobos Mens Group		\$181.00		Women Speak		\$23.00	
Mandarin BB Step Study		\$100.00	X	Women Upstart Group		\$65.00	
Mandarin Women in Recovery		\$200.00		Women's Candlelight		\$61.97	
Mens Black Eye	\$500.00	\$500.00		Women's Village Group		\$90.00	
Mens Red Eye Group		\$473.60		Women YPG			X
Middleburg	\$100.00	\$200.00		Yulee Group		\$350.00	
New Beginnings Group		\$63.70		Zoom Meeting - 7AM Penman Rd.		\$340.00	
IG Reps Attending the Nov. 2020 Bus/ Meeting = 16				Zoom Meeting - St. Aug		\$25.00	
Total Signed in at Nov. IG Bus. Meeting = 26				TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$4,684.58	\$45,084.42	
Groups Contributing in Nov. 2020 = 16				Oct. 2020 YTD Groups Contributing = 113			



80 Years of Alcoholics Anonymous In the Jacksonville Area

The Beginning of AA in Jacksonville

Two Alcoholics met in Jacksonville in December of 1940. Junius C. was a naval commander who came to Jacksonville in September of 1940.

He was born in 1895 in McComb Mississippi; the youngest of three brothers. His father died in a sawmill accident in 1897 and his mother ran a rooming house to support the family. He graduated from the US Navel Academy in 1917 and served on the Battleship Maine. He was married in 1920 and transferred to Naval aviation in 1923. His son was born in 1925 and his first wife died in 1933. He remarried in the 1930s and retired from the Navy in Pasadena, California in 1939. One of the reasons for his retirement was his heavy drinking. His second wife, Maria, wrote the AA New York Office in late 1939 requesting a Big Book, which she had heard about. She was also given the address of the AA group in Los Angeles. Junius reluctantly read the Big Book and had gotten sober with that group. About this time Junius was recalled by the Navy and was assigned to NAS Jacksonville to organize an aviation training school.

With only a few months sobriety, Maria was fearful Junius would drink again. She contacted a local psychiatrist, Dr. John Bedell, who ran a private sanitarium for alcoholics, to find someone Junius could work with to keep him sober. Dr. Bedell had just the man, Tom S., who he had treated for years as a hopeless alcoholic.

Tom was born in Darlington, South Carolina in 1904 but grew up in Jacksonville. He graduated from Georgia Tech and was a salesman, avid golfer and sports enthusiast. He had a number of different sales jobs and worked hard until his drinking caused problems and he would quit before getting fired. During the depression jobs became a problem and by 1940 he was unemployable. He went to many sanitariums to dry out but usually drank on the way home. By 1940 he was living in a room at 2747 Riverside Avenue rented from his Aunt.

Dr. Bedell arranged a meeting with Tom and Junius at Junius' quarters. This was sometime in December of 1940. The wives stayed in another room with Dr. Bedell and Tom and Junius talked for over two hours. Tom said of the meeting, "Junius told me his story and read passages from this book and I immediately had a hope I had not had in years. We found that we were not alone anymore. I went home and read the book until four in the morning. Everything made sense to me that night as well as it does today."





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Tom and Junius stayed in contact after that first night and soon Junius said to Tom, "We have to get something started if we are going to keep this thing going." Tom rounded up four of his friends who were heavy drinkers and they had a meeting at 2747 Riverside Avenue. Tom later stated that he thought this meeting was held sometime in the first week of January 1941. At this first meeting were Tom, Junius, Tom F., Henry R., and Karl K. None of these four friends ever got sober. On March 1, 1941 the Saturday Evening Post printed an article by Jack Alexander entitled "Alcoholics Anonymous." This article marked a milestone in the history of the fellowship. As a result of this article J. Mack W. of St. Augustine got Tom's address from New York and he became the third active member of AA in Jacksonville. J. Mack came by bus to Jacksonville every week to attend meetings.

