



TRUSTED SERVANTS

Intergroup

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

District 5

*DCM—Kathy Lynn S—Pathfinders
Alternate DCM—Joe D—Downtown
Secretary—Earl W—Living Sober
Treasurer—Lisa F—Downtown*

Standing Committees

*PI-CPC—Kevin K—Central
Treatment—Allison B—Central
Tim D—Corrections—Central
Grapevine—Tracey T—HappyHour
Intergroup—Joe D—Downtown
Accessibilities—Kayce M—Downtown
Archives—Rob K—Pathfinders*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NFACAA—Area 14

*Area Treasurer
C/O Rick B.
PO Box 4933
Winter Park, FL 32793*

The Message

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INTERGROUP 5, INC. May, 2005 TALLAHASSEE, FL

January 9, 2005 Area Assembly

In Nov 2004, the Florida State Convention Advisory Committee met. In Dec 2004, the North and South Florida Area Panel 55 Delegates and Chairs met with Dick G., our Southeast Regional Trustee at the Southeast Regional Forum. He requested that the two delegates make a joint statement at the January 2005 Assembly. He did not tell us what to say but rather urged us to inform the fellowship of the following facts:

The Florida State Convention held in Jacksonville in 2004 was profitable.

The Florida State Convention held in Naples in 2003 was not profitable. There was a loss of \$42,000 payable to only one vendor, the Registry Hotel. The hotel sought payment from Alcoholics Anonymous in New York and was informed that each entity in A.A. is autonomous. The hotel brought suit against the chair of that convention adding legal fees and interest of \$16,000 for a total due of \$58,000. The chair of that convention has signed a personal promissory note to repay the amount.

We jointly agreed that it was better to inform the fellowship of the above information rather than have rumors circulating.

After much thought, discussion and prayer, the delegates of North and South Florida Areas recommend that we move in one of two directions:

- A) The areas assume 100% oversight and responsibility for the state convention, or
- B) The areas remove themselves completely from the state convention and not affiliate with it.

Unfortunately, this is an all or nothing decision. Any shade of gray could leave the areas open to legal and possibly financial liability.

It is our recommendation that the areas discuss this situation and be prepared to make a decision at the April assembly. All of the details for either solution have not been worked out, and we presently do not have all the answers. What we need is to know what direction the Areas wish to proceed with the Florida State Convention.

Yours in Service,
Michael S. & Steve P.
North & South Florida Area Delegates, Panel 55

Discussion:

- Q: When did we find out?
- A: Since last assembly.

District 5 News

Q: If we do not pass either motion, will it stay the same:

A: Yes.

Q: Profit from Jacksonville was \$2,000 left over. Could any part of the profits be applied?

A: Not possible for 2004, possibility for 2005/2006.

Q: Will the letter be printed in the minutes along with questions asked?

A: Yes.

Q: Are we going to have the benefit of legal counsel to help us with this? What is the impact of these motions regarding the traditions? Will we get more information from the Advisory Committee?

A: Yes.

The Southeastern Trustee was asked to comment: General Service Board does not consider this a GSO problem, it is an Area problem. Unique to Florida we have a combined State Convention. Liability is not a part of these motions. What are the legal ramifications? If the people of the hotel can establish a link between the committee that signed the contract and Areas, there is a possibility that we are liable. We need to separate the Areas from these conventions or the Areas need to host the conventions.

Q: How do other Areas handle conventions?

A: GSO hosts and pays for the International. Some Areas do there own.

Q: Knowing what we do, can we set up a trust to cover these expenses? How do we set up a committee for this?

A: If we vote to not support, this would be a mute point. A committee would have to be set up from both Areas.

Q: Historically, how has this been with the State Conventions?

A: There is an Advisory Committee set up to help oversee the tax exempt and improve communication from both Areas.

Q: Can we pull from other Areas who have had the same experience?

A: Yes, the Delegate will contact GSO.

Experience was given from a member who has been involved with other states. Some have more structured Advisory Boards.

Q: How did we lose the money and do we have to guarantee a certain number of attendees?

A: A couple of problems contributed to the loss. As far as number, it is by room nights reserved and banquet tickets sold.

Q: A.A. Guidelines were presented, why were they not adhered to? Are the Advisory minutes published?

A: No, only the Advisory members get the minutes.

Q: Is the Area a non-profit?

A: Yes.

Q: Do we have legal counsel?

