

Syracuse Intergroup Office |2513 James St. | 13206-2824 | (315) 437-5011 | https://www.aasyracuse.org.

Syracuse Meeting Times

STEP FIVE

The secrets we share BY: SNOW P. B | BOCA RATON, FLA. There's nothing like telling another alcoholic who we really are and what we have done

I've always believed that it doesn't matter how you do the Steps, just so long as you do them. My brain damage, youth and inability to comprehend this new sober language along with my persistent disease seemed to thwart my every effort to do them. I made many fumbles, false starts, off-task attempts, and these efforts failed, but I never stopped trying to get the Steps done. With the kindness and patience of people in AA, I persevered and eventually completed the Steps over a few years.

I'm sitting in a hotel in Barcelona right now reflecting on this as I look down and see the beaded bracelet a young girl who I once sponsored made for me. The bracelet's black beads still shine and the wings and cross on it still look new.

Although I can't remember my sponsee's name right now, I remember the most important lesson I learned from her. We went through the first four Steps together. When we moved onto the Fifth Step, she said she wanted to do it with a priest or a minister. It was the first time I had heard a request like that, but I didn't think twice in helping her find someone. I took her to a female minister whom I had heard about and the appointment was made and her Fifth Step was completed. She and I worked on the rest of the Steps as best we could. It didn't take long for her to start drinking again and leave AA.

I don't know the "right" way to do the Steps...

What I do know is that telling another alcoholic who you really are, what you have done, what you are ashamed of, what you are proud of, what you regret, what you need forgiveness for and what is haunting you freed me in a way that nothing or no one else could.

AA is the great equalizer. When you work the Steps in AA, you become a member of what I call a "love army," and that means you can help another alcoholic when no one else can, even someone from your "real" life who may know you well and may see you all the time. In the AA Fellowship, we can share the story of what we have done and how we did it and that's not something we will necessarily be able to share with other people in a church. That is my personal experience from working with sponsees.

One of my beautiful "pigeons," who I sponsored for years and did the Steps with, decided to tell me a secret on her deathbed. This was something she'd left out of the Fifth Step she had done with me. With the grace of God, I was able to tell her that I had done the same thing, and only my sponsor knew what I had done from my own Fifth Step. We both cried and she said she felt a peace beyond words. She died with her sobriety, her soul relieved and her blue eyes sparkling.

There is something so holy about our sharing our Fifth Steps. I still believe any way you can get started is good, but ultimately, the way members did it 80something years ago seems to be the best way.

I get on a ship today with 70 other alcoholics in recovery to sail around the Mediterranean. For today, we have all completed our Steps in a way that allows us enough gratitude and joy to show up for our own lives and each other's and travel the world in complete freedom. How amazing is that?

Written permission of Grapevine, Inc.

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes <u>April 14th, 2022</u>

Kelly S. opened the meeting at 5:36 PM with the Serenity Prayer.

Present: Kelly S, James M, Sally C, Thaddeus L, Tim G, Tom K (Zoom) and Will M

Last Month's minutes: The committee reviewed the February 2022 minutes. **Thaddeus** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Will** seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

	02/28/2022	02/28/2022	Net Change
Beginning Cash	\$ 62,471.27	\$ 60,162.79	(\$ 2,308.48)
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$ 1,518.21)	<u>(\$ 145.00)</u>	(\$ 1,373.21)
Available Funds:	\$ 60.953.06	\$ 60.017.79	(\$ 935.27)

Tom presented the March financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 3/31/22 is \$60,162.79. Net of \$145.00 of sales tax payable leaves \$60,017.79 of available cash at 3/31/22. Monthly revenues were \$6,178.61 and monthly expenses were \$7,189.76 resulting in a net loss of (\$1,011.15). Contributions were \$3,561.65 (this is trending upward) and literature sales were \$1,991.50 (this is trending flat). The monthly expenses included a third payroll of \sim \$1,500.

Year to Date: As of 3/31/22, with the year 25% complete the revenues are \$16,603.54 which is 20.56% of the budgeted amount (well below the budgeted amount). Total contributions are at 16.75% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 19.64% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 15.25% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 27.52% of the budgeted amount. Year-to-date expenses are \$20,002.06 which is 24.76% of the budgeted amount (right on budget). Year-to-date loss is (\$3,398.52) vs net income of \$1,349.41 as of 3/31/21.

