



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Testing the Waters

BY: V.K. | CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA

He had vowed never to attend a meeting in a church. Then one day he decided to challenge himself.

I was accused of “contempt prior to investigation” by a sponsee last year. It probably happened because I never attended his church after multiple invitations.

I grew up in a very religious home, went to a religious school and even served as an altar boy. But I had a falling out with the church when I was 14. Dr. Bob said it best in his story: “When I was free from parental domination, I would never again darken the doors of a church...except when circumstances made it seem unwise to absent myself.” I held steadfast in my resolve by going to churches only for weddings and funerals.

After hitting my bottom, I went to our AA Central Office to get a meeting list. Fortunately I lived in a big city where there were many sober clubhouses. My first meeting was at a club, and *I vowed then to never go to an AA meeting held in a church.*

One Wednesday night meeting was close to my condo. It was located in a strip mall. At that time I was so focused on myself that I never noticed much about my surroundings. I was, however, aware that the meeting wasn't in a clubhouse. After the meeting was over,

I was pontificating about my feelings about churches and my resolution to have nothing to do with them. Right then, another member suggested I look at the sign on the door. Damn, this meeting was at a church—in a strip mall!

Well, lightning didn't strike me. And it did actually open up options for me to attend a lot more AA meetings.

A few years later I became our group's Intergroup rep. Our monthly Intergroup meeting happened to be held at the church where my mom had been secretary for 12 years. It took some courage for me to go to that meeting, but I did it. Once again, lightning didn't strike me. After some time, I attended meetings in churches fairly often.

One day on my AA anniversary, I decided that I would expand and enlarge my spiritual life by attending a church service at a different church each month for a year. For some reason, visiting 12 churches sounded like a good number.

I went into these churches with as open a mind as I could muster, with the intent to, as the Big Book says, “Be quick to see where religious people are right.” I also decided to attend services at as many different denominations as possible.

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Testing the Waters cont'd

I started by attending the churches that provided meeting spaces for AA. Then I returned to a church of my childhood, as well as a few that were recommended by friends. I even went on some out-of-town trips to visit denominations that weren't available locally. In a calendar year, I actually went to 18 different churches.

In conclusion, I discovered that more people went to church than I thought. Most churches had greeters and the people were very friendly. There were a few churches where promotion exceeded attraction for me but, all in all, I had a great experience. After the year was up, I didn't feel an overwhelming need to continue or to settle on a church I would attend on a regular basis. That being said, however, the next time a sponsee invites me to his church service, I will most probably attend.

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AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/contact-us>

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
August 10th, 2023

Tom H. opened the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Present: Sally C, Josh C, Tom H, Tom K, and Will M.

July minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Financial Report:

	<u>06/30/2023</u>	<u>07/31/2023</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Beginning Cash	\$ 66,672.06	\$75,852.40	\$ 9,180.34
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$ 542.31)	(\$ 658.59)	\$ 116.28
Available Funds	\$ 66,129.75	\$ 75,193.81	\$ 9,064.06

Will M presented the July financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 7.31.23 is \$75,852 net of \$659 of sales tax leaves \$75,194 of available cash at 7.31.23.

Monthly revenues were \$14,491 (consistent with last month plus the \$7,800 from the golf tournament) and monthly expenses were \$6,881 (consistent with last month plus \$1,371 for the picnic) resulting in a net income of \$9,064. Contributions were \$5,128 (consistent with last month) and literature sales were \$1,454 (consistent with last month).

Year to Date: As of July 31, 2023, with the year 58.33% complete, total revenues are \$57,038 which is 71.90% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 61.06% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 64.29% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 61.06% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 64.91% of the budgeted amount. Interest revenue is \$395 vs a budget amount of \$10 and miscellaneous revenue is \$430 vs a budget amount of \$0.

The year-to-date expenses are \$47,646, which is 59.85% slightly above the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net income is \$9,812.

Service Center: There were 108 total calls in July, down 21% from June and 94 total office visits, down 12% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 118 email inquiries, down 6% from June. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 2,365 contacts in the first seven months of this year. (See graph below.)

Intergroup: Tom H summarized the July Intergroup meeting. The Intergroup picnic was held on July 23 at Camp Brockway in Pratt's Falls. Tim (Area 47 Chair) will be attending August Intergroup to provide information about what Area is, what it does, and why it's important to all of us.

Old Business:

The Intergroup picnic brought in \$1,315 but spent \$1,870, resulting in a shortfall of (\$555). However, the Doug Sullivan Memorial golf tournament brought in a net of \$7,800.

New Business:

The Committee discussed some options for enhancing service at the Service Center.

Will made a motion to close, which was seconded by Josh; meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!

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

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	Stacey H.	syr.intergroup.picnic@gmail.com
Archive Chair	Ben B.	syr.intergroup.archive@gmail.com

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

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
- 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.

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Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

Meeting Changes: cont'd

- Monday: ON MONDAY HOLIDAYS ONLY **Columbus Park**, 7:00 PM, meets at St. Vincent Church, 342 Vine St, Syracuse 13203
- Thursday: **Open Step Study**, Serenity Hall, 93 Syracuse St (Route 48), Baldwinsville 13027 has changed its meeting time from 7:15 PM to **7:00 PM**
- 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: **A New Freedom (Zoom)**, 7:30 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, September 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.

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