

# ADD-A-LINE

Published for AA Members in Northeast Florida Since November 1962

### Committee Meetings

#### Intergroup Business Meeting

Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9:00 AM  
Buffet Breakfast Starts at 7:30 AM  
Speaker Meeting 8 AM— Martha L.

#### Next Business Meeting

Saturday July 5, 2025 at 9 AM  
Speaker will be Peter C.  
Gateway Community Services

555 Stockton St.

Jacksonville, FL 32204

#### Zoom Information

Meeting ID: 870 4750 2345

Passcode: 314187

#### Intergroup Steering Committee

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM at  
IG Office

#### Zoom Information

Meeting ID: 881 4593 5259

Passcode: 587098

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA

### INTERGROUP

3128 BEACH BLVD.

JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

TEL. 904-399-8535

FAX 904-399-8537

WEBSITE: WWW.NEFLAA.ORG

EMAIL:

NEFLINTERGROUP@GMAIL.COM

9AM-5PM MON.-FRI.



Bridging The Gap— Want to stay sober when you get out, Scan the QR code and someone will reach out to you.



Committee Chair Positions

<u>Intergroup Chair</u> Lon L. lonlansing61@gmail.com	904-710-7201
<u>Intergroup Vice Chair</u> Dan B. d.borcher@comcast.net	904-737-7532
<u>Treasurer</u> Doug S. schrde@gmail.com	904-731-0821
<u>Steering Committee Chair</u> Paul C. pacman257@gmail.com	904-885-5934
<u>Accessibilities</u> Harley nefligaccess@gmail.com	
<u>Add-A-Line</u> Ashley R. nefladdaline@gmail.com	904-399-8535
<u>Archives Committee Chair</u> Vacant	
<u>Archivist</u> Kevin Jr. Kevin.Gartland08@comcast.net	904-614-7480
<u>Corrections</u> Male: Doug S. schrde@gmail.com Female: Leighanne L. leighannebryann123@gmail.com	904-731-0821 239-898-8467
<u>CPC / PI</u> Nuwo N. nuwonwobegono@gmail.com	443-810-0143
<u>Finance Chair</u> Dan B. d.borcher@comcast.net	904-737-7532
<u>Grapevine Chair</u> Brandon H. bahall2001@gmail.com	
<u>Literature Chair</u> Emily B. barbaraemily183@gmail.com	904-252-3341
<u>Parliamentarian</u> Vacant	
<u>Secretary</u> Joyce V. justjoyce03@aol.com	904-268-2665
<u>Special Events</u> Kim K. kimberlymarie2497@yahoo.com	904-917-7707
Ashley B. delprete1223@gmail.com	904-570-8957
<u>Treatment / Bridge The Gap</u> Joe B. cjoebiederman@gmail.com	
<u>Phone Army</u> Linda G. sassym1953@gmail.com	904-608-1634
<u>Website</u> Ashley R. techitez2023@gmail.com	870-730-6822
<u>Workshop</u> Christopher G. service4unity@gmail.com	772-475-3583
<u>Zoom Host</u> Martin A. martandersen84@gmail.com	

**STEP SIX**

**“ Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”**

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**TRADITION SIX**

**“ An AA Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility, or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”**

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**SIXTH CONCEPT**

**“ On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance.”**

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# District Meetings

	DCM	Email	Phone	Monthly Meeting
District 1	Ericka C.	<a href="mailto:Kay_carter@outlook.com">Kay_carter@outlook.com</a>	904-718-3863	Zoom, 3rd Tuesday @ 6 pm: Zoom ID 86974289509 PWD D1GSR
District 2	Kris P.	<a href="mailto:krispatrick@bellsouth.net">krispatrick@bellsouth.net</a>	352-235-1119	Zoom, 3rd Saturday @ 10 am: Zoom ID 89390953434 PWD 465935
District 3	Jim D.	<a href="mailto:dcmd3area14@gmail.com">dcmd3area14@gmail.com</a>	414-801-1166	3rd Sunday @ 1 pm: Zoom ID 9043142022 PWD D3A14
District 4	Kevin S.	<a href="mailto:77fgtb@gmail.com">77fgtb@gmail.com</a>	908-616-7168	Zoom, 3rd Thursday @ 7 pm: Zoom ID 81509711457 PWD 841276
District 6	Shanna B.	<a href="mailto:shannagb1001@gmail.com">shannagb1001@gmail.com</a>	901-674-7594	In Person, 1st Monday @ 6 pm, Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32077
District 24	Patrick O.	<a href="mailto:patrickortiz45@gmail.com">patrickortiz45@gmail.com</a>	904-814-9367	In Person, 1st Wednesday @ 6:30 pm, St Marks Christian Church 310 N Second Ave, Palatka, FL 32077
District 25	Jake K.	<a href="mailto:jlkintner@yahoo.com">jlkintner@yahoo.com</a>	937-760-1086	Hybrid, 1st Sunday @ 5:30 pm, Al Pablo Club 322 Penman Rd., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 Zoom ID 88483179604 PWD 1234
District 30	Deb F.	<a href="mailto:debfarris1@gmail.com">debfarris1@gmail.com</a>	704-904-3867	Hybrid, 4th Saturday @ 10 am, First Christian Church 11924 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32077 Zoom ID 86704331234 PWD AA061035

