



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

With Pen & Hope

BY: ANONYMOUS

With letters and calls, she walked her through the Steps and on the way to a new life

My passion in AA has always been corrections. I believe this is because my very first meeting of AA was in jail when I was only 17. Those AA ladies who came into our facility had a certain glow about them. I often wondered why they would waste their Tuesday evening coming in to see us. Jail was the last place I wanted to be.

In March of 2016, after a long and strenuous drinking career, I abandoned my old way of life and picked up the spiritual tool-kit AA laid at my feet.

Once I had a spiritual awakening after my Ninth Step amends, I wanted to give back. I started taking meetings into our local jail and I wrote letters to incarcerated women through the AA Correspondence Program. Once I got someone to write to, the letters would usually go back and forth about three or four times and then the woman would lose interest, or maybe she'd realize she didn't have the problem the Big Book describes.

When writing, I'd identify with the women in the letters as we got to know each other, telling them about how I drank even though I knew I was going to lose my kids. I would describe what it really is like to be an alcoholic in these letters, and I would ask them questions like, "Were you able to stop because someone asked you to?" or "Do you have a mental obsession to drink even though you know the consequences could be disastrous?" Then I would explain the allergy and phenomenon of craving.

I finally found a woman inside who was interested in working the Steps with me. She would call me once a week using her one 15-minute phone call to go through the Steps. She called me instead of calling her friends, her family or even her children. She dedicated her only outside communication to this process. She knew she was on a life-or-death errand.

My eyes well up with tears as I write this because this woman went to any lengths—behind bars even! We AAs out here make so many excuses on why it takes us three months to write out a Fourth Step, when she had hers all done in one night. I was so amazed by her drive. I felt like I had to be on the ball for her, making sure I was available to answer her with my Big Book. Armed with facts, I took her through all Twelve Steps in eight weeks. She was able to use the prison counselor's office phone to do her Fifth Step. I was so happy for her.

Continued on next page...



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

With Pen & Hope Cont'd

As we worked together, I could hear the desperation in her voice and the realization that she had been living her life by self-will, making choices that affected everyone in her path and blocked her off from God. Drinking had taken everything from her and now she was given a beautiful relationship with a Higher Power. I felt lifted up and happy that this life-changing process of AA was available for her.

She asked God to remove her character defects and she got started making her amends right away. Through letters and visits, she cleaned up her side of the street and she even paid back some money she had owed. This blew me away even more. In order to repay people, she used her commissary money and went without snacks and extra hygiene products. She only made 60 cents an hour working in the prison and was giving her pay to her family, whom she had stolen from.

Eventually I showed her what daily maintenance of the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Steps entailed, and she immediately started owning her mistakes, apologizing immediately, taking daily inventory, praying, meditating and helping others.

She was released from jail back in August and I haven't heard from her since. I hope she's found a home group and is carrying this wonderful message to others. This experience is something I will never forget. I do hope to see my friend again to thank her someday.

JULY 2023 | ANNUAL PRISON ISSUE | SPECIAL SECTION

The AA Grapevine online store(link is external) has a variety of books, ebooks and other publications full of inspiring stories of fellow AAs on their journey to recovery.

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AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
May 11th, 2023

Thaddeus L opened the meeting at 5:40 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 April 2023 minutes. **Tim** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Tom H.** seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

| | 03/31/2023 | 04/30/2023 | Net Change |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Beginning Cash | \$ 68,167.12 | \$65,178.36 | (\$2,988.76) |
| Less Sales Tax Payables | (\$1,558.44) | (\$338.27) | (\$1,220.17) |
| Available Funds | \$ 66,608.68 | \$ 64,840.09 | (\$1,768.59) |

Will M. presented the April financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 4.30.23 is \$65,178.37. Net of \$338.27 of sales tax leaves \$64,840.09 of available cash at 4.30.23. It should be noted that the annual sales tax liability of \$1,409.92 was paid in April. Monthly revenues were \$6,338.60 (significantly less than last month) and monthly expenses were \$8,107.19, resulting in a net loss of (\$1,768.79). Contributions were ~\$3,000 (significantly less than last month) and literature sales were \$2,845.89 (significantly more than last month). It should be noted that the annual premiums for workers' compensation and property & liability insurance were paid in full in April – \$816.36 – as well as the down payment for the picnic, thus skewing the net loss. Two other noteworthy items are the \$349.55 "miscellaneous contribution" which is in fact a utilities rebate initiated by **Sally** (the actual utility cost for April is \$293.11, not \$642.66) and the savings account earned \$97.56, well in excess of the pittance we were previously earning – this was also initiated by **Sally**.

