



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Getting Involved In General Service

BY: JENNIFER B. | SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

She learned through service that when you step outside your comfort zone, magical things can happen.

By the time I was six years sober, I had worked the Steps with a couple of sponsors and reached what I thought was a comfortable place. But I was beginning to wonder: is this all there is? My sponsor, who was involved in general service in our district and area, invited me to join him and others to eat pizza and fold newsletters. I was still afraid to do any service outside of my regular meetings; perhaps because of that, I was still isolated from my fellows in many ways, feeling as if I was outside looking in. The camaraderie and encouragement I felt being part of the general service group doing the “lick and stick” over the next few months inspired me to find a group that needed a GSR.

As luck would have it, a newcomer I met was looking for a sponsor and needed a ride to a meeting, so I took her to a women’s meeting near where she lived that I thought would be full of great possibilities for her. I always knew I wanted to attend this women’s meeting, having seen the group participating at our holiday Alcathons over the years and sensing that they were “my people.” But I had been putting it off because I knew I wouldn’t be able to hide anonymously the way I had been so far in A.A. Funny how we avoid what’s good for us—until we don’t anymore.

At the meeting that night, it was announced that they needed a GSR. The next week, I went back and made myself available. They barely knew who I was, but they elected me unanimously. That newcomer later decided A.A. wasn’t for her, but because I was willing to reach my hand out, I got rocketed into the fourth dimension.

Being a GSR was unlike anything I had ever been willing to do and I had to step outside my comfort zone all the time. As someone who never spoke in a meeting unless I was called on, I had butterflies in my stomach each week as I made announcements at the group. But I did it and I had fun. A number of members were happy to stay late after a few meetings to participate in sharing sessions on some of the Conference agenda topics. Being a good student in the past, I was that GSR who read all the background material and did my best to present each topic as thoroughly and neutrally as I could. That part did come easily. Facilitating the sharing sessions was new to me, but the process made me feel as if I was really part of the group. Those women are indeed “my people.” I was terrified of going to our pre-Conference assembly and sharing their opinions in front of 400 people in a microphone, but I did it. Our delegate that year came over to personally thank me and I was still so socially awkward that I didn’t know what to say, so I practically ran away.

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Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Getting Involved In General Service - continued

Slowly but surely, I got more used to speaking and participating in all of AA. The people I met in the wider service fellowship are also “my people.” I went on to be a DCM, then an alternate DCMC, and now I am serving as the DCMC for my district, which has great participation. Each position has offered new opportunities for growth and to step outside my comfort zone, again and again. As someone who drank alone to avoid people and always wanted to fade into the scenery so any failure or success went unnoticed, I am now right in the middle of the herd, and very visible in the Fellowship. So I get to work on my character defects all the time. Not only am I developing a better appreciation for the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, but the skills I have learned from going further down the service triangle have given me the confidence to aim higher career-wise, with excellent results. I am no longer afraid to be my authentic self, and I am beginning to believe that who I really am is enough.

Over the past few panels, I watched as an agenda topic I was really excited about my first year as a GSR—creating literature for atheists and agnostics—came back to the Conference each year in different ways and eventually became the popular pamphlet “Many Paths to Spirituality.” As an agnostic who considers herself successfully sober in AA, and who used the “Group Of Drunks” following “Good Orderly Direction” as her Higher Power in early sobriety, I was sweetly surprised by the spiritual awakening I had in general service as a result of the conversations we had about creating that pamphlet. My group of drunks gets bigger and bigger as I attend district meetings, area assemblies, PRAASA, regional forums and the International Convention. And therefore, so does my Higher Power and feeling of connection.

Through general service, I have found validation that I belong here in Alcoholics Anonymous regardless of what I believe (or don't believe). My heart is filled with gratitude and joy at being a trusted servant. I am continuing to find my voice and I am becoming even more of the person I was meant to be. I've made many friends and become a better employee, sponsor, and family member. I now feel capable of forming true partnerships with other human beings. And guess what? That first delegate whom I was afraid to talk to? Last year, he became my husband. You never know what might happen when you step outside your comfort zone, but one thing's for sure: that's where you'll find the magic.

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Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
March 9th, 2023

Thaddeus L opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Present: Thaddeus L, Sally C, Tim G, Tom H, Tom K, and Will M

Last Month's minutes: The committee reviewed the February 2023 minutes. **Tom H** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Will** seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

	01/31/2023	02/28/2023	Net Change
Beginning Cash	\$ 65,683.83	\$68,268.00	(\$2,584.17)
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$1,162.35)	(\$1,393.52)	\$231.17
Available Funds	\$ 64,521.48	\$ 66,874.48	(\$2,353.00)

Tom K presented the February financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 2.28.23 is \$67,768.00. Net of \$1,393.52 of sales tax leaves \$66,874.48 of available cash at 2.28.23. Monthly revenues were \$8,874.78 and monthly expenses were \$6,521.78 resulting in net income of \$2,353.00. Contributions were \$5,513.49 and literature sales were \$2,556.78.

