



The Message

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TRUSTED SERVANTS

INTERGROUP 5, INC. NOVEMBER 2007 TALLAHASSEE, FL

InterGroup

Chairman—Mike L—New Hope

Co-chairman—Craig F—
Living Sober

Secretary—Carol M—New Hope

Treasurer—Matt—Lake Jackson

Literature—Greg S—Home

Website—Andy E—Men's Faith

Activities—Laura A—Central

Membership—Vacant

Newsletter—Phanie & Tommy H.—
Living Sober

District 5

DCM—Joe D—Downtown

Alternate DCM—Susan E—Central

Secretary—vacant

Treasurer—Matt N—Central

Standing Committees

Public Info—Jeff D—Central

CPC—Steve H—Central

Treatment—Kevin T—Happy Hour

Corrections—Mike L—Lloyd

Grapevine—Vern D—Northside

Accessibilities—Janis T—Willing

Archives—Rob K—Pathfinders

CONTACT INFORMATION

InterGroup 5, Inc.

1106-H Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-1818

Website: www.intergroup5.org
Newsletter: Send info to
message@intergroup5.org

District 5

P.O. Box 12352
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2352

NFACAA—Area 14

Area Treasurer
Marilyn B.
6035 Tudor St.
Inverness, FL 34452

The first time I walked into an AA meeting was in the year 2000 in Rowlett Texas., I was twenty years old. I was attending the alanon meeting that met in the room down the hall, all the AA's were hanging out laughing and drinking coffee. Filled with an overwhelming amount of resentment, I felt as though I was making the walk of shame to the alanon meeting in the back. The addict in my life had conquered me. In desperation I had sought out relief from terror bewilderment frustration and despair , I had convinced myself that my problems stemmed from my boyfriends heroine addiction, and that maybe alanon would help me to get him to stop using heroine, and just drink and use cocaine with me. In hindsight, I can clearly see I was on my path to recovery, pain had gotten me to seek help, but ego and self will ensured I had years of heartache and seemingly endless turmoil still left to endure, till I was willing to surrender my will and cease fighting a battle that I would never win. Only three short years later I would enter a residential treatment facility in ft. pierce Florida. It's amazing to think in such a short amount of time my alcoholism and chemical dependency would bring me to a strange town so far from home to start the arduous recovery process. . During the intake process I explained to the counselor that I had started smoking pot and taking LSD at sixteen, and that by twenty three I was a veteran junkie on a continuous cycle of heroine cocaine and methamphetamine, I could see how someone may think I had a drug problem, and I was ready for a break from the lifestyle of the young and wasted, but I was perplexed when the counselor asked if I thought I had a drinking problem. I filled out a questionnaire that asked how many drinks I consumed in one day on average; I marked the slot for 10 - 12. In my mind it didn't seem like a lot, I simply explained to the counselor, if you did as much cocaine as I was doing, 10 to 12 cocktails a night was complete necessary. The intake counselor smiled politely, and kept filling out my paper work.

I completed a nine month residential drug and alcohol program; it took me only two years, and was only interrupted by a brief stay in a mental institution. I did not stay sober after leaving treatment, I never said I was going to, nor did I even imagine it was possible. I did however become tapped into the AA pipeline. Two months after leaving treatment, I jumped into active addiction under the extensive delusion that I was trying to control my drinking and drug use. A couple of trips to the emergency room for overdoses, lots of tears shed at meetings, and plenty of white chips later, I began to get handle on what the first step truly meant, and that whether I was actually drinking alcohol or abstaining from it, that I was still powerless over alcohol and that my life had become unmanageable. Overcome by complete demoralization stemming from my actions and filled with gratitude ,so expansive , for just waking up alive and the freedom to sit in an aa meeting and be still, I made my way to an aa meeting in lake city Florida. I did not pick up a white chip. I was just staying sober for the day. I didn't see the point, nothing mattered but that very moment, a white poker chip just didn't seem appropriate. Maybe a straight jacket would have been more appropriate for the occasion, they come in white I think, something miraculous was happening though. The days started adding up and I realized I needed the sober life, and became willing to abandon myself and my old beliefs and work the steps and live life based on spiritual intentions and service and humility. I have eighteen months sober and am openly grateful for it. With spiritual principles guiding me I am bumbling through life with only a sense of direction , but ultimately enjoying every minute of it, even if only in hindsight sometimes. Some one asked me if I could do it again, would I take that first drink that started it all eleven years ago. My I answer was of course I would. I am who I am today because of my past and because of the twelve steps and my higher power, I like who I am today and I am excited who I will become.

