



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

APRIL 2024 | HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIG BOOK! | SPECIAL SECTION

Old Faithful

The book that just collected dust for months one day became the most important thing in her life

I first started attending AA in 1997. One of my meetings held a weekly raffle. I never win raffles, and as expected, I didn't. But the member who did won a softcover Big Book. Right away, he walked over and set the prize down in front of me. He mumbled something about already having one, so I was welcome to it. I remember feeling a little embarrassed, but I mumbled back a meek thank you. I took it home and put it on my nightstand, where it sat unopened for several months.

I struggled and drank off and on, sometimes even before meetings and often after leaving. Sometimes when not drinking, I would reluctantly pick up the book and try to read it. The chapters in the front part made no sense to my clouded mind, but I did occasionally identify with the stories in the back. After 14 agonizing months of riding the revolving door in and out of the rooms, I decided a rehab might be the answer. I made the necessary arrangements, packed a bag and tossed in that Big Book on my nightstand.

During the admission process I was offered a hardcover Big Book, which I promptly turned down. I needed them to know I knew what I was doing. I already had one of those books, proudly showing off my clearly unread copy. Two weeks later I left that rehab with my still mostly unread book. It went back home to its place on my nightstand.

I struggled with drinking for a few more months until my bottom drove me to despair and I became willing to take suggestions. But the book still remained on my nightstand unread.

I worked the Steps with a sponsor (not sure how without cracking the book) and she lovingly guided me on my journey. I don't recall her telling me to read the book. But looking back, I'm more inclined to believe I just ignored her directive.

Around the two-year mark I began to fall into despair once again, although I did not pick up a drink. I truly think if I hadn't stumbled across a Big Book study on tape, I very well may have picked up. The tape was recorded by a couple of recovered drunks. Suddenly my interest was sparked. I followed along in my book and a whole new world opened up for me.

I worked the Steps again with a new sponsor and began carrying that book with me everywhere. When struggles confronted me throughout my day, I'd open the book at random and start reading. No matter what my issue, I seemed to find comfort and solace. Often the answer was right there in black and white.

Continued on next page...



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Old Faithful...continued

Soon I began sponsoring other women, with a whole new outlook on my sobriety. I'd meet with a sponsee once a week to read out of the book together. I felt like I was working the Steps all over again. I began filling my book with little notes. I wrote all over the margins. I inserted little post-it notes, and pasted things on the front and back covers—all meaningful things I had heard or read. A new level of peace and serenity entered my life.

Over time, my softcover Big Book began to show wear and tear. I purchased a leather cover for it in hopes of preserving it. Whole sections began to separate from the binding and fall out and scatter. I began keeping Old Faithful together with rubber bands until I finally had to retire it. By then the Fourth Edition was available and I wrestled with the idea of replacing it with a sturdier, hardcover version. I purchased a new book and began transferring the more meaningful notes to it. For quite some time it didn't seem the same. But not wanting to do any more damage I placed Old Faithful on the nightstand where it lives.

Old Faithful only comes out now if I'm asked to share my story. I take her along to demonstrate how she falls apart, so I don't have to. She continues to be a comfort each night as I lay my head on my pillow, give her a grateful smile and thank God for another day sober.

BY: TAMMIE E. | UTICA, NEW YORK

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

AA **GRAPEVINE**

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
March 14th, 2024

Tom H opened the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Present: Josh C, Frank V, Sally C, Tim G, Tom H

Last Month's minutes: The committee reviewed February 2024 minutes. **Josh** made a motion to approve, **Tim** seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

	<u>01/31/2024</u>	<u>02/29/2024</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Beginning Cash	\$ 80,723.16	\$ 80,739.54	\$ 16.38
Less Sales Tax Payables	<u>(\$ 1,534.82)</u>	<u>(\$ 1,719.39)</u>	<u>(\$ 184.57)</u>
Available Funds	\$ 79,188.34	\$ 79,020.15	(\$ 168.19)

Sally C presented the February financial report:

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 2.29.24 is \$80,739.54 net of \$1,719.39 of sales tax leaves \$79,020.15 of available cash at 2.29.24. Monthly revenues were \$9,410.21 (above average) and monthly expenses were \$8,262.13 (also above average) resulting in net income of \$1,148.08. Contributions were \$6,958.43 (above average) and literature sales were \$2,275 (slightly above average).

