



TRUSTED SERVANTS

Intergroup

Chairman—Don W—Northside
Co-chairman—Ron L—Northside
Secretary—Phyllis K—HomeGroup
Treasurer—Pat C—Crawfordville
Literature—Pat C—Crawfordville
Website—Rob K—Pathfinders
Activities—Vacant
Membership—Vacant
Newsletter—Larry H—Central

District 5

DCM—Ed V—Happy Hour
Alternate DCM—Kathy Lynn—
Pathfinders
Secretary—Anne K—Happy Hour
Treasurer—Lisa F—Downtown

Standing Committees

CPC—Kevin K—Central
PI—Gerry W—Happy Hour
Treatment—Allison B—Central
Corrections—Danny P—Night Owl
Grapevine—Joe J—HomeGroup
Intergroup—Kathy Lynn—
Pathfinders
Accessibilities—Kayce M—Downtown
Archives—Bob S—Southside

CONTACT INFORMATION

Intergroup 5, Inc.

1106-H Thomasville Road
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 Connie D.
5205 North Sonora Terrace
Beverly Hills, FL 34465

The Message

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INTERGROUP 5, INC.

June, 2004

TALLAHASSEE, FL

EARLY HISTORY OF A.A. IN THE NORTH FLORIDA AREA 1940-

The next alcoholic to join Tom M was a man named Bob L in 1945. Later, we find the Central Group starting in the basement of the old Trinity Methodist Church. We believe at that time a man named Ed B came into the fellowship. I am not sure of the exact number in this group.

In 1948, the group moved to the old Dixie Hotel across the street from the old Capitol Building on South Monroe Street. I am not sure of the exact time but the group moved next to the upstairs in a little room over what was then called the "7 Seas Restaurant". (The restaurant was torn down to build the present House and Senate Buildings on South Monroe Street behind the old Capitol Building.)

A man named Norman S came into the fellowship in 1948. He was legally blind so Ed B read the Big Book aloud to him. Eventually, he learned to recite the Big Book from beginning to end by memory. Norman S was to go on and be elected as an A.A. delegate in 1960-61.

In 1946, Doc Mays, a Presbyterian minister from Thomasville came to Tallahassee. He talked to Tom M and went back to start a group in Thomasville, Georgia. In 1956, Jack B came into the program on Labor Day and at that time there were approximately 18 people meeting in Tallahassee. All they had at the time was the Big Book. Tom M, Norman S, Ed B, and Clem N, who are all deceased, were in the group at that time.

In 1957, the group moved to a clubhouse on State Road 27 which was owned by a man named Stiles, who also owned the Cherokee Motel. The clubhouse was called "Gordon's" for Gordon B. In 1958, one year later, the group moved to the Capitol Complex on South Monroe Street. Meetings were held in the Senate Office Building in Hearing Room #33. Next, the group moved to the Mayo Building, then the Leon County Courthouse, and then a suite in the Peoples Bank. Finally, the group settled at 909 N Gadsden Street.

In 1962, Ed B. started another group in Tallahassee called "The Big Bend". This group met on Monday nights to study the Big Book chapter by chapter. During the period of 1955 to 1965, the Central Group had grown to about 22 people who regularly attended meetings.

While at a fish fry, the group decided to form a non-profit corporation outside of A.A. and buy the building located at 909 North Gadsden Street owned by the Seven Day Adventists. The Seven Day Adventists were liquidating some of their properties in that area and had the building for sale. A charter was written for the nonprofit corporation and the Central Group has operated under the twelve traditions and the Tallacon since that time.

(continued page 2)

Do you know the history of your group? Please send me your stories of the beginnings and updates of your struggles as you trudge the "Road of Happy Destiny"

District 5 News

Around 1962, Reb G, Russ M, Mary Alice B., John R, Ed E., and Neil F been attending A.A. meetings in Tallahassee. They helped start the first Big Book study group on Sunday afternoons in the old Courthouse Building. The meeting lasted as long as anyone wanted to stay and talk about the Big Book chapter by chapter.

In 1960, the first African Americans began attending local A.A. meetings and the Central Group split wide open for a period of time over the issue. That year, Bob D, a member of the group, went to the International Convention in California. While at the convention, he asked Bill Wilson for his advice relating to this matter. Bill simply said that was the way new groups formed in an area.

