



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

My New Boyfriend

Once dumped and humiliated, a newcomer finds true love in sobriety.

Her new guy might surprise you

When I came through the doors of AA a few years ago, I was having problems with personal relations. I had just ended a relationship. To be honest, I was dumped and humiliated.

I use the term “relationship” loosely as it was beyond dysfunctional. My boyfriend was married. But in my delusional state, it was the best I could do. I had no idea what a healthy relationship looked like when I first got sober. All I knew was how to drink, lie and manipulate to get things my way.

After a few months in AA, I started working with a sponsor. She lovingly informed me that it was best to steer clear of the men in the program. Not because the men were bad, but it was frowned on to get into a relationship early in sobriety. It could be a huge distraction, she said. I was so depressed that I took her suggestion. I swore off men. And it turned out to be an easy task. No one would even flirt with me, let alone ask me out. My force field was up. My sponsor did introduce me to a few men in the program to demonstrate that sobriety was their only objective. I was OK with that, as I was focused on building a relationship with my Higher Power, not with men.

As I worked the program I came to believe that the God of my understanding would always be there for me. A relationship with God was what I needed. Unconditional love—through thick or thin. I became so devoted to this new relationship that I made him my boyfriend! Yes, I made God my boyfriend. How crazy is that? Well, not as crazy as some of the things I did while under the influence. And what a beautiful relationship we have built.

I was so lonely when I first got to AA. It was almost unbearable. I hated that feeling. I couldn't stand myself back then. However, the more time I spent alone, the more I would practice my prayer life. I could feel deeply connected to God when I was alone. Today I look forward to my quiet time with God. It's incredibly peaceful.

As God and I began embarking on our new relationship, I would think of him when I'd hear a love song on the radio. I'd picture God loving me unconditionally, always by my side and never expecting a thing in return. All that I had to do to please God was spend time with him. It became easy. Over time I got more comfortable. He kept men away from me. It was difficult to even have someone flirt with me, let alone ask me out on a date. God had me off limits. I was a newcomer.

But one night at a meeting, I was put to the test. There was a guy (new to the program) who started hitting on me. “I have a boyfriend,” I told him. He responded with, “You do?” And I said, “Yes. God.” I couldn't believe I said that out loud! I must have sounded drunk, but I wasn't. I knew something had really changed in me. It was so empowering to say it and mean it.

I happily continued in my program, finishing up Step work, getting involved in service and hanging out with my new sober friends. I believe I was experiencing the Ninth Step Promises. And that's when I was blindsided.

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My New Boyfriend, cont'd

As I approached my one year anniversary, I started to develop feelings for one of my friends in the program. I remember coming clean with my sponsor that I had met someone. She was naturally very concerned. When I revealed to her that it was this guy named Matthew, she was thrilled. She had known him for a couple of years and knew he was a good guy. We've been together for a while now. Since the moment I met Matt, I have enjoyed his company. There's a light about him. He makes me laugh, he's supportive, he's handsome and he loves me. That's the unconditional love I have always dreamed of. I feel so incredibly blessed to have such a wonderful man in my life.

He and I are fortunate to get to share our life in AA fellowship and service work. There's one thing though—one non-negotiable thing. Our relationship cannot come first. God and AA need to take precedence over our life together. What is important to us as individuals must remain important to us together. Most important, without AA and God, we may not have a sober life together.

Today, God is still my guy. He always will be. God gave me the gift of time by myself to heal and grow. I needed that time. I got to focus on Step work and learn about how to be of service to others. God loves me so much that he gave me Matt—a partner in life. And I can't wait to see where the journey takes us next.

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AA GRAPEVINE
The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes
July 11th, 2024

Tom H opened the meeting at 5:32 PM.

Present: Josh C, Tanya G, Tim G, Tom H, Brandy C, Tom K., Julie C.

Last Month's Minutes: The committee reviewed June 2024 minutes. **Tanya** made a motion to approve, **Brandy** seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously. **Tom K** did not present the unreconciled financial report at the meeting however supplied the report in time for Intergroup

Current Month: Checking and savings accounts are reconciled – total cash as of 6.30.24 is \$73,206 net of \$641 of sales tax leaves \$72,565 of available cash at 6.30.24.

Monthly revenues were \$6,081 (down significantly from last month due to very low volume of sales of literature) and monthly expenses were \$7,147 (up significantly from last month-predominately due to NYS Fair expenditures [\$1,613] resulting in a net loss of (\$1,066). Contributions were \$4,590 (same as last month) and literature sales were \$983 (way down from the previously five months ~\$2,400 per month).

