



ADD-A-LINE

Published for AA Members in Northeast Florida Since November 1962

Northeast Florida

Intergroup

3128 Beach Boulevard

Jacksonville, Fl 32207

Tel. 904-399-8535

Fax 904-399-8537

Website: www.neflaa.org

Email:

neflintergroup@gmail.com

9 am to 5 pm Mon.– Fri.

BYLAW Changes Pg. 4-7

Debra V.

Old timer's Story Pg. 11-13



Committee Meetings

Intergroup Business Meeting

Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Buffet Breakfast Starts at 7:30 AM

Speaker Meeting at 8 AM—Peter C.

Next Business Meeting

Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Speaker will be Tim W.

Gateway Community Services

555 Stockton St.

Jacksonville, FL 32204

Zoom Information

Meeting ID: 870 4750 2345

Passcode: 314187

Intergroup Steering

Committee

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 5:30PM

at IG Office

Zoom information

Please contact the office for Zoom login information.

Committee Chair Positions

Intergroup Chair Lon L. lonlansing61@gmail.com	904-710-7201
Intergroup Vice Chair Dan B. d.borcher@comcast.net	904-737-7532
Treasurer Doug S. schrde@gmail.com	904-731-0821
Steering Committee Chair Paul C. pacman257@gmail.com	904-885-5934
Accessibilities Harley nefligaccess@gmail.com	
Add-A-Line Ashley R. nefladdaline@gmail.com	904-399-8535
Archives Committee Chair Vacant	
Archivist Kevin Jr. Kevin_Gartland08@comcast.net	904-614-7480
Corrections Male: Doug S. schrde@gmail.com Female: Leighanne L. leighannebryann123@gmail.com	904-731-0821 239-898-8467
CPC / PI Nuwo N. nuwonwobegono@gmail.com	443-810-0143
Finance Chair Dan B. d.borcher@comcast.net	904-737-7532
Grapevine Chair Brandon H. bahall2001@gmail.com	
Literature Chair Emily B. barbaraemily183@gmail.com	904-252-3341
Parliamentarian Vacant	
Secretary Joyce V. justjoyce03@aol.com	904-268-2665
Special Events Kim K. kimberlymarie2497@yahoo.com	904-917-7707
Ashley B. delprete1223@gmail.com	904-570-8957
Treatment / Bridge The Gap Joe B. cjoebiederman@gmail.com	
Phone Army Linda G. sassym1953@gmail.com	904-608-1634
Website Ashley R. techitez2023@gmail.com	870-730-6822
Workshop Christopher G. service4unity@gmail.com	772-475-3583
Zoom Host Martin A. martandersen84@gmail.com	

STEP SEVEN

“ Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

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TRADITION

SEVEN

“ Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

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SEVENTH

CONCEPT

“ The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics

Anonymous..”

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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.

District Meetings

District	DCM	Email	Phone	Monthly Meeting
District 1	Ericka C.	Kay_carter@outlook.com	904-718-3863	Zoom, 3rd Tuesday @ 6 pm: Zoom ID 86974289509 PWD D1GSR
District 2	Kris P.	krispatrick@bellsouth.net	352-235-1119	Zoom, 3rd Saturday @ 10 am: Zoom ID 89390953434 PWD 465935
District 3	Jim D.	dcmd3area14@gmail.com	414-801-1166	3rd Sunday @ 1 pm: Zoom ID 9043142022 PWD D3A14
District 4	Kevin S.	77fgtb@gmail.com	908-616-7168	Zoom, 3rd Thursday @ 7 pm: Zoom ID 81509711457 PWD 841276
District 6	Shanna B.	shannagb1001@gmail.com	901-674-7594	In Person, 1st Monday @ 6 pm, Memorial Lutheran Church 3375 US 1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32077
District 24	Patrick O.	patrickortiz45@gmail.com	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.	ilkintner@yahoo.com	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.	debfarris1@gmail.com	704-904-3867	Hybrid, 4th Saturday @ 10 am, First Christian Church 11924 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32077 Zoom ID 86704331234 PWD AA061035

ACCOUNT BALANCES May 31, 2025	
Checking/Savings	
1021 · Cash - Regions Bank	\$5,572.83
1024 · Cash in Drawer	\$103.28
Total Checking/Savings	\$5,676.11
1360 · Inventory	\$8,162.18
1400 · Prudent Reserve	
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
Total 1400 · Prudent Reserve	\$30,000.00

INTERGROUP OFFICE LOG			
May 2025			
Description	2025	2024	
Phone Army	85	121	
A.A. Information	58	51	
Administrative & Other Information	44	51	
12 Step Calls	1	3	
Visitors to the Office	74	106	

BYLAWS CHANGES 06/24/2025
APPENDIX K-STEERING COMMITTEE –

Change to Bylaws of Northeast Florida Intergroup, Inc.