During the period of 1972 through 1974, a group split off from the Central Group over a dispute on how the money was handled. The new group was to become the South Side Group. I believe Shelly R and Bob P had a lot to do with starting this new group. At first, the group met in an old warehouse building at 1905 South Monroe Street. The first meetings were in a front showroom and later moved to the back of the building. The meeting days were on the days Central did not meet. This was the first time someone could attend ninety meetings in ninety days. At this time, Al-Anon also met at the same time with both groups.

Between 1974-75, the North Side Group was formed and did not result from a split between groups. Walt E was instrumental in heading this group up. At first, meetings were held in the Killlearn Methodist Church. Also, Alanon was very important to these groups.

In April of 1976, the New Hope Group formed in Lloyd, Florida. The first meetings were at the train station and then moved to the Women's Club where they have been ever since. Include in the account of this group, the history recorded by Rowena D. (It would be nice if other groups would record their history as well.) Around this same period of time, a satellite group was meeting in the Monticello area. This may have been the only literature outlet in the area until 1980.

In 1976, a group started in the town of Crawfordville located in neighboring Wakulla County. The group met in the livestock pavilion right outside of town. In 1979 another group formed in Tallahassee called the Capital City Group which met at Tallahassee Community Hospital in the northeast section of the city. In the 1980's, many new groups were started in the surrounding area which I have listed below:

1982 ---- Perry Winner Group

1984 ---- Fireside Group

1985 ---- Serenity Smokeless Group in the Faith Presbyterian Church

1987 ---- Women on the Wagon located at the Addiction Recovery

Center 1989 ---- Havana Sobriety Group

Living Sober — Casa

The Young Peoples Group Casa

1990 ---- Steam Street Group (June)

Happy Hour Casa

Woodville Group

(Thanks again to Bob H.)

GREETINGS FROM THE ALCOAN CLUB

We earnestly solicit your good will and support

For quite a while prior to December, 1949, there appeared to be an urgent need in A.A. circles in Tallahassee for quarters where the man or woman we left behind, who had lost all, and who had finally come to the point where he wanted to do something about his alcoholic problem could come to find what we have — a place of retreat to fill a void, a place where he could find understanding friendship, the hand of fellowship, and a free cup of coffee — a place where he could sit down without resorting to the park bench, the railroad station, or the bus depot — a place where the door to that squirrel cage could be opened. There seemed to be such a great need for a place of that kind that it became general conversation in A.A. circles. We had been meeting in various places; an old hotel, a school auditorium, and Church School rooms. Sometimes schedules got crossed up and we journeyed out to somebody's home. Newcomers or visitors could never be sure just where to find us. After careful consideration and serious thought by a number of A.A.'s we rented our present location, mostly on faith, with a few members underwriting the expenses. After a while it was seen that the experience of others and our traditions should be followed by having a separate organization to handle the business' end. This was done and we now have a charter. The Alcoan Club exists to provide a center for any Alcoholics Anonymous activity. Who is going to pay the freight so that we may continue? The man who has lost all and is down? No, it was realized from the very start that those of us who have benefited from A.A. have to pay the freight or there could be no meeting place of this kind, nor any place for the men without families to drop in and read, or talk. THIS IS A FORM OF 12th STEP WORK, HELPING TO CARRY THE MESSAGE. We have come a long way but we cannot let up.

FAILURE COMES FROM LACK OF INTEREST

After we have gotten the wrinkles out of our mid-section, a job, some presentable clothes, our self-respect and the respect of our family and friends back, it is rather *easy* for us to forget our responsibility, and to become self sustained and SMUG, or maybe by the GRACE OF GOD we were more fortunate than the next guy and didn't go all the way. That doesn't let us out. The chances are that if we hadn't found A.A. we would be one of those who has lost all and is **DOWN AND OUT. — BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD.** (continued Page 3)

District 5 News

Intergroup 5 News

This Is What Alcoan Club Is:

The Alcoan Club is a place of assembly for **Alcoholics** who honestly want to stay sober. Any person, with an alcoholic problem who **honestly wants to stay sober**, any member of any group of A.A., any member of an A.A.'s family or an intimate friend of a member of A.A. is welcome to the Club at any and all times.