Heather U.

Experience, Strength and Hope

A few fun facts for the month

Nov 1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill. Made the first 12th step call.
Nov 1936 - Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become 'AA #3 in NY', with Bill W and Hank P.
Nov 1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.
Nov/Dec 1939 - Akron group withdrawals from association with Oxford Group. Meetings moved from T Henry & Clarence Williams to Dr Bob and other member's homes.
Nov 1941 - "First Mass AA Meeting" in Oklahoma City, 8 present, 1 was drunk.
Nov 1945 - Bill's article called 'Those Goof Balls' published in Grapevine.
Nov 1986 - Big Book published in paperback.
Nov 1, 1947 - 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska.
Nov 1, 1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies. He suggested the stories in BB to Bill
Nov 3, 2001 - J P Miller who wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died.
Nov 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.
Nov 10, 1940 - 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis.
Nov 10, 2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail. Sold over 1 million first month
Nov 11, 1934 - Armistice Day; Bill started drinking after dry spell, beginning of Bill's last drunk.
Nov 12, 1940 - 1st AA meeting is held in Boston.
Nov 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go to work at Towns Hsp, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement.
Nov 14, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin.
Nov 15, 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions.
Nov 16, 1950 - Dr. Bob died. 2 months after the 1st International
Nov 18, 1946 - 1st Dublin Ireland group met.
Nov 21, 1939 - AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel.
Nov 21, 1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies. Friend of the Rockefeller's
Nov 26, 1895 - Bill W born in East Dorset, VT.
Nov 26, 1939 - Dilworth Lupton gave sermon "Mr. X and Alcoholics Anonymous". Became one of first pamphlets on AA.
Nov 28, 1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.
Nov 28, 1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (Sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)

Tradition Six and Renting from CASA

This is the text of Tradition Six:

"An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

The Happy Hour Group is not endorsing or lending the A.A. name to CASA. By prior agreement it is paying 80% of its basket collections to CASA. Is this rent for daily use of the meeting space or is it financing a related outside enterprise? How does this differ from paying the owner of a strip mall?

It seems to me that if a Group and CASA, who are tenant and landlord, respectively, agree upon a rent of 80% of the basket collections, that is, by definition, the Group's rent for use of the meeting place provided by CASA. While a fixed monthly rent is appropriate for a conventional, for-profit landlord, it is not necessarily appropriate for the variety of large and small Groups using CASA as a meeting place. A careful reading shows me that nothing in the text that accompanies Tradition Six in the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" suggests that paying rent in this fashion is contrary to Tradition Six. I draw a similar conclusion from reading Tradition Seven in the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and from reading the G.S.O paper on A.A. Clubs and various Grapevine articles that deal with group relations with clubhouses. This is also what G.S.O. told those who created CASA.

However, every A.A. Group using CASA is autonomous and may come to a different conclusion. If it wishes to do so, any Group may attempt to negotiate other arrangements with CASA or choose to meet elsewhere.

Paul P.

AA HAS TAUGHT ME THAT I WILL HAVE PEACE OF MIND IN EXACT PROPORTION TO THE PEACE OF MIND I BRING INTO THE LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE, AND IT HAS TAUGHT ME THE TRUE MEANING OF THE ADMONITION "HAPPY ARE YE WHO KNOW THESE THINGS AND DO THEM," FOR THE ONLY PROBLEMS I HAVE NOW ARE THOSE I CREATE WHEN I BREAK OUT IN A RASH OF SELF-WILL.

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."