Change in **bold**

Change 2nd paragraph under Responsibilities from “Is responsible...” to “The Steering Committee is responsible...”

Consolidate the 2nd sentence in paragraph 8 with the 1st paragraph under Responsibilities and delete “shall be held at least once a month at a time and place determined by the Steering Committee membership.” and delete paragraph 8

A. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) STEERING COMMITTEE: The Steering Committee will meet monthly, **The meeting time and place shall be published in the Add-A-Line. A quorum of a majority of sitting members is required to conduct business and** will be responsible for establishing policy and procedures for the daily operations of the IG Office and to ensure compliance with the established policy and procedures.

The Steering Committee is responsible for reviewing and updating the By-laws, the Office Policies & Procedures, Back Office Procedures Handbook, Emergency Handbook, Volunteer Handbook, and all other necessary handbooks.

The Steering Committee, through the Chair and Vice-Chair, will oversee the daily functions and financial operations of the IG Office to ensure its function in accordance with A.A. guidelines and principles as set forth in the Purpose Section of this document.

- 1) At each monthly IG business meeting the Steering Committee reports to the IG Representatives and makes recommendations whenever appropriate
- 2) The IG office hours will be determined by the IG Steering Committee with prior notification to the IG body at a monthly business meeting.
- 3) Steering Committee Members: The IG Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and one (1) representative from each of the eight Service Districts, and in their absence one (1) Alternate-Representative from each including the chair. The Steering Committee will elect its Steering Committee Chair from the voter membership of the Steering Committee
- 4) The eight (8) Service District Representatives: 1,2,3,4, 6, 24, 25 and 30, and in their absence their Alternate Representative.

APPENDIX K-STEERING COMMITTEE

- 5) Shall be appointed by the standing IG Chair, being selected from a slate of candidates submitted by the individual Service Districts DCM or Alt DCM and approved by a voice vote of the IG body. If a particular Service District is inactive or does not have a DCM or Alt. DCM to submit a candidate, then the IG Chair may conduct a search for and appoint a qualified candidate from that Service District.
- 6) Length of Service - Two (2) years. Three (3) members will rotate off the Steering Committee every other year with the term ending December 31 St. The three (3) members rotating onto the Steering Committee will begin their term January 1st.
- 7) Vacancies: If any Service District representative has three unexcused absences during their term the position will be deemed vacant. Unexcused absence means lack of notification to the Steering Committee Chair.

B. QUALIFICATIONS CANDIDATES:

- 1) Should have at least three (3) years of continuous sobriety, and have experience at the Group, IG or District level.
- 2) Should be detail-oriented with strong organizational skills.
- 3) Should possess working knowledge of A.A. Traditions, A.A. Concepts, and IG Bylaws.

(Revised at 9/11/2021 Business Meeting)

Change to Bylaws of Northeast Florida Intergroup, Inc.

Change in **bold**

Line B - Delete "FOR THE POSITION INCLUDE:

APPENDIX M – PARLIAMENTARIAN –

The Parliamentarian position is a two (2)-year term appointed by the incoming Chairperson, to coincide with the current rotation. This position does not have a vote at the Business Meeting.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES:

The duties of the Parliamentarian position include but are not limited to the following activities:

- 1) Regular attendance at the Intergroup Business Meeting
- 2) Assist the chairperson to keep the Intergroup Business Meeting operating within Robert's Rules of Order as amended by the General Service Conference and the Bylaws and Guidelines.

B. QUALIFICATIONS: ~~FOR THE POSITION INCLUDE:~~

- 1) Should have a good working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order as amended by the General Service Conference.
- 2) Has the time and desire to be present at the Intergroup Business Meeting.
- 3) Has or is willing to gain a good working knowledge of the Bylaws and Guidelines.

(Appendix M - Parliamentarian, added per Substantial Majority Vote, Business Meeting 3/6/2021)

Change to Bylaws of Northeast Florida Intergroup, Inc.

Change in **bold**

Change Part B under QUALIFICATIONS: to read "CANDIDATES"

APPENDIX N - WORKSHOP COMMITTEE -

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The members of the Workshop Committee are asked to create/review workshop outlines, schedule venues, attend the workshop, staff the events, and distribute flyers. Workshop participants are asked to participate in the entire workshop and to engage actively in all discussions with the attendees.

The duties of this Chair include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- 1) Serve as Chairperson for 2 years, coinciding with the Intergroup Chairperson's term.