## YOUR INTERGROUP OFFICE

### How Committees Are Supported

By: Ashley R.

Northeast Florida Intergroup Services (NEFLAA) supports its committees through structured leadership, training, and community engagement. Each committee, such as Finance or Corrections, is led by a Chairperson who coordinates activities and reports to the Intergroup Steering Committee. Committees receive support through leadership opportunities, orientation sessions, and open communication channels with Intergroup. NEFLAA also promotes community involvement through events and workshops, offering volunteers ways to participate and support AA service work. To get involved, individuals can attend meetings, contact committee chairs, or volunteer for service roles. More details are available at [neflaa.org/committees](http://neflaa.org/committees).





**NEW YORK**

**Live From New York City**

Come hear the exciting news from Lori P. Area 14  
Delegate at the  
**“2025”**

**POST-CONFERENCE**  
**WORKSHOP**

ON  
**JUNE 1ST, 2025**  
**EROM: 12:30PM TO 3:00PM**  
**LOCATION: JABA CLUB**  
3645 Spring Park Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Hosted by Districts 1,4,25 and 30

Hors d’oeuvres will be served, and the Jaba club coffee bar will be open for coffee and other beverages at cost.



# HAPPY SOBRIETY



## JUNE

<b>Arlington Group</b> Freddy T. 46 yrs. Nikki G. 6 yrs. Joseph C. 4 yrs. Alex C. 2 yrs. Foy W. 2 yrs. Heather M. 2 yrs. Amber M. 2 yrs. Kathy W. 1 yr. Sharon G. 1 yr. Lee H. 1 yr.	<b>Beaches Unity Group</b> Christina K. 1 yr. David M. 16 yrs. Kyle 3 yrs. Donna E. 37 yrs. Ashley N. 3 yrs. Henrietta 3 yrs. Susan S. 13 yrs. Doreen B. 45 yrs. Jody Jet 37 yrs. Sara L. 3 yrs. Adam L. 5 yrs. Tim H. 12 yrs. Sean J. 4 yrs. Bobby H. 15 yrs. Russ M. 7 yrs. Mike K. 24 yrs.	<b>Central Group</b> Jeff B. 13 yrs. Joanne L. 44 yrs. Jessica B. 2 yrs. Christina K. 1 yr.
<b>Drop the Rock</b> Perry S. 6 yrs.	<b>San Man Group</b> Brad J. 8 yrs. Deborah C. 34 yrs. Mary R. 30 yrs.	<b>Mandarin Women</b> Ashley H. 7 yrs. Jayme 7 yrs. Theresa 10 yrs.
<b>Love N Action</b> Yvonne T. 7 yrs. Kate B. 1 yr. Kathleen J. 19 yrs. Kat H. 7 yrs.	<b>Switzerland Group</b> Deb F. 38 yrs. Lynn 34 yrs. John T. 1 yr.	<b>Trout River</b> Charlotte 33 yrs. Tammy C. 8 yrs. Tyler W. 6 yrs. Matt A. 4 yrs. Keenan C. 2 yrs. Will W. 1 yr.
<b>Winners Group</b> Susan W. 41 yrs. Steve C. 10 yrs. Anita 1 yr. Chris	<b>Salisbury Mens</b> Brandon S. 5 yrs. Jim K. 1 yr.	<b>Upstart Women's</b> Gail L. 5 yrs. Darlene C. 30 yrs. Nancy R. 54 yrs.

