



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

TRADITION TEN / Staying focused

BY: GEORGE H. | KINGSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A member shares his thoughts about opinions, judgments, outside issues and our primary purpose.

One day a man barged into our meeting room and hijacked it while it was in full swing. His profanity-laced, hate-filled tirade continued unabated to the dismay of all those attending. Everyone was stunned.

The only thing that came to me in the shock of the moment was a flash of Tradition Ten containing these two words: outside issues. So I yelled back at him, “Hey, those are outside issues!” That seemed to catch him off guard. He paused his vocal abuse long enough for someone else to be able to whisk him out the door and away from the meeting to diffuse the situation.

The phrase “outside issues” may be AA speak, and the person in this example may have been merely confused by my choice of words. But to those of us in the Fellowship, that phrase contains an important concept ensuring that we focus on alcoholism and that the halls of AA remain a safe place for all. As it states in the long form of Tradition Ten: “The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one.”

We don’t take sides on outside issues—ever. It doesn’t matter what religious sect you belong to, what race or nationality one is, what political affiliation you may have, or what side of the alcohol reform debate you belong to. We leave judgments about these at the door. We clean the soles of our shoes on the way in, so to speak. I don’t pick my personal views back up until I leave. I even hesitate to mention politics or religion when I tell my story because any thoughts I may have on these divert me from being inclusive and focusing on AA’s primary purpose.

We might also take outside issues to an extreme. How closely should I as an individual adhere to this Tradition? What about talking about our favorite sports teams or name-dropping brand names in an AA meeting? Or how about wearing teams and corporate logos? Couldn’t these things influence others, and not always in a positive way?

Going to extremes is something that I do regularly. So clearly some moderation here is needed. I’m not advocating that we only wear logo-less apparel or refrain from talking about brand names. We should just use some sensitivity to avoid brand-shaming or status gloating, which might divide rather than unify.

But what about opinions? An opinion is a judgment not necessarily based on fact or knowledge. Here’s an example: If I like doing the Steps as they are laid out in the Big Book, I might share my experience with someone about this. But to declare that the Big Book way is the only way to do the Steps or to denigrate doing the Steps by the “Twelve and Twelve” or some other method could result in dividing members. And that’s not necessarily an opinion. It’s based, I’ve experienced, through this learning curve I call sobriety, and in working with others.

Continued on next page...



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

TRADITION TEN / Staying focused. *Cont'd*

My goal is to maximize the chances of someone to stay sober—to be encouraging and supportive, not authoritative and restrictive. When sharing at meetings and with members one-on-one, I have only two things to offer: my experience and the sober person I am today.

Before I had my experience with the program of AA, my idea of sponsoring someone involved trying to fix their life, work, relationships, family, and even other addictions. I was certainly proved wrong about that. Having no experience in any of these outside issues at the time, I based my course of action to help others based on my opinions. And my opinions were based on my own ideas of how life should be lived. Luckily most of these men are still sober in spite of me.

Tradition Ten suggests that we practice neutrality. I can do this by being focused on what's stated in our AA Preamble: my "experience, strength and hope." We keep the group, our meetings and the Fellowship free from anything which may sidetrack us from our primary purpose.

The AA Preamble is made up of a very succinct wording of many of the Traditions. In this clearly written introduction to AA, we find our primary purpose, self-support, non-alliance and affiliation and freedom from the controversy that engulfs so much of the world today. It's a great way to engage with the world and to maintain focus on what we can all concur on—our recovery.

Reprinted permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

AA GRAPEVINE
The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
September 14th, 2023

Thaddeus L. opened the meeting at 5:36 PM.

Present: Thaddeus L, Josh C, Sally C, Tim G, Tom H, Tom K

Last Month's minutes: The committee reviewed August minutes. Josh made a motion to approve, Tim seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

	<u>07/31/2023</u>	<u>08/31/2023</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Beginning Cash	\$ 75,996.27	\$ 72,805.92	(\$ 3,190.35)
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$ 658.59)	(\$ 783.26)	(\$ 124.67)
Available Funds	\$ 75,337.68	\$ 72,022.66	(\$ 3,315.02)

Tom K presented the August financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 8.31.23 is \$75,996 net of \$783 of sales tax leaves \$72,806 of available cash at 8.31.23. There is also a \$200 receivable as of 8.31.23. Monthly revenues were \$5,830 and monthly expenses were \$8,946 (unusually high – 3 payroll month, planned technology expenditures) resulting in net loss of (\$3,315). Contributions were \$3,361 and literature sales were \$2,279 (a good month).

