Northeast Florida Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup
68 Years Publishing This Newsletter For AA Members
QR code for Meetings and More Vol. 66 Issue 11 **November 2026**

ADD-A-LINE

"help us to reach a fellow sufferer…from the 12 steps to a ten cent phone call and a cup of coffee" Bill W.

Find information or a meeting 24/7 at **(904) 399-8535** and **neflaa.org**

Northeast Florida AA Intergroup Central Office

Office and Bookstore located at 3128 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Open 9 AM - 5 PM Monday - Friday **Email: www.neflintergroup@gmail.com**

Habla Español Teléfono: (904) 294-3414, (904) 661-9815 or (323) 630-8684

Intergroup Business Meetings

Meeting Dates

Saturday November 7, 2026 9 am

Saturday December 5, 2026 9 am

Gateway Community Services

555 Stockton St. Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Come Early For Breakfast and Speaker Meeting

Buffet Breakfast $7.00 7:30-8am Coffee is Free

8 am Speaker Meeting

November 7th Speaker: Dave S.

December 5th Speaker: Chris C.

January 2nd Speaker: Dan G.

February 6th Speaker: Laurie G.

Zoom Information for Business Meeting

Meeting ID 870 4750 2345

Passcode 314187

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday November 24, 2026 5:30 pm

Tuesday December 22. 2026 5:30 pm

Northeast Florida Intergroup Office

3128 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville Florida. 32207

Remote Attendees

Zoom Information

Meeting ID 881 4593 5259

Passcode: 587098

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 NEFL Intergroup Banquet Planning
Meeting San Marco Club at 1:30 pm

November 7 Intergroup Fall Gratitude Banquet
Annual Fundraiser Dinner
Desserts, Cake Auction & 50/50
Speaker Meeting Opens 5pm
Ramallah American Club
3130 Parental Home Rd. JAX
QR code for Tickets

November 26 Center Group Thanksgiving Dinner
Served Hot and Free after Noon Meeting
At The San Marco Club

December 5 Sponsorship Workshop
@ JABA Club Saturday 1:30pm-4:30pm

January 22-24 Northeast FL Area 14 Assembly
Conference at Lake Mary, FL

Feb. 20 AA Archives Workshop Sat. 9am-4pm
Lakeland FL $30.00 per person

September 24-26 First Coast Roundup
Planning Committee Last Monday of Month 6:00pm

Remembered with Love and Gratitude
A sad farewell to a great friend of many,
Reverend Virgil "Butch" Jerrell passed Oct. 15, 2026
Served as Chairperson Sat. Morning 9am Book Study
At West Jax and presiding prayer leader for most events
at Winners and West Jax will miss Butch
He was an extremely passionate and Faithful
Servant of God, Family, and A.A.
Farewell our Friend

Committee Chair Positions

Intergroup Chair
Lon L. (904) 710-7201
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Vacant

Archivist
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Parliamentarian
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Phone Army
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Workshop Coordinator

Christopher G (772) 475-3583
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Monthly Motivation

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."

"There is a direct linkage among self-examination, meditation, and prayer. Taken separately, these practices can bring much relief and benefit. But when they are logically related and interwoven, the results is an unshakable foundation for life. Now and then we may granted a glimpse of that ultimate reality which is God's kingdom. And we will be secure for so long as we try, however falteringly, to find and do the will of our own Creator."
(12 Steps and 12 Traditions, page 98)

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."

"Here was something rare in the world—a society which said it wished to publicize its principles and its works, but not its individual members." (Pg. 182)

"To us, however, it represents far more than a sound public relations policy. It is more than a denial of self-seeking. This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.
(12 Steps and 12 Traditions, page 183)

Concept Eleven

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

This is the QR code to
Connect to your Intergroup
Website for Current Info
Meeting Guide
Events and Newsletter

www.NEFLAA.org

District	DCM	Email	Phone	Monthly Meeting
District 1	Ericka C.	kay_carter@outlook.com	(904) 718-3863	In Person 1st Tuesday at 6pm, Jaba Club in Trailer 3645 Spring Park Rd, Jacksonville Fl 32207
District 2	Kris P.	krispatrick@bellsouth.net	(352) 235-1119	Zoom 3rd Saturday @ 10:00 am Zoom ID: 893 9095 3434 PWD: 465935
District 3	Jim D	dcmd3area14@gmail.com	(414) 801-1166	Zoom 3rd Sunday at 1:00 pm Zoom ID: 904 314 2022 PWD: D3A14
District 4	Larry N.	noll.larry@lid.com	(412) 956-3513	Zoom 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm Zoom ID: 815 0971 1457 PWD: 841276
District 6	Shanna B.	shannagb1001@gmail.com	(901) 674-7594	In Person 1st Monday at 6:00 pm, Memorial Lutheran Church, 3375 US 1 South, St. Aug. 32077
District 24	Patrick O.	patrickortiz45@gmsil.com	(904) 814-9367	In Person 1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm St. Marks Christian Church 310 N. Second Ave., Palatka, Fl. 32077
District 25	Anna I.	annairby@outlook.com	(352) 459-5618	First Sunday of the Month at 5:30 pm Zoom ID: 884 8317 9604 PWD: 1234
District 30	Deb F.	debfarris1@gmail.com	(704) 904-3867	Hybrid 4th Saturday at 10:00 am, in the Chapel Mandarin Presbyterian Church 11844 Mandarin Jacksonville Florida 32223 Zoom ID: 867 0433 1234 PWD: AA061035

