



TRUSTED SERVANTS

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—Alice R & Phanie H.

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—Rebecca R.—Central

Bridging the Gap—Gail H—

Bradfordville

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District 5

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NFACAA—Area 14

Area Treasurer

Marilyn B.

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The Message

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INTERGROUP 5, INC. July 2007 TALLAHASSEE, FL

Tradition Seven

The Tradition Seven we all know -- so familiarly hanging from the walls of a thousand meeting rooms -- states: *“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”*

Simple, huh? Well, not really. That's the Short Form. To fully understand any tradition one should read the Long Form (every tradition has one, although one of the Long Forms is actually shorter than the Short Form -- go figure) which can be found listed in the back of the “Big Book” and the “Twelve and Twelve.”

Here's the Long Form of Tradition Seven: *“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”*

When we look at this Tradition from the point-of-view of the Long Form, it seems more complicated, doesn't it? Well, it is. Did you know that each member of A.A. can only donate up to a maximum of three thousand dollars each year? And if you ever actually win that lottery -- you can put A.A. in your will -- but only up to that same three thousand dollars. If you leave the whole million, World Services will send it back with a “Thanks, but no thanks,” letter. And how about the A.A. Clubs? How much can they contribute to our Fellowship? Well, they can't donate anything. Why? First, because there's no such thing as an A.A. Club. That's covered by another Tradition. Second, that would be an “outside contribution.”

Why would an A.A. group need a treasury anyway? There are plenty of treatment centers who would be glad to have their own A.A. meeting. Need a meeting room? Coffee? No problem, the Bucolic Boozers Treatment Center will provide everything needed. No expenses -- no treasury. Right?

Wrong. Outside contributions don't have to be dollars. The room and the coffee are outside contributions. The problem with this is two-fold. Problem One: Them what foots the bills calls the shots. What happens if the well-intentioned people at the treatment center hang a sign over the door identifying the meeting as the Bucolic Boozers A.A. Group? Or they decide that meetings must be chaired by a counselor? Hard to argue when everything you have is a gift, isn't it? And then we're back to Problem Two, the same problem we had with the so-called A.A. Club. (There's that *other* Tradition again.)

That's why the treasury is needed. So we can pay our own bills. So we can rent our meeting rooms and buy our coffee. Those white chips aren't free. Neither are the birthday cakes. The folks who answer the phone at Intergroup may be volunteers but the telephone company isn't -- it wants the bill paid.

(Cont.pg.2)

Experience, Strength and Hope

Step 7—Humbly asked God to remove all these defects of character.

After the beating it took for me to get to A.A., steps 1 through 3 were rather easy for me. After being grateful and enjoying the new way of living (the A.A. way) from the results of steps 1 through 3, I stalled on continuing the steps until pain and insanity took its course. By the grace of God, pain and insanity, I finally got the 4th and 5th steps done. I was not tarred and feathered and dragged behind a truck like I thought I would be after my 5th step. Neither did I get a burning bush, but by the grace of God, I got relief because I was obedient to the program.

Now, since I went through this fearful experience, I thought that steps 6 and 7 would be a piece of cake, so to speak. I thought that I could just read them and go on to 8 and 9. **WRONG!!** I had to do more work. By just reading steps 6 and 7, nothing happened to me inside, so I did research. I learned that I had to get entirely ready for God to remove these defects of character. I had to be ready; I could not manipulate the program by simply reading the steps. And, I found out in a 6th step workshop that I had to be ready for God to remove these defects, NOT ME!

The A.A. program suggests we pause when agitated and that is what I had to do with steps 6 and 7. I had to humbly ask God to remove these shortcomings. By doing this, my experience was to trust God and have faith that God would remove the shortcomings in His time.

Step 7 is the shortest worded step of them all; however, to me, it may be the most humbling. I could not do this step by myself. I had to let God do it. I had to have the willingness, which I did not have at first. I think that is the reason that when I just read it and thought that would be enough, it did not work. That is where the research came in, so I could ask members about it. I read and studied about it and it all summed up to this: I had to get some willingness! That, of course, took humility. I found out that praying for the willingness helped out a lot, so, I did it. I turned it over to God by just believing that He was going to take care of this step. This is what I had to do to get through the rest of the steps.

WHAT A BLESSING! PRAISE GOD AND THE A.A. PROGRAM.

- Jimmie

(Cont. pg.1)

Unfortunately, with a lot of money sitting in a treasury, there is often the predicament of what to do with it. Invest? Build a clubhouse? Buy a big-screen TV? Who will make those decisions? Who will be in charge of this money? There's nothing like money to divert us from our primary purpose. If there's anything that will lead to disputes over property, money, and authority, that big treasury will do it.

There is another reason for this Tradition, one seldom mentioned in discussions of outside contributions. If the folks at World Services accept those million dollar donations, they may forget they are but trusted servants and become rule-wielding despots to the detriment of our primary purpose. The way it is now, that dollar or so members put in the pot collectively wields a lot of power, especially if individual groups decide to stop supporting anyone who doesn't understand the true meaning of the words "trusted servant."

Tradition Seven, just like all the Traditions, is more than simply part of a numbered list on a meeting room wall. It's one cog in the wheel that keeps our Fellowship together so that when new members walk through the door, there actually is an A.A. meeting waiting for them.

As an aside, even though there are no dues or fees, for a number of years now, the Fellowship has been suggesting we drop at least two-dollars into the pot. It seems that most of us were not aware of that so, if you can, up the ante. Even a spiritual program is subject to inflation.

