



TRUSTED SERVANTS

Intergroup

Chairman—Don W—Northside
Co-chairman—Ron L—Northside
Secretary—Craig F—
Treasurer—Greg S—
Literature—Pat C—Crawfordville
Website—Rob K—Pathfinders
Activities—Leisa P—Central
Membership—Vacant
Newsletter—Larry H—Central

District 5

DCM—Kathy Lynn S—Pathfinders
Alternate DCM—Joe D—Downtown
Secretary—Jamie M—Downtown
Treasurer—Lisa F—Downtown

Standing Committees

PI-CPC—Kevin K—Central
Treatment—Allison B—Central
Corrections—Vacant
Grapevine—Tracey T—HappyHour
Intergroup—Joe D—Downtown
Accessibilities—Kayce M—Downtown
Archives—Bob S—Southside

CONTACT INFORMATION

Intergroup 5, Inc.

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Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-1818

Website: www.intergroup5.org
message@intergroup5.org

District V

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

NFACAA—Area 14

Area Treasurer
C/O Rick B.
2358 Flamingo Way
Winter Park, FL 32792

The Message

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INTERGROUP 5, INC. January, 2005 TALLAHASSEE, FL

Sometimes the best way to get things done is to just get out of the way. After 2 ½ years as the Tallahassee District Chair for AA General Service, the wisdom of this ancient concept has grown clear.

A lot has been accomplished during my tenure as DCM. We have responded to requests to carry the message into treatment facilities, homeless shelters, hospitals, correctional facilities, and churches. We are bridging the gap between prisons, hospitals, and AA, providing support to inmates and patients on release, alcoholics who want what was so freely given to us.

There have been big book workshops, seminars on the 12 Steps, on treatment meetings, carrying the message, and relationships. We have sent AA speakers to neighboring states, including Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana. The district had strong representation at State Convention in Jacksonville and ICYPAA in Orlando, as well as at roundups, conferences, and assemblies.

Attendance has been strong and growing at the three Gratitude Dinners and Holiday Parties during my term. The first annual Founders' Day Florida Style was a popular success. Food, fellowship, and fun seem to be in fashion in North Florida. Summer picnics (with speakers and Traditions discussions) were popular as well.

Our Where & When, now available on the world wide web, lists new meetings in smaller communities with names like Hosford, Lee, Havana, Medart, and Sopchoppy. I've represented these groups, represented your group to the North Florida Area and AA World Services as a whole since July of 2002. But, you know, I can't take credit for any of these accomplishments. The Tallahassee district is a huge one, including all of eight counties with about three dozen registered groups and twice that many unregistered. Maybe I got people talking to each other, passed along information where I could, but mostly I just stayed out of the way. It's folks like you, people who take the program seriously, people who want to be a part of this wonderful program--you did the work! The credit goes to you.

It's an old concept to improve on what you've been given. I hope, and believe, that the District is stronger than when I found it. Time for me to rotate out. I'm leaving it in hands, maybe not as experienced, but at least as capable as mine. There is nothing made by hand of man that can't be improved. But for now, from the Apalachicola to the Suwanee, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Georgia border and beyond, Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well in North Florida!

I can't take credit for any of that...I was just there when the miracles happened.

Thanks to God, and to you all, for allowing me to serve.

Sincerely:

Ed V.

District 5 News

NOVEMBER MEETING ROLL TAKEN –

Renee B.	Ap. Bay Serenity	GSR
Geunter M.	Men's Group	GSR
Joe DeBellis	Downtown	Corrections
Bill S.	Northside	GSR
Bob S.	Southside	GSR
Anthony A.	Crawfordville	GSR
Rob K.	Pathfinder	GSR
Ed V.	Happy Hour	DCM
Hardy B.	Ap. Bay Serenity	Alt. GSR
Earl W.	Living Sober	GSR
Ron L.	Northside	I-5 vice chair
Kayce M.	Downtown	Access
Jamie M.	Downtown	Secretary
Gale P.	Powder No Puff	GSR
Joe J.	Home Group	GSR
Kathy Lynn S.	Pathfinders	GSR/Treas

Groups Represented at Meeting – Apalachicola/St. George, Crawfordville, Downtown, Happy Hour, Home Group, Living Sober, Northside, Pathfinders, Powder No Puff, Southside