A: No.

Q: Do we have a legal opinion?

A: No.

Q: Will a briefing package with legal opinion go to the groups?

A: We will do what we can, we only have three months to get this done, we will do our best.

District 5 News

Q: What if South and North Florida vote on two different motions?

A: We will adhere to what we vote on.

Q: Why would we want to be involved with State Conventions?

A: Because we historically have been.

Q: Are either of these options in violation of the Traditions?

A: We do not feel that there is any violation of Traditions.

The issue is not whether we can get legally around this. Are we committed to it, and are we going to bear the responsibility for it?

Sent notice on 03/23/05 to District 5 correspondence e-mail list:

Fred H., Area 14 Alternate Delegate, was informed in early February at the Delegates Get Together in Atlanta, that the Florida Areas are the only ones in our region (13 states) that DO NOT have oversight of their State Conventions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

April 3, 2005 Business Meeting

DCM Report – Kathy S.

Motion from Delegate as presented in minutes:

That the Area assume responsibility for the State Convention when it occurs in the Area.

Correct wording of the motion according to the Secretary's tape:

That the North Florida Area assumes responsibility for the State Convention when it geographically occurs in the North Florida Area.

- MOTION FAILED; MINORITY OPINION GIVEN; VOTING MEMBER DECIDED TO CHANGE TO VOTE
- MOTION THEN PASSED WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY (2/3 majority) 132-43

Motion from Delegate as presented in minutes:

That the Area not affiliate with the State Conventions.

Correct wording of the motion according to the Secretary's tape:

That the North Florida Area removes itself completely from the State Convention and not affiliate itself with it.

- MOTION WITHDRAWN DUE TO PASSING OF 1ST MOTION

Tom H., NFA chair, then appointed an ad hoc committee (due to their experience in specific areas) to make recommendations on how to transition into taking responsibility for the State Convention when it geographically occurs in the North Florida Area:

Dan E., Chair (Past Delegate)

Fred H., 2004 Florida State Convention chair

Chet P., Legal experience

Connie D., CPA

STATEMENT FROM CHAIR: THERE IS NOTHING LEGALLY AGAINST A.A. AT THIS TIME (in regard to the 2003 Florida State Convention in Naples).

Motion out of the Finance Committee "to participate in the repayment of the 2003 State Convention in Naples."

- MOTION DEFEATED 112-58 (DID NOT HAVE SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY)
- MINORITY OPINION GIVEN; VOTING MEMBER DECIDED TO CHANGE VOTE
- MOTION PASSED 129-41.

New motion to create a fund to gather voluntary donations for the repayment of the 2003 Florida State Convention debt.

District 5 News

- MOTION TABLED AND REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS MADE DURING THE ASSEMBLY:
- The North and South Florida Areas are the only areas in our region (13 states) that do not have oversight of their state conventions.
 - Chair of 2003 Florida State Convention cannot be reached and has provided no records regarding the 2003 convention. There are bank statements and check stubs, but no receipts.
 - Information given that the chair of the 2003 Florida State Convention has been subpoenaed for an April 24th deposition.
 - The 501(c)(2) Non-profit corporation tax exempt number is in the name of Florida State Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. This is the number that has been used in the past to file receipts and expenditures with the IRS for the Florida State conventions.
 - Q: How is North Florida Area related to the State Convention? A: The North and South Florida Area chairs, along with past, present and future state convention chairs, serve on the Florida State Convention Advisory Committee.
 - There could be a link established between North Florida Area and the debt of the 2003 Florida State Convention. With fees and interest, the debt is now over \$60,000.
 - Concept XII, Warranty Five: "That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy." (*Reprinted from The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service, by Bill W., page 69, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*) See pages 69-74.

The following additional information was sent by the DCM on April 14, 2005 to all members on the District 5 Correspondence group e-mail list:

April 3, 2005 North Florida Area Assembly:

The Finance Committee moves that, if the South Florida Area agrees, up to \$5,000 be taken from the North/South Florida fund for hosting the hospitality room at the International Convention to pay part of the debt for the 2003 Florida State Convention. MOTION DEFEATED.

The South Florida Area met this last weekend and this motion was defeated at their Assembly also.

In addition, it is my understanding that South Florida voted to set up an ad hoc committee to discuss participating in the State Convention process. They also voted to not use any (SF) Area money to pay off the debt; that none of the groups or districts (in SF) will be asked to contribute. They are going to set up a separate line to earmark donations from individual members who want to donate money (up to \$2,000 per person) to pay off the 2003 Florida State Convention debt.