- 2) Attend all Intergroup Business Meetings and events hosted by this Committee.
- 3) Report the status of pending and completed workshops at the following Intergroup Business Meeting.
- 4) Host a minimum of three (3) events per calendar year at different venues in rotating Districts that the Intergroup serves (Districts 1, 3, 4, 6, 24, 25, and 30).
- 5) Encourage active participation and provide opportunities for all members of the Intergroup body to have a chance to contribute.
- 6) Review budget received from the finance committee and report quarterly to the Intergroup body on budget status (expenditures and remaining budget).
- 7) Be transparent in handling the details of each Workshop, such as event budget, venue, catering, and attendance.
- 8) Upon term completion, review experiences with the incoming Workshop Committee Chair, and provide incoming Chair with all electronic files, and review the yearly budget and reporting guidelines with the incoming Chair.

QUALIFICATIONS:

~~CHAIRPERSON~~ CANDIDATES:

- 1) Should have a considerable period of continuous sobriety (three years or more); and
- 2) Have experience hosting past events at the Group, Intergroup and/or District level.

YOUR INTERGROUP OFFICE

Website Monitoring

By: Ashley R.

Website monitoring at NEFI involves regularly reviewing and maintaining the organization's official website, neflaa.org, to ensure it remains accurate, accessible, and fully functional. This includes updating meeting schedules, event announcements, flyers, and service-related documents as new information becomes available. The Webmaster checks for broken links, outdated or incorrect content, and ensures that all site features work smoothly across desktop and mobile devices.

Security and performance are also key components. The Webmaster applies necessary updates to maintain website security, monitors load times and uptime, and ensures the site complies with accessibility standards so all users can easily navigate the information. Overall, website monitoring at NEFI supports the broader mission of providing timely, reliable information and resources to the AA community across Northeast Florida.

	May 25	Jan - May 25	May 24	Jan - May 24
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4002 · Groups	5786.15	27836.28	5,205.85	24,639.54
4003 · Pink Can Contribution	113	631.71	150.10	877.94
4005 · Faithful Five	180.55	1284.2	340.55	1,431.10
4007 · Other Contributions	2625.00	2740.95	50.00	678.49
4010 · IG/Speaker Mtg		61.00		
4000 · Contribution Income - Other				383.00
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	8704.7	32554.14	5,746.50	28,010.07
4020 · Retail Sales	1897.45	18410.16	3,287.64	22,073.71
4040 · Other Income				
4042 · Business Meeting	43.00	203.00		25.00
Total 4040 · Other Income	43.00	203.00		25.00
Total Income	10645.15	51167.30	9,034.14	50,108.78
Cost of Goods Sold				
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	1816.07	13774.03	2,531.34	14,478.60
5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other				
4550 · Cost of Event - Spring Picnic				646.32
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense	63	390		41.85
5195 · CC Fees	177.31	616.5	120.89	627.54
Total 5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other	240.31	1006.5	120.89	1,315.71
Total COGS	2056.38	14780.53	2,652.23	15,794.31
Gross Profit	8588.77	36386.77	6,381.91	34,314.47
Expense				
60000 · Salaries and Benefits				
Total 60000 · Salaries and Benefits	4320.75	18369.88	4,405.89	16,694.02
61000 · Office Expense				
Total 61000 · Office Expense	2158.00	6013.07	1,931.03	5,842.15
62000 · Facilities and maintenance				
Total 62000 · Facilities and maintenance	1261.18	7247.13	1,240.97	6,828.80
55000 · Committees Expense				
Total 55000 · Committees Expense	453.29	3332.69	1,297.09	6,563.36
70900 · Business Expenses				
Total 70900 · Business Expenses	14.59	479.43	15.11	150.55
62100 · Contract Services				
Total 62100 · Contract Services		949.00	300.00	1,799.00
65100 · Other Expenses				
Total 65100 · Other Expenses	40	142.08	20.00	102.07
Total Expense	8584.97	38023.45	9,210.09	37,979.95
Net Ordinary Income	3.8	-1636.68	-2,828.18	-3,665.48
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Net Other Income	75.42	-308.02	78.31	411.19
Net Income	79.22	-1944.7	-2,749.87	-3,254.29

JULY

Arinlington Group

Corey G. 41 yrs.
 Bennett R. 19 yrs.
 Sarah B. 7 yrs.
 William B. 7 yrs.
 Kristin C. 3 yrs.
 Mary S. 3 yrs.
 Rob A. 3 yrs.
 Dave S. 1 yr.
 Debbie M. 1 yr.
 Brian H. 1 yr.
 Eric D. 1 yr.
 Gail M. 1 yr.