Year to Date: As of February 29, 2024, with the year 16.67% complete, total revenues are \$19,720 which is 23.46% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 25.50% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 23.38% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 98.36% of the budgeted amount. This includes a \$2,000 bequest from a former member of the fellowship, and absent that YTD individual contributions would stand at 47.50% of the budgeted amount, still well above budget. Literature sales are at 20.16% of the budgeted amount. The year-to-date expenses are \$14,332.92, which is 17.05% of budget, slightly more than the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net income is \$5,386.77 vs the year-to-date net of \$976.65 as of 2.28.23 – a significant increase in net income.

Comparison Year to Date February 2024 vs February 2023: The year-to-date revenues are up 40.0% as compared to last year - \$9,719.69 vs. \$14,088.65. The year-to-date expenses are up 9.31% as compared to last year - \$14,332.92 vs. \$13,112.00.

Service Center: There were 117 total calls in February, down 2% from January and 97 total office visits, down 7% from the previous month. Service Center staff responded to 100 email inquiries, down 15% from January. All told, Service Center staff managed 654 contacts in the first two months of 2024, compared to 633 for the same time period in 2023.

Intergroup: Tim summarized the February Intergroup meeting: there were five new IRs: **Marsha K** (Five:15), **George E** (Early Birds), **Leo D** (Young at Heart), **Jim C** (Rise & Shine) and **Joe T** (Primary Purpose). **Sally C** presented the Finance report; **Jeff S** (Corrections), **Andy C** (Treatment), **Josh C** (Technology) and **Sally C** (Steering Committee) presented committee reports; there were no reports for PI/CPC, Literature, Archives, Picnic and Grapevine committees. Under Old Business, a vote was taken on the motion made in January to change the title of the Executive Secretary to Office Manager, and was approved. There was no New Business. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Old Business: The committee discussed the search for the new Office Manager and decided to extend the search two week, to March 29. An announcement will be sent out, and will also note the possibility for flexibility in the schedule (part time vs full time).

New Business: The committee discussed potential possibilities for public awareness.

Tim made a motion to close, which was seconded by **Frank**; meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM..

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

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

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

March 21st, 2024

Intergroup Chair : Brandy C... opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:00 PM.

Intergroup Vice-Chair: Jason D. read the 12 Traditions.

New intergroup representatives: Tanya G. – 7&7 Early Risers

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: Frank V.

Current Month: Total cash as of 2.29.24 is \$80,739.54 net of \$1,716.82 of sales tax leaves \$79,022.72 of available cash at 2.29.24. Monthly revenues were \$9,410.21 (above average) and monthly expenses were \$8,262.13 (also above average) resulting in net income of \$1,148.08. Contributions were \$6,958.43 (above average) and literature sales were \$2,275 (slightly above average).

Year to Date:

As of 2.29.24, with the year 16.67% complete, total revenues are \$19,720 which is 23.46% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 25.50% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 23.38% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 98.36% of the budgeted amount. This includes a \$2,000 bequest from a former member of the fellowship. Absent that, YTD individual contributions would stand at 47.50% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 20.16% of the budgeted amount. The year-to-date expenses are \$14,332.92, which is 17.05%, slightly more than the budgeted amount. The year-to-date net income is \$5,386.77 vs the year-to-date net of \$976.65 as of 2.28.23 – a significant increase in net income.

Comparison Year to Date February 2024 vs February 2023: Year-to-date revenues are up 40.0% as compared to last year - \$19,719.69 vs. \$14,088.65. Year-to-date expenses are up 9.31% as compared to last year - \$14,332.92 vs. \$13,112.00.