Year to Date: As of April 30, 2023, with the year 33.33% complete, total revenues are \$28,963.38 which is 36.37% of the budgeted amount (well above the budget amount for 33.33% of the year). Total contributions are at 32.45% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 35.38% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 37.90% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 42.92% of the budgeted amount. All revenue items are trending above budget amounts. The year-to-date expenses are \$29,35.05, which is 37.60% of the budgeted amount, also trending above the budget amount. The year-to-date net loss is (\$541.51) vs the year-to-date loss of (\$2,421.91) as of 4.30.22 – a significant decrease in loss.

Service Center: There were 117 total calls in April, down 3% from March and 84 total office visits, down 11% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 127 email inquiries, up 2% from March. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 1,299 contacts in the first four months of this year. (See graph below.)

Sally also reported that an email blast was sent out announcing the PT Assistant Secretary vacancy one day per week, and it has been announced at meetings.

Intergroup: Tom H summarized the April Intergroup meeting, mainly concerning discussion about participation in the NYS Fair, and the \$300 that was added to the 2023 budget for the Archives committee.

Old Business:

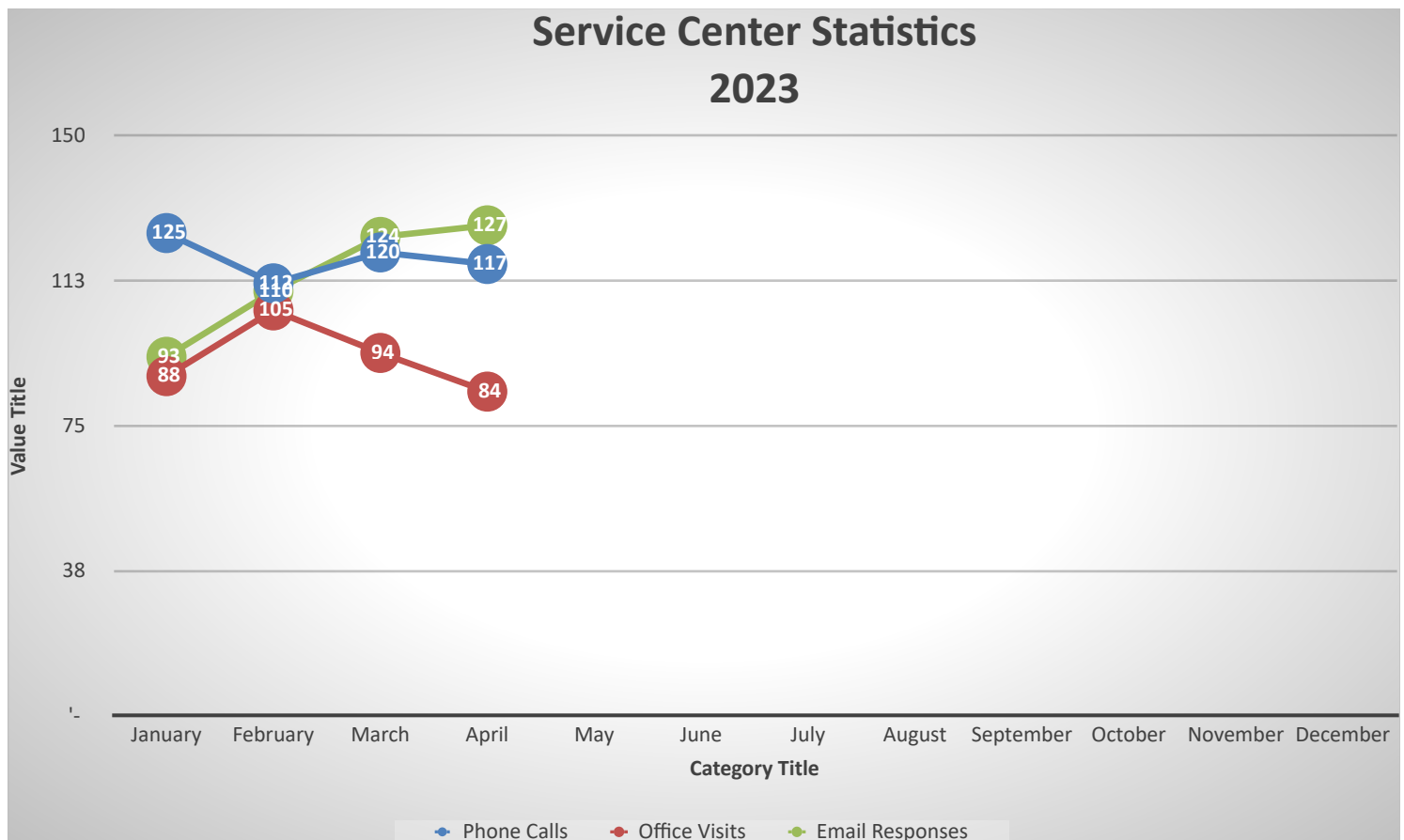
Intergroup: Tom H summarized the April Intergroup meeting, mainly concerning discussion about participation in the NYS Fair, and the \$300 that was added to the 2023 budget for the Archives committee.