By the way, that *other* tradition is Tradition Six.

- Jim O.

Intergroup 5/District 5 News

May to June 2007

Treasurer's Report—District 5 (submitted by Matt N.)

Beginning Balance at 5-16-07	3823.89
Traditions Extravaganza Activity	-10.08
DCM to area	-139.84
Pink Can outflows	-87.72
balance at 5-31-07	3585.53
Contributions-regular	
Appalachicola Bay Serenity Group	20.00
Happy Hour Group	40.00
Mustard Seed Group	49.39
Contributions-Pink Can	
Lloyd New Hope	164.00
CASA	71.62
East Point Group	12.00
Pink Can outflows	-60.20
Ending balance at 6-20-07	3882.34

A little A.A. Trivia for ya...Do you know the answer???

What word is most used most frequently in the Appendix entitled Spiritual Experience?

- A. Change
- B. Spiritual
- C. God
- D. Serenity

Answer on page 4...

From the book...

"At a certain point in the drinking of every alcoholic, he passes into a state where the most powerful desire to stop drinking is of absolutely no avail. This tragic situation has already arrived in practically every case long before it is suspected." p. 24

"Most of us sense that real tolerance of other people's shortcomings and viewpoints and a respect for their opinions are attitudes which make us more useful to others." p.19

June 2007

Treasurer's report—Intergroup 5 (submitted by Matt C.)

General Fund

Checking:
Beginning 5/31/2007 balance \$ 69.71

Contributions:

Apalachicola Bay Serenity	20.00
Central	200.00
Powder No Puff	75.88
Mustard Seed	98.79
Picnic Cont.	184.00

Total Contributions 578.67

Transfer from prudent reserve 750.00

Total from all sources 1328.67

Less:

Disbursements:

Answering service	249.00
Office Ins.	419.63
Office Coord. Travel & related ex.	(220.00)
Office Coord. Travel & related ex.	63.19
Internet installation/monthly chrg.	181.84
Picnic Supplies	225.26
Printing Newsletter/ When & where	0.00
Rent	248.36
Telephone	48.43

Total Expense Disbursements 1215.71

Ending Balance 6/30/2007 \$ 182.67

Prudent Reserve Savings:

Beginning 5/31/2007 balance	2004.55
Transfer to general fund	(750.00)
Ending Balance 6/30/2007	\$ 1,254.55

less:

Purchases	646.00
Total expenditures	646.00

Ending Balance 6/30/2007 \$ 1,417.94

Year to date sales tax liability (260.64)

Literature Fund

Beginning 5/31/2007 Balance	\$ 1,374.89
add: Literature sales	640.70
Sales Tax collected	48.35
Total receipts	689.05

Next—

Intergroup Meeting: July 11
District Meeting: July 18
Area Assembly: July 13-15
Gainesville, FL

Events and Happenings

Current Events

Around our area...

12th Annual Southeastern Woman to Woman Seminar

July 27-29th, 2007

Jacksonville, Florida For Conference info: <http://www.sewomantowoman.org>

51st Florida State Convention

August 8-12, 2007

Orlando, Florida

Convention Web Site:www.flstateconvention.com

SUMMER SERENITY AT THE BEACH

August 16th-19th, 2007

Destin, Florida

More Info: <http://www.destin-ssatb.org>

FOUNDER'S DAY 2007

The Fourth Annual Founder's Day, Florida Style was another successful event for all AA's in attendance Chairman Joe D. announced. The weekend was kicked off with a workshop on Sponsorship by Gary M. of Biloxi, MS who told of the sponsors he had that shared their experience with him. That was followed by Joe C. of Palm Coast, Fl. Joe spoke of his struggle with alcoholism, and how his near fatal backward spiral with self almost cost him his family, employment, etc. Tallahassee's own Ann D. talked about her struggles with this disease and her many changes of geography trying to find a way of life finally settling down in Tallahassee. Dottie Lou W. shared her Family before and afterwards in her workshop on Saturday afternoon while Linda S. of Fitzgerald, GA, the Al-Anon speaker, gave a rewarding talk even though losing her best pal to cancer. Gary M. came back on Saturday night to a standing ovation for his new way of living that cheated death and incarceration. The raffle and dance followed the evening activities. Dottie Lou W. of St. Simons Island took us home after relating how she could not live with her family once she got sober. The oldest person had 45 years while the youngest had 28 days. Regina I., the Chairperson for FDFS 2008, announced that plans were under way for next year and an announcement would follow for the next meeting.

Diz T.

June Phone Report

(67 Calls Received by Volunteers)



0—12th Step

3—Al-anon

9—AA Info

43—Meeting Information

3—Agency

6—Miscellaneous

We need more Volunteers!
Please call Larry H 567-8407

LAUGHTER IS THE SOUND OF RECOVERY!

Trivia
Answer

A. Change



Happy A.A. Anniversary

Central Group—

J.R.-13; Blair-4; Ben-1; Cameron M.- 1; Susan H.-1;
Van J.-12; Andrew-4; Brett- 3

Happy Hour/Living Sober— Carla H-12; Jack S.-15;

Keith G.-2;

Hugh-17;

Ed V.-14

Lloyd New Hope

Tom -6

Carol-3

Cliff-4

Monticello

Serenity—

Charlie C.-32

*WHEN ANYONE IN
DISTRICT 5 MAKES IT
FOR A YEAR OR ANY
MULTIPLE
PLEASE LET ME KNOW
224-1818!*

***Celebrate
Your
Success!***