INTERGROUP OFFICE LOG

	September 2026	September 2025
PHONE ARMY	**60**	**152**
AA CALLS TO OFFICE	**122**	**110**
12 STEP CALLS	**3**	**1**
VISITORS	**86**	**112**
ADMIN. CALLS	**5**	N/A

Grateful Givers

BARBARA M.
BLAIR S.
BRENDON M.
BYRON G.
DANIEL A.
DEBORAH F.
HOLLY C.
JAMES F
JILL W..
JOHN C.
JODY T.
JONATHAN B.
KARA B.
KENNY S
LAGA L..
LINDA B.
PAUL F
RUTH R.
SUSAN I.

Give

Once or Every Month

Support

Northeast Florida

A.A. Intergroup

Thank You

For Your Support

Sober Birthday's - Wishing You Many More

October Birthdays

Amethyst Group

Bob O.	23 yrs

Central Group

Isabelle B.	2 yrs
Jack H.	11 yrs
Sean S.	3 yrs
SpunKaaay	3 yrs

Mandarin Women

Ellen	3 yrs
Sabra	23 yrs
Jan	30 yrs

Arlington Group

Steve H.	36 yrs
Jennifer K.	19 yrs
Brandon H.	15 yrs
Liz C.	8 yrs
Alishia (Sponkay)	3 yrs
Christian N.	1 yr
Dave S.	1 yr

Free Thinkers St. Augustine

Debbie M.	31 yrs
Renee C.	30 yrs
Karen M.	1 yr
Mike M.	30 yrs
Paul H.	16 yrs

Drop The Rock

Jim S.	2 yrs

Winners Group

Paulette	8 yrs
Linda J.	2 yrs
AshLee	2 yrs

From the Heart Men's Group

Jack G	40 yrs

Beaches Unity Group

Todd D.	3 yrs
Matt S.	6 yrs
Sarah K.	1 yr
Kim M.	14 yrs
Rebekah K.	12 yrs
Jess M.	8 yrs
Bailey G.	3 yrs
Kat W.	2 yrs
Mike I.	4 yrs
Dave T.	4 yrs
Bryan	7 yrs
Jim G.	47 yrs
Eva	1 yr
Jolie S.	6 yrs
Ron T.	12 yrs
Jim B.	39 yrs
Sarah P.	4 yrs
Jack O.	1 yr

Northside Trout River Fellowship

Sara A.	6 yrs
Phil T.	7 yrs
Edward J.	8 yrs
Rick C.	5 yrs
Janice J.	50 yrs
Joe S. Jr	7 yrs
Chris C.	4 yrs
Katie C.	10 yrs
Brandon H.	15 yrs
Michael G.	6 yrs
Tom S.	6 yrs
Danny H.	54 yrs
Rosalyn E.	2 yrs
Marc C.	2 yrs
Jasmine B.	7 yrs
Daniel T.	1 yr

November Birthdays

Northside Trout River Fellowship

Doretha B.	10 yrs
Dallas H.	3 yrs
Holly R.	2 yrs
Phillip R.	2 yrs

Arlington Group

Bob M.	36 yrs
Verne H.	29 yrs
Steve P.	3 yrs
Donald B.	3 yrs
Charlie C.	1 yr
Emily S.	1 yr
Robert R.	1 yr
Adam A.	1 yr