Just as the TWELVE STEPS are a suggested program to maintain my sobriety; I believe the TWELVE TRADITIONS are guidelines for maintaining the program. The test of time has proved them to be proper. I must admit that I wish the whole world could experience the state of wellbeing I feel after a really good meeting; but, TRADITION ELEVEN tells me I shouldn't go shout it out on a mountain. We are reminded that the general public is still uneducated regarding the alcoholic's illness. The name ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS has anonymity as a key factor. The alcoholic out there who still suffers may rely on this. During the recovery process, we deal with issues that can be painfully private. The assurance that this process is safely removed from the uneducated public's scrutiny is essential. If we have to deal with the public, we can not violate this trust in any form of mass communication.

They are sectors of the public that do have an understanding of the alcoholic illness, such as the medical, legal, and clerical communities. They have observed; over time, the success that is possible with the AA program. The half dozen or so analysts; I have visited, have all pointed to AA as the best means to stay sober. Success speaks for its self.

ALCOHOLICS ANONOMOUS has built-in advocates. The membership itself, by being examples of a way of life that holds promise, can and does attract those who need us. I need only to work the PROGRAM, and humbly maintain my sobriety. That way, I can "shout it out on a mountain" louder and clearer than mere words could ever allow.

Mike F.

Intergroup 5 News

Intergroup 5 Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/03/2007

Groups Represented: New Hope, Lake Jackson, Central, Downtown, End of the Road (WCI), Open Door and Men's Faith. 11 people attended, representing 7 groups.

Secretary's Report: August and September (2007) IG5 reports submitted. Both approved and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made and approved to amend/delete "Once per year" on Internet monthly charges in this report. Approved and accepted. Please ask groups to start contributing to IG5 again if they can. District is paying \$40.00/mo. for Where and When .with a 6 month prepayment by check for \$240.00

Office Report: Volunteers still needed! Please call the office.

Literature Report: Books and pamphlets are available for sale to all groups. Please call the office. Greg S. requests permission to post "I Am Responsible..." signs to remind people to pay for literature when they pick it up unless other payment arrangements have been agreed upon. Motion made and approved. Matt C. will submit # of calls made to the answering service to Office Coordinator for the Message. Larry will show Phanie H. how to find # of hits on the web site each month for the Message. The current Office Coordinator (Larry H.) will be rotating out after 3 years of service. Rob K. is interested in the position.

Activities Report: Laura has contacted Steve B. (30 years) from Jacksonville to be our speaker at the Holiday Party on 8 Dec 2007. He and others will drive over for the party/dinner. No hotel accommodations required. Central Group will commit to provide "meat." Laura will attend group(s) business meetings to request group participation and commitment to donating food.

Web Committee Report: There have been no responses to the new site (comments, recommendations, etc). All new links have been adjusted and will be a new version after midnight (today). GoDaddy- hosting and domain- have been paid up to 2010. Andy and Debbie are asking for feedback from IG5. Please view the IG5 web site (www.intergroup5.org) and send comments or constructive suggestions to Andy at: www.revivalcreative.com/aaindex.html or Email: andy@revivalcreative.com . Rebecca R. (District Archivist) is requesting local AA history (all last names of living members will be deleted) that she can post (using PDF). Motion made and accepted: any information must be approved by IG5 before posting to the IG5 web site.

District Report: The Service Extravaganza in September was a huge success!!! The annual Gratitude Dinner will be at the Jackson Masonic Lodge on November 3, 2007. Look for fliers for more information. Information on 12 Step Meetings will be displayed at both dinners (Gratitude and Holiday). Laura A. will bring info to the District Meeting on October 17, 2007 for presentation. Susan E. reports that the bathrooms at the Jackson Lodge are not wheelchair accessible. She has discussed this with the lodge representative (her contact). More info will follow.

Old Business: The Office Coordinator was reimbursed. Tommy H. has replaced Alice R. as Message Co-editor. Old Grapevines are still available for distribution.

New Business: Den L. made a \$50.00 donation to pay for completion of bookshelves in the IG5 office. David G. is the new District Corrections Coordinator. He requests that prepaid literature for Corrections be stored separately at the IG5 office. Motion made and approved.

Submitted in Grateful Service,
Carol McG.