### GRATEFUL GIVERS GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS IN \$5 INCREMENTS



#### FAITHFUL FIVERS

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Anonymous  | Johnathan B. |
| Anonymous  | Lega L.      |
| Anonymous  | Mr&Mrs Moyer |
| Barbara M. | Susan I.     |
| Brendan M. | William H.   |
| Byron G.   |              |
| Daniel H.  |              |
| Holly C.   |              |
| Jill W.    |              |
| Jody T.    |              |

## GRATEFUL GIVERS



## FOUNDERS' DAY FLORIDA STYLE

*Recovery - 'fauty- Senwce'*

June 13, 14' and 15, 2025

### TALLAHASSEE AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

6800 MAHAN DRIVE, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317

<b>SPEAKERS</b> JUNE G.- Oxnard, CA (AA) JIMMY A.-Spring Lake, NJ (AA) JEFF K.-Panama City, FL (AA) KAREN R.- Tampa, FL (AA) PATTY H.- Prattville, AL (AA) BARRON R.- Atlanta, GA (AFG) As an added bonus- JAMES L. will share his presentation on Women in AA History. JANE D-L., and JAMES L. are our MC'S FOR THE WEEKEND	<b>REGISTRATION</b> \$30.00 per person, in advance. \$35.00 at the door. Registration includes free admission to the Car Museum, and complimentary Saturday night dinner. Doors open at 4:30 on Friday, and the first speaker begins at 5:30. Please join us in our Ballroom location!
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SATURDAY NIGHT WILL FEATURE OUR RAFFLE BASKET DRAWING, 50/50, AND THE SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN

Register online at [www.foundersdayflorida.org](http://www.foundersdayflorida.org)

Or mail your registration form to:

FDFS- 1700 N. Monroe St., Suite 11221 Tallahassee, FL 32303

Name #1 _____	Number of attendees _____ x \$30= \$ _____
Name #2 _____	Scholarship Donation = \$ _____
Home Group _____	City, State _____

Intergroup Office Log  
April 2025

Description	2025	2024
Phone Army	83	104
A.A. Information	48	63
Administrative & Other Info	38	95
12 Step Calls	1	1
Visitors to the Office	79	116

ACCOUNT BALANCES April 30, 2025

<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
1021 · Cash - Regions Bank		\$5,156.08
1024 · Cash in Drawer		\$103.28
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>		<b>\$5,259.36</b>
<b>1360 · Inventory</b>		<b>\$7,988.17</b>
<b>1400 · Prudent Reserve</b>		
1476 · Regions Bank 5982- CD #001		\$10,000.00
1481 · Regions Bank 6794- CD #002		\$10,000.00
1486 · Regions Bank - CD #003		\$10,000.00
<b>Total 1400 · Prudent Reserve</b>		<b>\$30,000.00</b>

2025 ANNUAL NEFLAA FALL  
GRATITUDE BANQUET

Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

**BANQUET PLANNING MEETINGS:** OPEN POSITIONS:

SAN MARCO CLUB @  
1:30PM

05/24/2025  
06/21/2025  
07/19/2025  
08/16/2025  
09/06/2025

Kitchen Crew  
Decorations  
Beverage Station  
Cake Walkers  
Raffle Tickets  
Greeters/Ushers  
Clean Up Crew  
Set Up Crew  
And more!!!

THEME WILL BE VOTED ON AND DECIDED AT THE FIRST MEETING!!!  
PLEASE ATTEND THESE PLANNING MEETINGS IF YOU WANT TO BE OF  
SERVICE OR PROVIDE INPUT ON THE BANQUET!

Kim K. 904-917-7707 Ashley M. 904-570-8957 Intergroup 904-399-8535

**I** am responsible...

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

SWITZERLAND GROUP  
210 North Ridgecrest Lane 32259  
District 30



- First Meeting: July 13, 1983
- This group was a spin off from the Mandarin Group.
- Founding Members: Larry E., Jim Mc., Harry B., Everett G., Earl N., Tucker, Mary S., Ernie E., and Mildred
- Early Members: Lynn H., Jerry W., Webber, D O', Terry O., Josh, Harland K., and Smitty
- Members: 30
- Previous locations: Fire Station US 13 South until 1999. Geneva Presbyterian until 2000.
- Service: River Region and Anniversary Dinners
- Type of Meetings: Open Discussion and Open Speaker
- 2 meetings per week

SAN MARCO CLUB  
PRESENTS

Another Unforgettable Night of Fun!  
JUNE 21st

**SUMMER NIGHTS  
DANCE PARTY**

Featuring DJs G-Reg and Sirril



AA meeting from 8 to 9 PM  
Music starts at 9:15 PM  
San Marco Club  
1423 San Marco Blvd

Suggested Donations of \$10  
Taken at the Door  
Proceeds Help Support the San Marco Club

San Man Group would love to invite you to visit!! The San Man started in December 1977 based on their Big Book that all the original members signed.