YTD (Year to Date): As of June 30th, 2024, with the year 50.00% complete, total revenues are \$46,575 which is 55.40% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 53.78% of the budgeted amount, group contributions are at 51.42% of the budgeted amount and individual contributions are at 123.20% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 58.05% of the budgeted amount – all revenue sources are running above the budgeted amounts. The year-to-date expenses are \$47,650, which is 56.68%, significantly more than budgeted amount which includes payroll 56.23% of the budgeted amount and literature purchases of 66.51% of budgeted amount.

Comparison: The year-to-date net loss is (\$1,072) vs the year-to-date net loss of \$748 as of 6.30.23.

Service Center:

June Office Statistics:

- 70 total calls (-19% from May)
- 98 total office visits (+78% from May)
- 95 email responses (+4% from May)

Total of instances of contact in the first four months of 2024 is 1,898, compared to 2,365 for the same time last year

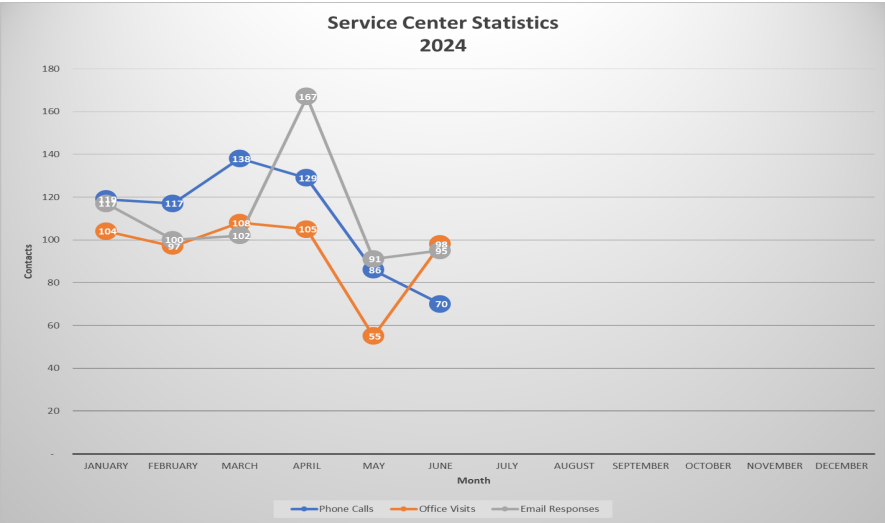
Intergroup: Brandy summarized the June Intergroup meeting: **Frank** gave the financial report, DCM **Kristina** gave the district report, **Jeff** supplied a corrections report, no old or new business was mentioned, the meeting closed at 6:23 and the next Intergroup meeting is Wednesday August 21, 2024 at 6pm at the service center.

Old Business: Chip prices remain the same

New Business: Fellowship Hall possible closure for roof repair/Service Center discussion

Next meeting: Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!

In Service: James and Tanya, (Becky is out until August 23)



Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

July 17th, 2024

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

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

New intergroup representatives:

Alec V., Live & Let Live Group

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: Frank V. (*See steering committee minutes*)

District / Area: Kristina N. The DCM attended the Area Assembly in Binghamton in May. Syracuse will host the Area Assembly in October 2024 as well as October 2025. Area 47 conducted an inventory about Area Assemblies and what came out of that is: Better at greeting attendees, fix technical issues, and clearly define what the purpose of the Area Assembly is. Topic of discussion: Tradition 3-do I contribute to making my home group welcoming to all? Good to bring back the question to your home groups.

Standing Committee Reports:

Corrections: (Jeff S.) The Committee is pleased to announce that after bringing meetings into Justice Center since last September, we have recently been allowed to bring our weekly meetings into the pods on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors. The meetings are a little more intimate, and we believe it is strengthening our relationship with the staff in the various pods also. The two women on the team always bring meetings into the women's pod on the second Monday of each month. A fourth man will be joining the rotation next week.

It is still our intention to have a team or two bringing AA meetings into the Jamesville Correctional Facility on a weekly basis.

I was informed recently that Auburn prison is looking for a couple more AA's to lead meetings in Auburn correctional facility. Anyone interested should contact Travis W at tbwlogistics2018@gmail.com.

Treatment: Andy C (*for now*) - This role is vacant

Treatment update. We are continuing weekly meetings at Helio/elements in Liverpool on Mondays.