District / Area: N/A No Report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Corrections: Jeff S. The committee is pleased to announce that as of today, we now have a team of two men and two women bringing AA meetings into the Onondaga County Justice Center on a weekly basis. Our plan is to add one more man and one more woman to the team within the next month. It is our understanding that in a week or three we will have a team of two men bringing AA meetings into the Jamesville Correctional Facility on a weekly basis.

Treatment: Andy C

Still continuing weekly meetings at Elements (Helio) in Liverpool on Mondays 6-7 pm. Looking for home groups to sign up for a month at a time. Contact **Andy**.

Commonwealth is still on hold (Biweekly contact meeting) on Wednesdays 6-7 pm. Hopeful to return but they are not responding to emails.

Bridging the Gap from Area 47 is looking for a list of people to help with folks getting out of treatment facilities. Goal is to connect with sober people to get them to a few meetings. More details to follow. Contact with this group happened on 3/1

Technology: Josh C. Zoom issue per **James**, who will speak with **Josh C.**; **Bruce L** indicated that generic emails for forwarding are almost done; Grapevine chair and Intergroup chair (**Brandy**) still needed.

Literature: (Robert C) No Report.

Picnic: (Stacey H.) No Report

Grapevine: (Lance C.) No Report

Continued on the next page...

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes continued
March 21st, 2024

PI / CPC: (Phil L)

Hugh B: working in cooperation with the Service center, the 2024 NY State Fair is 13 days with 13 coordinators for staffing for the booth for each of the 13 days. Each coordinator will receive training with the expectation that they will instruct those attending the booth with them each day. There is a QR code on the flyer to sign up to be a coordinator, you may sign up for just helping out without being a coordinator as well. District 340 and Area 47 PI chair are involved in getting other areas across the state to get involved as well. We will need 13 coordinators to make it happen.

Technology: Bruce L.

Still Assigning generic email addresses to members of the board and waiting for responses from individuals, **Brandy C.** and **Lance C.**

Archives: Ben B.

Have archive materials and will change out some items in the case, first edition big book donated by **Norma S.**, 25-year anniversary book from Grapevine printed in 1960.

::Note:: Please do not handle materials unless Service Center staff is present.

Group anniversaries list of almost all groups: **Ben** MAY have that information.

Steering Committee Report: (Sally C.)

The Steering Committee met on March 14, 2024. **Tom H** opened the meeting at 5:35 PM. February minutes were unanimously approved.

Sally C presented the February Finance report, which showed that both monthly revenues and expenses were above average for the month. **Sally** also went over February Service Center statistics and indicated that staff managed a total of 654 contacts in the first two months of 2024, compared to 633 for the same period in 2023. **Tim G** reported on the February Intergroup meeting.

Under Old Business, the committee discussed the search for the new Office Manager and decided to extend the search two week, to March 29. An announcement will be sent out, and will also note the possibility for flexibility in the schedule (part time vs full time).

Under New Business, the committee discussed potential possibilities for public awareness.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

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

Eligible Votes: 17.

Approval of Prior Month's minutes: Hugh B. moved to accept the minutes and **Sally C.** 2nd. 15 yay, 0 nay, 2 abstained

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Motion to close: **Tim G**; Second: **Joe T.** and the meeting was closed.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: 6:29 PM

Syracuse Intergroup Officers, Standing Committee Chairs & Steering Committee

<u>2024 Intergroup Servants</u>		
Position	Name	E-Mail
Chairperson	Brandy C.	syr.intergroup.chair@gmail.com
Vice-Chairperson	Jason D.	syr.intergroup.vicechair@gmail.com
Financial Chair	Frank V.	syr.intergroup.financialchair@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Andrew M.	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	Jeff S.	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.tech@gmail.com
District / Area 47 Liaison	N/A	syr.intergroup.districtarea@gmail.com
Picnic Chair	Stacey H.	syr.intergroup.picnic@gmail.com
Archive Chair	Ben B.	syr.intergroup.archive@gmail.com

