



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

A Gift That Lasts

As amazing memories of first sober holidays go, this one of a dad and his sons floats to the very top!

My sober date is Thanksgiving of 1973. At that time, my two sons and I were living in Lakeland, Florida. It was in fact the last time I had a drink of alcohol. It was the coldest winter Florida had seen in many years. I had no job, and we were still living on skid row in a place where I had just gotten the utilities turned on. I had no money and no idea what my sons would get for Christmas.

A fellow AA member and his family were migrant fruit pickers and were in town to harvest the grapefruit, which were freezing on the trees. I got a job to help. We were to be paid \$7 for each tub filled with grapefruit, and we began at first daylight. My friend's family was filling up the tubs very quickly, but it was not so fast for me. At the end of the day, I hadn't even filled the first tub. Luckily, the boss still gave me \$7 for my day's work. With that money I bought a chicken, a can of peas, stuffing and a pie shell, which I planned to fill with pumpkin mix for dessert.

I didn't know there was any difference between pumpkin and pumpkin pie mix, so I spooned the contents of the can into the shell. And after nearly setting the kitchen on fire, I pulled this thing that looked like looked like an adobe brick out of the oven and drowned it in water. The kids were really impressed with my willingness to do what I could, but not so much for my culinary expertise.

My next task was to get them something for Christmas, but with no money left, I had to rely on my inventive skills. I found a piece of an old 2x4, and "Shaky Jake the Human Nerve" began to carve a sailboat with all my 106 pounds of raw energy, with hopes of it being able to sail on the nearby lake by Christmas day. I struggled almost as much to make a working sailboat as I did to stop drinking. With all the determination and desperation I had in me, I came up with a sailboat that actually worked—and on Christmas day.'

I took my two sons to Lake Morton, and with a string attached, we gave the boat a push out onto the water. my boys and I laughed and enjoyed an amazing day that would end up being, 50 years later, a treasure. My youngest son has kept the boat on display in his den all these years.

Last year that son called excitedly to tell me that my granddaughter in Omaha was going to be giving birth to his first grandson. I was so happy to hear the news, and even more so when he told me that he'd been waiting for a grandson so he could transfer ownership of the sailboat after the little guy gets big enough.

Continued on the next page...



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

A Gift That Lasts - cont'd

Recently I picked up a children's book with a story of a little boy and his sailboat and wrote a letter to my son to read to his grandson when he's old enough to understand about continuing a family tradition. As I'm writing this my granddaughter is in labor waiting to deliver the new owner. This is one of the happiest and most blessed days I've had in my 50 years of recovery. If you asked my sons which Christmas they loved the most as kids, they will tell you it was the one when I got sober and we first sailed that boat.

AA has given me and my family countless amazing memories, but this one is by far one closest to the top of the list. My prayer is that whoever reads this, no matter where you are in your journey, please don't stop coming and miss out on life. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

BY: (DOC) ED G. | BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI

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AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes

November 14th, 2024

Tom H opened the meeting at 5:34 pm

Present: **Brandy C, Lee P, Julie C, Tim G, and Tom K**

Last Month's Minutes: The committee reviewed the October 2024 minutes; **Tom K** moved to approve the minutes, **Tim G** seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Current Month:

Tom K reported: checking account is reconciled – total cash as of 10.31.24 is \$80,491 net of \$1,189 of sales tax leaves \$79,302 of available cash at 10.31.24.

Monthly revenues were \$6,626 pretty much average and monthly expenses were \$9,350 (significantly more than the monthly average of purchase up ~\$3,000) resulting in a net loss of (\$2,724).

Year to Date:

As of October 31st, 2024, with the year 83.33% complete, total revenues are \$82,624 which is 98.00% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 101.76% of the budgeted amount and group contributions are at 85.69% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 91.45% of the budgeted amount – all revenue sources are running well above the budgeted amounts (except group contributions).

The year-to-date expenses are \$76,796, which is 91.35% of the budget amount, significantly greater.

Noteworthy are payroll at 94.33% of the budget, utilities at 99.99% of the budget and literature at 101.01% of the budget.

The year-to-date net income is \$5,828 vs the year-to-date net income of \$6,193 as of 10.31.23

Comparison Year to Date October 2024 vs October 2023:

The year-to-date revenues are up 8.15% as compared to last year - \$82,624 vs. \$76,396.

The year-to-date expenses are up 9.39% as compared to last year - \$76,796 vs. \$70,203.

Service Center:

Lee P reported October office statistics (see attachment):

- 134 total calls (+28% from October)
- 117 total office visits (+31% from October)
- 138 email responses (+103% from October)
- 3,170 YTD total contacts, compared to 3,343 for the same time period in 2024 (difference of -5%)

Intergroup: Brandy C. reported Nominations were made in October for Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary. The nominated Recording Secretary does not meet the ByLaws requirements. Motion on the floor to change ByLaws to accommodate this nominee. Vote will be taken at November meeting

Old Business: Unemployment claim was undisputed. Statement from DOL was received. Clear communications regarding Service Center activities will continue to improve.