Year to Date: As of August 31, 2023, with the year 66.67% complete, total revenues are \$63,013 which is 79.44% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 79.29% of the budgeted amount; group contributions are at 71.05% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 65.78% of the budgeted amount,. Literature sales are at 75.46% of the budgeted amount. Interest revenue is \$690 vs a budgeted amount of \$10, and miscellaneous revenue is \$430 vs a budget amount of \$0 – this essentially is the year-to-date profit. The year-to-date expenses are \$56,602, which is 71.09% of the budgeted amount, also trending above the budget amount, intentionally. The year-to-date net income is \$6,841 vs the year-to-date loss of (\$4,426) as of 8.31.22.

Service Center: There were 131 total calls in August, up 21% from July and 96 total office visits, up 2% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 82 email inquiries, down 31% from July. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 2,674 contacts in the first eight months of this year. (See graph below.) **Sally** also discussed a couple of incidents with troubled individuals in the past month.

Intergroup: Tom H summarized the August Intergroup meeting, mainly concerning the visit by Area 47 Chair **Tim** _.

Old Business:

The committee expressed appreciation for the videoconferencing system that **Josh** procured and installed. This will enable us to offer participation via Zoom, not only for the Steering Committee, but for Intergroup as well. Our goal is to increase participation at Intergroup, particularly for the outlying groups in our service area, and particularly as inclement weather arrives. Many thanks to **Josh**! Also, **Ben B** and **Jeffrey B.** delivered and set up the Archives cabinet to the Service Center, which enables us to display information about the history of AA in our area. Finally, **Leonard Adams** is scheduled to clean the office carpet this weekend, buff out and polish the meeting floor the following weekend, then begin biweekly janitorial service afterward.

Continued on next page...

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
September 14th, 2023...Cont'd

New Business:

In light of the incidents Sally described earlier, the group discussed the feasibility of installing some kind of panic button/security system. Josh will look at options and make a recommendation. The committee also discussed concerns about the accuracy of the Meeting Guide app – errors are popping up in the schedule which appear to be caused by the software. While staff and the tech committee will begin going through the schedule to identify areas that need correcting, we will also send out an email blast asking groups to check their own listings to ensure they're correct, and to notify us via the meeting update form on our website.

Josh made a motion to close, which was seconded by **Tim**; meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

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 Intergroup Minutes

September 20th, 2023

Intergroup Vice-Chair : Brandy C.. opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:00 PM.
Financial Chair Will M. (Standing in for Vice Chair). read the 12 Traditions.

New intergroup representatives:

None

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: (Will M.)

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled - total cash as of 8.31.23 is \$75,996 net of \$783 of sales tax leaves \$72,806 of available **cash** at 8.31.23. There is also a \$200 receivable **at** 8.31.23. Monthly revenues were \$5,830 and monthly expenses were \$8,946 (unusually high-3 payroll month, planned technology expenditures) resulting in a net **loss** of (\$3,115). Contributions were \$3,361 and literature sales were \$2,279 (a good month).

Year to Date: As of August 31st2023, **with** the year 66.67% **complete, total** revenues are \$63,013 which is 79.44% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 79.29% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 71.05% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 65.78% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 75.46% of the budgeted amount. Interest revenue is \$690 vs a budget amount of \$10 and miscellaneous revenue is \$430 vs a budget amount of \$0 - this essentially the year-to-date profit. The year-to-date expenses are \$56,602 which is 71.09% also above the budgeted amount intentionally. The year-to-date net income is \$6,841 vs the year-to-date loss **of** \$4,426 as of 8.31.22.

District / Area: (Chuck M) No Report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Corrections: (Andrew M.) No Report.

Treatment: (Andy C.) No Report.

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

Literature: (Amy S.) No Report.

Archives: (Ben B.)