* *PI / CPC Chair = Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair*

2024 Steering Committee Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Tom H	No	No	12/31/2024
Tim G	No	No	12/31/2023
Frank V	Yes – Financial Chair	No	12/31/2025
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 use the online “Request Schedule Update” form on our website (www.aasyracuse.org) to submit 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: **12 ½ Group**, 3:00 PM; St Thomas Episcopal Church Parish Hall (Unicorn Room behind church), 12 ½ Madison St, Hamilton 13346; O, as of March 3, 2024
- Monday: **Serenity Village**, 7:00 PM; Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 400 W Yates St, East Syracuse 13057 (parking lot on East Ave); C
- Wednesday: **Mexico Main St Nooners**, 12:00 PM; First United Methodist Church, 4372 Church St, Mexico 13114; O
- Thursday: **New Freedom**, 7:30 PM; Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 400 W Yates St, E Syracuse 13057; C
- Friday: **THE ORIGINAL Inner Peace Bridgeport Meeting**, 7:00 PM; 7820n NY-298, Bridgeport 13030; O
- Saturday: **Saturday Morning Cazenovia**, 9:00 AM; Wendell House, 21 Albany St, Cazenovia 13035; 12 Steps/12 Traditions; O
- Saturday: **Tool Box Group**, 6:30 PM, Vineyard Church, 99 Wall St, Auburn 13021 is adding another day, Saturday at 6:30 PM. Closed discussion meeting; Open speaker meeting 3rd Saturday of the month.
- Saturday: **A Vision For You**, 7:00 PM; Port City Serenity Hall, 110 West 2nd St, Oswego 13126; O.

Meeting Changes:

- Sunday: **S.O.S. (Serenity on Sunday)**, 9:00 AM, has moved to Bishop Ludden High School, 815 Fay Rd, Syracuse 13219
- Sunday: **Higher Onondaga**, 9:00 AM, has moved to Ukranian National Home, 1317 W Fayette St, Syracuse, 13204; second floor, left side, enter main entrance.
- Sunday: **Grapevine Group**, Open House, 1947 W Fayette St, Syracuse 13204 has changed their meeting time from 8:00 PM to **7:00 PM** Sunday:
- Sunday: **Minoa Group**, 7:30 PM, Minoa Methodist Church, 246 East Ave, Minoa 13116; last Sunday of the month is an Open speakers meeting.
- Sunday: **New Beginning**, 8:00 PM PM, King of Kings Lutheran Church, 8278 Oswego Rd, Liverpool 13090 is a Big Book meeting.
- Tuesday: **Tool Box Group**, 5:30 PM, Vineyard Church, 99 Wall St, Auburn 13021 is now a 12Steps/12 Traditions meeting
- Wednesday: **Tool Box Group**, 5:30 PM, Vineyard Church, 99 Wall St, Auburn 13021 is now a Women’s open discussion meeting.
- Thursday: **Primary Purpose**, 7:30 PM has moved to Immanuel United Methodist Church, 303 Kasson Rd, Camillus 13031
- Friday: **As Bill Sees It**, 7:30 PM; Oran Community Church 8560, Cazenovia Rd, Manlius 13104: last Friday of the month is now an Open meeting.
- Saturday: **Thunderbird Group**, 9:00 AM; Onondaga Nation United Methodist Church, 3286 Rte 11A, Nedrow 13120 is reactivated and currently meeting.

Announcements Continued on next page...

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Continued.....

No Longer Meeting:

- Sunday: **Cicero Swamp**, 7:00 PM; United Methodist Church, 377 NY-31, Bridgeport 13030 **IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
- Tuesday: **District 360**, 6:45 PM PM; Vineyard Church, 99 Wall St, Auburn 13021 **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Friday: **Serenity Circle**, 12:00 PM; Recovery Center, 714 Hickory St, Syracuse 13203 **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Saturday: **Oswego Serenity ZOOM**, 12:00 PM; **NO LONGER MEETS**
- Saturday: **Tool Box Group**, 6:30 PM PM; Vineyard Church, 99 Wall St, Auburn 13021 **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 below for more Information...

- ☀ **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, April 17th - 2024, @ 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.