



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Dear Grapevine...

Surrounded by love

In 2009 my fiancé suddenly died in my arms just as we were planning our wedding. The day it happened I didn't know what to do with myself. I was in such shock. I felt I'd lose my mind and my sobriety. I yelled out loud, "You left me alone in this world! What am I to do now?" I swear I heard my fiancé's voice whisper into my ear, "Go to a meeting where everyone loves you." And that's just what I did.

I ran to my home group and shared through sobs and tears. After the meeting the women there surrounded me with so much love.

They worked out a schedule. One of them would pick me up each day and take me to a meeting whether I wanted to go or not. I didn't drink and I'm still sober today, happy, joyous and free.

That, my friends, is the power of a home group. Get a home group you love and don't miss it for any reason. And please let them get to know you! **Cindy S., Sarasota, Fla.**

Kids, ponies, goats & Grapevines

When I first got sober, my wife got me a subscription to Grapevine. Wow, what a blessing that has been! I have a busy life with a full-time job, two small kids, another one on the way, a donkey, a pony, two goats and 10 acres to tend to.

Needless to say, some days I don't get much time to myself. But when I do it's so easy to pick up a Grapevine and read a few stories by members. When I do, I get that same wonderful feeling as when I walk into an AA meeting. It puts me at peace when things get hectic. Grapevine has helped me so much. I just love reading them. I keep them everywhere in my house, even in my work truck.

I recently gave some to a young member of my home group who's been struggling. It's so great to help out. Thank you, Grapevine. You give me peace in a busy life. I look forward to the next issue.

Steffan C., North Milton, Prince Edward Island

A good read

A few years ago when Grapevines used to be mailed in black envelopes (for anonymity), my 26-year-old granddaughter saw the package in the living room and asked me, "What is this, pornography?" After we both got done having a good laugh, I explained how much Grapevine was a tool of recovery for me. As she looked through the magazine she asked, "How do you know you're an alcoholic?" So I pulled out our pamphlet "Is A.A. For You?" with the 12 questions. She asked how many I had answered yes to. "All of them," I replied. This led to a great discussion. I'm so grateful for all our published literature.

The funny part is my granddaughter had no idea I got sober the month before she was born!

Quinn G., Lee's Summit, Mo.

Continued on next page...



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Come on in!

I bet most of us remember our first AA meeting like it was yesterday. And I bet many recall the very first person we encountered too. I know I do.

For me, it was Ray. Although it was February and very cold, Ray stood outside the AA meeting and welcomed everyone with a big smile and a handshake. I was none too thrilled. But Ray sensed that. He reassured me I was in a good place. He then told me about his first meeting and that made me feel at ease. He talked to me almost as though I was his sibling. He made me feel like family.

Here was a guy I spent maybe 15 minutes of my life with, 11 years ago. I had never met a total stranger so concerned about my well-being, who wasn't trying to get something from me.

Later while reading "The Doctor's Opinion," I came across the word altruistic. It means showing unselfish interest or concern for the welfare of others. Before I got to AA, that concept had never entered my mind. That word described Ray.

I often get to be a greeter at my home group, and I accept that responsibility with all the passion and fervor I have. **Anonymous, Crown Point, Ind.**

You helped me

Thank you for the story "Prickly Worker" (December 2022) from the anonymous member in Sacramento. His final paragraph could have been written by me: "My suicidal depression never left me. I've never been joyous, only occasionally happy, but amazingly, I have always been free of the need to drink."

Since taking my most recent white chip 16 years ago—for what I hope is the last time—depression has continued to plague me despite prescriptions, psychiatrists, the Twelve Steps, much AA service and prayer.

During my first few years of sobriety, I never mentioned it at meetings or to my sponsor for fear of being accused of self-pity. Now I don't mention it because I don't want to discourage newcomers. It's a comfort to know that there's at least one other soul in AA who is also suffering and wants to remain anonymous.

Oh, I have something else in common with the writer. I too was 34 years old when I first got sober, but unlike him, I'm 81 now. Thank you, Anonymous in Sacramento. **Mary R., Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.**

Living in reality

For me recovery is about being restored to sanity or getting there for the first time. It's also being able to adjust to reality.