Per one of the current members, it started due to a “resentment” about another group. I can’t imagine. The name comes from San Marco and Mandarin a halfway point at a time when there were very few meetings in between the two locations. Hence San Man.. By: Anonymous.

*PLEASE COME OUT TO SUPPORT THE SAN MAN GROUP!!!*



## 50 TH ANNUAL CENTRAL GROUP FISH FRY APRIL 26 2025

On Saturday April 26, 2025 over 250 persons participated in the 50 th Annual Central Group Fish Fry at the San Marco Club.

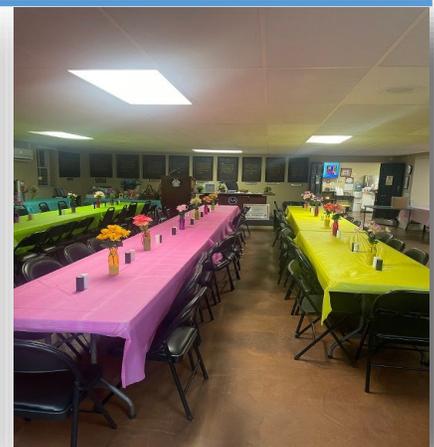
In the mid-seventies some young men who liked to drink and fish found themselves getting sober at the Central Group. They found fishing sober was even more fun sober.

Winston C, Ernie G, Virgil B, Ed B, Amil Q and John S fished off the North Jetties until several of them came up the river to a “croaker hole” on the south bank of the St Johns River near St. Vincent’s Hospital and pulled in enough fish to cover the bottom of the boat. Eventually all of their freezers were so full of fish they decided in the summer of 1974 to cook them in an empty lot next to the San Marco Club. That was the First Central Group Fish Fry.

The First Fish Fry was so much fun that they did it again the next year with a local band attracting allot of local folks. In 1977 the Fish Fry became a celebration of the Group’s anniversary and old timers shared their stories.

The Fish Fry moved to Unity Church in 1981 to 1983 while the Club was being renovated. In 1984 the Fish Fry came home. A local fish market provided the fish after the fishing trips ended. For several years the Fish Fry was held at the Swaim Memorial United Methodist Church and one time at the Jaba Club, but since 2016 has come home to the San Marco Club. The Fish Fry is self-supporting through tickets and raffles.

Congratulations to Central Group and the old timers who shared their experience, strength and hope for the 50th Anniversary. We all look forward to this great event to continue in the future.



	Apr 25	Jan - Apr 25	Apr 24	Jan - Apr 24
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4002 · Groups	5,160.07	22,050.13	6,020.58	19,433.69
4003 · Pink Can Contribution	90.38	498.71	142.79	727.84
4005 · Faithful Five	365.55	1,103.65	445.55	1,090.55
4007 · Other Contributions	46.20	115.95	330.37	628.49
4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg	61.00	61.00		
4000 · Contribution - Other				383.00
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	5,723.20	23,829.44	6,939.29	22,263.57
4020 · Retail Sales	3,700.82	16,526.71	6,082.28	18,786.07
4040 · Other Income				
4042 · Business Meeting		160.00		25.00
Total 4040 · Other Income		160.00		25.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,424.02</b>	<b>40,516.15</b>	<b>13,021.57</b>	<b>41,074.64</b>
Cost of Goods Sold				
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	3,173.48	11,957.96	3,815.13	11,947.26
5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other				
4550 · Cost of Event - Spring Picnic			646.32	646.32
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense	59.00	327.00		41.85
5195 · CC Fees	34.75	426.24	167.48	506.65
Total 5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other	93.75	753.24	813.80	1,194.82
Total COGS	3,267.23	12,711.20	4,628.93	13,142.08
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>6,156.79</b>	<b>27,804.95</b>	<b>8,392.64</b>	<b>27,932.56</b>
Expense				
60000 · Salaries and Benefits				
6560 · Wages	3,494.15	14,042.69	2,543.75	11,293.00
6565 · Payroll Taxes	272.75	1,153.01	279.31	995.13
60000 · Salaries and Benefits - Other	6.44	6.44		
Total 60000 · Salaries and Benefits	3,773.34	15,202.14	2,823.06	12,288.13
61000 · Office Expense				
Total 61000 · Office Expense	810.06	3,855.07	2,823.06	12,288.13
62000 · Facilities and maintenance				
Total 62000 · Facilities and maintenance	1,682.91	5,985.95	1,715.14	5,587.83
55000 · Committees Expense				
Total 55000 · Committees Expense	340.00	2,879.40	948.79	5,266.27
70900 · Business Expenses				
Total 70900 · Business Expenses	11.38	464.84	15.11	135.44
62100 · Contract Services				
Total 62100 · Contract Services		949.00	300.00	1,499.00
65100 · Other Expenses				
Total 65100 · Other Expenses	42.07	102.08	22.07	82.07
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>6,659.76</b>	<b>29,438.48</b>	<b>6,855.76</b>	<b>28,769.86</b>
Net Ordinary Income	-502.97	-1,633.53	1,536.88	-837.3
Other Income/Expense				
Net Other Income	-546.98	-383.44	308	332.88
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-1,049.95</b>	<b>-2,016.97</b>	<b>1844.88</b>	<b>-504.42</b>