The Club is a part of Alcoholics Anonymous activity in Tallahassee. The Club is primarily a twelfth step and information center of Alcoholics Anonymous. Any other activity is secondary. The Club is supported altogether by voluntary contributions and subscriptions. Though subscriptions are voluntary they establish affiliations with the Club and entitle the A.A. subscriber to voting privileges. Non A.A. members are non voting members.

The Club is a non profit organization.

The by-laws of the Club provide that all activities of the Club shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the A.A. traditions and principles as suggested by the Alcoholic Foundation.

Some of the Secondary Activities of the Alcoan Club:

A place for anyone of us to go to pass away a little spare time, especially when we feel the need of some understanding fellowship. All of us, no matter how long we have been dry, hit a rough spot now and then.

An auditorium for A.A. group meetings and social activities, a place where we can play Canasta, checkers, dominoes, read, or just beat our gums.

Snack bar facilities and operations.

Subscription blanks are available for both members of A.A. and non members of A.A. Non A.A. membership is restricted to members of an A.A.'s family or to an intimate friend of a member of A.A. Non A.A. members are non voting members.

If you have already affiliated with the Club, then how about trying to get someone to subscribe who has not but can and should?

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.

God in His wisdom has selected this group of men to be the purveyors of His goodness. In selecting them through whom to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the humble, to the sick, to the unfortunate — He went right to the drunkard, the so-called weakling of the world.

Well might he have said to us —Into your weak and feeble hand I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which had been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientists or statesmen, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests or ministers, have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics which I entrust to you.

It must be used unselfishly. It carries with it grave responsibility. No day can be too long, no demands upon your time can be too urgent, no case too pitiable, no task too hard, no effort too great It must be used with tolerance for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect, lack of appreciation will be common, ridicule will be your lot, your motives will be misjudged Success will not always attend your efforts in your work with other alcoholics. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs toward spiritual perfection, and remember in the exercise of this power, I shall not exact of you beyond your capabilities.

You are not selected because of your exceptional talents, and be careful always if success attends your efforts, not to ascribe to personal superiority, that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of My gift.

If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, the power would have been entrusted to the physician and the scientist; if I had wanted eloquent men, there would have been many anxious for the

May 2004 IG5	
Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	\$1,937.43
<u>Income</u>	
Contributions	1,227.23
Sub Total	\$3,164.66
<u>Expenses</u>	
Rent	\$ 229.50
Office Supervision	\$ 220.00
Supplies	18.12
Answering Service	151.58
Telephone	45.41
Printing/Message	37.65
Total	\$ (702.56)
Ending Balance	\$2,462.40
May 2004 IG5 Contributions	
Flint River Roundup	\$ 100.00
Capital City	205.15
NorthSide	180.00
Living Sober	50.00
Powder No Puff	196.08
IG5 Meeting	13.00
Central	300.00
Men's Faith	88.00
Living Sober	95.00
Total	\$1,227.23
May Literature Report	
Beginning Balance	\$1,065.61
<u>Income</u>	
Literature Sales	37.01
Tax	2.75
Total	\$ 39.76
<u>Expenses</u>	

Literature Credit Card	
	\$(445.60)
Ending Balance	\$ 659.77

Members...who should never be forgotten!

Last month I wrote about Fox and thought about how he could quiet the wildest man or woman with his sincere hug and his greeting, "Amigo! How are you?" Along with Fox there were others who helped me see what a recovering alcoholic should be. Hazel always remembered to be grateful and Dan continuously introduced himself as "Increasing grateful." Of course we will never forget Jack B and his repetitious stories that informed all who could hear about our disease and what we could do about it by taking action, he said, "The sky's the limit." It is a wish I should not hold, for it goes against the guiding principal of being in the here and now fully, but it would be a joyful experience to once more walk in to 909 and be greeted by Fox, hear the wisdom of Jack B and the sharing of Dan, Bill Hazel, Cathy, Celia and many others.....they are gone but I am blessed for having known them.
Central Group Member

May Phone Report

(81 Calls Received by Volunteers)

- 50—Meeting Information
- 2—Twelve Step
- 18— General
- 5—Agency
- 6—Al-anon



assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all talents with which I have endowed mankind; if I had wanted scholarly men, the world is full of better qualified men than you who would have been available. You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and your long experience as drunkards has made or should make you humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere. Keep ever in mind the admission you made on the day of your profession in A.A., namely, that you are powerless and that it was only with your willingness to turn your life and your will into My keeping, that relief came to you.