Beaches Unity Group

Rob W. 7 yrs.
 Gregg V. 1 yr.
 Veronica 23 yrs.
 Michael L. 7 yrs.
 Brien 5 yrs.
 Mike W. 32 yrs.
 Josh G. 2 yrs.
 George D. 33 yrs.
 James H. 3 yrs.
 Taylor H. 3 yrs.



Central Group

Jason O. 25 yrs.
 Arnold W. 29 yrs.
 Holly C. 19 yrs.
 Jack 7 yrs.
 Bruce M. 17 yrs.
 Tom T. 10 yrs.
 James G.
 Lisa D. 24 yrs.



Love N Action

Kristen C. 3 yrs.

Winners Group

Allyson W. 50 yrs.
 Michael S. 10 yrs.



Fiesta Group

Ana D. 2 yrs.
 Barb S. 11 yrs.
 Jessica C. 17 yrs.
 Chelsy J. 5 yrs.
 John S. 9 yrs.
 Stephanie G. 6 yrs.
 Kristin C. 3 yrs.

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!!!

**SEND IN A DOLLAR FOR EVERY
 YEAR YOU'VE BEEN SOBER ON
 YOUR SOBRIETY DATE!**

Scan QR Code to contribute.

***In Memo field enter Birthday
 Club***



GRATEFUL GIVERS

Anonymous	Johnathan B.
Anonymous	Kara B.
Anonymous	Kenny S.
Anonymous	Lega L.
Barbara M.	Linda B.
Blair S.	Mayra V.
Brendan M.	Moyer
Byron G.	Paul F.
Daniel H.	Ruth R.
Deborah F.	Susan I.
Holly C.	William H.
James F.	
Jill W.	
Jody C.	
Jody T.	
John C.	