New Business: None

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

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes - continued
May 11th, 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, June 15th, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!

In Service: **Irene, James, Jim and Sally**

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

May 17th, 2023

Intergroup Chair : **Tom H.** opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:03 PM.

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

New intergroup representatives:

None

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: (Will M.)

Monthly Financial Summary as of April 30th 2023: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled - total cash as of 4.30.23 is \$65,178.37 net of \$338.27 of sales tax leaves \$64,840.09 of available cash at 4.30.23. It should be noted the annual sales tax liability of \$1,409.92 was paid in April. Monthly revenues were \$6,338.60 (significantly less than last month and monthly expenses were \$8,107.19 (consistent) resulting in a net loss of (\$1,768.79). Contributions were ~\$3,000 (significantly less than last month) and literature sales were \$2,845.89 (significantly more than last month). It should be noted that the annual premiums for workers' compensation and property and liability insurance were paid in full in April- \$816.36- as well as the downpayment for the picnic - \$450 - thus skewing the net loss. Two other noteworthy items are the \$349.55 "miscellaneous contribution" it is in fact a utilities rebate initiated by **Sally** (the actual utility cost for April is \$293.11, not \$642.66) and the savings account earned \$97.56 well in excess of the pittance we were previously earning - this was also initiated by **Sally**.

Year to Date: As of April 30* 2023, with the year 33.33% complete total revenues are \$28,963.38 which is 36.37% of the budgeted amount (well above the budget amount for 33.33% of the year). Total contributions are at 32.45% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 35.38% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 37.90% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 42.92% of the budgeted amount. All items of revenue are trending above the budgeted amounts. The year-to-date expenses are \$29,935.06, which is 37.60% of the budgeted amount also trending above the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net loss is (\$541.51) vs the year-to-date loss of (\$2,421.91) as of 4.30.22 - a significant decrease in loss.

Comparison Year to Date April 2023 vs April 2022:

The year-to-date revenues are up 21.68% as compared to last year - \$28,963.38 vs. \$23,802.96. The year-to-date expenses are up (14.15%) as compared to last year- \$29,935.06 vs. \$26,224.87.

Noteworthy line items are:

- Contributions up ~\$3.100
- Literature sales up ~\$1,650
- Other income up~840
- Utilities expense up ~ (\$1,130)
- Office supplies up ~ (\$430)
- Telephone down ~ \$175
- Purchases up ~ (\$2,200)
- Insurance up ~ (\$440)

NET increase~ \$1,880

Standing Committee Reports:

District / Area: (Chuck M.)

