



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Until I knew

A member shares his journey about mentioning drugs and being respectful of AA's primary purpose

My name is Gio, and I'm an alcoholic. This is the way I introduce myself in AA meetings, although I'm also a recovering opiate addict. I do this out of respect for the group and the Traditions.

When I first started to attend AA meetings, I didn't think that I was an alcoholic. I used to think that if I could just beat my opiate problem then everything would just fall into place. Back then I would introduce myself as an addict, and I remember hearing some oldtimers sigh when I would say that.

I remember people at meetings saying that newcomers are the most important people and that we practice patience, love and tolerance for the still sick and suffering alcoholic. But I didn't feel that I was important to people in the meeting, and I used that as an excuse to go back out.

Many years later when I returned to AA, I still didn't consider myself an alcoholic. My thinking was still the same. What changed my thinking was the young people's AA meetings that I started to attend. That Fellowship was amazing. As a newcomer, I felt the love and the good energy. The people in these meetings were patient and tolerant with my sense that I was more of an addict than an alcoholic. This was the love I needed to open myself up to AA. Members would share their experience, strength and hope with me about having a problem with both alcohol and drugs. I was also pulled aside politely by a member who explained why I should introduce myself as an alcoholic. She said that I should do this solely for the unity of the group and that I could identify out loud as an alcoholic while knowing in my mind that I was also an addict.

In the Big Book, Bill mentions a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. For me, as someone who is both an alcoholic and an addict, I know this hopeless state all too well. But something changed and I didn't feel so alone anymore.

As I continued to go to meetings and work the Steps, I came to realize that alcohol was my first love and that I was powerless over it. I conceded to my innermost self that I am an alcoholic who also suffers from addiction. I identified with the story in the Big Book titled "Acceptance Was the Answer." The author shared how he loved intravenous demerol and practiced medicine while shooting morphine and drinking.

When I share at meetings, I talk about my alcoholism, but I may mention that I was also addicted to opiates or that I used a needle. I do not glorify it or tell war stories. I only use my experience to try and help others. But there are times when other AA members will shun me for bringing this up. I never understood this because I wasn't breaking any Traditions or being disrespectful when I shared. I only want to use my experience to give someone hope that recovery from both addictions is possible.

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Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Until I knew cont'd

I was taught to always use my Big Book as an instrument to guide my program. Just like the author of the story in the Big Book who touched on his opiate use while discussing his alcoholism, I think it's OK if I do the same as long as I keep in mind the sole purpose is to help others to achieve sobriety from alcoholism. There have been times when I mentioned my opiate addiction and offended another AA only to have a newcomer approach me and tell me how they could relate and how my story gave them hope.

Recently I started a new meeting called the New Freedom Group at Cross City Work Camp. I wrote the General Service Office to ask for help and also to register the meeting. In return, they sent me a lot of great information, which included a pamphlet called "Problems Other Than Alcohol" by Bill W. In it, Bill writes that in AA "we have members who have made great recoveries from both the bottle and the needle." He goes on to say we cannot give a membership to a non-alcoholic narcotics addict but, like anyone else, these people "should be able to attend certain open AA meetings."

So as an alcoholic who is an addict, I can be a member of AA. I fully understand and respect the caution that I must use in meetings when I share on my addiction issues. But I was not always aware of the proper way to speak about these things. AA literature and the Traditions really helped, but it was the loving and tolerant members who were patient with me and held my hand and guided me who made it work. If not for them, I might never have come to accept my alcoholism.

As I write this letter, I am coming up on four years of continuous sobriety from alcohol and drugs. I'm extremely grateful that AA helped me achieve this and I would like others to know that it is possible to recover from both addictions.

With the opiate epidemic on the rise, I have met many like me. I do my best to share my experience and all that I have learned. If a person tells me they are addicted to drugs but not to alcohol, I share how at first I felt the same way. If the person still insists they are not an alcoholic, then I lovingly suggest that maybe another Twelve Step group would be more suitable. Thanks for letting me share.