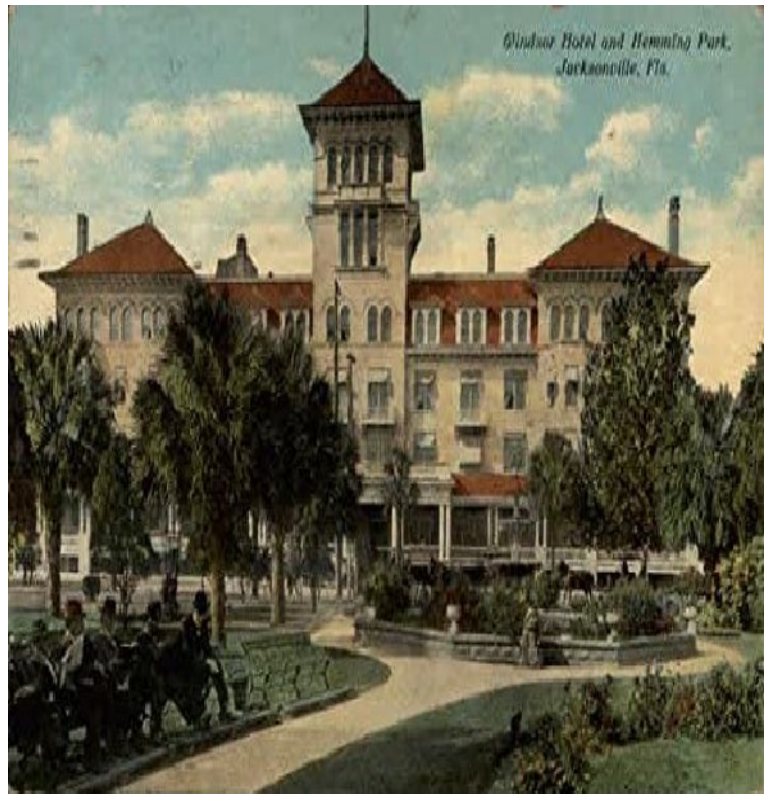
In April of 1941 Tom went to the Jacksonville Journal, the local evening newspaper, and told them about the national AA movement and what they were doing locally. As a result, an article on AA was published on April 18th written by Lowell Clucas. Over the years he would write a number of articles on AA in support of this fledgling movement. As a result of this first article three new members joined the small AA group. Only one of these Bruce H. found long-term sobriety and he died 18 years sober.

Meetings were held at Tom's house and at other members, homes through mid 1941. The group was reported to have 35-40 members on May 16, 1941 and by August 20, 1941 had grown to 61 members. The first woman to join the group was Elise B. from Ocala. She attended meetings in May of 1941.

During this first year Tom received a call from a woman in Daytona Beach about her husband, George. Tom made two trips to Daytona Beach to see George but George found a pressing need to go fishing on the days Tom came to see him. Tom told his wife, Kathleen, that the next time George got drunk to put him on the next northbound train and to give Tom a call.

Several weeks later Tom received a call from Kathleen and Tom and Bruce met George at the station and placed him in a sanatorium. George stayed several weeks, attended meetings and returned to Daytona Beach. George later met David W. a newcomer to the area who had gotten sober in Seattle. In April 1942 they registered the Daytona beach group with two members. The new group struggled and George called Tom and asked him if the Jacksonville group could come down for a meeting. The Jacksonville group got two cars and ten people and went down to the meeting in Daytona Beach. Their meetings picked up after that and by September 1942 the Daytona Beach group was reporting a membership of 15.

As the Jacksonville group, grew a larger space was required. The group moved to the Windsor Hotel in the fall of 1941 and then rented a room on the second floor of 330 W. Forsyth Street in late 1941 or early 1942.





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Junius was transferred to Quonset Point, R.I. in September of 1941. Junius did not enjoy continuous sobriety. He relapsed in the spring of 1941 because he decided he wasn't a real alcoholic. He went on to serve bravely and honorably in World War II. He was commander of the naval air station in Vella Lavella in the Solomon Islands, an area which saw some of the worst fighting of the War. It must have been heartbreaking to send young men out day after day to fight with many of them not returning. He retired from the Navy as a captain in 1946. He did not forget the AA group and he and Marie sent a telegram of congratulation for Jacksonville's 10th anniversary in 1951. Tom later met Junius in 1960 at the International Convention in Long Beach and reported that Junius had 5 or 6 years sobriety then so Junius did get back in the program. He died in 1965 hopefully sober.