The Faithful Fivers

*To all of you who have sent in money for the Faithful Fivers, we apologize but the names will not be published until next months Message. We are sorry for that and Thank you so much for your contributions!!! Keep sending it in....
Phanie and Tommy H.*

Intergroup 5, Inc.

**October 2007
Treasurer's report**

General Fund

Checking:
Beginning 9/30/2007 balance \$ 155.97

Contributions:

Appalachicola Bay	20.00
Bradfordville	200.00
Central	200.00
Happy Hour	625.23
Mustard Seed	35.00
Open Door	90.95
Singleness Of Purpose (Woodville)	60.00
Correction	60.00
Anonymous/Faithful Fivers	81.00
Total Contributions	1372.18

Less:

Disbursements:

Answering service	267.50
Go Daddy/Host-Domain	120.00
Office Coordinator Travel & related ex.	147.62
Internet monthly charge	51.96
Printing News letter/ When and where	109.75
Rent	248.36
Telephone	45.76
Total Expense Disbursements	990.95

Ending Balance 10/31/2007 381.23

Prudent Reserve Savings:

Beginning 9/30/2007 balance	955.04
Interest earned	0.31
Ending Balance 10/31/2007	\$ 955.35

Literature Fund

Beginning 9/30/2007 Balance 1,149.55

Literature sales	769.87
Sales Tax collected	53.13
Total receipts	823.00
less:	
Purchases	984.80
Total Expenditures	984.80

Ending Balance 10/31/2007 \$ 987.75

Events and Happenings

Current Events

Joe McQ passed away on 26 October 2007
He had been ill for quite some time as many of you probably know. He was taken in from pneumonia a couple of days ago - and did not recover from that. (Joe & Charlie tapes helped so many).
May the soul of that wonderful man rest in peace. I hope we ALL meet up with him one day in the Big Meeting in the sky.
Peace and God bless Joe, and thank you for helping so many...

New Women's Meeting
Monticello Group on
Mondays at 6:30 pm
This is a closed meeting.

Holiday Party 2007
Jackson Masonic Lodge
Apalachee Pkwy.
Speaker will be Steve B. from Jacksonville

SERVICE WORK?

Everyone has other things to do:
the house, the kid(s), the job(s), the yard,
the dog(s) the bed(s), and the meds, the cat:
more, we think, than can be done
between the rising and the setting of the sun
(and very soon,
by God, the moon.)

Our work goes on. And on. Our pleasures few.
Isn't it enough we make a meeting, maybe two
a week, and serenity=97how we ask for that!

So how can very busy we begin to spare
for service work an hour or two or three
when all our lives are packed so very tight?

Although we=92ve known the wrong, we seek the right
and wish that we were known as fairly fair.

But why the service work? Help us, please, to see.

The answer's simple. **AA WAS THERE FOR ME
WHEN THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE FOR ME TO BE.**

But for so many of the rest of you,
well, everyone has other things to do.

Mike L.

WANTED INTERGROUP Office Volunteers

If you are willing to be of service, please contact
(850) 224-1818.

October Phone Report (53 Calls Received by Volunteers)



1—12th Step
2—Al-anon
9—AA Info
30—Meeting Information
2—Agency
9—Miscellaneous

Answering Service received 567 calls
We need more Volunteers!
Please call Larry H 567-8407

WE NEED YOUR STORIES!!!

We are looking for people to write their stories, traditions or step that coincides with the month. If you can be of service to share your experience, strength and hope, please send them to message@intergroup5.org. And if there is something that you want the AA community to know, i.e. birthdays, things happenings around town, new meetings or whatever, send that as well. The deadline for anything that goes in The Message is the last Wednesday of the month. We appreciate any help you can be. In Service.

Phanie and Tommy H.

Happy A.A. Anniversary

Central Group— Lucile 1, Jerrod B. 2, Johnny F. 2, Amy D. 3, Jim P. 12, Dianne 17, Scott 12, Hillary 22, Henry 27

**Happy Hour/
Living Sober**— Bob C.; April-8; Lana-12

Lloyd New Hope— Kirk D.-18; Tom H.-4; Guenter-8

Lake Jackson Group— Greg W 20 years

Celebrate Your Success!