Contributions April 2025

Group Name	Apr '25	YTD Apr '25	Att May '25 Mtg	Group Name	Apr '25	YTD Apr '25	Att May '25 Mtg
100 Proof				More About Alcoholism			
5th Tradition				Morning After			
7 AM Daily Reflections	\$102.50	\$671.75		Nassauville		\$100.00	
7/11 Meditation Group		\$57.89		Neptune Beach Book Study			
11th Step Meeting		\$450.00		New Beginnings			
A Design For Living				New Life Group St. Aug			
A Way Out	\$80.00	\$200.00		Nocatee Promises			
AA Night Owls Group				Nocatee Saturday AM			
Alcoholics Group				Nocatee Sobriety	\$75.00	\$456.00	
Along Spiritual Lines		\$183.75	X	Oak Tree Men's		\$450.00	
Arlington			X	Oldest City Men's		\$112.00	
Alexis				On The Way Home			
Aloha Step 11				Orange Park			X
Amethyst Group	\$163.00	\$181.00		Orange Park Step Sisters		\$135.81	
As Bill Saw It				Other Side of the Bridge			
Azalea City Group				Overcomers			
BAA	\$90.00	\$90.00		Palm Valley Mens		\$121.50	
Baymeadows				Phoenix Men's			
Bch Agnostics & Free Thinkers				Primary Purpose			X
Beaches Book Study		\$200.00		Ponte Vedra Men's Group		\$100.00	
Beach Side Step Study				Rebellion Dogs		\$11.25	X
Beaches Unity (BUG)	\$186.00	\$2,986.00	X	Reborn			
Be Free Friday		\$200.00		Riverside Ortega	\$230.00	\$230.00	
Big Book Field Day	\$186.00	\$186.00		Rule 62		\$50.00	
Billy Goat Hill Group				Salisbury Mens		\$200.00	
BLIS				Sandpiper		\$105.00	
Callahan	\$100.00	\$100.00		San Man Group			X
Central		\$500.00	X	Saturday Night Live	\$231.00	\$231.00	
Clean & Free				Seascape		\$104.10	
Coffee and Readings				Serenity Club 7AM			
Conscious Contact	\$500.00	\$615.65		Serenity at Noon		\$68.46	
Coyote Men's Group				Sicker Than Others			
Day One				Slow Down Group			X
Design for Living	\$75.00	\$242.31		Sober on Purpose			
District 1				Sober Sisters		\$204.00	
District 3				Sojourn Group			
District 6	\$1,041.00	\$1,041.00		Solutions Group		\$180.00	
District 25				Sons of the Spirit		\$71.00	
Diverse Views		\$9.35		Sounds of Sobriety			
Downtown Group		\$1,100.00		Spiritual Awakenings			
Drop The Rock			X	Spiritual Knights			
Dunes				Step A Month			
Durbin 12 & 12				Stepping Up Group		\$101.00	
Eastside		\$60.00		Stepping Stones		\$25.00	
End of Meeting YPG				Stepsisters Grace Group		\$0.00	
Evergreen		\$30.00		Sunday Morning Palatka		\$75.00	
Fernandina Beach		\$2,000.00	X	Sunday Sunrise Beach			
Fiesta	\$61.40	\$705.03		Surrender to Win			
Fourth St.				Switzerland			X
Free Mens	\$104.00	\$232.00		The Alcoholics Group			
Free Thinkers	\$240.00	\$240.00		The Cove Step Sisters			
From The Heart			X	The Crux of the Problem			
Fruit Cove Women		\$79.00		The Herd	\$270.00	\$1,012.00	
Grace Overcomers	\$15.00	\$45.00		The James Gang Group		\$400.00	
Green Cove Springs				The Grove Group (Sat 10 AM)			
Greenland Road				The Outsiders Group		\$357.04	
Half Way Through				There Is A Solution			
Happy Joyous and Free				This Too Shall Pass		\$420.00	
Have The Zeal				Third St Third Tradition			
Heart To Heart				Trout River			X
Hold On PPG				Upstart Women			X
How It Works		\$96.00		Valley Mens Group			
I Am Responsible			X	Village Womens			
Intensive Care Group		\$100.00		Villagers	\$79.00	\$148.80	
Island Serenity Group	\$73.00	\$195.00		Way Out			
It's In The Book				Wesconnett	\$150.00	\$262.00	X
I've Come to Believe				West Jax Mens Group			
Jax Beach Secular & Freethinkers	\$75.00	\$150.00		Westside			
Jax Beaches YPG				What's The Point			
James Gang II				Winners			X
Jumping Off Place				Winning Game			
Keep It Simple			X	Women Enjoying Sobriety		\$87.00	X
Keep It Simple (Palatka)				Women in Recovery			
Ladies Unity	\$276.90	\$276.90		Women Speak			
Language of The Heart (JABA)				Women's Upstart Group	\$356.86	\$376.86	
Language of The Heart (St. Aug)		\$113.43		Women's YPG		\$50.00	X
Lest We Forget		\$225.00		Womens' Candlelight			
Liars Paradise				You Are Not Alone		\$217.71	
Living In The Light		\$716.24	X	Young Peoples Group/Beaches			
Living Now		\$285.00		Yulee		\$363.89	
Los Lobos Mens	\$200.00	\$200.00		<b>TOTAL</b>	\$5,160.07	\$22,050.13	
Love N Action	\$30.00	\$30.00	X				
Macclenny Friends of Bill							
MAG Serenity Club		\$75.00					
Mandarin							
Mandarin Grove							
Mandarin Hi-Noon Group							
Mandarin Big Book Study	\$69.41	\$155.41	X				
Mandarin Women in Recovery	\$100.00	\$200.00	X				
Mandarin YPG							
Men's Blackeye							
Men's Hooked on Sobriety							
Men's Redeye							
Men's Solution							
Middleburg							