In closing, Dilene S., NFA secretary, is going to do a special mailing to all DCMs detailing all motions that were considered regarding the 2003 convention debt and future, including full details of all actions in regard to each. After receiving this from Dilene, I will pass it on to everyone on the district e-mail list, as well as provide hard copies at the district meeting.

The following additional information was sent by the DCM on May 1, 2005 to all members on the District 5 Correspondence group e-mail list:

On April 25, 2005 Tom H., Area 14 Chair provided me with the following information regarding the 2003 Florida State Convention debt:

Tom H. spoke with Ken C., South Florida Area Chair during the meeting of the State Convention Advisory Committee held on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Only contributions from individuals can be applied toward the 2003 Florida State Convention debt; no group contributions will be accepted. South Florida discovered that they must set up a separate bank account for this purpose or it would jeopardize their tax exempt status. It may be a couple of weeks or after South Florida's July Assembly until this account is established.

In an effort to keep everyone as informed as possible, I've attached all my notes regarding this issue and will add to it as new information is received.

Intergroup 5 News

Intergroup 5 Minutes April 6, 2005

Groups Represented: Capital City, Central, Crawfordville, Downtown, Home Group, Living Sober, Northside, Pathfinders, Powder No Puff, Southside [There were a total of 14 people present, including visitors; 10 groups were represented].

Ron L. called the meeting to order as 7pm

Carol M. read the 12 Traditions

Secretary's report was accepted.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Office report accepted.

Literature report accepted.

District report: given by Ron L., we have a new corrections chair, Tim D.; Joe D., our alternate DCM, is working on a quarterly calendar of events; Kevin K., the PI-PCP chair, is looking into creating a meeting orientation for court ordered attendees; from Area Assembly--North Florida has voted to support the Florida State Convention; also, the Area has voted to help repay some of the existing debt from the previous state convention situation, the manner of repayment has yet to be determined.

Old Business: Annette discovered the AA announcement in the Monday Democrat must be renewed monthly and will be renewing it every month hereafter.

Answering Service: Larry H. and Rob K. will create a form for people to download from the website which may be taken to individual groups to have interested members sign up, so that a more accurate idea of interest in the new system may be gauged. Reps can bring in the lists next month (Kevin K. mentioned that Telephone Counseling has offered to do a training/exchange sessions which would be mutually beneficial).

Founder's Day Picnic: Rob K. asked that Nancy B., the District IG coordinator, come to speak at the Picnic on June 4. Motion made and passed. He also asked for permission to pursue an alternate speaker if Nancy is not available. Also, Annette T. added that the speaker be given \$75 for travel expenses. Motion made and passed. Ron L. will download and submit the form for Tallahassee Parks and Recreation to have the park at Tom Brown Park.

New Business: Activities Chair: Northside has voiced concerns about IG spending money for activities that are non-recovery/ meetings (specifically mentioning a previously held softball tournament). Rob K. suggests that the IG Activities Chair just coordinate the Founder's Day Picnic and the Holiday Party (the two main events that IG has traditionally sponsored). Kevin K. offers that an activity should be appropriate if it fosters recovery, especially for the newcomer. Ron L. asks if this needs to be addressed in the by-laws (the only mention of the Activities chair being that it must be someone with at least one year of continuous sobriety and that the Executive Committee approves the nominee). Also, concern is raised that groups should not pay for events that they do not support. Much discussion ensued. No ultimate conclusion is reached other than everyone seemed to agree that sponsored activities should be closely associated with recovery. As to the specifics of this idea, we will have to come to a conclusion at some later date.

We returned to Rob's original suggestion that the Activities chair

be responsible for the Picnic and the Holiday Party, as these events are centered around meetings and do foster recovery. A motion was made that Matt C., Lake Jackson Group, coordinate the Founder's Day Picnic. Motion made and passed.

Payment to Church for Use of Space: Pat C. motions that we pay the Faith Presbyterian Church \$100/year, paid on the year, for the use of the space for our monthly meetings.

Motion passes.

Founder's Day Conference: We will provide books for the Founder's Day Florida Style Conference in June. Also, Kevin K. came to ask for Intergroup's participation in/support of the conference. Greg S. moves we embrace the conference.