Year to Date: As of February 28, 2023 with the year 16.67% complete total revenues are \$14,096.11 which is 17.77% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 16.24% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 17.65% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 23.97% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 20.67% of the budgeted amount. The year-to-date expenses are \$13,112.00 which is 16.53% of the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net is \$984.11 vs the year-to-date loss of (\$1,367.14) as of 2.28.22.

Service Center: There were 112 total calls in February, down 10% from January and 105 total office visits, up 19% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 110 email inquiries, up 18% from January. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 633 contacts in January and February. (See graph below.)

Intergroup: **Tom H** summarized the February Intergroup meeting. There were two new IRs. **Will M** presented the financial report. **Ben B** reported on Archives, **Sally C** reported on Steering Committee, and **Andy C** reported on Treatment. There were no reports for District/Area, Corrections, PI/CPC, Grapevine, Technology, Literature and Picnic committees. January minutes were unanimously approved. There was no Old Business. Under New Business, **Ben B** suggested streamlining the financial report; after discussion it was referred to Steering Committee for their discussion and action. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Old Business: None

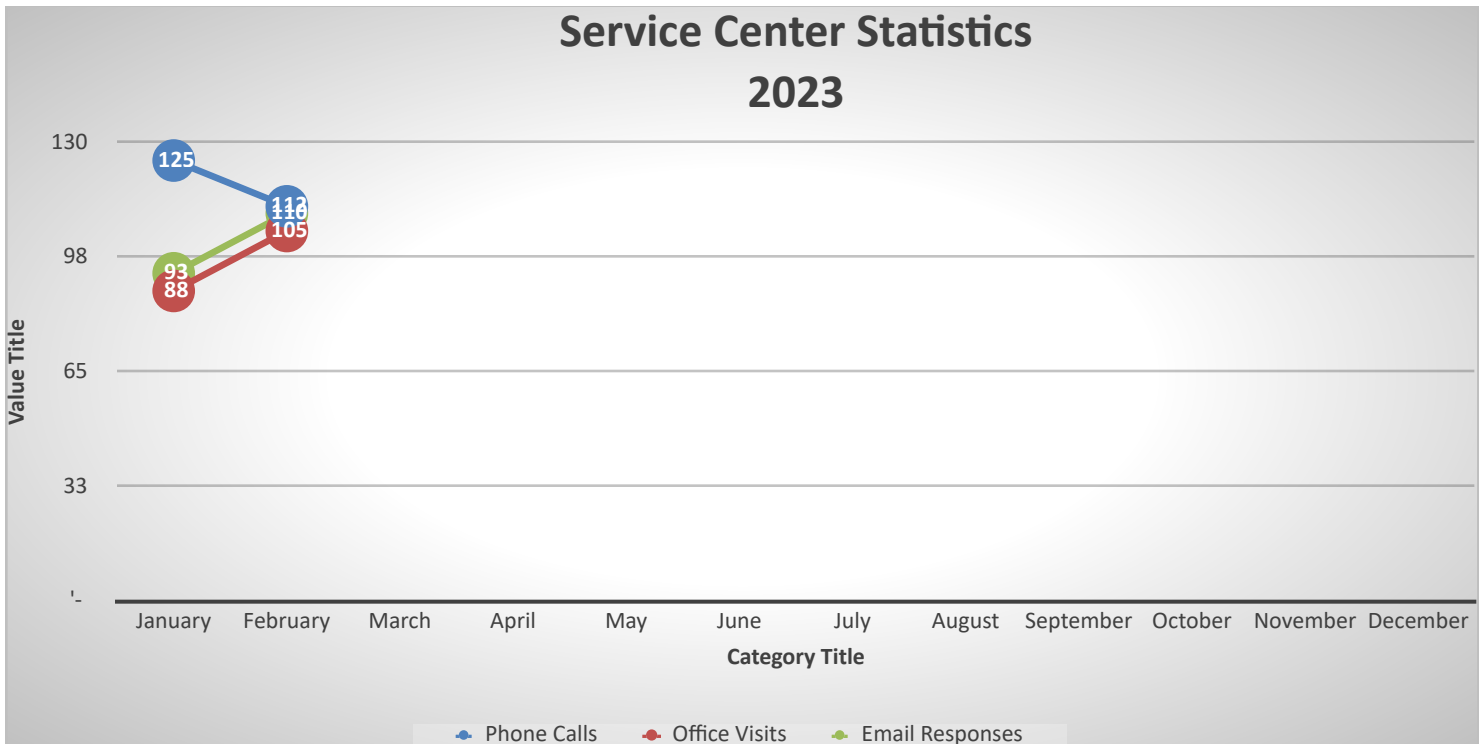
New Business:

Sally reported that there were \$1,312.75 in literature sales at the Roundup. In addition, AAWS has announced that as of April 3, 2023, they are raising literature prices 20% - 30%. The consensus of the committee is that we'll need to raise our prices accordingly. The committee then discussed the suggestion that the monthly financial reports be streamlined. After discussion, it was decided that that the Accountant will continue to provide detailed reports to Steering Committee, and the Intergroup Financial Chair will present a streamlined version to Intergroup.

Tim made a motion to close, which was seconded by **Will**; meeting adjourned 6:07 PM.

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes - continued
March 9th, 2023

Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Thaddeus L	No	No	12/31/2023
Tom H	Yes – Intergroup Chair	No	12/31/2024
Tim G	No	No	12/31/2023
Will M	Yes – Financial Chair	No	12/31/2023
Josh C	Yes – Technology Chair	No	12/31/2024
Sally C	No	Yes	Non-rotating
Tom K (Accountant)	No	Yes	Non-rotating



Next meeting: Thursday, April 13th, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!
In Service: **Irene, James, Jim and Sally**

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

March 15th, 2023

Intergroup Chair : Tom H. opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:02 PM.

Intergroup Vice-Chair: Brandy C. Read the 12 Traditions

New intergroup reps / group representatives:

None

Monthly Reports:

Treatment: (Andy C) - No report

Financial Report: (Will M.)

Current Month:

Syracuse Intergroup, Inc. | Monthly Financial Reporting | 28 February 2023

	Cash	Sales Tax (Liability/Refund)	Available Funds
Balance 1.31.23	65,683.83	1,162.35	64,521.48
Income reported current month	8,874.78		8,874.78
Expenses reported current month	(6,521.78)		(6,521.78)
Sales Tax collected current month	231.17	231.17	
Balance 2.28.23	68,268.00	1,393.52	66,874.48
Change - current month	2,584.17	231.17	2,353.00
Profit - current month	2,353.00		



Standing Committee Reports:

District / Area: (Chuck M) No report.
Will not meet until April 2023.

Corrections: (Vacant) No report

PI / CPC: (Phil L)
Will resume as of march 2023, No report at this time.

Grapevine: (Lance C.) No report.

Picnic: (Stacy C) Nothing to report until 2023.

Archives:(Ben B)

Committee met on Saturday March 11th at 3:30 pm in the Service Center. Next meeting of the committee will be on Saturday April 15th at 2:00 pm. Anyone that would like to help is welcome to participate in continuing to sort and organize archives.

Technology: (Josh C) No report

Steering committee report: (Sally C.)

The Steering Committee met on March 9, 2023. Thaddeus S opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. February minutes were unanimously approved. Tom K presented the February Finance report, which showed that February total income was slightly above budget, and total expenses slightly below budget. Literature sales were above budget due to the Roundup. Sally C went over February Service Center statistics and Tom H reported on the February Intergroup meeting. The committee also discussed the suggestion presented at Intergroup last month that the financial reports be streamlined somewhat to show less detail. Consensus was reached that the Accountant's report to the Steering Committee would continue to include the same level of detail, and the Intergroup Financial Chair will present a streamlined version to Intergroup.

Under Old Business, there was a short discussion about the status of our participation in the NYS Fair. It appears that no one is moving it forward, so we may want to focus on planning for 2024.

Under New Business, Sally reported that \$1,312.75 in literature was sold at the Roundup, nearly identical to last year's sales. On another note, as of April 3, 2023, AAWS is increasing book prices 20% and pamphlets 30%. The committee confirmed that we'll have to do likewise, as we can't cover that kind of increase.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Ad hoc committee(s): None

Old Business:

In response to **Ben B**'s suggestion last month that the financial report might be streamlined to include less detail and possibly include the full level of detail on a quarterly basis, the Steering Committee discussed the idea at their March meeting and determined that the Accountant would continue to provide the full level of detail to the Steering Committee, and a streamlined version would be presented to Intergroup by Intergroup's Financial Chair.