Contributions May 2025

Group Name	May '25	YTD May '25	Att June '25 Mtg	Group Name	May '25	YTD May '25	Att June '25 Mtg
100 Proof	\$200.00	\$200.00		More About Alcoholism			
5th Tradition				Morning After			
7 AM Daily Reflections	\$147.25	\$819.00		Mount Carmel Group			X
7/11 Meditation Group		\$57.89		Nassauville		\$100.00	
11th Step Meeting		\$450.00		Neptune Beach Book Study			
A Design For Living				New Beginnings			
A Way Out		\$200.00		New Life Group St. Aug	\$138.00	\$138.00	
AA Night Owls Group				Nocatee Promises			
Alcoholics Group				Nocatee Saturday AM			
Along Spiritual Lines	\$177.50	\$361.25		Nocatee Sobriety	\$200.00	\$656.00	
Arlington			X	Oak Tree Men's		\$450.00	
Alexis				Oldest City Men's		\$112.00	
Aloha Step 11				On The Way Home			
Amethyst Group		\$181.00	X	Orange Park			X
As Bill Saw It				Orange Park Step Sisters	\$99.50	\$235.31	X
Atlantic Beach Mens	\$500.00	\$500.00		Other Side of the Bridge			
Azalea City Group				Overcomers			
BAA		\$90.00		Palm Valley Mens		\$121.50	
Baymeadows			X	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	
Beaches Unity (BUG)	\$360.00	\$3,346.00	X	Reborn			
Be Free Friday		\$200.00	X	Riverside Ortega		\$230.00	
Big Book Field Day		\$186.00		Rule 62		\$50.00	
Billy Goat Hill Group				Salisbury Mens		\$200.00	X
BLIS				Sandpiper		\$105.00	
Callahan		\$100.00		San Man Group	\$150.00	\$150.00	X
Central	\$500.00	\$1,000.00		Saturday Night Live		\$231.00	
Clean & Free				Seascape		\$104.10	
Coffee and Readings				Serenity Club 7AM			
Conscious Contact		\$615.65		Serenity at Noon		\$68.46	
Coyote Men's Group				Sicker Than Others			
Day One				Slow Down Group			X
Design for Living		\$242.31		Sober on Purpose	\$200.00	\$200.00	
District 1				Sober Sisters		\$204.00	
District 3				Sojourn Group			
District 4	\$500.00	\$500.00		Solutions Group	\$180.00	\$360.00	
District 6		\$1,041.00		Sons of the Spirit		\$71.00	
District 25				Sounds of Sobriety			
Diverse Views		\$9.35		Spiritual Awakenings			
Downtown Group		\$1,100.00		Spiritual Knights			X
Drop The Rock			X	Step A Month			
Dunes				Stepping Up Group		\$101.00	
Durbin 12 & 12				Stepping Stones		\$25.00	
Eastside		\$60.00		Stepsisters Grace Group		\$0.00	
End of Meeting YPG				Sunday Morning Palatka		\$75.00	
Evergreen		\$30.00		Sunday Sunrise Beach			
Fernandina Beach		\$2,000.00		Surrender to Win			
Fiesta	\$64.90	\$769.93	X	Switzerland			X
Fourth St.				The Alcoholics Group			X
Free Mens		\$232.00		The Cove Step Sisters			
Free Thinkers		\$240.00		The Crux of the Problem			
From The Heart			X	The Herd	\$299.00	\$1,311.00	
Fruit Cove Women		\$79.00		The James Gang Group		\$400.00	
Grace Overcomers		\$45.00		The Grove Group (Sat 10 AM)			
Green Cove Springs				The Outsiders Group		\$357.04	
Greenland Road	\$50.00	\$50.00		There Is A Solution			
Half Way Through				This Too Shall Pass		\$420.00	
Happy Hour Group	\$200.00	\$200.00		Third St Third Tradition	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Happy Joyous and Free				Trout River			
Have The Zeal				Upstart Women			X
Heart To Heart				Valley Mens Group			
Hold On PPG				Village Womens			
How It Works		\$96.00		Villagers		\$148.80	
I Am Responsible				Way Out			
Intensive Care Group		\$100.00		Wesconnett		\$262.00	
Island Serenity Group		\$195.00		West Jax Mens Group			
It's In The Book	\$75.00	\$75.00		Westside			
I've Come to Believe				What's The Point			
Jax Beach Secular & Freethinkers		\$150.00		Winners			X
Jax Beaches YPG				Winning Game	\$400.00	\$400.00	
James Gang II				Women Enjoying Sobriety	\$256.00	\$343.00	
Jumping Off Place				Women in Recovery			
Keep It Simple	\$22.00	\$22.00		Women Speak			
Keep It Simple (Palatka)				Women's Upstart Group		\$376.86	
Ladies Unity		\$276.90		Women's YPG		\$50.00	
Language of The Heart (JABA)				Womens' Candlelight			
Language of The Heart (St. Aug)		\$113.43		You Are Not Alone		\$217.71	
Lest We Forget		\$225.00		Young Peoples Group/Beaches			
Liars Paradise				Yulee		\$363.89	
Living In The Light		\$716.24		TOTAL	\$5,786.15	\$27,836.28	
Living Now		\$285.00					
Los Lobos Mens		\$200.00					
Love N Action		\$30.00	X				
Macclenny Friends of Bill							
MAG Serenity Club	\$175.00	\$250.00					
Mandarin							
Mandarin Grove							
Mandarin Hi-Noon Group							
Mandarin Big Book Study	\$150.00	\$305.41	X				
Mandarin Women in Recovery		\$200.00					
Mandarin YPG							
Men's Blackeye	\$200.00	\$200.00					
Men's Hooked on Sobriety							
Men's Redeye	\$442.00	\$442.00					
Men's Solution							
Middleburg							

IG Reps Attending June 2025 Meeting = 22 Total Attending = 36

Groups Contributing in May 2025 = 26

SCAN QR CODE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE



A
R
E
A
1
4

Long-Timer:	Debra V.
Interviewed by:	Shannon K.
Date of Interview:	5/12/2025
Introduction:	Conducted at Jaba Club, Spring Park Road, Jacksonville, Florida

Shannon: Debra, could you tell me about your life before AA?

Debra: Sure. I was born in New Orleans in 1954 and had a traditional 1950s upbringing. My childhood was loving—two parents, one sister, the neighborhood school, backyard play—but not without hardship. When I was 12, my mother got very sick, and when I was 14, she passed away. That was the same year I took my first drink.

And when I drank, I drank alcoholically. Right away. First time I drank, I blacked out, threw up, got in trouble. And for the next two decades, that was my pattern. It's not like I drank socially and it spiraled—I drank alcoholically from the first drink.

I got married right out of high school—18 years old—and that's when I really started drinking the way I wanted to. I wasn't hiding it anymore. But I was a mess early on. It progressed quickly. By my early 30s, it had stolen everything: my peace, my dignity, my future. I had become the kind of woman I never thought I'd be—lying, hiding, barely functioning. Alcohol robbed me of the very things I used to dream about as a child. I was divorced twice and kept settling for less – spiritual deteriorating trying to solve a spiritual problem with a non-spiritual solution.

Shannon: When did you hit bottom?