This month we did not have a regular committee meeting. With the help of Jeffrey, we brought the showcase cabinet to the Service center and set it up. This past Saturday September 16th I spent the day installing wiring and timer controls for the cabinet lighting. The timer is set to turn on the cabinet lights during the Service Center hours Monday through Friday. I went through the archives and put out some items of interest. Our plan is to rotate the archives display each month. Our next committee meeting will be October 14th 2:00 pm at the Service Center. All are welcome to come and help us to continue to sort and catalogue the archive material.

In Grateful Service, **Ben B.** – Archive Committee Chair

Minutes continued on next page >

Grapevine: (Tom B.)

Hello Groups and Individuals,

There was no activity from Groups or persons so there was nothing to report so at this time I'd like to talk a little about all the Great literature AA Grapevine has to offer. There is one that stands out, which is, "Beginners Book" and "One on One". The price is \$17.25, sku is BNFBOB.

"Beginners Book"; In this collection of AA Grapevine stories, AA members share what helped them get sober and handle there new lives in recovery. Full of useful suggestions, insight and solutions to problems common to the newly sober, this book provides solid tools of recovery.

"One on One"; AA Sponsorship in Action. In this collection, AA members write about there experience with sponsorship, including how to choose one, getting the courage ask someone to be a sponsor, sharing their past and present with them, working with those having trouble staying sober, dealing with the loss of a beloved sponsor and more. From the early days of the program, this special "One on One" bond of sponsorship has been considered vital to getting sober, staying connected and living a full happy life, As always I am your trusted servant and I look forward to helping in any matters dealing with the AA grapevine. You can also use the AAGRAPEVINE.org to look for all kinds of literature.

Thank you, **Tom Beaton** (grapevine chair)

Technology: (Josh C.)

Online Schedule Maintenance

• **CALL TO ACTION FOR INTERGROUP!!**

- Our schedule is in desperate need of maintenance. Since COVID, we've had lots of groups pop up, locations change, and meetings close
- Our schedule is riddled with inaccuracies, duplicates and unknown listings
- This requires a group effort to fix - can everyone please help and review all meetings you know about, and most importantly announce at meetings you attend that we need help reviewing the schedule for accuracy?
- Please submit all update requests using the form on www.aasyracuse.org
- Meeting update requests continue to be processed in a timely manner. Thank you everyone for your help!

Video Conferencing System

- The Technology Committee is very excited to have built a new video conferencing system for the service center! This will enable us to better connect with each other over Zoom.
- Written instructions on how to operate the system have been given to Sally

Service Center Security

- In response to some worrying encounters, we will be ordering and installing alarm keypads and panic button alarms, connected to a 95 decibel siren and email alerts to Service Center staff
- We will also be replacing the keyed door lock on the rear entrance with a pin-pad smartlock, to more easily grant/revoke access and track building access
- These upgrades will be performed in the next couple weeks

New Firewall

- In an effort to improve our Information Security and help the quality of our VoIP telephone calls, we have purchased a Fortigate 40F firewall that we will be installing in the Service Center

Minutes continued on next page >

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes continued
September 20th, 2023

Picnic: (Stacey H.) No Report.

Steering Committee Report: (Sally C.)

The Steering Committee met on September 14, 2023. **Thaddeus L** opened the meeting at 5:34 PM. August minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom K presented the August Finance report, which showed that YTD total income and expenses were both slightly above budget, with net income as of 08/31/2023 of \$6,841. **Sally C** went over August Service Center statistics and indicated that during the first eight months of the year, Service Center staff managed a total of 2,674 contacts. She also discussed a couple of incidents troubled individuals during the previous month. Tom H reported on the August Intergroup meeting.

Under Old Business, the committee expressed appreciation for the videoconferencing system that **Josh** procured and installed, which will enable us to offer participation via Zoom, not only for the Steering Committee, but for Intergroup as well. Also, **Ben B** and **Jeffrey B.** delivered and set up the Archives cabinet in the Service Center, which enables us to display information about the history of AA in our area. Finally, a vendor is scheduled to clean the office carpet this weekend, buff out and polish the meeting floor the following weekend, then begin biweekly janitorial service afterward.