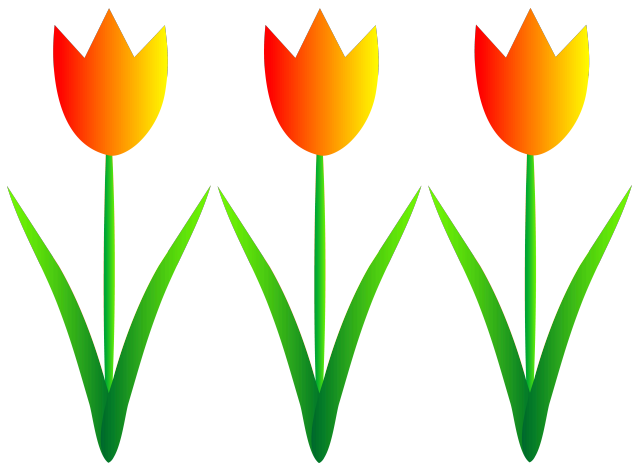
New Business:

Discussion of potentially creating a committee to bring an information booth about Alcoholics Anonymous to the State Fair. **Sally C.** mentioned a point person of contact is required by the State Fair.

Discussion of potentially creating a committee to bring an information booth about Alcoholics Anonymous to the State Fair. **Sally C.** mentioned a point person of contact is required by the State Fair.

Motion to close **Tom H., Brandy C.** second, (unanimous). Motion carried.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:29 PM



Syracuse Intergroup Officers & Standing Committee Chairs

<u>2023 Intergroup Servants</u>		
Position	Name	E-Mail
Chairperson	Thomas H.	syr.intergroup.chair@gmail.com
Vice-Chairperson	Brandy C.	syr.intergroup.vicechair@gmail.com
Financial Chair	Will M.	syr.intergroup.financialchair@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Adina S.	syr.intergroup.secretary@gmail.com
Treatment Chair	Andy C.	syr.treatment.chair@gmail.com
P.I./C.P.C. Chair *	Phil L.	syr.intergroup.picpc@gmail.com
Corrections Chair	Vacant	syr.intergroup.corrections@gmail.com
Grapevine Chair	Lance C.	syr.intergroup.grapevine@gmail.com
Literature Chair	Robert C.	syr.intergroup.literature@gmail.com
Web / Technology Chair	Josh C.	syr.intergroup.webarchive@gmail.com
District / Area 47 Liaison	Chuck M.	syr.intergroup.districtarea@gmail.com
Picnic Chair	Stacy H.	syr.intergroup.picnic@gmail.com
Archive Chair	Ben B.	

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: **Oak Hill Group**, 6:00 PM; Port City Serenity Hall, 110 West 2nd St, Oswego 13126; 11th Step meeting
- Monday, **Main Street**, 7:30 PM; is meeting on Zoom; meeting ID: 988 427 9302, PW 187667. O
- Tuesday, **Sober Mission**, 7:00 PM; Rescue Mission, 155 Gifford St Chapel, Syracuse 13202; Open Discussion
- Tuesday: **It's Not Complicated**, 7:30 PM; Zoom only, meeting ID: 897 8695 6066, PW 225250. C
- Thursday: **It's Not Complicated**, 7:30 PM; Zoom only, meeting ID: 859 8651 6066 PW 117464. C

Meeting Changes:

- Tuesday: **Into Action**, 7:30 PM, is now meeting on Zoom only; meeting ID: 813 1301 2024, PW: 13036
- Saturday - Sunday: **Noon Fellowship (ZOOM)**, 12:00 PM, is changing from Closed to Open

No Longer Meeting:

- Sunday: **Fellowship by the Lake**, 6:00 PM, Wendall House, Cazenovia **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Monday - Sunday: **Stargazers**, 8:30 PM, Fellowship Hall, 135 Walter Dr, Syracuse, 13206 **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Tuesday: **Starting Over/Comfy Couch**, 7:00 PM; First United Methodist Church, 604 Oswego St, Liverpool 13088 **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Saturday: **Valley Girls**, 11:00 AM; Unity Church, 300 W Seneca Tpk, Syracuse 13207 **NO LONGER MEETS**

Other:

- **OCS Group**, which meets at 8:00 PM Fridays at the Canastota United Methodist Church (144 Center St, Canastota 13032) has a speaker's meeting on the third Friday of each month.
- 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.

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

Park Central Church is looking for an **already established group** wanting to move their meeting location.

This is **NOT FOR ANY newly formed group / meeting, or persons wanting to start a group / meeting.**

Contact **Brian C.**, 315-303-0649 (Pioneer Group member)

Location: Park Central Church @ 504 E. Fayette, Syracuse, 13202

Available meeting time(s):

One or more days, Monday - Friday between 8am-5pm, *preferably @ 12:00 noon.*

Free 25 space parking lot and free on-street parking. Seating capacity is 30-40, kitchen privileges, handicap accessible.

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 **Wednesday, April 20th - 2023, @ 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

 **April**