Debra: My sobriety date is September 10, 1988. On September 9, I had a chaotic night drinking with a client, blacked out, got kicked out of The Raven—a bar that was nearly impossible to get kicked out of. That's how low I'd gotten. I woke up the next day sick and tired of being sick and tired. That was it. I had no one left to blame. I knew I was the problem—and maybe, finally, ready for the solution.

Shannon: Who introduced you to AA?

Debra: A guy named Rob R. We worked together in radio advertising sales. He told me he was sober in AA and took me to my first meeting. That simple. No drama. Just, "Come with me." He brought me to the Fiesta Group at the Jaba Club. That was the beginning of my story in Alcoholics Anonymous. I remember sitting in those early meetings thinking, "These people are laughing. How are they laughing?" But something in their honesty kept me coming back.

Shannon: What was AA like in those early days for you?

Debra: I was obsessed with drinking. I didn't go to detox—I just stopped. From drinking and using one day to stark raving dry the next. I didn't take time off from work either. I walked through it. It was messy and painful and raw. But I knew I needed it more than I needed my pride. I had to do it afraid.

I dove into meetings—multiple every day. Morning reading with Dave T. and Arlene, then work, then noon at the Fiesta Group at the Jaba Club, the 1 o'clock Winners meeting, the 2 o'clock Westside meeting. I'd hit the 5:30 at Fiesta, then maybe the 8 PM at Penman. Sometimes I just stayed at the clubhouse all day. It became my lifeline. I didn't always understand what was being said, but I felt something—hope.

Shannon: Did you find acceptance right away?

Debra: Yes. That was the beautiful thing. People told the truth—and I could tell. They laughed, they cried, they spoke plainly. There was something about the rhythm of it all, the honesty. I loved it. I didn't understand everything, but I felt safe. The first time someone said, "I lost the battle of life," I thought, "Okay, I'm in the right place."

Shannon: Did you get a sponsor right away?

Debra: I did. I didn't trust women yet, so I got a male sponsor—Pappy N., who founded the Jaba Club. He was at every meeting, every day. He made sure I had literature—Big Book, Living Sober, 24-Hour-a-Day book. He'd tell me, "If you're new, you've got something to give."

He pushed me to reach out to newcomers. Even with one week, I could help someone with one day. I'd say, "I'll be here tomorrow. Want to come back? Do you want to read with me? Here's my number." That outward focus saved me from myself. Eventually, I got a woman sponsor—Beth T.—and that opened a whole new world of connection and honesty I didn't know I needed.

Shannon: How many meetings were there back then?

Debra: So many. Jacksonville was a meeting-rich area. You could find one anytime. The Jaba Club, Westside, Beaches, Fernandina, St. Augustine, Orange Park, Mandarin. churches, clubhouses. People shared space and coffee. I never struggled to find a meeting—and I went looking every day. I remember sometimes I'd hit five meetings in a single day. That's how desperate I was—and how much was available.

Shannon: Did your group practice the Traditions well?

Debra: Not at first. When I got sober at Fiesta, all the basket money went straight to the clubhouse—not to the group. That's not Tradition Seven. When I became GSR and went to assemblies, I learned what AA really meant by being self-supporting. I came back, raised the issue. There was resistance, but the group voted to change. We grew up a bit that day. It showed me how AA can self-correct—how we learn through participation.

Shannon: Tell me about early AA personalities that shaped your recovery.

Debra: Pappy, of course. Beth T. was my first female sponsor. Steve V. was constant and steady. Dave T. never let me slip through the cracks. Jimmy G., our former delegate, ran Tradition studies and made them come alive. Ralph P. brought depth. Janice and Bill J., Tom I., John T. out at the beach. Later, Jim and Gina S. came from South Florida with new energy. I learned something different from each of them. Sue G took me to my first Area Assembly in Ocala She said "Service puts a shine on your sobriety.

There was also a woman named Renny who used to say, "The most selfish thing I could do is drink or not treat my disease." That stuck with me. She had a way of cutting right to the truth.

Shannon: How did 12-step calls work back then?

Debra: Landlines. Intergroup or clubhouses would call: "We've got someone here who's hurting." They'd match gender and send you over. I sponsored early because no one told me to wait. The motto was: Give it away to keep it.

Once, I got called to the Gator Lodge—pure chaos. The woman we were there to help was drunk, the room was disgusting—green luncheon meat floating in the sink—and my grand-sponsee, who called me, was drunk too. But I didn't drink that day. That was a win.

Another time, I brought literature to a woman in detox who couldn't stop shaking. We read "More About Alcoholism" together. She wept. I don't know if she stayed sober, but that moment reminded me why we go. We go for them—and we go for ourselves.

Shannon: What was the literature culture like?