Tom also had a relapse. The date is not known but was probably sometime in late 1941 or sometime in 1942. Tom was in Washington D.C. on business. After he finished his business, he went in search of a Coca Cola. He ended up drinking instead.



He woke up in Philadelphia at a local AA group who got him into a local hospital and came under the care of a hardnosed doctor, Dr. Saul. According to Tom, this doctor told him, "When you leave here, you're going to have two roads to follow. One of them has a bar on every corner and one in the middle of the block. You can go in and take a drink. I can only tell you, as an alcoholic, which I think you are, that can lead to premature death or permanent insanity. The other road for you to follow is total sobriety and the only way I know you can maintain that is going back and associating yourself with that group of AAs in Jacksonville. You've got to be honest, truthful and sincere." He did go back and told the group that he had not been in Philadelphia with appendicitis but had been on a drunk. They weren't too happy as they had taken up a collection, maybe three or four dollars, and sent him flowers. Some years later he did in fact have appendicitis while on vacation and when he returned the group made him show his scar. Tom stayed sober until his death in 1982.

Tom stayed sober until his death in 1982.

The first mention of corrections work was in a letter to the Alcoholic Foundation from Bruce H. dated Feb. 1942 referencing successful State Prison talks. The Florida State Prison in Raiford, FL registered a new group with the Alcoholic Foundation on 2/24/1943. The prison chaplain Rev. Leslie A. Shepard was instrumental in starting the Hope Group. In September of 1941 he wrote Tom thanking him for speaking to the group.

Bill W's first visit to Jacksonville was in early 1942. He spoke at a dinner held at the Seminole Hotel for 20-25 people. The price for the dinner was \$1.25. This was the first of many times Bill spoke in Jacksonville.

By 1942 the group needed larger quarters. From 1942 to 1946 they rented the second floor of 204 East Bay Street. In 1946 the group moved to 121 East Forsyth Street. At this point groups began breaking off and in 1948 the Jacksonville Group changed its name to the Central group. In 1952 it moved to 10 West Duval Street and in 1953 made its last move to 1423 San Marco Blvd. where it still resides today.



As AA grew in Jacksonville new groups were formed. In late 1946 or early 1947 The friendship group started meeting at 212 West Forsyth Street and the Riverside group started meeting at Edgewood Ave. The Springfield Group, Downtown Group, Ladies Group and the Southside Group all started during this period. A Beaches Group was also started in Atlantic Beach.



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The first women to break the all men rule in the Jacksonville were Wynell J. (April 1947) and Loraine M. (December 1947).

The tenth Anniversary of AA in Jacksonville was held at the Hotel George Washington on February 24th and 25th. The dinner was well attended and Bill W. was the keynote speaker and he presented his idea for the Third Legacy Conference Plan. He had first presented it in Boston and selected Jacksonville for his second address. On Feb. 25th at the Mayflower Hotel the first North Florida Conference was formed. Tom was selected as its first delegate.

Tom continued to serve AA for the rest of his life. Tom helped start the Gateway Community Services residential treatment center and he served on the Governor's Advisory Council for the rehabilitation of Alcoholics. He also served a term as a Class B Trustee for Alcoholics Anonymous. He quietly helped any person with a drinking problem any time day or night until he died in 1982.

He left an oral history from which much of the information in this article was obtained.

Today AA is thriving in Jacksonville after 80 years. We have over 600 meetings a week in the Northeast Florida. During this year of Covid-19 many meetings have had to close down but over 160 online meeting have formed to carry the message. A number of AA meetings have reopened under CDC guidelines. Hopefully we will return to more face-to-face meetings in 2021. We should remember though that online meetings are valuable and we should continue to support them.

Happy 80th Anniversary

What are AA archives?

Created by individuals or organizations, archives are collections of documents, papers, photographs and other materials that have been selected for permanent preservation. They are unique records assessed for their enduring historical, informational, legal, evidential, fiscal or administrative value. They need to be carefully stored and managed, which is why it is so important to take proper care of them. In general, archival repositories share the same fundamental goals: » to ensure that historical records are identified, collected, organized, preserved, and made available for access and research; and » to provide context and information about an institution's history (from AAWS pamphlet F-221)

Alcoholics Anonymous