Mandarin Women

Erin	5 yrs
Sharon K.	5 yrs
Ashley W.	8 yrs
Gwen	39 yrs

Free Thinkers St. Augustine

Jen R.	27 yrs

LoveNaction Ladies

Evonne H.	23 yrs
Lindsey P.	3 yrs
Valerie J.	5 yrs

From the Heart Men's Group

Preston W.	1991
Bobby K.	2025

Steering Committee

Maggie R.	47 yrs

Winners Group

Ron M.	29 yrs

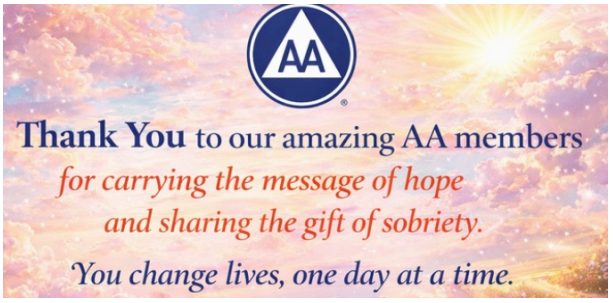
Beaches Unity Group

Matt R.	5 yrs
Elizabeth L.	1 yr
Linda B.	13 yrs
Lauren H.	4 yrs
Pam N.	9 yrs
Ashton	11 yrs
Brad A. Sr	49 yrs
Charles B.	16 yrs
Susan H.	37 yrs
Allen B.	3 yrs
Tim D.	13 yrs
Lindsey	4 yrs
Leah	8 yrs
Chuck C.	33 yrs
Scott S.	4 yrs
John A.	20 yrs
Chris L.	20 yrs
Mike H.	33 yrs

On Your Sobriety Date:
Join the Birthday Club
Send in a Dollar
for Every Year
You've Been Sober.
Please
Scan QR code
to Contribute
In the Memo Field,
Enter Birthday Club.
Thank You

ACCOUNT BALANCES - SEPTEMBER 2026

Checking/Savings:	
1021 - Cash Regions Bank-Operating	$10,548.70
1030 - Cash Regions Bank-Savings	$5,725.57
1024 - Cash-in-Draw	$95.38
Total Checking/Savings	$16,369.65
1360 - Inventory	$11,177.00
1400 - Prudent Reserve	
1476 - Regions Bank - CD #001	$10,000.00
1481 - Regions Bank - CD #002	$10,000.00
1486 - Regions Bank - CD #003	$10,000.00
Total 1400 - Prudent Reserve	$30,000.00



Finance Reports

See Our Website For Detail Financial Statements Year-To-Date

	Sep 26	Sep 25
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4000 · Contribution Income		
4002 · Groups	3,924.02	3,863.20
4003 · Pink Can Contribution	65.00	197.81
4005 · Gratetul Givers	370.00	235.05
4006 · Birthdays	5.00	19.00
4007 · Other Contributions		100.00
4010 · IG Breakfast/Speaker Mtg	118.00	
4000 · Contribution Income - Other		1,075.30
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	4,482.02	5,490.36
4020 · Retail Sales	1,909.04	3,460.08
4040 · Other Income		
4042 · Business Meeting		95.00
Total 4040 · Other Income		95.00
4060 · Income - Special Events		
4062 · Banquet	1,560.00	2,230.00
4065 · Cake Auction		9,061.00
Total 4060 · Income - Special Events	1,560.00	11,291.00
Total Income	7,951.06	20,336.44
Cost of Goods Sold		
4510 · Cost of Retail Sales	1,287.00	2,950.73
5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other		
4540 · Cost of Event - Banquet Expense		719.83
5215 · IG Business Meeting Expense	118.00	95.00
5195 · CC Fees	60.23	273.97
Total 5001 · Cost of Revenues - Other	178.23	1,088.80
Total COGS	1,465.23	4,039.53
Gross Profit	6,485.83	16,296.91
Expense		
60000 · Salaries and Benefits	3,771.11	3,544.04
61000 · Office Expense	970.14	680.25
62000 · Facilities and maintenance	1,418.46	1,371.68
55000 · Committees Expense	724.94	1,250.55
65100 · Other Expenses	20.00	20.00
Total Expense	6,904.65	6,866.52
Net Ordinary Income	-418.82	9,430.39
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income	59.79	9.51
Net Other Income	59.79	9.51
Net Income	-359.03	9,439.90