Syracuse GSR Workshop Report, May 1st 2023

Attendees: **Ben B.** – Treasurer, **Chuck M.** – Interim Chair, **Dave C.** – Secretary, **Mike S.**, **Linda L.**, & **Patrick**

We discussed if there was anyone willing to make themselves available for the positions of Chair and Treasurer. There was none. After much discussion a motion was made to dissolve the workshop. It was seconded and passed unanimously. We then discussed what to do with the monies in the account. A motion was made to send 40% to district 0340, 40% Intergroup and 20% to the GSO. The motion was seconded and passed. Ben said he will close the PO Box, the bank account and disburse the funds according to the motion that was passed.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Syracuse GSR Workshop

Ben B.

Archives: (Ben B.)

Archive Committee Report, 5/13/23

Attendees: **Ben B.** – Chair, **Dan C.** – Committee Member, **Sally C.** Service Center Executive Secretary

We continue to go through the archival material, organize and catalogue. **Dan** put last month's recordings on a spread sheet for us. **Sally** recommended that once we get all the cataloguing done that, we send a copy to the intergroup office for safe keeping. Once all the archives are catalogued, we will be able to share the archival material with the fellowship. We will also be looking into setting up an archives display at the Intergroup office.

If anyone is interested in being part of the committee or just or just wants to help our next meeting will be June 16th, 2023, 2:00 pm at the AA Service Center 2513 James St. Syracuse NY. Enter through the door in the back.

You can contact **Ben B.** at syr.intergroup.archive@gmail.com or call (315) 480-0087.

In Grateful Service,

Ben B. – Archive Committee Chair

Corrections: (Andrew M.) No Report.

Treatment: (Andy C.) No Report.

Literature: (Amy S.) No report.

Grapevine: (Vacant) No Report.

Technology: (Joshua C.) No Report.

Standing Committee Reports:

PI / CPC: (Phil L.)

NYS State Fair: This year - Probably not.

Carrie (Area 47 PI Chair) believes booths must be reserved by Feb.

Carrie in process on checking on that

3 years ago, first orientation meeting was March 28

Financial support from Area and other 3 NY Areas not available for this year;

Next NYS Informational Workshop scheduled for last weekend in July - where funds are decidedly allocated to different ventures (too late); budgets have already been passed for this year. All the same, ask SYR

Intergroup if we wish to go forward with this year (if booth reservation deadline hasn't passed) or next year.

Will let representatives know at next **NYS Informational Workshop** know SYR PI wishes to take a course of action for State Fair 2024.

Preparation for next year:

FINANCES: State Fair not exclusive to SYR or District 47; should be able to get financial support from the 4 NY areas

BOOTH COSTS: \$1400-\$2000 from past years

- Nonprofits received 75% discount 3 years ago; now the discount is only 25%
- Volunteers received free tickets 3 years ago (belief that those who wished to serve but weren't financially able to shouldn't be barred from service)
- The three areas outside of 47 (ours) submit their budgets in the fall of next year (Area 47 is the only one who does theirs monthly)
- Find out what Syracuse Intergroup can afford toward a budget

LOGISTICS:

- Bring up State Fair idea to NYS Information Workshop
- 3 years ago, 18 tickets were purchased; individual volunteers were expected to be there all day
- email blast through the Areas; asking whether any members are planning on going to the state fair, and whether they'd be willing to volunteer
- Carrie (Area 47 PI) is reaching out to Colleen (former Area 47 PI)
- Reaching out to Jeff (Salt City Roundup Chair)
- Checking with all 4 areas, seeing whether they're willing to participate
- provide Grapevines with literature at the booths; but keep both separate



Standing Committee Reports:

Picnic: (Stacey H.)

Summer's almost here, and with it comes our Intergroup picnic! Pack up the family and come on out to Camp Brockway at Pratt's Falls on Sunday, July 23, 2023. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided; bring a dish to pass if you can. Donations from groups and individuals to help defray the cost of the event are gratefully accepted, and may be sent to the Service Center, 2513 James St, Syracuse 13206.