New Business:

The Office Manager position has become vacant. A candidate for the open position was interviewed and accepted the position.

Monday 8:30am – 4:30pm **Becky C**

Tues-Thurs 8:30am – 4:30pm **Lee P**

Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm **Maureen F**

Floater/Call Ins: **James M** and **Sally C**

Tim G. made a motion to close, which was seconded by Tom K; meeting adjourned at 6:08PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Service Center. All are welcome!

In Service: **Lee, Becky, and Maureen**

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

November 20th, 2024

Intergroup Chair : Brandy C... opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:01PM.

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

New intergroup representatives:

Alaina V. "Solutions Group"

Jeff D. "Early Birds Zoom"

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: Frank V. (See October's steering committee minutes for finance report)

District / Area: Katrina N.

District Report - October 2024:

DCM Report:

- Syracuse held the October Area Assembly. Approximately 60-70 people in attendance. There was a nice presence from district 340.
- There was a discussion on writing a letter of endorsement for STCYPAA's hosting of the ESCYPAA in 2025 (in SYR).
- Military audio interviews are available on YouTube (AA's channel).
- The final report from the AA Convention is now available
- Open jobs for district: Corrections, Secretary

Chair reports:

Treatment: Brian had his first meeting and is getting his group organized.

PI: Colleen stated the final report from the State Fair PI project is now available and will be used as a blueprint for going forward. If you would like to see the report please let me know and I can pass along to Colleen.

Standing Committee Reports:

Corrections Jeff S.

The Syracuse AA Corrections Committee continues to bring meetings into the men and women's pods in the Syracuse Justice Center.

This week we have printed up a number of "staple-free" schedules of AA meetings in the Syracuse area, to be given to Syracuse inmates being released.

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

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.

Literature/Grapevine: No report, *position will be combined with grapevine and remains open.*

Technology: Bruce/Josh - No report

Picnic: Stacey H. No additional reports until next spring

Treatment: No Chair No report

Archives: Ben B.

Email blast for request for groups that have been around for a while and record an oral history of their group if possible. Next project Ben would like to report on.

Minutes continued on the next page...

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes
November 20th, 2024

Continued...

Standing Committee Reports: *Cont'd*

PI / CPC: Hugh B.

Steering Committee Report: Tim G. The Steering Committee met on November 14, 2024.

Tom H opened the meeting at 5:34 PM. October minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom K (Accountant) reported: checking account is reconciled – total cash as of 10.31.24 is \$80,491 net of \$1,189 of sales tax leaves \$79,302 of available cash at 10.31.24. Monthly revenues were \$6,626 pretty much average and monthly expenses were \$9,350 (significantly more than the monthly average of purchase up ~\$3,000) resulting in a net loss of (\$2,724).

- **Lee P** presented the Service Center statistics for October: 134 total calls (+28% from October) • 117 total office visits (+31% from October) • 138 email responses (+103% from October) Under Old Business: Unemployment Claim was made and undisputed for former Office Manager. Statement from DOL was received. Clear Communications with InterGroup will improve moving forward. Under New Business: Budget 2025 was presented and passed with suggested adjustments. Adjusted d 2025 Budget will be presented to Intergroup. Permanent Friday person was hired.
- Service center staffing as follows: Monday 8:30am – 4:30pm **Becky C**
- Tues - Thurs 8:30am – 4:30pm **Lee P**
- 8:30am – 4:30pm **Maureen F** , (Floaters/Call Ins: **James M** and **Sally C**)
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2024 @ 5:30pm

Ad hoc committee(s): N/A

Eligible Votes: 16

Approval of Prior Month's Minutes: 14-yay, 2 abstained.

Old Business:

Motion: Moving forward we will need to have a group conscience about who is able to bring a motion to the floor of intergroup. Motion (to accept original motion) will be moved forward with voting 14 yay 2 abstained. Motion is open for discussion:

All groups engaged in general discussion; majority to oppose. Many groups thought that it was creating a precedent that would set the tone (to open the door) for requirement changes throughout the officer rank and file. "suggested" is far too ambiguous for the future of intergroup service motions.

Vote: YAY: 6, NAY: 9, ABSTAINED: 1

Motion: Sally step in as temporary recording secretary until January 27th 2025. Voting **Joe T.** as RECORDING SECRETARY upon maturation of sobriety requirements.

Vote: YAY: 13, NAY: 0, ABSTAINED: 3

Tim G. was self-nominated however is currently serving on steering committee and is in violation of the By-laws.