Group Contributions 2026

Group Name	Hist	Sep 2026	@ Mtg	YTD 2026	Group Name	Hist	Sep 2026	@ Mtg	YTD 2026
100 Proof Group				$250.00	Men's Blackeye Group				$250.00
11th Step Meeting				$0.00	Men's Hooked on Sobriety			x	$0.00
7 AM Daily Reflections		$408.27		$2,542.12	Men's Red Eye Group	H			$0.00
7/11 Meditation Group				$75.00	More About Alcoholism				$292.06
A Design for Living (St. Augustine)				$80.00	Mt. Carmel Group				$40.00
A Way Out Group				$173.60	Nassauville Group				$100.00
AA Bostwick Evergreen				$25.00	New Beginnings	H		x	$0.00
AA Group of Crawfordville				$287.50	New Life Group				$0.00
AA Night Owls Group				$100.00	Nocatee Sobriety				$0.00
Alexis				$0.00	Northside Fellowship (Trout River)	H		x	$250.00
Along Spiritual Lines				$420.21	Oak Tree Men's Group				$1,150.00
Amethyst Group	H		x	$230.00	Oldest City Men's Group				$120.00
Anonymous Group		$10.06		$183.06	On The Way Home Group	H			$400.00
Arlington Group	H	$153.54		$231.77	One Step At A Time	H			$0.00
BAA	H	$150.00		$400.00	Orange Park Group	H		x	$987.70
Baymeadows Group	H	$50.00	x	$125.00	Orange Park Stepsisters				$107.80
Be Free Friday			x	$250.00	Palm Valley Men's Group				$0.00
Beaches Agnostic & Free Thinkers	H			$0.00	Palms YPG			x	$0.00
Beaches Books Study				$150.00	Patience and Tolerance				$132.30
Beaches Unity Group (BUG)	H	$360.00	x	$6,381.79	PBP Group				$20.00
Big Book Field Study				$148.00	PPG @ Jaba				$0.00
Billygoat Hill Group	H			$215.00	Phoenix Men's Group				$0.00
BLIS				$150.00	Ponte Vedra Men's Group	H			$144.50
Callahan Group	H			$200.00	Primary Purpose Group	H			$0.00
Central Group	H		x	$3,360.00	Rebellion Dogs				$15.95
Clean and Free				$20.00	Reborn Group	H			$100.01
Conscious Contact Group	H			$412.20	Riverside Ortega Group		$247.00		$757.00
Coyote Men's Group	H			$350.00	RULE 62 Crew				$50.00
Daily Reflections	H			$0.00	Salisbury Men's Group				$0.00
Design for Living				$952.00	San Man Group	H		x	$0.00
District 6 - General Service		$500.00		$500.00	San Pablo Sober Sisters				$0.00
Diverse Views				$0.00	Sandpiper Group				$300.00
Drop the Rock Group	H			$198.80	Saturday Morning Group				$0.00
Durbin Various		$103.00		$275.00	Saturday Night Live - St. Augustine				$231.00
Eastside Group	H			$0.00	Seascape Group				$128.10
Evergreen Group				$0.00	Serenity at Noon Group	H			$110.94
Fernandina Beach Group	H		z	$437.00	Serenity Club 7AM Winning Game Group				$100.00
Fiesta Group	H	$850.50	z	$2,595.87	Slow Down			x	$0.00
Fourth Street			x	$0.00	Sober on Purpose				$250.00
Free Men's Group			x	$189.00	Sober Sisters		$84.00		$310.00
Free Thinkers (St. Aug)			x	$838.13	Solutions Group				$720.00
Free To Be				$0.00	Sons of the Spirit				$120.00
Freedom Group		$120.00		$240.00	Spiritual Knights	H			$0.00
Fresh Start				$0.00	Steppin Up Group		$35.00		$321.00
From The Heart Men's Group			z	$350.00	Stepping Stones (PV)	H			$50.00
Fruit Cove Women	H		x	$338.00	Sunday Morning Group (Palatka)		$75.00		$277.50
Grace Overcomers				$60.00	Sunrise Serenity				$0.00
Green Cove Springs				$0.00	Surrender to Win	H			$100.00
Greenland Road Group	H			$0.00	Switzerland Group	H	$165.60		$165.60
Happy Hour Group				$125.00	The Alcoholics Group				$287.36
Heart to Heart				$0.00	The Brown Baggers Group				$0.00
How It Works			x	$0.00	The Cove Step Sisters				$0.00
I Am Responsible Group	H			$240.00	The Crux of the Problem				$325.00
Intensive Care Group 1	H			$100.00	The Daily Reflections Group				$300.00
Island Serenity				$180.00	The Downtown Group				$2,000.00
Its in the Book				$60.00	The Grove Group		$200.00		$200.00
Jax Beach Secular & Freethinkers AA				$225.00	The Herd		$166.00		$3,235.00
Jax Beaches Daily Reflections				$0.00	The James Gang				$375.00
Jax Beaches YPG				$2,431.00	The Outsiders Group				$0.00
JAX Westside				$0.00	The Way Out Group				$80.00
Keep It Simple	H		z	$95.00	Third St Third Tradition Group	H			$200.00
Ladies Unity Group		$94.10		$220.10	This Too Shall Pass	H			$340.00
Language of the Heart (St. Aug)	H			$164.34	Thursday Night Men's Group				$50.00
Lest We Forget	H			$220.89	Village Women's Group				$202.00
Living in the Light	H			$600.00	Villagers				$220.40
Living Now Group				$15.00	Wesconnett	H			$1,481.00
Living Sober Group				$25.00	West Jacksonville Men's Group				$227.06
Los Lobos Men's Group	H			$200.00	What's the Point				$79.50
LoveNAction (Zoom)				$0.00	Winners Group	H		x	$285.41
MAG Serenity Club				$225.00	Women Enjoying Sobriety	H		z	$700.38
Mandarin Big Book Step Study	H		x	$173.00	Women YPG				$0.00
Mandarin Group				$99.00	Women's Speak				$0.00
Mandarin Hi-Noon Group	H			$0.00	Women's Upstart	H	$151.95	z	$658.94
Mandarin Women in Recovery	H		x	$300.00	You Are Not Alone				$403.11
Marietta Group				$200.00	Yulee Group	H			$808.38