- Oct. 2004 Minutes read and accepted

Treasury Report –

- Discussion
- ***report accepted***

DCM –

- Gratitude Dinner went well/ CD's available from Terry at the Detox meeting
 - Area Report
 - 12 pts to service work available in Assembly report
 - growth committee :districts 26&29 combined (area 13)
 - Bridging the Gap coordinator still on table at assembly
 - Area website has had 210,000 hits
 - *Critical need* for letter correspondence with prisoners
 - **Check website for corrections to Area dates in case date changes (reservations!)**
 - Elections were held/ Details in Area report

PI/CPC –

- Kevin unable to attend

Treatment –

- Drop-in Center meeting starts wed. at 1:30 (weekly)
- Dec. 2nd, Shelter meeting starts at 6:00pm (weekly)
- Speakers needed for Turning Point Hospital in Moultrie the second Wed. of each month at 8:00pm/
Thanks Kathy

Corrections –

- Joe spoke w/ Alice who has been chairing the female county jail meeting for years/ She wants to change the meeting to Mon. night/ She will call Joe with details
- Joe is having a hard time finding volunteers/ Focusing primarily on trying to find some men to take meetings into County Jail, FCI, and Wakulla
- Meeting on Thurs. night at Jefferson CI in Monticello
- Orientation on 4th Thurs of every month at Wakulla CI

Grapevine –

- Joe has no report.....just got back from traveling

IG5 –

- 28 phone calls last month to Intergroup
- Dec. 11th Holiday party is on!!
- Need volunteers on Mondays especially
- Greg S. is new treasurer
- Phyllis is getting AA listed in Health section of Democrat
- Discussion about personnel to man Intergroup for literature sales

Accessibilities –

- Kayce will do final report and cede position to Bill

Archives-

- Bob is going to Detox meeting to get Bubba R. cd's for posterity

NEXT AREA ASSEMBLY IS JAN. 7TH, 8TH, & 9TH

Old Business-

- Corrections Chair needed !....plz tell your home groups
- Don't forget to check the status of your "*where and whens*"
- New meetings at the Dome (River of Life Church), and at the school in Hosford
- If your group would like to host a workshop, wise old sages are available
- Bridging the Gap program is "heating up".....no new requests in mail
- Gratitude Dinner disposition> no exact figures on \$ yet>supplies donated to Intergroup
- Disposition discussion tabled

We Need A Corrections Chair!!!!

- Contributions to the Message needed....send to www.intergroup5.org

New Business- None.....Motion to close.....seconded....Passed!

Intergroup 5 News

The AA people are what they are and they were what they were because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor and an awareness of universal truth.

They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But when they have found their restoration, they are still sensitive as ever; responsive to beauty and to truth and eager about the intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions. And they are possessed of a sense of universal truth, that is often a new thing in their hearts. The fact that this at one moment with God's universe had never been awakened in them is sometimes the reason why they drank. The fact that it was at last awakened is almost always the reason why they were restored to the good and simple ways of life.

Stand with them when the meeting is over and listen as they say "The Lord's Prayer." They have found a Power Greater than themselves which they diligently serve. And that gives a charm that never was elsewhere on land or sea; it makes you know that God Himself is really charming because the AA people reflect His mercy and His forgiveness.

Down at the very bottom of the social scale of AA society are the pariahs, the untouchables and the outcasts, all known by excoriating epithet-relatives.

I am a relative. I know my place. I am not complaining. But I hope no one will mind if I venture the plaintive confession that there are times, oh many times, when I wish I had been an alcoholic. By that I mean that I wish I were in AA. The reason is that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist it has been my fortune to meet many of the people who are considered charming. I number among my friends stars and lesser lights of stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet; I know the ladies and gentlemen of both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House; I have broken bread with kings and ministers and ambassadors; and I say after that catalog, which could be extended, that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to any person or group of persons I have indicated.

I asked myself why I considered these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in the Alcoholics Anonymous. There are more, reasons than one, but I can name a few. They are imaginative, and that helped to make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imagination on to greater efforts. Others guzzled only to black out unendurable visions that rose in their imaginations. But when they have found their restoration, their imagination is responsive to new incantations, and their talk abounds with color and light and that makes them charming companions, too. They are possessed of a sense of humor even in their cups they have been known to say damnably funny things. Often it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made them seek escape in a bottle. But when they have found their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to reach a god-like state where they can laugh at themselves, the very height of self conquest. Go to meetings and listen to their laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candle-light.

In the days ahead, I resolve to see in every stupid question, a human soul groping for truth; in every conceited declaration, a human soul desperately grasping for the dignity, of which it has been robbed; in every angry action, a human soul fighting blindly for happiness; in every betrayal, a human mind distorted by false prophets; in every human being, the image and likeness of God.