Comparison Year to Date March 2022 vs March 2021: Year-to-date revenues are a little better the prior year - \$16,603.54 for year to date as of 3/31/22 versus \$15,852.02 for year to date as of 3/31/21 (up 4.74%). The year-to-date expenses are significantly greater than the prior year - \$20,002.06 for year to date as of 3/31/22 versus \$14,475.61 for year to date as of 3/31/21 (up 38.18%), due mainly to resuming literature purchases for the Roundup in 2022 (no Roundup in 2021), as well as escalating utilities costs.

Service Center: There were 169 total calls in March, up 19% from February, and 98 total office visits, up 11% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 156 email inquiries, up 68% from February.

Intergroup: Thaddeus summarized the March Intergroup meeting. There were three new IRs: Danny A (Noon Fellowship, Dan M (Higher Onondaga), and Stephanie I (Young at Heart); 15 eligible voters were present. Will presented the financial report. District/Area Liaison Ben B reported on the March GSR Workshop meeting, and asked that Intergroup Representatives get the word out that all are welcomed at the GSR Workshop; Matt H (Corrections) and Stacey H via email (Picnic) reported on their committees. There were no reports for Treatment, PI/CPC, Literature, Grapevine or Web/Archives. Sally reported on the March Steering Committee. February Intergroup minutes were unanimously approved. Under Old Business, Sally reported on her conversation with our GSO Liaison, Craig W, regarding Chris P's suggestion that we contact GSO and ask them to work with Google to remove the AA affiliation still displayed on Syracuse Group's website. After discussion, a vote was taken to table the issue so Ben B can discuss it with our Area 47 Rep, Todd D; motion carried. There was no New Business. The meeting closed with the Declaration of Unity at 6:45 PM.

Thaddeus also reported to the Steering Committee that all Intergroup committee chair positions have now been filled.

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<u>Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes</u> continued... <u>April 14th, 2022</u>

Old Business:

Sally indicated that the call-in position is now filled, and **Jim K** has been trained and has covered the office a few days. No word yet from **Nastri** on the office repainting.

New Business:

Sally indicated that some furniture has been donated to the Service Center. Also, **Thaddeus** asked if we provided literature at no cost to any groups or individuals – typically, we do not.

Sally made a motion to close, which was seconded by Tim; meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Steering Committee Members

Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Kelly S	No	No	12/31/2022
Thaddeus L	Yes – Intergroup Chair	No	12/31/2023
James M	No	No	12/31/2022
Tim G	No	No	12/31/2021
Will M	Yes – Financial Chair	No	12/31/2023
Sally C	No	Yes	Non-rotating
Tom K (Accountant)	No	Yes	Non-rotating

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes April 20th, 2022

<u>Intergroup Chair</u>: Thaddeus L. opened the meeting with Serenity prayer @ 6:01 PM

Vice Chair Tom H read the. the 12 Traditions

New intergroup reps / group representatives:

Mia Q Faith Without Works; Bruce L Noon Traditions; Philip L Primary Purpose; Stephanie I Young at Heart

MonthlyReports:

<u>Financial Report:</u> (Will M.) Current Month:

Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 3/31/22 is \$60,162.79. Net of \$145.00 of sales tax payable leaves \$60,017.79 of available cash at 3/31/22.

Monthly revenues were \$6,178.61 and monthly expenses were \$7,189.76 resulting in a net loss of (\$1,011.15). Contributions were \$3,561.65 (this is trending upward) and literature sales were \$1,991.50 (this is trending flat). The monthly expenses included a third payroll of ~ \$1,500.

Year to Date: As of 3/31/22, with the year 25% complete the revenues are \$16,603.54 which is 20.56% of the budgeted amount (well below the budgeted amount). Total contributions are at 16.75% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 19.64% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 15.25% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 27.52% of the budgeted amount. The year-to-date expenses are \$20,002.06 which is 24.76% of the budgeted amount (right on budget). The year-to-date loss is (\$3,398.52) vs net income of \$1,349.41 as of 3/31/21

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Financial Report: (Will M.) continued...

Comparison Year to Date March 2022 vs March 2021:

The year-to-date revenues are a little better the prior year - \$16,603.54 for year to date as of 3/31/22 versus \$15,852.02 for year to date as of 3/31/21 (up 4.74%). The year-to-date expenses are significantly greater than the prior year - \$20,002.06 for year to date as of 3/31/22 versus \$14,475.61 for year to date as of 3/31/21 (up 38.18%).

District / Area Liaison: (Ben B-G.S.R.)