# Groups Contributing Aug 2026:	19	Monthly Group Donations:	$3,924.02
# Voting Members Attending the Sep 2026 Meeting (in Person "x"):	20	Annual Group Contributions (Jan - Sep 2026):	$50,192.38
# Voting Members Attending the Sep 2026 Meeting (via Zoom "z"):	6	Total Groups Active:	150
# Visitors / Alt's Attending:	2	Total Groups with Submitted Group Histories (H):	50

Long-Timer: **Linda A.**

Interviewed by: Charlie M., Kevin Jr., and Lynn K.

Sobriety Date 9/15/81

Introduction: Linda A. got sober on September 15, 1981, after years of progressive drinking brought her to treatment and, ultimately, to AA at Jacksonville Beach. More than four decades later, she remains an active member of the Fellowship, still attending meetings, sponsoring women, doing service work, and making sure the experience and wisdom that were there for her are there for the next newcomer who walks through the door.

I was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and grew up in a middle-class neighborhood with my mother, my father, and my younger sister. It was pretty much a typical 1950s childhood. There was no trauma. I think we were a "normal" family.

There really wasn't much alcohol consumption in our house. My mother never finished a drink in her life. My father was an adult child of an alcoholic, although none of us recognized that at the time. He was always very careful about how much he drank. My parents drank Manhattans when they did drink and my father always put the bar away after two. I never saw either of my parents drunk. There was nothing in my childhood that pointed toward what was going to happen to me

The funny thing is, when people ask how I started drinking, my answer is: **I didn't.** Not at first.

I didn't drink in high school. But looking back, I can certainly see some alcoholic behavior long before I ever picked up alcohol. I could be selfish and self-centered, and when I decided I wanted something, I tended to go after it without spending much time worrying about what it did to anybody else or the consequences.

I had a boyfriend who was two years older than I was. He went to New York and invited me to come up there. I desperately wanted to see New York City. My high school class had planned a trip there, and I was supposed to go, but I had to have a C average. Algebra was not my strong suit. I had gym the period before algebra, and the classroom was all the way across the school and up three flights of stairs. I was frequently late, and my teacher would send me to the dean either for being late or for having my hair in my eyes. So, I missed a lot of algebra. I was not allowed to go to New York since I didn't have a C average. My boyfriend said, "Well, I'll send you a ticket." I said, "Fine. I'll go."

I left my parents a note and told my younger sister not to give it to them until a certain time. She freaked out and gave it to them early. My father was at a convention in Miami when my mother called him. He later said he thought he was going to have a heart attack driving home. Meanwhile, I was in New York.

I stayed there from about May until July. I called my parents, so they knew I was alive, but I wouldn't tell them where I was. And through all of that, I still wasn't drinking. Eventually my boyfriend and I traveled around the country and came back to Jacksonville. By then I had decided I didn't want that lifestyle anymore. I also decided I wanted to go on birth control, although he was Catholic and didn't want me to. It turned out I was already pregnant.

We stayed for a while at my parents' house. My father wanted to kill him. Eventually we got an apartment, and when my daughter was about six weeks old, he left. My father came and got me and the baby. He told me that if I went back to him again, not to call him. So, I moved back home with my parents, and I went on a mission to be a good girl.

I worked part time and earned my AA degree. Then my parents kept my daughter for two years while I went to the University of Florida in Gainesville to earn my bachelor's degree. **That's when I started drinking.** It was the early 1970s. Sex, drugs and rock and roll and alcohol.

It Progressed

At first, I wasn't a blackout drinker. After graduation I came back to Jacksonville and went to work as a social worker. I never drank during the day. I certainly could have as II was out seeing clients much of the time—but I didn't. I waited until I got home. I drank wine. And then, as they say in AA, **it progressed.**

Eventually I was blackout drinking. I would wake up sitting in my car in front of my house and walk around the car to see if there were any dents. I was always losing my wallet. And for some reason, I was always losing **one shoe**.

Eventually, during a blackout, I went to St. Johns River Hospital. They had an alcohol unit and a mental-health unit, but there were no beds available on the alcohol side. They wanted to put me on the mental-health side, which was locked. I wouldn't stay. So, I went home and drank some more. Then, still in a blackout, I went back. This time they had a bed.