Debra: Abundant. We had the Big Book, Twelve and Twelve, Living Sober, Language of the Heart, The Good Oldtimers. No Daily Reflections yet. The 24-Hour-a-Day book was our morning meditation staple. I gave those away constantly. I always pointed newcomers to "The Doctor's Opinion." It explains our illness so clearly.

And we studied. We didn't just read—we talked about it. "What does this mean to you?" "How does this apply in your life?" That's where the connection deepened. It wasn't about being perfect—it was about being honest.

Shannon: What about chronic slippers, drug addicts, and 13-steppers?

Debra: Chronic slippers? We said, “Welcome back.” Always. No shame, just love. Addicts? We were kind but firm—AA is for alcoholics. Alcoholics with drug problems are welcome. There are other fellowships. We didn’t shame anyone, but we tried to provide clarity to get people to the right fellowship.

And 13-stepping? Well, I met my husband when I was brand new. He had 12 years. I had 12 minutes. We’ll be married 36 years this December. Sometimes it works—but only if God and AA are the glue.

Shannon: Did you do public information work?

Debra: Yes. I was in radio, so I helped air PSAs from the GSB. We also put Grapevines in waiting rooms, handed out literature, and made ourselves available to professionals. The FCC required public service time, and our materials often aired at 2 AM. Perfect for alcoholics!

Shannon: What were your early service roles?

Debra: I started with Hospitality, then Intergroup Rep, GSR, alternate DCM, DCM, and eventually Area 14 Intergroup Chair for 2023–24. I also sponsor our Intergroup Corrections Co-Chair. To see how AA really works see the upside-down triangle: the group on top, trusted servants beneath. Beautiful.

One thing I always tell people is: if you’re not sure what you’re good at, show up. AA will find a use for your gifts. And you’ll find out who you are in the process.

Shannon: What have you contributed to your group or district?

Debra: Helping Fiesta become self-supporting was huge. Sponsoring women who now sponsor others—watching the legacy multiply. Hosting workshops, speaking when asked, staying involved. Living the Responsibility Statement: “When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help...”

Shannon: What about conventions and assemblies?

Debra: I’ve been to many. Two International Conventions—San Diego and Atlanta—unforgettable. Early area assemblies were held in Ocala. That’s where I learned how AA works as a whole, not just one person or one group. It was eye-opening.

At conventions, you feel the unity. Tens of thousands of us—hugging, crying, laughing, staying sober. When the flag ceremony begins, you realize: AA is worldwide. Our pain is universal, but so is our solution.

Shannon: Any regrets?

Debra: Yes. During COVID, while we got Zoom meetings up fast and kept our sponsorship chain strong, I didn’t realize how much was changing at the GSB. The Plain Language Big Book? It wasn’t a translation. It rewrote content. They changed “jaywalker” to a woman. “To Wives” to “partner.” It wasn’t written by an alcoholic.

And that’s a problem. The whole magic of AA is one alcoholic helping another—not a professional rewriting our experience.

Shannon: What worries you about AA’s future?

Debra: There’s pressure to splinter into identity categories. “Neurodivergent literature,” “literature for the homeless,” “for women,” “for this or that group.” I understand the intention—but AA’s power is that we are all Alcoholics first. Alcoholism is the great leveler. We come together as equals. An Alcoholic who is a woman. An Alcoholic who is homeless. An Alcoholic who is gay. They are all Alcoholics first.

When I got here, I didn’t ask AA to change for me. I changed to fit AA.

Shannon: So what do you hope for AA going forward?

Debra: That we stay true to the Traditions. That we protect the message. That we continue to serve the newcomer without watering down the clarity of what we offer. And I hope we remember that the groups are in charge. A loving God expressed through the group conscience is still the highest authority in AA.

Shannon: Any final thoughts?

Debra: I'm not an AA cop or expert. I'm just another bozo on the bus—another alcoholic trying to stay sober and help others. That's it. That's all.

I want to stay teachable. I want to stay in the center and I want to keep passing it on—for free and for fun.