Committee met on April 4th. Discussed how to improve attendance of GSRs at the workshop. Suggestions included to change day/tfime of the meeting. The current time of 5:15pm can make it difficult for people that work. Change location, possibly finding a place that is easier for most to get to. Changing the name of the Syracuse GSR Workshop, as it may be confusing and find a name that clearly identifies what the meeting is. Have a hybrid meeting, making it easier for those who may have to travel farther, especially when the weather is bad. Asking to attend group business meetings to talk about general service, how their group can have a voice in AA through electing a GSR, what a GSR is, and what they do. Developing and sending out a questionnaire through the AA service center asking groups what a better day, time and location for the workshop meeting would be. Chuck M volunteered to do this. Change the information of the workshop to include hybrid link for the Syracuse Intergroup and Area 47 websites. Ben B will take care of this. Motion was made to for the Syracuse GSR Workshop to meet hybrid. Motion was seconded, discussed, and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm. Next meeting 5/2/22 5:15 pm In Person – Fellowship Hall 135 Walters Dr. Syracuse, NY (Backroom) Hybrid: ID: 880 317 2885 PW: 046567. Respectfully Submitted, Ben B

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes Continued.. April 14th, 2022

Standing Committee Reports

Corrections: (Matt H)

We have heard nothing back from Jamesville but still optimistic that we will be allowed to carry meetings back into the Justice Center this summer. While uncertain what it will "look like" when allowed in, we are optimistic that we will be able to have multiple meetings throughout the week. As of right now doing groundwork recruiting a roster of people willing to carry the message of recovery inside and as we get closer and more information comes, we will adjust and coordinate committee meetings. Those interested, both men and women, can contact **Matt H** (p: 315-903-0135) or Co-Chair **Kelsey** (680-214-8449). Having served time is not a requirement for service. Having a year of sobriety, a sponsor and actively working the steps is.

Treatment: (Nick G): No report

PI / CPC: (Phil L) reported that he will need a group conscience from his homegroup before accepting and will report his group conscience back regarding if accepting position at next intergroup meeting.

Literature: (**Jeff S**) As incoming Literature Committee chair (inexperienced in this regard), I looked for guidance at General Service Office website. According to them,

"Literature Committee members:

- Conduct A.A. literature workshops
- Provide displays, supplies of A.A. catalogs and order forms
- Consider proposed additions to and changes in Conference-approved literature and audiovisual material."

I am a believer in the concept of group conscience, so I would love to have a co-chair. As far as I'm concerned, the only criteria is to have an interest in the literature. If anyone is interested in joining in this exploration, or have any questions or requests related to literature, please contact **Jeff S** at 315-420-3206, or email me at jdsimmon@syr.edu. Respectfully submitted, **Jeff S**

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Syracuse Intergroup Minutes Continued.. April 14th, 2022

Standing Committee Reports

Grapevine: (Lance C) This month is my first in the position of Grapevine chairperson. So far, I have been in contact with the previous chairperson to learn from their experience in the position. I have signed up to receive more information from Grapevine. I have spoken with several groups about potentially hosting Grapevine literature displays in their home-groups. I have also been asking for volunteers to write short essays for the Grapevine newsletter.

My goals in the position are to inform more people about the resources Grapevine offers and assist groups who are interested in subscribing to the Grapevine newsletter for \$5 a month or \$50 a year or purchasing some of the more than 40 books published by Grapevine. I intend to primarily operate by talking to people at the meetings I attend and being open to discussing Grapevine with groups' intergroup representatives.

Web / Archives: (Neal B) No report

Picnic: (**Stacey H**): Venue of Camp Brockway in Pratts Falls, NY has been secured for Intergroup picnic on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>June 26th</u> and the committee is currently raising funds for a band. Committee is also discussing a way to honor people groups have recently lost.

Steering Committee Report: (Sally C) The Steering Committee met on April 14, 2022. **Kelly S** opened the meeting at 5:36 PM. March 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously. **Tom K** presented the March Finance report, and **Sally C** went over March Service Center statistics, all of which were up from the previous month. **Thaddeus L** reported on the March Intergroup meeting.

Under Old Business, **Sally C** indicated that the call-in position has been filled, new employee **Jim K** has been trained and has worked a few days successfully.

Under New Business, Sally indicated that some furniture has been donated to the Service Center. Also, **Thaddeus L** asked if we provide literature at no cost to any groups or individuals – typically, we do not. Meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Ad hoc committee(s): None

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes. Continued February 16th, 2022

Old Business New Business

Eligible Votes: 15

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: March's minutes were approved unanimously.

