



ADD-A-LINE

Published for the AA Members of Northeast Florida Since November, 1962

Northeast Florida Intergroup

3128 Beach Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: 904/399-8535
Fax: 904/399-8537
Website: www.neflaa.org
E-mail:
neflintergroup@gmail.com
9 am to 5 pm Mon.- Fri.

Committee Meetings Via Zoom

Intergroup Steering Committee
Tuesday November 22, 2022 @5:30pm
Zoom ID: 881 4593 5259
PWD: 587098

Intergroup Business Meeting
Saturday, December 3, 2022 @9:00am
JABA Club
3645 Spring Park Road
& Via Zoom ID: 897 7440 1312
PWD: nefl3128

Fellowship Starts at 8:30 with coffee and snacks

FALL GRATITUDE BANQUET A GREAT SUCCESS !!!!

On behalf of the Northeast Florida Intergroup fellowship I thank everyone involved in planning, coordinating, hosting and participating in the 2022 Fall Gratitude Banquet. I especially thank the members of Alco, Alumni and Awakenings houses for their great support. Our two cochairs, Holly C and Linda G, were fantastic and our speaker David H. was inspirational. Thanks again to everyone who came. It was great fun!
I hope to see you all at the 2023 Spring Picnic!

Kevin Jr. Intergroup Chair

Step Eleven

“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.”

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Tradition Eleven

“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 Eleven

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

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Holiday Office Holiday Closures
Thanksgiving: 11/24 & 11/25
Christmas: 12/23 & 12/26
New Years: 12/30 & 1/02

WHERE TO SEND GROUP 7TH TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS:

On your check, please include Group Name, Group Service Number & District

General Service Office (GSO):

aa.org is preferred!

Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

AREA 14:

Treasurer NFAC
PO Box 226
DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

NE Florida Intergroup Services, Inc.:

3128 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207
NE FL AA Venmo account ID: @NEFL_Intergroup



AA PHONE ARMY

Northeast FL Intergroup

**SHIFTS AVAILABLE!
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

If you want info or are interested in being of [service](#) contact the Phone Army Chair at KaraBPhoneArmy@gmail.com Or call Intergroup during business hours at 904.399.8535



The AA Phone Army is a 24-hour service that answers calls after hours for the Intergroup office so that anytime, anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help the hand of AA is always there.

To volunteer we ask that you have:

- 6 months of continuous sobriety
- Have a sponsor
- Commit to one shift for 6 months
- Have a working phone and e-mail.

SPECIAL MEETING AND EVENTS

If your group or District (& for the holidays, local club events will be included) is having special meetings, dinners, or Alk-a-thons please let the Intergroup office know by November 18th so we can include you in the December Add-A-Line! We will make this information available to the Phone Army so that callers (especially out-of-towners) that hoave no place to go for the holidays will have options to be with other recovering Alcoholics!

Holiday Alkathons are events where we gather on holidays (typically Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Eve/Day) for marathon meetings, food, and fellowship. The holidays can be a particularly difficult time of year for many alcoholics, and alkathons help provide a safe, sober place to celebrate. Please be considerate and limit your announcements to business card size.

Panel 71 DCMs and District Meetings

	DCM	email	Phone	Monthly Meeting
District 1	Roger L	DCM.District.1NFL@gmail.com	(904) 318-8535	Zoom, 3rd Tuesday @ 6:45pm: Zoom ID 88663189687, PWD 039151
District 3	Jim D	dcmd3area14@gmail.com	(904) 729-9260	Zoom, 3rd Sunday before and after Assembly @ 1pm: Zoom ID 9043142022, PWD dist3
District 4	June C	jjjcart@gmail.com	(904) 524-7917	Zoom, 3rd Thursday @ 7pm: Zoom ID 830-4297-9644, PWD ezduzit
District 6	Stephanie G	dcmdist6@gmail.com	(904) 501-0694	In Person, 1st Monday @ 6pm, Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South, St Augustine, FL 32086
District 24	beth E	egeserviceaddress@outlook.com	(386) 259-8724	In Person, 1st Wednesday @ 6:30pm, St Marks Episcopal Church 310 N Second Ave, Palatka, FL 32077
District 25	Sarah P	sarahestes20@hotmail.com	(407) 865-4861	Zoom, 1st Sunday @ 5:30pm: Zoom ID 884-8317 PWD 1234
District 30	Bryant G	ggram1701aa@gmail.com	(352) 575-4005	In Person, 4th Saturday @ 9:30am, First Christian Church 11924 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32223