July 12th 2025: 1-3pm

VFW Post 2391, 6184 US-1, St. Augustine, FL 32086

**Did you know...There are "Promises" for each Step in the Big Book?
In this workshop, you will learn more about the Promises contained
in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Snacks will be served.**

Sponsored by the Northeast Florida Workshop Committee (Proudly serving Districts 1/3/4/6/24/25/30)



North Florida Area Conference Area 14 Assembly

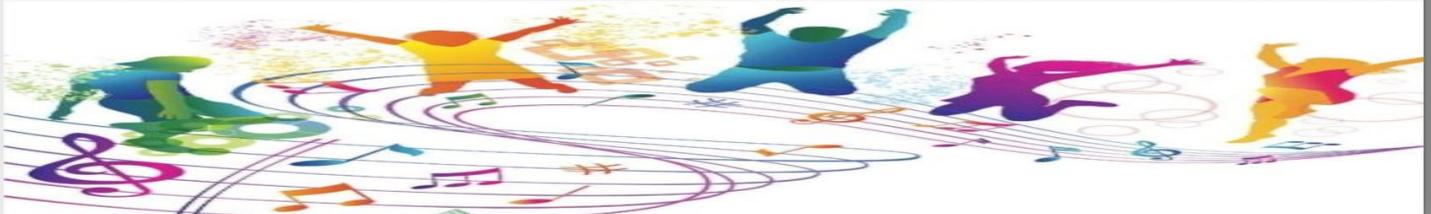
"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

**Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
1501 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746**

**Join Us Saturday Night July 19TH
In The Foyer After The Post Conference Report
For An Ice Cream Social And DJ Dance Party**



**Sign Up For A "Great Ice Cream Saturday"
(3 Large Scoops Of Ice Cream With Your Choice Of Toppings) For \$15
Email Kevin Jr At altchairperson@aanorthflorida.org
By Tuesday July 15th COB 5pm
Get Your Ticket When You Pay At Registration By Noon On Saturday**



2025 ANNUAL NEFLAA FALL GRATITUDE BANQUET

Saturday September 13th 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

BANQUET PLANNING

OPEN POSITIONS:

MEETINGS:

**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

"Anonymous but not Invisible"
Masquerade Ball



Join District 30 and NEFL Intergroup CPC/PI Committee in costume to enjoy dinner, socialize, dance and have fun while increasing awareness of what it means to be anonymous in A.A. Yes, we are Anonymous. But we are NOT Invisible.



Saturday, November 1st 2025

- 5:15 PM Doors open
- 5:45 PM Opening & Spaghetti Dinner
- 7:00 PM Speaker
- 8:00 PM Dance begins
- 8:30 PM Costume Contest
- 9:00 PM Raffle Drawings (50/50 & Prizes)
- 10:00 PM Last Dance



Baymeadows Baptist Church – Gymnasium
4826 Baymeadows Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32217
\$15 includes dinner at 5:45 PM
\$8 Entry at 7:00 PM without dinner

Spaghetti dinner with Potluck Dessert will be served at 5:45 PM. For those that don't wish to eat, the fun begins at 7:00 PM.

For Tickets, Please Visit <https://2023MasqBall.eventbrite.com>

For More Information, Please Contact
abnimasqball@gmail.com

Sponsored by District 30 and NEFL Intergroup CPC/PI Committee

ANNUAL INTERGROUP FALL GRATITUDE BANQUET

"Enchanted by a Starlit Night"

09/13/2025

Ramallah Club

3130 Parental Home Rd.

Doors open at 5pm

Single Tickets \$40 Reserved Tables (seats 10) \$400

Soeaker will be Ricky B. from Jax Beach!

Come and enjoy a special evening of fellowship, gratitude and fun

- Guest Speaker**
- Cake Auction**
- 50/50 Raffle**
- Recovery Literature Raffle**

- LIVE Painting Raffle**
- Dinner**
- Desserts**
- Recovery Countdown**

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

TROUT RIVER GROUP
 9746 Lem Turner Road 32208
 District 4



- First Meeting December 10, 1985
- Early Members: John T. and David B.
- Original Name: Rising Sun Group. Changed name to Trout River Group February 1986.
- Annual Founder's Day Picnic on or around Dec 10th.
- Members 50 +
- Type Meetings: O/ Disc. Beg, O/Disc., O/Step Speaker, O/Big Book Study, O/ 12&12 Disc., O/ Candlelight disc., O/ Spkr.
- 9 meetings per week



8th Florida AA Archives Workshop

Hosted by Areas 1 ,14, 15 and FCYPAA
9AM to 4PM on Saturday February 28, 2026
Redeemer Lutheran Church
3377 Aloma Ave, Winter Park FL 32792
\$30/person, registration includes lunch



Presentations include International Convention Archives, Florida's AA history, Old AA Movies, collection, organization/digitization, Old Timer Interviews, Group Histories,



Area/District/Intergroup Archives Displays, and Ethics

Please fill out the form on the back, make checks payable to Florida Archives Workshop and Send Registration to JoAnn B. 7202 Morningsgate Way, Riverview, FL 33578 by February 1, 2026. If you have any questions, feel free to contact JoAnn B, Registrar/Treasurer, at FloridaArchivesWS@gmail.com