**A  
R  
E  
A**

**1  
4**

IG Reps Attending March 2025 Meeting = 25 Total Attending = 4

Groups Contributing in February 2025 = 28

SCAN QR CODE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS



## OLD TIMER INTERVIEW

Interviewee: *Geno G.* Interviewer: *Kevin JR.*

**Kevin Jr.:**

Geno Tell us about your life before AA.

**Geno G.:**

I was born in East Chicago, Indiana and raised in Gary, Indiana. My dad was born in Mexico and became a naturalized citizen. My mother was born in East Chicago. I am one of four siblings. I have an older sister and brother and younger brother. We were raised in a loving household. Mom and Dad cared about us, taught us right from wrong, and raised us to be useful kids. We were Roman Catholic. I went to a catholic graded school with mass every day, Religion was a big part of my upbringing.

**Kevin Jr.:**

What did you want to do when you grew up?

**Geno G.:**

At first, I wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps. He was a millwright at Inland Steel Company in East Chicago. He worked there 37 years and retired as a mechanical supervisor.

After high school I worked for a year in the steel mills before I went to college. I remember seeing a salesman walk through the plant—sharp guy, friendly, bringing donuts—and I thought, “Now that looks like a good gig.” After I graduated from college I became an Industrial Salesman, just like that guy.

**Kevin Jr.:**

When did you start drinking alcohol?

**Geno G.:**

I started drinking alcohol in my Sophomore high school year. I *wanted* to hang out in the McDonalds's parking lot with guys who drank. One of my buddies drove a hearse. Six or seven of us would pile in, ride around town and drink.

My first drink was sweet cherry wine that we passed around. Everybody was laughing, having fun until we got back to McDonald's. Everyone jumped out, talking and joking. I got out of the hearse and started throwing up. I liked how it made me feel—bigger, taller and more confident. I could go talk to the girls. I wanted to do it again. I liked the effect of alcohol.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Do you remember when your drinking started getting out of control?

**Geno G.:**

My drinking became a problem in college. One time at a river party I passed out at 2 pm before the party really started.. I later learned p that everybody pointed at me: I woke up hours later, soaking wet in the rain. Everyone else had gone. Events like that happened throughout college. I knew that my drinking wasn't normal. I knew it was adversely affecting my life and I *sort of* wanted to stop drinking but I wasn't *serious* about it

I got married during that time. We had a lot of fights—about drinking and money. We ended up divorcing. But after about a year apart, we got back together. I wanted to be there for my child. I promised my wife that I'd stop drinking.