December 2004	
Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	\$1,810.17
<u>Income</u>	
Contributions	
Holiday Party	493.61
Other	972.34
Total	1,465.95
Sub Total	\$3,276.12
<u>Expenses</u>	
Rent	236.50
Office Supervision	220.00
Answering Service	117.65
Holiday Party/Meat	525.30
Holiday Party/Hall usage	200.00
Telephone	40.41
Total	(1,339.86)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$1,936.26</u>
<u>Contributions</u>	
Grateful	75.00
Aligator Pt	200.00

Central	50.00
IG5 Bus Mtg	13.00
Crawfordville	59.24
Grateful	457.55
Anonymous	50.55
Apalachicola Bay	
Serenity	67.00
Holiday Party	493.61
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,465.95</u>

December 2004	
Literature Report	
Beginning Balance	\$462.20
Money order for ret ck	114.70
Sales	173.21
Tax	13.00
Total	300.91
Ending Balance	\$763.11



December Phone Report

(60 Calls Received by Volunteers)

- 30—Meeting Information
- 6—Miscellaneous
- 9—General
- 10—Agency
- 5—Al-anon

Faithful Fivers

Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who consistently contribute \$5.00 each month to Intergroup to help with expenses. Become a Faithful Fiver by dropping your "five" in the mail to Intergroup. If desired, we will publish your name in "The Message" as a Faithful Fiver.

Thank you for your generosity! Intergroup sincerely appreciates your help!

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It's Funny...how a \$5.00 bill looks so big in the basket at a meeting, but so small when you take it to any retail outlet...It's Funny



Events and Happenings

Current Events

Jan 19—District 5 monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.

Feb 2—IG 5, Inc. monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.

Future Events

Area Assembly is Friday, January 7 through Sunday, January 9, 2005.

Here is the meeting agenda:

<http://www.aanorthflorida.org/xhtml/en/nfaca.assembly.agenda.html>

Alk-a-Non, Advent Episcopal 815 W Piedmont on Jan 21 6:00 p.m. begins an Evening of Food, Fun, and Fellowship.

There will be Ruffled items and a '50/50', followed by Jimmie S., Pensacola, Fl - Alanon & Johnny Paul D., Unadilla, Ga - AA

We provide the Chili, while you provide what goes with it. Bring your favorite salad, bread, crackers, other covered dish, or dessert to share.

The speakers for the Open Door meeting are:
 January 1st Danya – Valdosta, GA
 January 8th Carla – Jacksonville, FL
 January 15th April C. – Tallahassee, FL
 January 22nd Cissy F. – Bainbridge, GA
 January 29th Diz T. – Tallahassee, FL
 The meeting starts at 7:30 PM at Tallahassee United Methodist Church, Mahan & Capitol Cir.

Twelfth Stepping the Wet Drunk
 Compiled in Loving Service

By the Inmates of the
 "Faith Group"

Marion Correctional Institution

P. O. Box 158

Lowell, Florida 32663

Saturday, January 29, 2005

2:00pm – 4:00pm

CASA Clubhouse

1208-H Capital Circle SE

(corner of Apalachee Parkway)

Tallahassee, Florida

Workshop will be facilitated by

Dan E., Orlando, Florida

WANTED

INTERGROUP Office Volunteers

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

WANTED

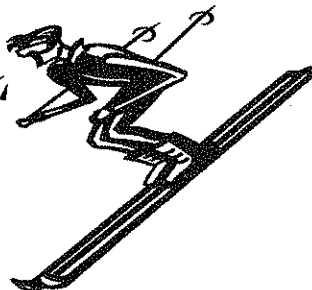
Volunteers to chair the Intergroup Membership and Special Events committee. If you are willing to be of service, please notify Tom A.,

Office Coordinator,
 (850) 224-1818

NEWSLETTER

Please submit articles, anniversary notices or announcements for "The Message" to the Intergroup office or send email to message@intergroup5.org by the last Wednesday of each month. If you have questions, call (850) 391-4077.

Have A Wonderful
Winter!



Keep Coming Back
Without a Drink!

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

The smallest package in the world is an alcoholic all wrapped up in himself.

Without change I am just a non-drinking drunk.

Serenity isn't freedom from the storm; it is peace within the storm.

Happy A.A. Anniversary December

Central Group Blair 1, James S. 1, Joe D. 6, Geogeann 6, Julie C. 7, Taylor 9, Mark W. 15, Tim H. 20

Living Sober & Happy Hour
 Sergey K. - 1, Dorian B. - 3, Tracy T. —3, Tom - 5, Holly - 7, Melanie M. - 18

Laughter is the sound of recovery!