Choose
Gratitude

OFFICE LOG

Description	Sep-22	Sep-21
Phone Army	251	171
AA	99	157
Admin/Other	53	101
12 Step	1	0
Visitors	102	118



**DISTRICT 6
ANNUAL
GRATITUDE DINNER**

NOVEMBER 19, 2022

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
5205 A1A South, St. Augustine FL


Doors open at 6 PM - Dinner at 6:30 PM




\$10 donation per person no one turned away
50/50 drawing & door prizes
Sobriety Countdown
Jeff D. - Speaker from Jacksonville
Main dishes provided
please bring a side to share.



contact Shanna B to volunteer
901.674.7594 or shannagb1001@gmail.com





Why does "Stinking Thinking" remain, even though I am sober?

In this workshop, you will learn a new perspective on the thought process of recovery.

Sponsored by the Drop the Rock Group

District 30 of Area 14

Nov. 5th, 2022, 10:30 am – 12 pm
First Christian Church – 11924 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32223

THE BIG BOOK

COMES ALIVE 2023

SPONSORED BY THE JAX BIG BOOK GROUP

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

Larry S. (Atlanta, GA)
Joe N. (Hilton Head, SC)

Join us for an in depth study of the first 164 pages of the Big Book in the style of Joe and Charlie

Friday March 3 - 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM
Saturday March 4 - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Bring your Big Book
PRE-REGISTRATION: \$30.00 per person;
\$35.00 at the door
Register Early - Seating is Limited

* Bringing coolers and/or outside food to the event is prohibited

Contact: Roxanne G. 904-334-5977 <https://jaxbbca.com/>

Registration form can be used for 1 or 2 people. Please fill out the form below, cut on the dotted line and mail along with your check to the address provided. ➔


Name: _____ Name to be printed on name tag: _____

Guest Name: _____ Guest name to be printed on name tag: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration	\$30.00 x _____ = \$ _____	Mail with Payment and Make Checks Payable to: Jax Big Book Comes Alive PO Box 24267 Jacksonville, FL 32241-4267
<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Sponsorship Contribution	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	





**District 24
Gratitude
Banquet**

HOWE Memorial
Methodist Church
252 S Summit St.
Crescent City
Meats will be
provided

This is a free event!

Please bring a dish to share as we trudge the road together!

Doors open at 5, eat at 6, Speaker at 7

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH

Speaker: Julie N. (our own hometown girl!)

**The tasks of the day can pass with ease
when a camel or I start on our knees.
One Master we serve, the camel and I,
and stay for that day completely dry.**

The Archives Committee will meet at the Intergroup Office after the December IG meeting. We will be scanning and organizing and researching

Jacksonville
Alcoholics Anonymous

MEETINGS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Check out the Meeting APP for the most current days and times for meetings

Primary Purpose of Jax Big Book Study
~ Thursday ~



A New Way 2805 Reid St., Palatka
~ Sunday 6pm ~

SE REGIONAL FORUM
DECEMBER 2-4, 2022



AREA 27
NEW ORLEANS, LA
HILTON NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT 901
AIRLINE DR, KENNER 70062
To reserve call 1-800-HILTONS & use group code: AAWS
click here for direct booking link
SERF.AREA27@gmail.com Phone# 504-229-2772



Ready for 12th Step Work?
Volunteers needed now.

Alcoholics and addicts leaving Treatment or Correctional Facilities are extremely vulnerable to a slip or a relapse.

Volunteer to be a temporary contact.
For information call:

For Treatment side: David M (904) 614-4559

For Corrections side: Steve C (904) 449-6210

Kathy D (602) 820-6644

Save the Date



November 17-19, 2023
Marriott Orlando North

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For more information email:
chair.ssaasa7@gmail.com



BRIDGING THE GAP
NEFLAA INTERGROUP : JACKSONVILLE, FL

WE DO 12TH STEP WORK.