BY: JUSTIN G. | PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA

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AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
June 15th, 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

Financial Report:

	03/31/2023	04/30/2023	Net Change
Beginning Cash	\$65,178.17	\$65,675.29	\$497.12
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$338.27)	(\$450.00)	\$111.73
Available Funds	\$64,839.90	\$65,225.29	\$385.39

Tom K presented the May financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 5.31.23 is \$65,675.29. Net of \$450.00 of sales tax leaves \$65,225.29 of available cash at 5.31.23. Monthly revenues were \$6,090.49 (consistent with last month) and monthly expenses were \$5,705.10 (significantly less than last month – inventory purchased, insurance and picnic expenses in April which decreases) resulting in a net income of \$385.39. Contributions were \$4,580.70 (significantly more than last month) and literature sales were \$1,408.72 (significantly less than last month).

Year to Date: As of May1, 2023, with the year 41.67% complete, total revenues are \$34,704.32 which is 43.75% of the budgeted amount (above the budget amount 41.67% of the year). Total contributions are at 40.09% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 44.84% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 44.66% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 49.34% of the budgeted amount. All revenue items are trending above budget amounts. The year-to-date expenses are \$35,290.61, which is 44.32% of the budgeted amount, also trending above the budget amount. The year-to-date net loss is (\$156.12) vs the year-to-date loss of (\$3,657.10) as of 5.31.22 – a significant decrease in loss.

Service Center: There were 127 total calls in May, up 9% from April and 91 total office visits, up 8% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 160 email inquiries, up 26% from April. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 1,677 contacts in the first five months of this year. (See graph below.)

Under new 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

Old Business:

Sally reported on the status of the PT Assistant Secretary search: several resumes have been received and have been narrowed down to three to interview. **Tom H** made a motion, seconded by **Thaddeus**, to allow the Exec Secretary to interview and make a selection herself. Motion passed unanimously.

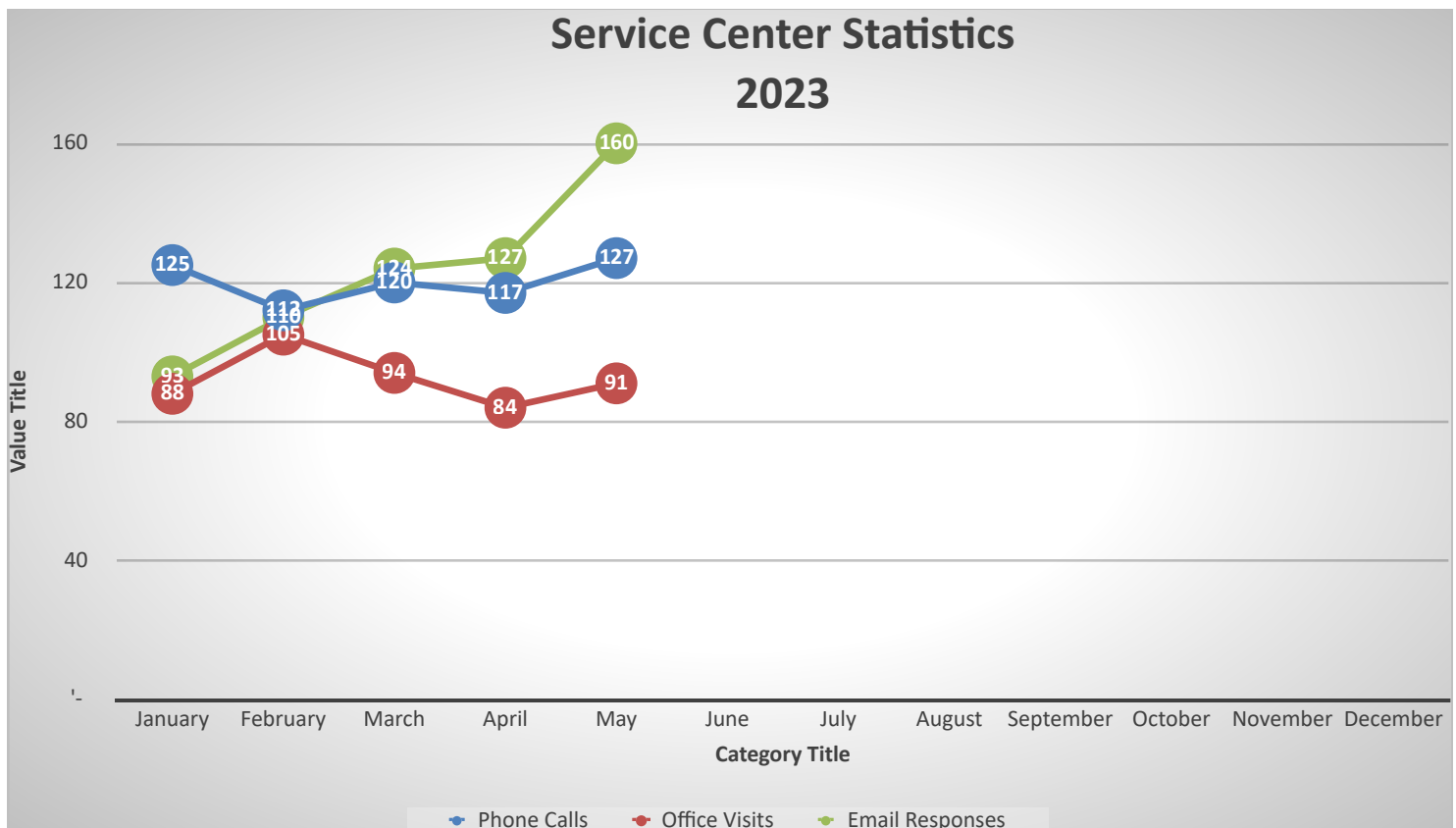
New Business:

There will be an Area 47 Zoom meeting on Monday, June 19 to discuss the feasibility of exhibiting at the 2024 NY State Fair and initial steps to be taken. **Sally** will attend to provide background information and offer to help in future efforts.

Josh made a motion to close, which was seconded by **Tom**; meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes - continued
June 15th, 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, July 13th, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!

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

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

June 21st, 2023

Intergroup Chair : Intergroup Vice-Chair: **Brandy C.** opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:00 PM. **Vice Chair Stand In Will M.** read the 12 Traditions.

New intergroup representatives:

None

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: (Will M.)

SYRACUSE INTERGROUP, INC. Monthly Financial Summary as of May 31st 2023

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled - total cash as of 5.31.23 is \$65,675.29 net of \$450 of sales tax leaves \$65,225.29 of available cash at 5.31.23. Monthly revenues were \$6,090.49 (consistent with last month) and monthly expenses were \$5,705.10 (significantly less than last month - inventory purchased, insurance and picnic expenses which decreased) resulting in a net income of **\$385.39**. Contributions were ~\$4,580.70 (significantly more than last month) and literature sales were \$1,408.82 (significantly less than last month).

Year to Date: As of May **31st** 2023, with the year 41.67% complete total revenues are \$34,704.32 which is 43.75% of the budgeted amount (above the budget amount of 41.67% of the year). Total contributions are at 40.09% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 44.84% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 44.66% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 49.34% of the budgeted amount. All items of revenue are trending above the budgeted amounts. The year-to-date expenses are \$35,290.61, which is 44.32% of the budgeted amount also trending above the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net loss is (\$156.12) vs the year-to-date loss of (\$3,657.10) as of 5.31.22, a significant decrease in loss..