At the March meeting, **Ben B** said he would talk with our Area Delegate (**Todd D**) regarding Syracuse Group continuing to use AA in their online presence. Because **Todd** was not currently accessible (has COVID), **Ben** reached out to a delegate who previously served. Previous delegate said in the spirit of the principles, go to the Syracuse Group personally to explain our spiritual principles and request they take down AA logo. Outside of this we have no power to make Syracuse Group do anything including take down the logo.

Sally C clarified that the process from GSO liaison was if we wanted to move ahead with this, we would ask our delegate to write a letter to GSO to consider our request to have Syracuse Group remove the AA designation from their website, and GSO would evaluate how they want to proceed. At that point **Sally C** had suggested last month to ask them first. However, if we as a group want to move forward with this then we formally ask our Area Delegate to send a letter to GSO and they will decide if it is appropriate to move forward or not.

Matt H volunteered to go to Syracuse Group to talk with them. **Matt H** will report back regarding conversation next month.

Motion carried at 12 in favor and none opposed to have **Matt H** meet with Syracuse Group to request they take down AA logo and will report back next month.

Danny announced Noon Fellowship meeting will now be having a big book study on Mondays. **Mia Q** announced there will be a new meeting on Fridays in Dewitt called Faith Without works. For more information see **Mia Q**.

Motion to close Rachael V made a motion, Matt H 2nd, all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:28 PM

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The following committees at our **Syracuse** intergroup need your support...

The **Treatment Committee** needs members to carry the message.

The **Correction's Committee** needs members to carry the message.

The **A.A. Grapevine Committee** members to carry the message.

The **Literature Committee** needs members to carry the message.

The P.I./C.P.C. (Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional community), needs members to carry the message.

To join one of these committees or, for more information, please contact:

Thaddeus L.

syr.intergroup.chair@gmail.com or call **315 463 5011.**

Syracuse Intergroup 2022

Service Positions

Intergroup				
Position	Name	E-Mail		
Chairperson	Thaddeus L.	syr.intergroup.chair@gmail.com		
Vice-Chairperson	Thomas H.	syr.intergroup.vicechair@gmail.com		
Financial Chair	Will M.	syr.intergroup.financialchair@gmail.com		
Secretary	Rachel V.	syr.intergroup.secretary@gmail.com		
Treatment Chair	Nick G.	syr.treatment.chair@gmail.com		
P.I./C.P.C. Chair *	Phil L.	syr.intergroup.picpc@gmail.com		
Corrections Chair	Matt H.	syr.intergroup.corrections@gmail.com		
Grapevine Chair	Lance C	syr.intergroup.grapevine@gmail.com		
Literature Chair	Jeff S	syr.intergroup.literature@gmail.com		
Web / Archive Chair	Neal B.	syr.intergroup.webarchive@gmail.com		
District / Area 47 Liaison	Ben B.	syr.intergroup.districtarea@gmail.com		
Picnic Chair	Stacy H.	syr.intergroup.picnic@gmail.com		

$*\,PI\,/\,CPC\,Chair = Public\,Information\,/\,Cooperation\,with\,the\,Professional\,Community$

Steering Committee Positions

Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Kelly S.	No	No	12/31/2022
Thaddeus L.	Yes - Chair	No	12/31/2023
James M	No	No	12/31/2022
Tim G	No	No	12/31/2023
Will M.	Financial Chair	No	12/31/2023
Sally C	No	Yes	Non-rotating
Tom K (Accountant)	No	Yes	Non-rotating

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

PLEASE SEE AASYRACUSE.ORG OR THE MEETING GUIDE APP FOR THE MOST CURRENT LISTING OF MEETINGS AND THEIR STATUS (IN PERSON, ONLINE/ZOOM).

Please contact the Service center at 315-463-5011 or syracuseservicecenter@gmail.com with any changes to the status of your group/meeting, so we can ensure we're providing accurate information to our fellowship. We sincerely appreciate your help.

New Meetings:

- Sunday: Sober Sisters Big Book Study, 1:30 PM; Fellowship Hall, 135 Walter Dr, Syracuse, 13206;
 O, NS, H
- Friday: Faith Without Works, 8:00 PM; Holy Cross Church, 4112 E Genesee St, DeWitt 13214; O, NS,
 H

Meeting Changes:

- Sunday: Upstate NY 12 & 12, 7:30 AM (Zoom) has changed its online access info.
 - New link: https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?
 url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F81627913981%3Fpwd%3DWDBQRGVUaDFNbThoUjVIM0tRTkRndz09&data=04%7C01%7Casparks%40visionserviceplan.mail.onmicrosoft.com%7Cea50d64a52cf4909382008da04e363d7%7C3510753d6c4048ae9b9e2fc672d5e5dd%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C637827671933321336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=AsaNjxRXsD94VbD96ce1UpNj9rhkZRWb%2Bgm3%2BbQzx%2B0%3D&reserved=0
 - Meeting ID: 816 2791 3981; Passcode: honesty
- Sunday: Sobriety First (Auburn) has changed its meeting time to 5:30 PM
- Sunday: **Fellowship by the Lake**, 6:00 PM; has moved to Wendall House, 21 Albany St, Cazenovia 13035
- Sunday: **Baldwinsville Big Book Study**, 6:30 PM; is meeting in person ONLY, and is no longer meeting on Zoom
- Sunday: Live and Let Live (LGBTQ), 7:00 PM; has moved to University United Methodist Church, 1085 E Genesee St, Syracuse 13210. Entrance is on University Ave, parking is across the street; meeting will continue as hybrid.
- Sunday: LaFayette Sunday Night, 7:30 PM; St.Joseph's Church, 6104 US-20, LaFayette 13084 has changed its meeting time to 7:00 PM
 Continued on next page....

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

- Meeting Changes: continued..
- Monday: **Baldwinsville Group**, 7:00 PM, Grace Episcopal Church, 110 Oswego St, Baldwinsville 13027 is now meeting in person ONLY as of April 4, 2022
- Tuesday and Thursday: **Serenity by the Lake**, 12:00 PM; has moved to Wendall House, 21 Albany St, Cazenovia 13035
- Tuesday: **New Women**, 7:30 PM (Zoom), is changing its access info as of 04/05/2022 to: Meeting ID: 314 913 8612; Passcode: 13066
- Tuesday: **Into Action**, 7:30 PM; First Universalist Church, Central Square 13036 is now meeting in person ONLY and is no longer meeting on Zoom
- Wednesday: Midweek Breather, 7:00 PM; New Woodstock Free Library, 2106 Main St, New Woodstock 13122 is now meeting in person
- Thursday: Keeping It Simple, 2:00 PM; Helio, 714 Hickory St, Syracuse, 13202 is temporarily suspended
- Thursday: **West End**, Ironworkers Union Hall, 500 W Genesee St, Syracuse, 13204 has changed its meeting time from 8:30 PM to **8:00 PM**.
- Friday: Cicero Group, 8:00 PM, is meeting online only for eight weeks. Zoom access info is: Meeting ID: 876 4884 3063, Passcode: 838139
- Friday: **Friday Night Phoenix**, 8:00 PM, United Methodist Church, 49 Jefferson St, Phoenix 13135 is suspended until further notice effective 02/25/2022

No Longer Meeting:

- Monday Friday: Why We're Here, 12:00 PM; Park Central Presbyterian Church, 504 E. Fayette St,
 Syracuse 13202 NO LONGER MEETS
- Wednesday: Fresh Start Big Book Study, 6:45 PM; Episcopal Church, 437 James St, Syracuse 13203
 NO LONGER MEETS
- Wednesday: **Fresh Start** (discussion meeting), 8:00 PM; Episcopal Church, 437 James St, Syracuse 13203 **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Thursday: Garden Variety, 7:00 PM; Zoom meeting NO LONGER MEETS
- Saturday: Upstate NY Beginners Meeting, 7:30 AM; Zoom meeting NO LONGER MEETS
- Saturday: Bottom of the Hill, 8:00 PM; Zoom meeting NO LONGER MEETS

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

- Other: continued...
- Download the **free** *Meeting Guide app* from the App Store or Google Play to your smart phone or tablet, and our meeting schedule will always be as close as your mobile device.
- The Service Center is seeking Spanish-speaking and other bilingual members of AA for our 12 Step call list. If interested, please call 315-463-5011 or stop by the Service Center to pick up a 12 Step Call Sign Up Form..

The **Syracuse Intergroup** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. *All A.A. members are welcome to attend.*

2513 James St., Syracuse, 13206

Next intergroup meeting is on May 18th, @ 6PM

Attention!

Individual members of A.A. may make charitable contributions up to \$5,000 per year, payable to "Syracuse Intergroup, Inc." All contributions are tax deductible under Federal Code 501(c)(3).

You can now donate directly online. Go to: https://www.aasyracuse.org/

We will provide you with a letter of receipt for the I.R.S.

The Service Center is seeking Spanish-speaking and other bilingual members of AA for our 12 Step call list. If interested, please call 315-463-5011 or stop by the Service Center to pick up a 12 Step Call Sign Up Form.