The next morning, they woke me up and took me to a meeting. I saw Twelve Steps for the first time. I remember thinking: **Oh boy. You've done it this time.**

My parents were on vacation, and I called my mother and told her where I was. She said, "Do you think you were that bad?" Yes. I was that bad. She had seen some of it. She just hadn't seen all of it.

Then we discovered that my insurance wouldn't cover treatment there. For some reason, the policy required me to be treated in a hospital where surgery was performed. At the time, that seemed like a problem. Looking back, I see it as God working in my life.

They found a place that met the insurance requirement: Lakeland General Hospital. It got me away from the beach. Away from my friends. Away from my husband. Away from everything. And I had **30 days of peace.**

September 15, 1981

My sobriety date is September 15, 1981. My husband and my sister drove me to Lakeland. There was a case of beer in the car. When he came back for family weekend, he had beer in the car again and beer in the hotel room. I knew it was going to be rough.

He said to me, "I thought you went there to learn how to drink like a lady." I told him, "I did. But there's more to it." There certainly was.

When I came home from treatment, I was scared to death. There weren't nearly as many meetings as there are today. I worked, so the meeting I could get to was the eight o'clock meeting at Penman Road —Beaches Unity. I remember coming home from work and just trying to fill the hours until it was time to go.

Finally, eight o'clock would come. I would slide into the meeting and sit in the back row, right by the door. And there I found peace. **Absolute peace.**

I was in such a fog during that first year that I really couldn't do much more than that. Show up. Sit down. Listen.

I didn't really begin working the Steps that first year. I couldn't absorb much of the first part of the Big Book. I would read it and couldn't retain it. I certainly couldn't comprehend much of it. But I could read the stories. **The stories kept me sober.** I could identify with those people.

Eventually my head cleared enough that I could understand more of the book and begin working the Steps. But in the beginning, the stories were enough. And the meetings were enough.

I wanted to stay right in the middle. I used to call it the middle of the road. Now people call it the middle of the boat. I didn't want to step too far to the right. I didn't want to step too far to the left. I just wanted to stay in the middle of the boat.

I didn't have a sponsor immediately. I had one briefly, but she was a Navy wife and moved away. It was some time before I got another. Eventually I found Maggie L. We worked the Steps, although not the way people often do today. There weren't long written narratives and highly structured assignments. We did them much more loosely. But it was enough. Maggie helped keep me on track.

Some of the women I met in those early years became enormously important to me. One of the first was Becky W., this wild woman from New Orleans who had been a Playboy Bunny. She was married and had a son, and that whole family became part of my early sobriety. On Friday night we would go to the meeting and then have dinner together.

AA wasn't just something that happened during the hour of the meeting. I began building a life around people who were staying sober.

The meetings themselves weren't terribly different from meetings today. Mostly I went to discussion meetings. Wednesday night was a closed meeting, and there was an old-timer named Newt who strictly enforced the rule. You either had to say you were an alcoholic or at least have a desire to stop drinking. Newt made sure everybody understood that.

I have never had another sobriety date. Someone once called me a "one-chip wonder."

My first sponsor told me something I have never forgotten: **"The first time is a gift. After that, you must work for it."** That frightened me.

Over the years I have watched people go back out. Some never came back. Others came back, went out again, came back again. I was afraid of that. So, I stayed.

That doesn't mean I did everything perfectly. Far from it. But I kept going to meetings. And gradually AA became less something I was doing to keep from drinking and more a way of living my life.

Service

How did I get involved in AA service? That's easy. **My sponsee told me to.**

She was a Navy wife, and one day she volunteered me to be the GSR. She said, "Linda will do it." I said, "Okay."

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I served as GSR for two years. It opened another part of AA to me. I learned so much about how the fellowship works beyond my own meeting.

Today I'm the Grapevine chair, which I think may be the best job in the world. I get the Grapevines. I get to read them. I take them to meetings.

Once a month we have a Grapevine meeting. People take the magazines home, especially newer people, and once again we share stories. Stories helped keep me sober in 1981. They still help keep people sober today.

I've sponsored women over the years. Sponsorship can be a mixed bag. People come and go. One woman, Susan O., has been with me for about sixteen years. And I've learned that sponsorship really isn't about me. That's sometimes a useful thing for a sponsor to remember.

One of my great AA experiences was going to the International Convention in Toronto. It was one of those things that seemed to come together at the last minute. I found a flight and was able to share a room with some women from Penman. There were tens of thousands of alcoholics together in one place. I always felt my attendance was a "God thing".

Those experiences made me realize how much larger AA was than the handful of rooms where I got sober. Many years later, the pandemic taught me the same lesson in an entirely different way.

When COVID came, people were trying to have meetings in the parking lot at Penman. Then came Zoom. And I loved it.