Hope became a stepping stone to belief. Given all the evidence to be found in any AA meeting, it's been hard to dismiss the chances of being able to find a lasting and happy life without needing to drink.

My early meetings would often end with the chairperson saying, "You can leave this room and never need to drink again." Back then, I was just trying to get enough sobriety to hold onto a job! Now that saying has become, "You can leave this room and need never drink again—and be happy!" **Jim F., Tasmania**

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
April 13th, 2023

Thaddeus L opened the meeting at 5:36 PM.

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

Last Month's minutes: The committee reviewed the March 2023 minutes. **Sally** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Tim** seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

	02/28/2023	03/31/2023	Net Change
Beginning Cash	\$ 68,768.00	\$68,167.12	(\$600.88)
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$1,393.52)	(\$1,542.01)	(\$148.49)
Available Funds	\$ 66,374.48	\$ 66,625.11	(\$250.63)

Tom K presented the March financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 3.31.23 is \$68,167.12. Net of \$1,542.01 of sales tax leaves \$66,625.11 of available cash at 3.31.23. Monthly revenues were \$8,966.30 and monthly expenses were \$8,715.67, resulting in net income of \$250.63. Contributions were \$6,012.43 and literature sales were \$1,856.41.

Year to Date: As of March 31, 2023 with the year 25.00% complete, total revenues are \$22,632.24, which is 28.53% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 26.67% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 29.76% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 30.77% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 28.53% of the budgeted amount. All revenue items are trending above budget amounts. The year-to-date expenses are \$21,827.67, which is 27.52% of the budgeted amount, also trending above the budget amount, due primarily to a third payroll in March. The year-to-date net is \$1,234.74 vs the year-to-date loss of (\$3,398.52) as of 3.31.22 – a rather significant difference.

Service Center: There were 120 total calls in March, up 7% from February and 94 total office visits, down 10% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 124 email inquiries, up 13% from February. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 971 contacts in the first quarter of this year. (See graph below.)

Sally also reported that our website had once again been used as a credit card testing site, but such are the security precautions that have been put in place that out of thousands of attempts, only one transaction was successful. **Sally** worked with Stripe to immediately refund the card that was fraudulently charged. Also, on April 4, 2023, AAWS's price increase took effect. **Sally** calculated new prices for all the products we offer for sale and updated our accounting system to reflect the new charges for all of them, while **Josh** updated our website (online) ordering system with the new prices.

Intergroup: **Tom H** summarized the March Intergroup meeting. There were no new IRs. **Will M** presented the financial report. **Ben B** reported on Archives and **Sally C** reported on Steering Committee. There were no reports for District/Area, Corrections, PI/CPC, Grapevine, Technology, Literature, Treatment and Picnic committees. February minutes were unanimously approved. Under Old Business, in response to **Ben B's** suggestion to streamline the financial report, the Steering Committee 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. Under New Business, there was a brief discussion about creating a committee to explore the feasibility of exhibiting at the 2023 NY State Fair. No one volunteered to lead such a committee. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