ANNUAL INTERGROUP PICNIC

**MUSIC, FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP! ALL
FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME!**

DATE JULY 23RD, 2023 TIME 11AM – 6PM

**LOCATION PRATT'S FALLS, CAMP BROCKWAY 7757 PRATTS
FALLS RD, MANLIUS, NY 13104**

****PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS IF POSSIBLE
**DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FROM GROUPS AND
INDIVIDUALS**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: STACEY HARTT @ 315-569-5814

Standing Committee Reports:

Steering Committee Report: (Sally C.)

May 2023 Steering Committee Report

The Steering Committee met on May 11, 2023. Thaddeus L opened the meeting at 5:40 PM. April minutes were unanimously approved. **Will M** presented the April Finance report, which showed that YTD total income and expenses were both slightly above budget. **Sally C** went over April Service Center statistics and also reported that she sent out an email blast for the PT Assistant Secretary position, as well as announcing it at meetings (please announce it as well!) **Tom H** reported on the March Intergroup meeting. *Under Old Business*, it was reported that the literature price increase has now been fully implemented. *There was no New Business.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Ad hoc committee(s): (None at this time)

Eligible Votes: 13 person(s) eligible to vote

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: **Tim G.** moved to accept the minutes and **Andrew M.** 2nd. (May 2023) minutes were (APPROVED).

Old Business:

The 2023 Budget was amended to provide 300 dollars to the Archives committee and to increase the Group Contributions income by 300 dollars.

New Business:

Tom B. Is going to fulfill the position of the Grapevine Chair.

Motion to close **Tim G., Sally C.**, 2nd, (Unanimous). Motion carried.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:41 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
- Sunday: **Moravia (AA3)**, 8:00 PM; St Matthew's Episcopal Church, 18 Church St, Moravia 13118, O, H
- Monday: **Monday Night Big Book (online)**, 7:30 PM; Meeting ID: 282 475 6223, passcode: 493074
- 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:

- Sunday: **Higher Onondaga**, 9:00 AM, is now meeting at its summer location in Onondaga Park, 101 Arlington Ave, Syracuse 13207. If raining, meeting is held in the pavilion.
- Monday: ON MONDAY HOLIDAYS ONLY **Columbus Park**, 7:00 PM, meets at St. Vincent Church, 342 Vine St, Syracuse 13203
- Friday: **Lost and Found**, 8:00 PM, has moved to Rogers Environmental Center, 2721 NY Rte 80, Sherburne 13460.
- Saturday - Sunday: **Noon Fellowship (ZOOM)**, 12:00 PM, is changing from Closed to Open

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Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

No Longer Meeting:

- Sunday: **Onondaga Nation ZOOM**, 10:00 AM **NO LONGER MEETS** Please note that this is ZOOM only; the in-person meeting still meets
- Sunday: **Fellowship by the Lake**, 6:00 PM, Wendall House, Cazenovia **NO LONGER MEETS**
- 1st Monday of the month: **GSR and DCM Workshop (Zoom)**, 5:15 PM **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**
- Tuesday: **For Us, By Us (Zoom)**, 7:00 PM; **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Thursday: **Manlius**, 8:30 PM; Christ Episcopal Church, 407 E Seneca St, Manlius 13104 **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.....

Other cont'd:

- ☼ **Park Central Presbyterian Church** is looking for an *already established group* wanting to move their meeting location to its church. 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 Presbyterian 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, June 21st - 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

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

SO MANY THANKS!

If you've been in the Service Center recently, you've seen the AA historical photos, as well as the artwork of the Wilson House in Vermont and the tribute plaque to former Service Center staff member **Neal B**, newly mounted on our walls. All but the plaque were donated by **Jeff K**, and all were meticulously installed by **Tim G**. Many thanks to **Jeff** and **Tim** for bringing history and loving remembrance to the Service Center – if you haven't been by lately, stop in and admire their handiwork!