I still love in-person meetings, but Zoom has given me the chance to meet alcoholics from all over the world and hear stories I never would have heard otherwise. There's a Sunday morning speaker meeting based in Key West that I particularly enjoy. They have wonderful speakers. Through the Everything AA app, I can look at a particular hour and find twenty or thirty meetings happening.

Think about that. If you're sick, you can still go to a meeting. If you need a meeting, somewhere in the world there is a meeting you can attend. I think that has been wonderful for AA.

Today I usually attend two meetings in person and another two or three on Zoom every week.

Why I'm Still Here

AA has changed since 1981. There are many more meetings. At Beaches Unity you can go before work, during the day, at night. There are five or six meetings on some days. If someone has the desire to get to a meeting, there's probably one that can fit that schedule.

People talk more openly about drugs today than they did when I came in. And there seem to be many more young people. Or maybe I'm just older.

But one change bothers me. Sometimes people get sober at Penman and then move on to other kinds of meetings and never come back. Some people with long-term sobriety go elsewhere permanently. When they leave, **we lose their wisdom.**

I think old-timers have a responsibility. Newcomers, for the most part, are going to walk through the doors of places like Penman. They need to find people there who have stayed sober. They need to hear what those people did.

I can go to other meetings and I do. But this is where I got sober. I need to give back.

Someone was sitting in those rooms when I arrived in 1981, frightened and foggy, slipping quietly into the back row next to the door. Someone stayed there long enough for me to hear what I needed to hear. Now it's my turn.

The Middle of the Boat

AA gave me much more than sobriety. I have a family. I travel. I met my late husband in the rooms. I've gone to AA meetings on cruise ships. On my last cruise, about eight of us showed up, and we had wonderful meetings. That's AA. You never quite know what you're going to find.

I once joked that if Michael and I ever need an assisted living facility, I would want to move into the Beach House across from Penman Road. Then I could walk to my meeting. He could still get to his bridge club. My daughter would be nearby. Everybody would be happy.

I came into the rooms in 1981 scared to death. I couldn't understand much of the Big Book. I didn't have a sponsor for a while. I didn't work the Steps the way people sometimes say you're supposed to work them today. I went to meetings. I sat in the back. I listened to the stories. And I stayed in the middle of the boat.

More than forty years later, I'm still here. Still going to meetings. Still hearing stories. Still telling mine. I still try to make sure that when the next frightened woman slips into the back row and sits down near the door, somebody who understands is there waiting for her.

Because somebody was there for me.

By the grace of God on 9/15/1926 I will have 45 years of sobriety. I am very grateful.

NINTH FLORIDA AA ARCHIVES WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Areas 1, 14, 15

$30 includes lunch and snacks

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2027
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1820 Co Rd 540A, Lakeland, FL 33813

We have a great program with
AA 1900-1935 – Lori S, Florida
Making Archives Alive – Danny B, A15, D8 Archives Chair
Women in AA, part 2 – Nancy K, California
National AA Archives Workshop recap – Ric B, Area 15 Archivist,
District displays and more!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
The Florida AA Archives Workshop is committed to helping District, Intergroup & Area Alcoholics Anonymous *Archivists, Archive Chairs as well as committee* members *working within the service* structure *of Alcoholics* Anonymous *who are also bound by the spiritual principles of our Fellowship.*

Name _____ **Title** _____
District _____ **Area** _____ **City, ST** _____
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No registrations _____ **x $30 = Total enclosed** _____
Include in our email list? _____ **Will you bring a display?** _____

Make check or money order payable to:
Florida Archives Workshop
Mail check and competed registration form to:
Jack Barden, PO Box 237, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0237
Lodging information next page

North Florida Area Conferenc
Area 14 Assembly
"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the han of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

NFAC ASSEMBLY INFORMATION - Panel 75

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
(407) 995-1100
(800) 228-9290 (toll free)
1501 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746

July 2026 Hotel Booking - Deadline is July 3
October 2026 Hotel Booking - Deadline is September 11

AGENDAS ARE POSTED APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS BEFORE EACH ASSEMBLY

July Host Districts: 4, 7, 17, 19A/B, 20, 22, 25

Future Assembly Dates:
2026
July 24-26 | October 2-4
2027
January 22-24 | April 9-11





SPONSORSHIP WITHIN A.A.'S THREE LEGACIES

The Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous grew out of the individual and collective experience of A.A.'s early members as they struggled to gain, maintain and pass along the hard-won lessons of sobriety to other alcoholics. For these once-hopeless drinkers, the principles and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous provided the firm foundation for a new life based on the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts. These principles continue to be vital foundations for countless alcoholics all over the world and in many languages. The Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service — represented in the Steps, Traditions and Concepts — are interconnected and interdependent.