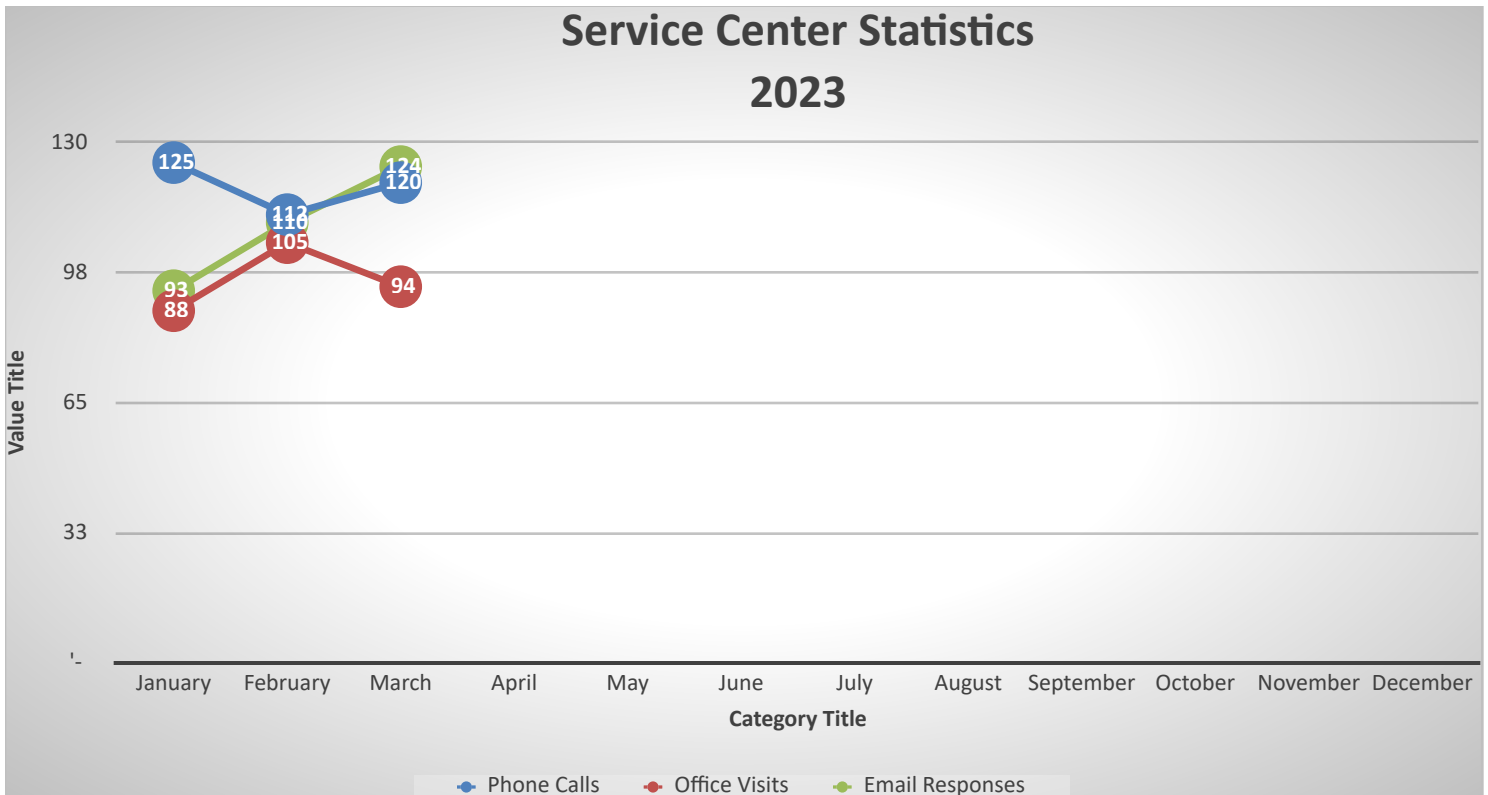
Old Business: None

New Business: None

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

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes - continued
April 13th, 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, May 11th, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!
In Service: **Irene, James, Jim and Sally**

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

April 19th, 2023

Intergroup Chair : **Tom H.** opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:01 PM.

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

New intergroup representatives:

Scott F. _Uncommon Sense, **Amy S.** _Early Birds-ZOOM, **Steve W.** _Life Changing

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: (Will M.)

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled - total cash as of 3.31.23 is \$68,167.12 net of \$1,542.01 of sales tax leaves \$66,625.11 of available cash at 3.31.23. Monthly revenues were \$8,966.30 and monthly expenses were \$8,715.67 resulting in net income of \$250.63 Contributions were \$6,012.43 and literature sales were \$1,856.41

Year to Date: As of March 31st, 2023 with the year 25.00% complete total revenues are \$22,632.24 which is **28.53%** of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 26.67% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 29.76% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 30.77% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 28.53% of the budgeted amount. All items of revenue are trending above budget amounts The year-to-date expenses are \$21,827.67 which is 27.52% of the budgeted amount also trending above the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net is \$1,234.74 vs the year-to-date loss of (\$3,398.52) as of 3.31.22 - a rather significant difference

District / Area: (Chuck M.) No report. Meeting in the month of May

Standing Committee Reports:

PI / CPC: (Phil L.) No Report.

Literature: (Vacant) No Report.

Archives: (Ben B.) No Report.

Grapevine: (Vacant) No Report.



Standing Committee Reports:

Technology: (Josh C.)