Contact:

BTG.neflaa@gmail.com

Committee Chair Positions	
Intergroup Chair Kevin Jr. kevin.gartland08@comcast.net	(904) 614-7480
Intergroup Vice Chair Dan B. d.borcher@comcast.net	(904) 737-7532
Intergroup Treasurer Walter S. wfstrickland@gmail.com	(904) 303-5071
Steering Committee Chair beth E. EGEServiceAddress@outlook.com	(386) 259-8724
Accessibility Chair Eugene M. emsailorman@gmail.com	(904) 742-0152
Add-A-Line beth E. editor2022.AAL@outlook.com	(904) 399-8535
Archives Committee Chair Charlie M. ggmoyer@aol.com	(904) 247-3421
Archivist Tom W. twicks411@gmail.com	(201) 424-3827
Corrections Co-Chairs Male: Steve C. cgull24@comcast.net Female: Kathy D. kadaiker@yahoo.com	(904) 449-6210 (602) 820-6644
CPC/PI Chair Vacant	
Finance Chair Dan B. d.borcher@comcast.net	(904) 737-7532
Grapevine Chair Roger L. DCM.District.1NFL@gmail.com	(904) 318-8535
Parliamentarian Andrew M. asmarch89@gmail.com	(904) 760-2009
Phone Army Chair Kara B. karabphonearmy@gmail.com	(904) 402-1920
Secretary Regina A. rmalai612@mailbox.org	(904) 994-6061
Special Events Co-Chairs Linda G. sassym1953@gmail.com Holly C. HConnell@RTLAW.com	(904) 608-1634 (904) 662-0646
Treatment/Bridging the Gap Chair David M. david.murphy.jax101@gmail.com	(904) 614-4559
Zoom Host Andrew M. asmarch89@gmail.com	(904) 760-2009

**Intergroup Chairman
or Vice Chairman and Treasurer
Election in November 2022**

If you are interested in standing for the position of Chairman, or Vice-Chair, elections will be held at the IG Business Meeting on November 5th, 2022. The candidate should have a minimum of five continuous years of sobriety and have service work (experience) in the Intergroup structure. The term of office is for two years (coinciding with Panel 73).

Please furnish a short résumé listing your various types of service, length of sobriety, and intergroup service experience. Resumes may be sent to:

neflintergroup@gmail.com or mailed to 3128 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207. If you have questions or are willing to stand for this office, please contact the Intergroup Office (Mike or Ashley) at 904-399-8535.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED FOR 2023-24

In the spirit of rotation, you can be of service! Volunteer to chair a committee for your Northeast Florida Intergroup! See the list on the left for the committees.

Present Chairmen can volunteer to continue their work but must be re-appointed by the new Intergroup Chairman.

Descriptions of the Committees are available on our website neflaa.org—Click on the Intergroup tab then the sub-tab Committees.

Further information about committee responsibilities can be obtained by calling the Inter-

From you Intergroup Chairman:
At the September Business Meeting the Body agreed to place the following motion in the Add-A-Line for review and then on it vote at the November Business Meeting:

Change the sentence in Article VIII of the Bylaw's that states, "The Treasurer will rotate in opposite years of the Chair and Vice-Chair to **"The Vice-Chair will rotate in opposite years of the Chair and Treasurer."**

Recommend being silent on year the Vice-Chair will rotate i.e. 2024 or 2026. Issue should be left for the next Intergroup Steering Committee and Body in 2023.

A Anniversaries submitted for November

Fiesta Group

Robin W	24
Gayle E	35
Mayra V	3
Valerie C	18
Ruth H	29
Jeri T	3
Sam M	6

Arlington Group

Bob M.	32
Brandon H.	7
Bob H.	42
Meghan G.	1

Mandarin

Jan	26
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This Too Shall Pass

Russ F.	43
James M.	2
Mark L.	2

LoveNaction

Evonne H	19
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Drop the Rock Group