ALCOAN CLUB

314 1/2 S. Monroe Phone 2-4007

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Please address all mail as follows —

SECRETARY, P. O. Box 1005,

Tallahassee, Florida

Alcoan Club first listed in AA World Services August 1947

Events and Happenings

Current Events

June 16—District 5 monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.
July 7—Intergroup 5, Inc. monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.

Future Events

June 5—Picnic at Lafayette Park—Get there early—Speaker at 11:00—Cecilia R from Merritt Island, FL —Lunch following speaker. Please bring a side dish or desert.

Founders Day Florida Style for members of AA will be held on Friday through Sunday, June 25, 26 and 27th of 2004 in Tallahassee, Florida. For those who have a computer, check out: <http://www.foundersdayfl.org/>

Thank you for removing the old schedule, whoever you are.
http://home.att.net/~ACADMAN/AA_Tallahassee/AA_Sched.htm

DISTRICT 5 CONTRIBUTIONS/REVENUE	YTD Totals
Alligator Point	\$ -
Anonymous	\$ -
Apalachicola Bay Serenity	\$ 50.00
Brown Bag Serenity	\$ 10.00
Came To Believe	\$ 35.72
Capital City Group	\$ 41.03
Carrabelle	\$ -
Central	\$ 180.00
Do Drop In	\$ -
Downtown	\$ -
Happy Hour	\$ 25.00
Havana	\$ -
Home Group	\$ -
Living Sober	\$ 87.00
Men's Faith Group	\$ 17.00
Monticello	\$ -
North Side	\$ 83.00
Ochlockonee Bay Group	\$ -
Pathfinders	\$ 7.56
Pink Can (Corrections)	\$ 90.00
Powder No Puff	\$ 39.21
Quincy Group	\$ -
Seekers	\$ -
Singleness of Purpose	\$ -
Southside	\$ 7.90
Working With Others	\$ -
Events: Dinners/Workshops	\$ -
Totals	\$ 673.42

Strength and growth come from knowing ourselves, knowing what matters for us. If we respect each other, we will find the way to fit any apparent conflict into a broader system that can accommodate us both. If I am honest with myself, I can be my own best teacher.

Have A Wonderful Summer!



Keep Coming Back Without a Drink!

Happy A.A. Anniversary May

Central Group Becky 1, Crystal 1, Katherine 1, Jamie 2, Dru' 2, Jimmie 3, Pat 6, Chazz 6, Trey M. 10, Elizabeth 17, Alan 19
 No other groups reported any birthdays

DISTRICT 5 EXPENSES	YTD Totals
CPC	\$ -
Corrections	\$ 83.85
PI	\$ -
Accessibilities	\$ -
Assembly	\$ 173.23
Maintenance Fee - Checking	\$ 15.00
Intergroup 5, Inc.	\$ -
Schedules	\$ 70.00
P O Box	\$ 38.00
Church - Mtg. Rm. Donation	\$ 100.00
Events - Dinners/Workshops	\$ 541.86
Totals	\$ 1,021.94

01/01/04 Checking Balance	\$ 950.74
01/01/04 Savings Balance	\$ 1,033.88
Year-to-date Contributions	\$ 673.42
Year-to-date Expenses	\$(1,021.94)
YTD Dividends	\$ 1.77
Current Balance	\$ 1,637.87

Pink Can	\$ -
2003 Balance Forward	\$ 207.00
Contributions	\$ 90.00
Pink Can Income	\$ 297.00
Corrections' Expenses	\$ (83.85)
Pink Can Balance	\$ 213.15

WANTED

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



That all A.A. members are spiritually inspired. Many, too, are not committed to a formal body of religious doctrine. But innumerable A.A. members -- including those of no orthodoxy -- say that they have experienced the transforming power of sharing, caring, trust and love."

c. 1961, Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A. Pamphlet P-25) - page 9