



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

My First Sober Thanksgiving

How on earth will he celebrate without booze? A newcomer gets a wonderful surprise

Gosh, what an accomplishment! After 20 years of nightly drinking, after years watching my personal life go into the toilet, I somehow managed to stop drinking by going to AA meetings and actually listening to suggestions!

I was just seven months sober, but facing what I thought was going to be an insurmountable obstacle. Not drinking on Thanksgiving! That idea seemed totally out of the question. I had never had a sober Thanksgiving in my entire adult life.

A great holiday dinner without wine? What? Attending the Thanksgiving Day Parade without a few drinks on a super cold day? Being in the house with all my relatives all day without a buzz? No way! These things were impossible for me to even imagine.

Luckily, an *oldtimer*—someone who had gone through this holiday dilemma many times before—gave me a suggestion which would not only get me through another day sober, but would change my sobriety forever. “Why don’t you go to an AA meeting that day?” he said.

An AA meeting? On Thanksgiving Day? That’s the craziest idea I had ever heard. “Yes, our home group, the Port Washington Group, has an all-day AA meeting on that day,” he said. “Many meetings do this on holidays. There’s an AA meeting every hour on the hour, until late at night. Not only are there meetings, but great food as well. Everyone brings food in from their own family celebrations too. You can even volunteer to help set up, clean up and serve the goodies. You might even chair one of the meetings or just come by and enjoy a cup of coffee—on us.” By the look on his face, this oldtimer seemed to know something that I couldn’t get just yet.

So that Thanksgiving, right in the middle of the day, just when I needed a break from my family, I moseyed over to the Port Washington Group’s Thanksgiving Day celebration.

I’ll be honest, I was nervous. Who would be there? A handful of losers? Well, I sure got a shock when I entered. The room was packed. Many of my familiar AA home group members were there, laughing and enjoying themselves. And they were serving tons of great food. Members marched in the whole time proudly adding their own special culinary contributions from home. Soon everyone got quiet. An AA meeting was starting!

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Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

My First Sober Thanksgiving - continued

Even with all my many personal problems swirling in my mind that moment, I stopped for a minute and looked around the church basement. I saw members who didn't have any family to be with that day. AA was their family. I watched them enjoy each other's company. I saw alcoholics who really needed a holiday meal. They got to eat and take part in the fellowship. There were fellow newcomers like me there who didn't want to drink, getting to spend the day in a safe place. Instead of a bar, or a jail, or an ER, or alone at home, we were all enjoying food and feeling welcome.

Suddenly my problems got so much less important. My gratitude got so much larger. My desire to reach out and help another alcoholic forever changed that day. I realized that my life wasn't so bad after all. I got to pitch in and help provide a safe, sober oasis of hope, love and support for other alcoholics who needed it. And I had a safe, sober place too.

I hope y'all have a blessed, sober Thanksgiving this year. It's a great time to reach out to others and be thankful for all our blessings.

BY: DEFINITELY STEVE | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
October 12th, 2023

Thaddeus L. opened the meeting at 5:32PM.

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

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

Financial Report:

	<u>08/31/2023</u>	<u>09/30/2023</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Beginning Cash	\$ 72,805.92	\$ 74,428.69	\$ 1,622.77
Less Sales Tax Payables	(\$ 783.26)	(\$ 922.77)	(\$ 139.51)
Available Funds	\$ 72,022.66	\$ 73,505.92	\$ 1,483.26

Tom K presented the September financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 9.30.23 is \$74,429 net of \$923 of sales tax leaves \$73,506 of available cash at 9.30.23. Monthly revenues were \$6,376 (average) and monthly expenses were \$4,893 (unusually low – no utilities, no literature purchased and there was a planned technology expenditure of \$575) resulting in a net income of 1,483. Contributions were \$4,446 and literature sales were \$1,744.

Year to Date: As of September 30th 2023, with the year 75% complete, total revenues are \$69,620 which is 87.76% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 86.79% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 80.14% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 65.90% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 83.55% of the budgeted amount. Interest revenue is \$833 vs a budget amount of \$10 and miscellaneous revenue is \$430 vs a budget amount of \$0. The year-to-date expenses are \$61,495, which is 77.22% slightly above the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net income is \$8,125 vs the year-to-date net income of \$4,312 as of 9.30.22 – a significant decrease in loss.

Comparison Year to Date September 2023 vs September 2022: The year-to-date revenues are up 15.55% as compared to last year - \$69,620 vs. \$35,511. The year-to-date expenses are up 9.93% as compared to last year - \$61,495 vs. \$55,937

Service Center:

There were 125 total calls in September, down 5% from August and 89 total office visits, down 7% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 99 email inquiries, up 21% from August. Between office visits, phone calls and email responses, Service Center staff have managed a total of 2,987 contacts in the first nine months of this year. (See graph below.) Sally also mentioned that she attended a SYRYPAA meeting to get a better understanding of the group, and they were very welcoming.

Intergroup: Tom H

Tom H summarized the September Intergroup meeting, mainly concerning the nominations for upcoming elections in October for 2024 Intergroup officers. The positions of Vice Chair, Financial Chair and Recording Secretary are open, and the only position that has had a nomination is for next year's Vice Chair.