Deborah R.	38
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	Sep 22	Jan - Sep 22	Sep 21	Jan - Sep 21
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4002 · Groups	\$3,708.31	\$50,437.63	\$2,108.43	38,993.50
4007 · Other Contributions	\$189.00	\$3,410.82	\$130.00	\$3,627.02
4008 · Anonymous				
4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg				
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	\$3,897.31	\$53,848.45	\$2,238.43	42,620.52
4020 · Retail Income	\$4,410.11	\$37,731.95	\$4,102.10	31,512.11
4040 · Other Income				
Total 4040 · Other Income	\$5.00	\$68.00		
4060 · Income - Special Events				
4062 · Banquet	\$3,114.00	\$8,928.00	\$6,150.00	6,750.00
4064 · Spring Banquet Donations				
Total 4060 · Income - Special Events	\$3,114.00	\$8,928.00	\$6,150.00	6,750.00
Total Income	\$11,426.42	\$100,576.40	\$12,490.53	80,882.63
Cost of Goods Sold				
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	\$2,487.94	\$27,202.30	\$3,709.75	26,170.76
5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other				
Total 5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other	\$3,039.14	\$4,478.06	\$2,018.31	-987.62
Total COGS	\$5,527.08	\$31,680.36	\$5,728.06	25,183.14
Gross Profit	\$5,899.34	\$68,896.04	\$6,762.47	55,699.49
Expense				
60000 · Salaries and Benefits				
Total 60000 · Salaries and Benefits	\$2,008.94	\$22,084.81	\$2,147.48	\$22,925.97
61000 · Office Expense				
Total 61000 · Office Expense	\$1,220.01	\$12,434.80	\$693.94	7,484.39
62000 · Facilities and maintenance				
Total 62000 · Facilities and maintenance	\$1,335.63	\$13,392.82	\$1,363.20	13,474.73
5300 · When & Where Cost		\$6,907.00		
55000 · Committees Expense				
Total 55000 · Committees Expense	\$639.45	\$9,024.00	\$188.56	4,997.01
60300 · Awards and Grants				
60310 · Benefits Paid To or For Members		\$95.20		
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants		\$95.20		
70900 · Business Expenses				
5220 · Dues/Fees/Licenses	\$15.13	\$196.99	\$13.08	178.97
Total 70900 · Business Expenses	\$15.13	\$196.99	\$13.08	178.97
62100 · Contract Services				
5200 · Professional Fees	\$300.00	\$2,700.00		2,700.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	\$300.00	\$2,700.00		\$2,700.00
65100 · Other Expenses				
5190 · Bank Charges	\$8.00	\$81.22	\$5.00	45.00
Total 65100 · Other Expenses	\$8.00	\$81.22	\$5.00	\$45.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings				
5235 · Training		\$32.00		1,177.79
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings		\$32.00		1,177.79
Total Expense	\$5,527.16	\$66,948.84	\$4,411.26	\$52,983.86
Net Ordinary Income	\$372.18	\$1,947.20	\$2,351.21	\$2,715.63
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Total Other Income	\$8.73	\$64.87	\$5.35	252.61
Other Expense				
Net Other Income	\$8.73	\$64.87	\$5.35	252.61
Net Income	\$380.91	\$2,012.07	\$2,356.56	2,968.24

FAITHFUL FIVERS
Anonymous 1
Anonymous 2
Anonymous 3
Barbara M.
Betheny C.
Bryon G.
Carl G.
Carrie B.
Charlie M.
D. K. W.
Erika D.
Holly C.
Jim M.
Jonathan B.
Jodi S.
Jody T.
Kevin Jr.
Linda G.
Lon L.
Mike M.
Roger L.
Ruth R.
Sue G.
Susan I.
Tony K.



But for the Grace of God.

The following members will be fondly remembered and sadly missed

- Emily T.
- Jerry W.
- ♦ Wesconnect Group
- Paul P.
- ♦ Winners Group

Howdy ya'll! 'beth here. I want to thank all of you for the privilege of representing you at the National Archives Workshop! Let me just say, Little Rock has the best doughnuts ever!

I learned so much in a short period of time. I am also enthused about learning more about early AA in Jacksonville and making it more accessible and interactive for YOU! I came home with a set of the tapes and several of the PowerPoint presentations to show with the tapes. Gosh I'm Old! Tapes...!

What is it we collect and how to preserve it, and making it relevant. We have real treasures! Just last night I was talking with a lady before a meeting. She was reminiscing about going to Founder's Day in Akron and running into a guy she knew from Florida who attended meetings at Dr. Bob's house! He pointed out the coffee pot they REALLY used. Does your Group have a treasure like Alice? Does anyone remember Junius? I would like to talk with them! Have you seen the NAS Jacksonville Challenge Coin? Do you know the history of it? I am trying to find out more on the background, we may have a real claim to starting an AA tradition!

I look forward to sharing more than this space allows! I will announce upcoming presentations in the future!

I also experienced something that I haven't in a LOOOOOOONG time – true fellowship. We sat around, like old cronies do, and compared how this work in our local areas, how AA has changed and what will happen in the future.

Ensuring AAs Future by Preserving its Past.