**Kevin Jr.:**

How old were you during this time?

**Geno G.:**

Early to mid-20s. After we got back together, we moved to St. Louis. Her family lived there. I thought if we moved, things would change; a geographic cure if you will. But guess what? Geno came too—and so did my drinking.

I got another job in industrial sales. As I look back I was very self-serving and selfish . Things had to go my way or the highway. I'd drink like crazy when I traveled out of town, come back and my wife would give me grief . I told her it's not her business and I'll drink as much as I wanted when I wanted!

We divorced again. We'd had a second child and I wanted to be with my kids, so we got back together again, but I knew that my drinking was still out of control.

I prayed to God that I wouldn't drink again but I couldn't stop on my own.

Eventually through a series of events I divorced my wife a third time. We got back together again a year later. She stuck with me when she shouldn't have. Today we have been married over 54 years.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Did you drink alone?

**Geno G.:**

I never drank alone. In college I wanted to hang around with the partying guys and party! Fraternities seemed to be a logical path but I didn't want to go through the fraternity initiation process so a bunch of us got together started a fraternity so then we could dish-out the initiations.

After college I'd go to bars drinking and chasing skirts, which I shouldn't have been doing as a married man. During the divorced times I was definitely drinking and skirt-chasing.

These habits weakened my sales career. I'd come in hungover, or sometimes I wouldn't even report to work, and tell them I was working out of town.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Did you lose any jobs because of your drinking?

Geno G:

I came very close to losing jobs when I was drinking. I was either at the top of the mountain or in the lowest valley. My production was always up or down, unlike other guys who were steady producers. When I produced, I was the leading producer. When I was drinking I wasn't out there producing, because I was hungover.

I did lose a job in sobriety. I was fired but it was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I was worried about getting a job, replacing my income and caring for my family .but I was taught in AA to turn my will and my trust over to *God*. I asked *Him* to direct me to where *He* wanted me to be in my career.

I took a job with a bunch of sales guys who were crooks. Then I met a guy who knew of me in St Louis and knew my capability. He helped me start my own business which I operated for the last 23 years of my career.

Kevin Jr.: When did you hit your bottom?

Geno G. After I got my second DUI I hired a lawyer who suggested I go to a treatment center to show the judge I was trying to address the problem. Thank goodness God touched my heart because I finally *admitted myself* to the treatment facility. That was a major turning point in my life. My first sober day was May 15, 1981 when I entered the treatment facility and I attended my first AA meeting.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Had you heard of AA ?

**Geno G.:**

I didn't know anything about AA prior to the treatment facility. Part of the treatment facility's process was to bring AA meetings into the facility. That's where I met my first sponsor. He was one of the AA members who brought the meetings into the hospital.

Funny thing—we didn't hit it off right away. There was some tension in one of the meetings. Some folks from NA came in and were sharing. My future sponsor stood up and said, "Look, we welcome everyone, but this is an AA meeting. Please share your experience with alcohol, not narcotics."

Some people got offended. I tried to play peacemaker—defending the idea that a drug is a drug. My future sponsor stood his ground, and I appreciated that. Later on, we talked again and I asked him to be my sponsor.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Did you work the steps with him?

**Geno G.:**

We started working the steps a month after I got out of treatment. We went through them one-by-one, right out of the Big Book. He had five years sober at the time and knew the steps inside and out. That's why I chose him.

**Kevin Jr.:**

What kind of meetings did you go to early on?

**Geno G.:**

I went to allot of open discussion meetings. There were also speaker meetings/.

One of my favorite meetings was a closed discussion on Sundays in a clubhouse but most meetings back then were in church basements.

It's funny—St. Louis had one clubhouse for 3.5 million people. Jacksonville has a dozen clubhouses for 1 million people.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Were there other people who played a big part in your early sobriety besides your sponsor?

**Geno G.:**

Yes one older lady. She was the matriarch of my home group . Tiny woman but tough as nails. She didn't *ask* me if I'd clean the coffee cups or ashtrays—she *told* me. But I needed that. She gave *direction*, not *suggestions*. One thing I'll never forget—she told me, “Geno, you can judge a speaker's sobriety by how much time they spend on their drunkalogue vs. how much they talk about recovery.” That stuck with me. And I try to keep that in mind any time I speak—spend more time on the recovery than the wreckage.

**Kevin Jr.:**

You mentioned coffee and ashtrays. What other service work did you do?