Under New Business, in light of the incidents **Sally** described earlier, the group discussed the feasibility of installing some kind of panic button/security system. **Josh** will look at options and make a recommendation. The committee also discussed concerns about the accuracy of the Meeting Guide app, which is showing errors in the schedule that appear to be caused by the software. While staff and the tech committee will begin going through the schedule to identify areas that need correcting, we will also send out an email blast asking groups to check their own listings to ensure they're correct, and to notify us via the meeting update form on our website.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

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

Eligible Votes: 12 persons eligible to vote.

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: Moved to accept the minutes and **Sally C.** 2nd. August minutes were APPROVED with ten votes and two abstaining, including the following amendment: New Business: **Tim D.** Area 47 Chairperson attended Intergroup to present the AA Service Structure and break down the various committees it holds. Although Intergroup is not a part of the AA Service Structure we can still cooperate with Area 47 through the shared committees and help one another. **Tim D** encouraged our cooperation with Area 47 and stressed how important it is. Intergroup thanked **Tim** for coming down to share the message.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Nominations: Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and Financial Chair positions are up. **Jason D.** was nominated as the 2024 Vice Chair and accepted the nomination. **Jason** qualified himself and meets the criteria of requirements for the position.

Andrew M. made a motion to have the Intergroup meeting moved to Hybrid for the month of November, **Ben B.** seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote where it was approved unanimously.

A motion to close was made by **Sally C.**, **Kelly S.** 2nd. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 7:11 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	Stacey H.	syr.intergroup.picnic@gmail.com
Archive Chair	Ben B.	syr.intergroup.archive@gmail.com



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:

- Tuesday, **Sober Mission**, 7:00 PM; Rescue Mission, 155 Gifford St Chapel, Syracuse 13202; O
- Friday: **Serenity Circle**, 12:00 PM; Recovery Center, 714 Hickory St, Syracuse 13203; O. Press button at main door to be buzzed in.
- Friday: **Primetime**, 8:00 PM; Bellgrove Missionary Baptist Church, 219 Dr. Marting Luther King West, Syracuse 13205; C

Meeting Changes:

- Monday and Friday: **Hamilton on the Green**, 7:00 PM, First Baptist Church, 27 Broad St, Hamilton 13346 is now meeting on both Monday and Friday
- Monday: **New Beginning**, 7:00 PM has moved to Meridian Baptist Church, NY Rt 370, Meridian, NY 13113
- 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**
- Saturday: **Brothers and Sisters**, 10:00 AM; Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave, Syracuse 13204 has **resumed meeting**.

Announcements Continued on next page...

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

No Longer Meeting:

- Sunday: **Sober Sisters Big Book Study**, 1:30 PM; Fellowship Hall, 135 Walter Dr, Syracuse, 13206 NO LONGER MEETS
- Sunday: **The Next Step**, 4:30 PM; Eastern Hills Bible Church, 8277 Cazenovia Rd, Manlius 13104 NO LONGER MEETS
- 1st Monday of the month: **GSR and DCM Workshop (Zoom)**, 5:15 PM NO LONGER MEETS
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: **Pulaski Thanksgiving**, 12:00 PM; 23 Niagara St, Pulaski 13142 NO LONGER MEETS
- Monday – Friday: **AA For Lunch (ZOOM)**, 12:00 PM NO LONGER MEETS. Note: applies only to the Zoom meeting
- Monday: **Bridgeport Group**, 8:00 PM; St. Francis Parish Center, 7802 Minoa-Bridgeport Rd, Kirkville NO LONGER MEETS
- Tuesday: **Daily Reprieve**, 7:30 PM; Serenity Hall, Noble's Plaza, 93 Syracuse St, Baldwinsville 13027 NO LONGER MEETS
- Thursday: **Then & Now**, 6:00 PM; Brown Memorial United Methodist Church, 228 Davis St, Syracuse 13204 NO LONGER MEETS
- Thursday: **Together We Can**, 6:00 PM; United Methodist Church, 389 Co Rt 54, Pennellville NO LONGER MEETS
- Thursday: **Ascending Angels**, 7:00 PM; Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, 347 Cortland Ave, Syracuse, 13202 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:

- 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, October 18th- 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