If you want to check out some of the past presentations

<https://www.naaaw.org/index.php/learning/>



Quick shortcuts to the topic sections

- ▷ [TRADITIONS, CONCEPTS, ETHICS & LEGAL PRINCIPLES](#)
- ▷ [ORGANIZING & CLASSIFYING COLLECTIONS](#)
- ▷ [PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS](#)
- ▷ [DIGITAL ARCHIVES](#)
- ▷ [RESEARCHING & WRITING OUR SHARED HISTORY](#)
- ▷ [LONGTIMER PANELS](#)
- ▷ [GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ARCHIVES](#)
- ▷ [NAAAW 2020 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP](#)

This Day in AA History

- 1895 - William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT
- 1934 - Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month
- 1936 - Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become AA #3 in NY with Bill W and Hank P
- 1939 - Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement November 13, 1939
- 1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups
- 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin
- 1941 - "First Mass AA Meeting" in Oklahoma City, 8 present, 1 was drunk
- 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions
- 1950 - Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio
- 1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies
- 1986 - The Big Book is published in paperback
- 2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

Short History of the Jacksonville Annual Dinner

The Jacksonville A.A. community is soon to celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in Jacksonville and the state of Florida. The celebration will be in the form of the 62nd Annual Dinner to be held at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel & Conference Center April 5, 2003. The history of the Annual Dinner has not been historically documented but what is known about the early days of the dinner has been placed on record. The following brief history will hopefully give a little insight into the historical importance of our Annual Dinner.

The first recorded dinner to be held by the AA community in Jacksonville was in the spring of 1942. The dinner was held at the old Seminole Hotel and was attended by approximately twenty to twenty-five people. The speaker at this dinner was Bill W. Co-Founder of AA. The price of the dinner was \$1.25, which many thought to be kind of high for the times.

The first official Annual Dinner was held on a Monday evening May 22, 1944 at the Windsor Hotel. The meal consisted of broiled milk fed chicken, candied sweet potatoes and green giant peas with appetizer, desert and coffee. The featured speaker at the First Annual Dinner again was Bill W. The Second Annual Dinner was March 24, 1945 at the Mayflower Hotel. The featured Speaker was Marty M., reportedly the first woman sober in AA. The Third Annual Dinner was again at the Mayflower Hotel on April 4, 1946. The speaker was again a nationally known member of AA, name unknown.

The 1947 Annual Dinner was Officially listed as the Sixth Annual Dinner. The change in the numbering system was made to bring the Annual Dinner in line with the 1941 founding of AA in Jacksonville and the state.

The Tenth Anniversary Dinner was a major affair held at the Hotel George Washington Saturday evening, February 24, 1951. The Featured Speaker was again Bill W. the topic of his speech was A.A. History Leading to Conference Plan. The weekend of the 24-25 was to be the first North Florida Conference. This Conference was for the purpose of electing the first North Florida Area delegate



The September Financials were not available at press time. Please check the website for detailed financial reports. ~ Editor.

INTER GROUPS
A.A. ALIEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE GREATER DUVAL COUNTY AREA
FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

VOLUME I

NOVEMBER 1962

NUMBER I



FOR THE A.A.'S WHO CAME AHEAD OF US
AND PAVED THE WAY,

FOR THE A.A.'S WE HAVE TODAY WHO ARE
WILLING TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE
FOUND WITH THE NEW PERSON COMING
ALONG,

FOR THE THOUGHT AND FOOT WORK OF THE
MEMBERS WHO ESTABLISHED
INTERGROUP AND PUT IT INTO MOTION,

FOR THE FIRST SECRETARY, ZANE, FOR HER
LOYAL DEDICATED DEVOTION TO THE
OFFICE,

FOR THE MANY COMMITTEEMEN, VOLUNTEERS,
THEIR PROGRESS AND THEIR ERRORS.

FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GROUPS,
BOTH FINANCIAL AND MORAL,

BUT MOST OF ALL WE THANK GOD FOR AA
AND THANK YOU AA'S FOR GOD.

"HAPPINESS IS A BY-PRODUCT OF RIGHT THINKING", - Bill L.

Learning to give love is like learning to use a new skill. At first we feel awkward, perhaps frightened. It is necessary to go slowly, to work in small familiar, even trivial ways, and not to be discouraged if the response is slow in coming. We cannot change the pattern of years with a single gesture, an occasional word. But Love freely given, without strings attached, without even a demand for thanks or gratitude will sooner or later win Love in return.

"IMPATIENCE is waiting for something in a hurry."

"FACE THE SUN; shadows fall behind."



An Open Mind Unlocks the Door

In the past years of association with AA I have heard much about the virtues we must acquire and the defects we must eliminate. However, little is said about the "key" which unlocks the door . . . open mindedness. Occasionally it is mentioned in passing with relation to spiritual things and God, but do we not need to apply all that we learn to our every day living? The 12th Step says "practice these principles in all our affairs." It has been my sad experience to find very little real open mindedness among my fellow travelers. Many of my associates will be indignant and perhaps even have some resentments but I see what I see, and hear what I hear, and have been guilty of the same fault.