Motion Passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Treasurer's Report April, 2005

General Fund

Beginning 3/31/2005 Balance \$2,287.47

Contributions:

Apalachicola Bay Serenity	40.00
Central Group	150.00
North Side	297.18
Came to Believe	109.25
Happy Hour	154.69
IG5 meeting	15.00
Total	766.12

Disbursements:

Rent	236.50
Answering service	81.79
Telephone	45.15
Office coordinator travel & related exp	220.00
State Corporation Rept Fee(annual)	61.25
Total	644.69
Ending 4/30/2005 Balance	\$2,408.90

Prudent Reserve Savings

Beginning 3/31/2005 Balance	\$735.11
Interest earned	0.18

Ending 4/30/2005 Balance \$735.29

Literature Fund

Beginning 3/31/2005 Balance	\$1,425.78
Literature sales	181.95
Sales tax collected	13.67
Total	195.62

Ending 4/30/2005 Balance \$1,621.40

We do the best we can each day--the best we are capable of at the time. When we realize that life is not fair and we can not change that fact, we are starting to grow up. I have not been punished for my character defects; I have been punished by them. Don't confuse activity with accomplishment. **Honesty is the absence of the intent to deceive!**

Events and Happenings

Current Events

May 18—District 5 monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.
June 1—IG 5, Inc. monthly meeting, Faith Presbyterian Church, Meridian and John Knox Road, 7:00 pm.

Future Events

Speakers for the Open Door meeting for May 2005
 May 7-Diz T. 24 year birthday
 May 14 Chuck S. Woodville Group
 May 21 Bob H. Central Group
 May 28 Bill P. Alligator Point meeting
 Charlie H. Woodville group chairperson for May
 May 21 *Bridging the Gap Eatin' Meeting & Workshop*
 12:30 Bring a covered dish with food or Just Come!
 June 4 *Founders Day Picnic @ Tom Brown Park*
 June 10-12 *Founders Day Florida Style*
www.foundersdayfl.org
Twelve Concepts and Service Manual Continuing Workshop Sundays 3:00pm - 4:00pm, rain or shine
 909 Gadsden Street, Tallahassee
Please pass your experience, strength and hope on to those desiring to grasp the Twelve Concepts and Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous.
 The Willing Group
 Tuesday Evenings 6:00pm—7:00pm
 Big Book Study
 Thursday Evenings 6:00pm—7:00pm
 Open Discussion
 Community Day Center
 466 West Tennessee Street
 Tallahassee, FL
 The Community Day Center is the small building to the east of The Shelter.
 Parking located behind the Community Center.
Found your service niche yet? Try District V Treatment Committee. Come to offer your experience, strength and hope in a non-smoking, open discussion meeting at Hope Community (transitional housing for the homeless) 2700 Municipal Way—Tallahassee On Pensacola Street between Ocala Road and Appleyard Drive Turn on Dupree, (across the street from Villa Del Lago Apartments) Turn right on Municipal Way Meeting held in cafeteria First building on the right Contact Kathy S. at (850)322-5173 if you need additional information. Meeting the following Saturdays in May from 10am – 11am:
 Saturday, May 7, 2005
 Saturday, May 14, 2005
 Saturday, May 28, 2005

April Phone Report

(92 Calls Received by Volunteers)



50—Meeting Information
 12—Miscellaneous
 5—12th Step
 5—Agency
 4—AI-anon
 16—AA Info



Have A Wonderful Spring!

Happy A.A. Anniversary April

Central Group

Charlie 1, Thaddeus 1, Jessica W. 2, Doug R. 2, Brent W. 4, Regina I. 8, Stephanie G. 8, Jim C. 13, Melvin 15, Vanessa W. 21, Frank O 25

Living Sober & Happy Hour

Angela R. - 1 year
 Lisa Y. - 6 years
 Ellen D. - 10 years
 Carl A. - 27 years
 Marion B. - 28 years

Did anyone else celebrate an Anniversary?

*On the New District 5 Calendar there are Listings for Southside Anniversary and Northside Anniversary Meetings. Do people Really celebrate at those meetings? It's been so long since anyone reported an AA birthday it seemed they no longer kept up with such things! IF ANYONE ELSE IN DISTRICT 5 MAKES IT FOR A YEAR OR ANY MULTIPLE PLEASE LET ME KNOW! **CELEBRATE!!!!***