- New schedule management workflow using Microsoft Forms, Planner and Power Automate is working great. Bruce is handling the majority (some months, the entirety) of the schedule updates.
- TSML (the WordPress plugin we use to manage our schedule and connect to the Meeting Finder App) has updated how printable PDF schedules are generated. There is now a few extra steps to create and they can no longer be dynamically created. We will work with the service center to determine best course of action - do we keep as is, do we manually generate a printable list monthly?
- New phone system is working well, with a few hiccups around updating billing that were resolved
- We are planning to run a new network cable from the front desk to the phone jack area near the sink to move the second phone - VOLUNTEERS WITH CABLING/ CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE ARE NEEDED AND ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT JOSH C
- Website order forms for literature and pamphlets were updated to reflect the price increases
- We are working with our phone provider (8x8) to enable us to send and receive text messages from the service center number! This should be live within a few weeks.

Picnic: (Stacey H.) No Report.

Ad hoc committee(s): None



Standing Committee Reports:

Steering Committee Report: (Sally C.)

The Steering Committee met on April 13, 2023. **Thaddeus L** opened the meeting at 5:36 PM. March minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom K presented the March Finance report, which showed that YTD total income and expenses were both slightly above budget. **Sally C** went over March Service Center statistics and also reported that our website had once again been used as a credit card testing site, but such are the security precautions that have been put in place that out of thousands of attempts, only one transaction was successful. **Sally** worked with Stripe to immediately refund the card that was fraudulently charged. Also, on April 4, 2023, AAWS's price increase took effect. **Sally** calculated new prices for all the products we offer for sale and updated our accounting system to reflect the new charges for all of them, while **Josh C** updated our website (online) ordering system with the new prices. **Tom H** reported on the March Intergroup meeting.

There was no Old Business or New Business. The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Eligible Votes: 17 Eligible Votes.

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: **Tim** moved to accept the minutes and **Andrew M.** 2nd. March minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

Old Business:

Discussion of potentially creating a committee to bring an information booth about Alcoholics Anonymous to the State fair. **Sally C.** Mentioned a point of contact person is required by the state fair. We're looking to apply for the New York State fair 2023. 25 dollar application fee there is most likely a time limit to apply and we are looking to apply soon. **Andrew M.** made a motion to approve 25 dollars to apply to the State Fair; **Danny A** seconded and the vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

New Business:

Ben B. discussed after Web and Archive committees split there's no budget for Archives currently. Some purchase needs have come up in Archives. **Will M.** stated we do have the money to support this. Ben B proposed a budget of \$300. **Amy** made a motion to amend the 2023 budget to provide \$300 dollars to Archives and increase Group Contributions on the income side by \$300. **Sally C.** seconded this motion and vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Motion to close **Tim G.**, **Mike S.** second, (unanimous). Motion carried.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:42 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	Andrew M.	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: **Onondaga Nation Group**, 10:00 AM; The Healing Center, 3267 Route 11A, Nedrow 13120; O
- Sunday: **Oak Hill Group**, 6:00 PM; Port City Serenity Hall, 110 West 2nd St, Oswego 13126; 11th Step meeting
- Monday: **Fresh Air**, 7:00 PM; The Healing Center, 3267 Route 11A, Nedrow 13120; O
- Tuesday, **Sober Mission**, 7:00 PM; Rescue Mission, 155 Gifford St Chapel, Syracuse 13202; Open Discussion
- Wednesday: **Wrong Night**, 7:00 PM; The Healing Center, 3267 Route 11A, Nedrow 13120; O
- Friday: **Big Book Study**, 7:00 PM; The Healing Center, 3267 Route 11A, Nedrow 13120; O

Meeting Changes:

- Monday: ON MONDAY HOLIDAYS ONLY **Columbus Park**, 7:00 PM, meets at St. Vincent Church, 342 Vine St, Syracuse 13203
- 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**
- Thursday: **Manlius**, 8:30 PM; Christ Episcopal Church, 407 E Seneca St, Manlius 13104 **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Saturday: **Valley Girls**, 11:00 AM; Unity Church, 300 W Seneca Tpk, Syracuse 13207 **NO LONGER MEETS**

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

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.

☼ **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, May 17th - 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