Old Business:

As discussed at last month's meeting, panic buttons have been installed in both the front office and the back meeting room, as well as door alarms. Many thanks to **Josh** for his quick action in undertaking this.

New Business:

Discussion of the 2024 proposed budget was tabled to November. The committee asked **Sally** to review the current Executive Secretary job description, and revise as necessary.

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

Next meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!

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

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

October 18th, 2023

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

Vice Chair Brandy C. read the 12 Traditions.

New intergroup representatives:

Jen M., (Young at Heart)

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: Will M.

**SYRACUSE INTERGROUP, INC.
Monthly Financial Reporting
30 September 2023**

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Sales Tax Liability</u>	<u>Available Funds</u>
Balance 8.31.23	72,805.92	783.26	72,022.66
Income reported current month	6,376.41		6,376.41
Expenses reported current month	(4,893.15)		(4,893.15)
Sales tax collected current month	139.51	139.51	-
Balance 9.30.23	<u>74,428.69</u>	<u>922.77</u>	<u>73,505.92</u>
Change - current month	<u>1,622.77</u>	<u>139.51</u>	<u>1,483.26</u>
Profit - current month	<u>1,483.26</u>		

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: (Robert C.) No Report.

Archives: (Ben B.)

This month we did no Archives will be meeting next on November 11th at 2pm at the Service Center. They were not able to meet this month due to a change in the locks of the Service Center. Hello Groups and Individuals.

Grapevine: (Tom B.)

There were no new inquires this month so nothing new to report. As always I am here to help Groups or individuals to find out more on how to subscribe to our meeting in print maybe write a story there is a lot of great information at AAGRAPEVINE.ORG. I did talk with the treatment chair and corrections chair about seeing what the protocol is for bringing in the old pamphlets.

Grapevine chair Tom B. Will be speaking at the Rise and Shine business meeting on November 25th at 8 am to inform and educate others about Grapevine.

Grapevines issues to lend out, no response as of yet.

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Syracuse Intergroup Minutes continued
October 18th, 2023

Technology: (Josh C.)

- We've install our new Fortigate firewall at the service center, and configured it to better handle our telephone traffic
- Worked with Service Center staff to reconfigure and streamline the phones call flow
- Smart Lock Installed at the service center. **Sally** is working on gathering a list of users to add to the lock
- Security Alarm/Panic Button installed. **Sally** has coordinated a response to the siren with the post office next door.
- Meeting list cleanup continues! Thank you all for your help. Per the Meeting Guide policy, we have removed service committees from the schedule and are only listing daily/weekly regular AA meetings.

Picnic: (Stacey H.) No Report.

Steering Committee Report: (Sally C.)

October 2023 Steering Committee Report

The Steering Committee met on October 12, 2023. **Thaddeus L** opened the meeting at 5:32 PM. September minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom K presented the September Finance report, which showed that YTD total income and expenses were both slightly above budget. **Sally C** went over September Service Center statistics and indicated that during the first nine months of the year, Service Center staff managed a total of 2,987 contacts. **Tom H** reported on the September Intergroup meeting, particularly that Intergroup officers will be elected in October.

Under Old Business, **Josh** has installed panic buttons and door alarms in the Service Center, as discussed at last month's meeting. Many thanks to **Josh** for his quick action in undertaking the installations.

Under New Business, discussion of the 2024 proposed budget was tabled to November. The committee asked **Sally** to review the current Executive Secretary job description, and revise as necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

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

Eligible Votes: 13 Eligible Voters Present.

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: **Tim G.** moved to accept the minutes and Dan A. 2nd. September minutes were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business:

A motion was approved unanimously to integrate a hybrid meeting in addition to the in person Intergroup meetings. This change will begin during the Intergroup meeting of November 2023.

Nominations for the positions of Vice chair, recording secretary, and financial secretary positions are up. **Jason** was nominated as the new Vice Chair and accepted the nomination. Jason qualified himself and meets the criteria of requirements for the position.

New Business:

Intergroup discussed elections. Currently we are looking for a vice chair 4 years sobriety, financial secretary 3 years, and recording secretary 2 years sobriety

Motion to close Andrew M., Brandy C. 2nd, (All in Favor). Motion carried. **Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:38 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

Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Thaddeus L	No / Steering Committee Chair	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

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:

- 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:

- Sunday: **Seneca Knolls Group**, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 Hazel St, Liverpool 13088 has changed their meeting time from 1:00 PM to **1:30 PM**
- Sunday: **Sunday Sobriety**, 7:00 PM, Elbridge Village Hall, 210 W Main St, Elbridge is now a HYBRID meeting. Zoom meeting ID is 3156850000; passcode is 001634
- 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
- Monday: **Cazenovia Group**, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 10 Mill St Cazenovia, NY 13035 has changed their meeting time from 7:30 PM to **8:00 PM**
- Saturday: **Brothers and Sisters**, 10:00 AM; Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave, Syracuse 13204 has **resumed meeting**.
- Saturday: **Mexico Main St Nooners**, 12:00 PM; First United Methodist Church, 4372 Church St, Rt 69, Mexico 13114 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
- 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: **Big Book Study (ZOOM)**, 7:30 PM 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

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.

Is your group looking for a new home? See the next page for more Information...

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, November 15th - 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