Open minded is defined as "ready to hear," "open to suggestion." I have heard an AA say: "we must keep an open mind," and no longer than 30 minutes later I have heard that same AA insisting his opinion was right and being very definite about it. Also, we sometimes insist our associates are not doing things as we believe they must be done. This is lack of open mindedness.

I don't believe we can cheat. We are using a spiritual Truth when we attempt to utilize the 12 Steps to straighten out our life, and I believe we will pay a heavy price if we do not heed the laws laid down by Truth. Therefore, let us place this virtue where it belongs among the important things we need to practice in our daily contacts. Let us always remember that in every man there is good and that we may learn something good from the worst. Let us always remember that each person is an individual and for him, his opinions may be right. Each one of us must find God as we understand him, each one of us must straighten out his life as we see it in accordance with God's plan, not mine or yours.

I have found it absolutely impossible to disagree with everything a speaker says. I have always found at least one thought which I could add to my storehouse of knowledge as I listened to another ex-drunk, even if it is only the knowledge of what not to do.

Let us keep an open mind when one of our brothers has trouble, for we would have to know everything he thinks, all the external forces which enter his life to judge him. Even then it would be a risk. Let us learn to listen with an open mind to every one we come in contact with and thus take away a new thought to meditate upon and perhaps add to our own storehouse. Somewhere along the line in life we will need to draw heavily upon this storehouse, when the chips are down, if we would remain sober.

No person completes a lifetime without one day having to prove beyond all shadow of doubt what he professes. The Divine Plan so arranges it. If you come into AA and refuse to keep an open mind you will miss an education in philosophy. Perhaps you do not refuse but are just unaware . . . you must become aware if you would stay sober.

Let us keep an open mind when we talk with the neophyte, so that we will be able to do the greatest good. Let us remember that we are all individuals, we did not all drink for the same reasons, we do not all have the same character defects or problems, so we must set aside, at times, our own fixed opinions and listen if we are to help. We can all state what we would do if we were in another's place, but would we? I have found that many times in the past year I was unable to do the very things I preached to others. There are times when we must, of course, advise and guide; as adults we should be able to know when to listen and when to talk.

To me, contact with other members is a sounding board for new ideas, an exchange of opinions and I must listen, as well as talk, if I am to continue to learn and progress. If I do not, I shall find myself thinking in circles, having fixed opinions and, Brother, then it won't be long unless I wake up and get busy. I must free my mind, be receptive to opinions and ideas from other AAs as well as from God. This, I think, is closely linked with self-centeredness, perhaps the end result of lack of open mindedness. It is no doubt the first step down the ladder we have so laboriously climbed. Add to your inventory at night, "Have I been open minded today" and if you haven't look back over the day and see just how much you might have learned . . . if you have I'll bet you find you have several new thoughts or ideas to add to your storehouse.

In Cleveland, during the Convention, I heard much about the four absolutes. Honesty, sincerity, love and humility. I fail to see how we can ever acquire any one of them without first opening our minds and being receptive. This is what you did when you admitted your powerlessness and asked for help. You opened your mind so that "A Power greater than yourself" could come in; this is what you do in the 11th Step when you meditate.

Let us apply this "open mindedness to our every day life as well as to God. If we do we will find ourselves far richer in thought as the years go by.

- - - J. W. Jacksonville, Florida
(August 1952 Grapevine)

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As I was sitting at a meeting the other evening and a lady was speaking she mentioned the three slogans: Live and Let Live, Easy Does It, and First Things First; and that she was having trouble with Easy Does It. As she mentioned these slogans I looked up at the wall where they were displayed. All I could see because of the lady's head in front of me was the last word in each slogan . . . "Live . . . It . . . First."

Live and Let Live
Easy Does It
First Things First

The thought came to me then that the secret of getting or living these three slogans is to live the Twelve Steps first
Bill I., Melrose, Mass
(August 1953 Grapevine)

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE ROSTER

1962

CHAIRMAN - BILL L. - San Marco Group

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San Marco Group - - - Emmie E.	Wesconnett Group - - Marion M.
Lake Shore Group - - Charlie B.	Jacksonville Beach - Wynn J. (Temp.)
Riverside Group - - - Clarence D.	Fernandina Beach - * Russell T

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We welcome this opportunity to introduce our new Intergroup Secretary, Johnny C. Johnny is an old-time resident of Jacksonville but has been living in Texas for the past six or seven years. We are most happy to have her back and wish her good luck in her new job.

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THE 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."

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