HOSTED BY NEFL INTERGROUP WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

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(904) 399-8535
www.neflaa.org

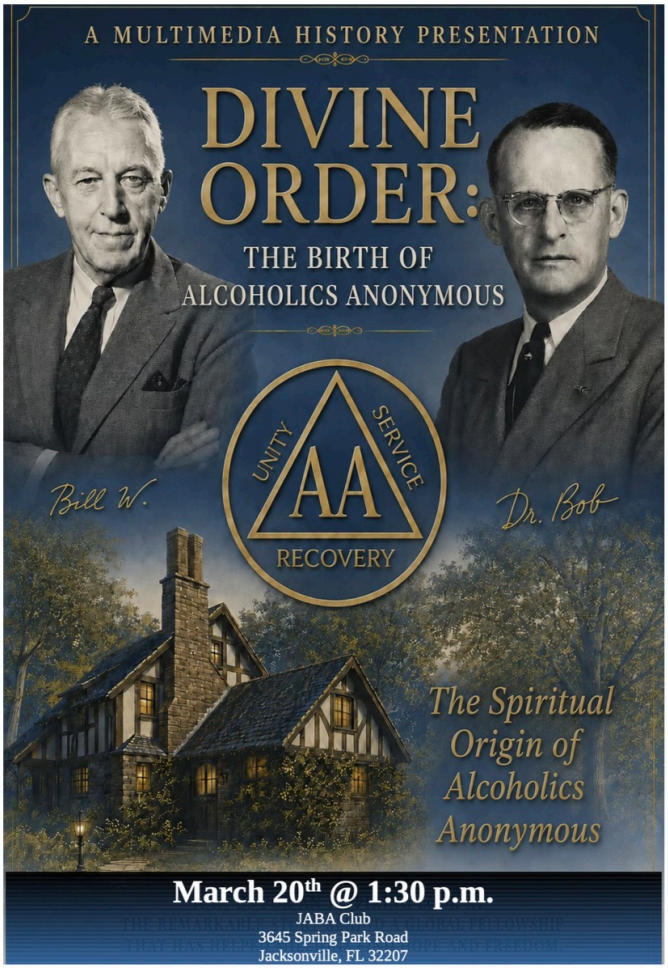
NE FL AA — UNITY SERVICE AA RECOVERY — Intergroup



WORKSHOP

December 5th, 2026
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Jaba Club
3645 Spring Park Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207


CENTRAL GROUP
THANKSGIVING DINNER
Come Enjoy
Thanksgiving Dinner
with us
THANKSGIVING DAY, NOV. 26TH
at the San Marco Club
Please bring your favorite
Side Dish or Dessert to share!!!
NOTE: Turkey and Ham, Green Beans,
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Rolls, Water & Tea
to be provided by the Group/Club
We'll begin serving at 1:15ish p.m.
(as soon after the Noon meeting as possible)
(NO CHARGE)


A MULTIMEDIA HISTORY PRESENTATION
DIVINE ORDER:
THE BIRTH OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
UNITY
SERVICE
AA
RECOVERY
Bill W.
Dr. Bob
The Spiritual Origin of Alcoholics Anonymous
March 20th @ 1:30 p.m.
JABA Club
3645 Spring Park Road
Jacksonville, FL 32207


FIRST COAST
ROUNDUP
SEPTEMBER
24-26,
2027
THEME:
Carry this Message
FELLOWSHIP
Stronger Together
SPEAKERS
Experience, Strength & Hope
FUN IN THE SUN
Relax. Connect. Enjoy.
HOPE
It Works If You Work It
2027 SPEAKER LINEUP
SHANNON K.
JACKSONVILLE, FL
MIKE A.
NASHVILLE, TN
JEFF K.
JACKSONVILLE, FL
SCOTT F.
PHILADELPHIA, PA
DIANE A.
AL-ANON
NASHVILLE, TN
TOMMY T.
STATEN ISLAND, NY
CHERYL T.
STATEN ISLAND, NY
CHRISTIAN M.
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL
REGISTRATION
$40
UNTIL
AUGUST 1ST, 2027
$45
AFTER
AUGUST 1ST, 2027
REGISTRATION COSTS INCREASE
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A 3-DAY CELEBRATION OF SOBRIETY
IN JACKSONVILLE, FL


Planning
Committee
First Coast Roundup
Sep 24 - 26, 2027
JOIN US !!!
The FCR planning committee
Where we prepare for a 3-day celebration of
sobriety, recovery & fellowship
in Jacksonville, FL
Sep 24–26, 2027
Meeting :
Last Monday
of the month
on Zoom
at 6 PM
Meeting ID:
601 781 9633
Passcode:
FCR2026
Planning Timeline: 2026 - 27
Oct 26th
Nov 30th
Dec 28th
Jan 25th
Feb 22nd
Mar 29th
Apr 26th
May 24th
Jun 28th
Jul 26th
Aug 30th
Sep 20th