**Geno G.:**

Back in St. Louis, I didn't do a whole lot of other formal service. I did go on some 12-step calls early in sobriety with a more experienced member. Two guys minimum. What I learned was if the alcoholic himself didn't want help, we could talk all day and it wouldn't make a bit of difference.

**Kevin Jr.:**

When did you start sponsoring others?

**Geno G.:**

I sponsored one guy in St. Louis—we went through treatment together. Kind of a mutual sponsorship. He didn't stay sober.

When I moved to Jacksonville, my sponsor made me promise to get a new sponsor within two weeks and to call him with the man's name and telephone number! . I found a new sponsor and what a gift! He was my sponsor for 31 years. A beautiful man. He took me through the steps again right away. He got me into service. I was the GSR for my home group, chaired meetings, sponsored guys. He always said, “People should come to *you* and ask you to be their sponsor. Don't chase them.”

I'd share, participate in meetings, and when someone saw something in me they wanted, they'd ask me. I've had the privilege of sponsoring several guys that way.

**Kevin Jr.:**

How important was AA literature in your recovery?

**Geno G.:**

Very important. We started reading the Big Book in treatment, but it really took off when my sponsor and I did Big Book study together. One chapter at a time.

In Jacksonville, I added 12 & 12 meetings, Big Book meetings, Living Sober—all of it. And Daily Reflections became part of my morning routine. I start my day with my higher power and a positive attitude.

When I've shared steps at meetings, especially at San Marco Club, I've used notes straight from the Big Book and the 12 & 12. That literature has grounded me every step of the way.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Have you seen changes in AA since you came in?

**Geno G.:**

Absolutely. Two big ones stand out.

First is the participation of women in the program. That's been a very positive change. A lot of times, women talk about feelings that I couldn't identify or even label for myself—shame, fear, love. Their shares helped me uncover those things in my own fifth step.

Second is the age of people coming in. Today, you've got 19-, 20-year-olds getting sober. We have young people's meetings, even midnight meetings in Clay County on weekends. That's a huge gift.

Back when I got sober at 35, I was the "snot-nosed kid." Now I'm glad we've created space for younger folks to connect with each other. They don't need to relate to an old guy like me—just to each other.

I do like that some of the literature is getting updated. I certainly don't want to see any change in the first 164 pages of that big book. Other literature that comes out from New York is absolutely wonderful as far as I'm concerned.

**Kevin Jr.:**

Do you have any regrets looking back?

**Geno G.:**

The obvious one: I wish I had gotten started in recovery sooner. I regret the harm I caused in my drinking days.

The beauty of AA is that it gives us tools to address our issues. The Fourth and Fifth Steps, and especially the Eighth and Ninth, gave me the ability to clean my side of the street. I made amends to my parents, my wife, my kids, coworkers, some friends—anyone I had harmed.

I was a thief. Not just when I was drinking—but even before. Right out of college I got a sales job and stole from them—ladders, flashlights, parts I was supposed to deliver to customers that ended up in my garage. I regret that deeply. In recovery I was able to pay that company back. It took time, but I made it right.

Another regret—probably the biggest—is that I turned my back on God as a young man. I was raised Catholic, forced to go to church, to pray, etc. When I got older, I walked away from God. I stopped praying. I stopped believing God would want anything to do with me—especially once the drinking took over my life.

I certainly didn't approve of some of the behavior that I had as an as a young man, and then certainly, when I started drinking. I didn't think God wanted me to be part of that, so I ignored him. I've heard of people coming to AA being atheist or agnostic. I was 'ignor-stic'. Today I have a relationship with a higher power I call God, and it's the most important thing in my life. My sobriety is the most important thing in my life. And those two are one and the same to me. The most important people in my life are my wife, our children and grandchildren.

**Kevin Jr.:**

One final question. What advice would you give to someone coming into AA today?

**Geno G.:**

I don't give advice, but I *do* make suggestions. The one I always give is to give yourself a real chance—commit to **90 meetings in 90 days**. Just give it a shot especially if you came in from the street like I did, with no clue what AA is all about. After 90 meetings, if you don't like what you've heard or seen, you can always go back out. The booze will still be there. Most of the people I've seen come in off the streets didn't show up here whistling a happy tune. They came in dragging, broken, in pain.

Get established in meetings and choose a **home group**. Get involved! Reach out for **fellowship**! Find friends in the program! Develop a **relationship with the God of your understanding**. That's where the real change happens. I'm just so grateful. This program didn't just save my life—it gave me a life.