Commonwealth meetings have not resumed and I'm not anticipating they will. I've not been able to get into Tully Hill for an additional meeting other than the Saturday evening meeting. I'll officially resign my treatment chair position but can remain the contact until another person steps up. I will continue to chair the meeting at Helio/elements on Mondays. If folks are interested in speaking please reach out to me.

PI / CPC: Vacant

Technology: Bruce / Josh C Bruce said he is working on meeting changes, think they are all caught up but working on some address issues

Literature: (Robert C) No Report. Secretary (**Andrew M.**) will follow up with **Robert** to see if he is still active

Grapevine: (Lance C.) No report. Secretary (**Andrew M.**) will follow up with **Lance** to see if he is still active

Minutes continued on the next page....

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes
July 17th, 2024

Continued...

Monthly Reports: *Cont'd*

Picnic: Stacey H. No Report

Archives: Ben B. No Report

Steering Committee Report: Tanya G. summarized the Steering Committee meeting as seen in the minutes

Ad hoc committee(s): N/A

Eligible Votes: 10

Approval of Prior Month's Minutes: unanimously approved.

Old Business:

New P.I.chair is needed, appointed by chairperson once available to chair. Being taken back to the groups to seek volunteers. Will email out job descriptions for the P.I. chair. By laws speak to the vacancy of each chair.

New Business:

New Treatment Chair is needed, appointed by chairperson once available to chair. Being taken back to the groups to seek volunteers. Will email out job descriptions for the Treatment Chair. **Jason** will be following up with the proposed .

Motion to close (Brandy C.), 2nd(Ben S.), all in favor

Brandy C closed the meeting at 6:30 PM with the Declaration of Unity.



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	Vacant	syr.treatment.chair@gmail.com
P.I./C.P.C. Chair	Vacant	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	Kristina N.	syr.intergroup.districtarea@gmail.com
Picnic Chair	Stacey H.	syr.intergroup.picnic@gmail.com
Archive Chair	Ben B.	syr.intergroup.archive@gmail.com

2024 Steering Committee Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Tom H	No	No	12/31/2024
Tim G	No	No	12/31/2024
Frank V	Yes – Financial Chair	No	12/31/2025
Josh C	Yes – Technology Chair	No	12/31/2025
Julie C	No	No	12/31/2025
Tanya G	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:

- Thursday: **Locke In Between Group**, 8:00 PM, Milan Baptist Church, Rt. 38 Main St. Locke, NY 13092
- Monday: **Camden Knuckleheads**, 8:00 PM, Camden Methodist Church, 132 Main St. Camden NY
- Tuesday: **Grace Big Book Study**, 7:00 PM; Grace Chapel 1674 US Route 20 Skaneateles, NY 13152; C
- Tuesday: **Tuesday Night Mexico Meeting**, 8:00 PM; First United Methodist Church, 5307 Church St. Mexico, NY 13114; O
- Monday: **Serenity Village**, 7:00 PM; Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 400 W Yates St, East Syracuse 13057 (parking lot on East Ave); C

No Longer Meeting:

- Tuesday: **Zoom Meeting It’s not Complicated**; 7:30 PM

Other:

- Download the **free Meeting Guide app** from the App Store or Google Play to your smart phone or tablet, for the most up to date Syracuse Area Meeting schedule

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

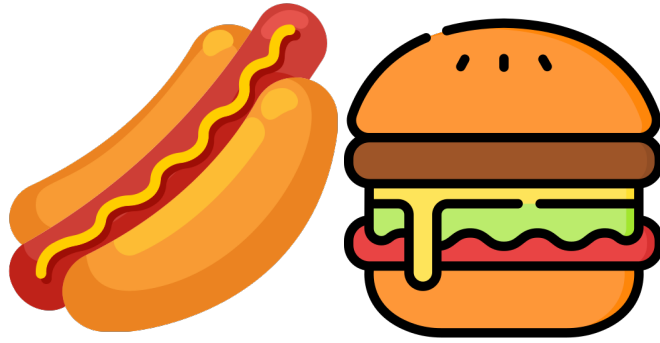
Next intergroup meeting is on Wednesday, August 21st - 2024, @ 6PM

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.



HAPPY HOUR ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH

ONONDAGA LAKE PARK @ WILLOW BAY, THE
BAYVIEW SHELTER

12PM-5PM

*****BRING A SIDE DISH OR BEVERAGE TO SHARE**