Comparison Year to Date May 2023 vs May 2022: The year-to-date revenues are up 20.26% as compared to last year, \$34,704.32 vs. \$28,855.35. The year-to-date expenses are up (8.54%) as compared to last year \$35,290.61 vs. \$32,512.45. Noteworthy line items are:

Contributions up ~\$3,350

Literature sales up ~\$2,000

Other income up ~1,000

Technology expense down \$300

Utilities expense up ~ (\$900)

Office supplies up ~ (\$650)

Telephone down ~ \$150

Purchases up ~ (\$1,500)

Other expenses ~ (\$250)

NET increase ~ \$3,500

Minutes continued on next page >

Standing Committee Reports:

District / Area: (Chuck M.) NOTES

Archives: (Ben B.) No report

Corrections: (Andrew M.) No Report.

Treatment: (Andy C.) No Report.

Literature: (Amy S.) No report.

Technology: (Joshua C.) No Report.

Grapevine: (Tom B.)

Hello to all Groups and Individuals. I would like to introduce you to the wonderful publication of our meeting in print the AAGRAPEVINE and all the great tools and literature it has to offer. Grapevine's New Podcast By:CHRIS C., Publisher, AA Grapevine,Inc. The AA Grapevine half-Hour Variety Hour. Featuring long-time AA members Don and Sam. Each week Don and Sam will interview a different member experience, strength and hope, in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner. Special features will enhance each episode. Please go to AAGRAPHVINE.org/Podcast. A new podcast episode will be available in English every Monday at 9:00am EST. There is a lot of AAGrapevine material that can be used, such as Guidelines how to write your story for the AAGrapevine. Maybe you would like to subscribe to our meeting in print for yourself or someone else. I am available to help in anyway to Groups or Individuals. If any person would like to help out with Grapevine, please let our chairperson (**Tom**) co-chair (**Brandy**) or executive secretary (**Sally**) or myself Tom at slowroll1953@gmail or our Service Center 315 463-5011. Thanks all **Tom B**

Picnic: (Stacey H.)

The Neal Britner Memorial 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 - PLEASE MAKE THEM PAYABLE TO SYRACUSE INTERGROUP, INC.**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

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

Standing Committee Reports:

June 2023 Steering Committee Report

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

Tom K presented the May Finance report, which showed that YTD total income and expenses were both slightly above budget. **Sally C** went over May Service Center statistics and indicated that during the first five months of the year, Service Center staff managed a total of 1.677 contacts. Tom H reported on the April Intergroup meeting.

Under Old Business, it was reported that we received several resumes for the PT Assistant Secretary position, and interviewing and selection will take place shortly.

Under New Business, there will be an Area 47 Zoom meeting on Monday, June 19 to discuss the feasibility of exhibiting at the 2024 NY State Fair and initial steps to be taken. **Sally** will attend to provide background information and to help in future efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

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

Eligible Votes: 14 Eligible Votes

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: **Sally C.** moved to accept the minutes and **Tim G** seconded. May minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

Old Business:

No Old Business.

New Business:

No New Business.

Motion to close Andrew M, Sally C. seconded (Unanimous). Motion carried.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:25 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: **Moravia (AA3)**, 8:00 PM; St Matthew's Episcopal Church, 18 Church St, Moravia 13118, O, H
- Monday - Friday: **Jump the Gun**, 3:45 PM; Fellowship Hall, 135 Walter Dr, Syracuse 13206, C, 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
- Saturday: **Constant Contact**, 7:30 AM; Port City Serenity Hall, 110 W 2nd St, Oswego 13126; O

Meeting Changes:

- Sunday: Oak Hill has changed its name to **Constant Contact**, 6:00 PM; Port City Serenity Hall, 110 W 2nd St, Oswego 13126; O
- Sunday: **Higher Onondaga**, 9:00 AM, has moved to St Michael's-St Peter's Parish, 4782 W Seneca Tpk, Syracuse 13215
- Sunday: **Turning Point**, 6:00 PM, has moved to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 400 W Yates St, East Syracuse, NY
- St Michael's-St Peter's Parish, 4782 W Seneca Tpk, Syracuse 13215.

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Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

Meeting Changes: *cont'd*

- Monday: **Men's Group**, 8:00 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.

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
- 1st Monday of the month: **GSR and DCM Workshop (Zoom)**, 5:15 PM **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, July 19th - 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