Vote for **Andrew M.** as VICE CHAIR- **YAY: 15, NAY: 0, ABSTAINED: 0**

Minutes continued on the next page...

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes
November 20th, 2024

Continued...

New Business:

Hugh B. discussing website and principle schedule (how it works) will be sending an email to **Josh** and **Bruce**. Seems inaccessible and complicated, doesn't print well or is difficult. Suggesting solutions to the issue, directly to **Josh**. General Group Discussion ensues:

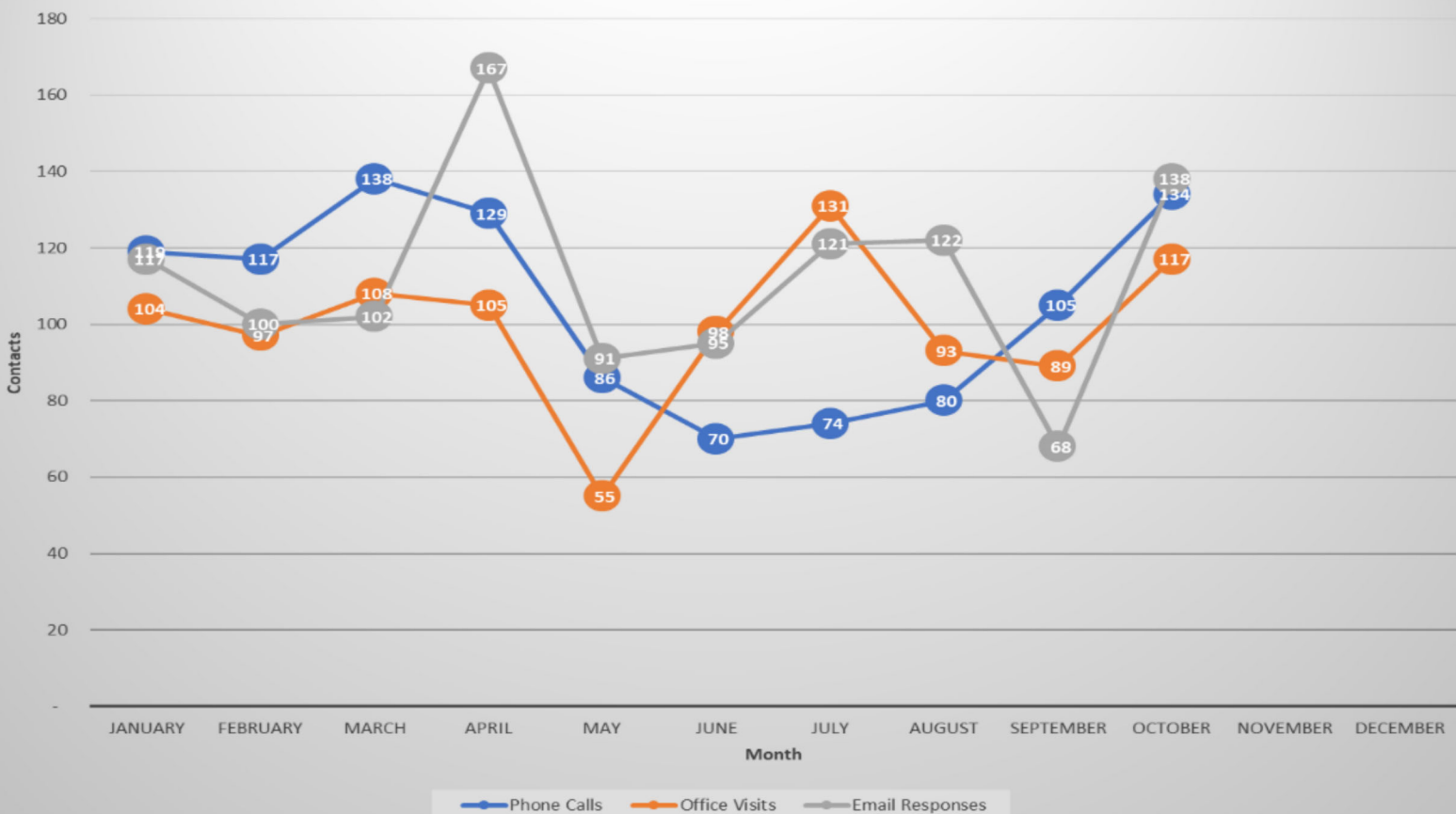
Ben S. discussing By-laws, it is recommended such By-laws be reviewed every 5 years. Suggested that they are reviewed by steering committee, **Jason D.** suggested an AD HOC committee. Vice chair is responsible for orienting new members with By-laws etc. Further discussion was had. Will be brought to steering committee by **Brandy C.**

2025 Budget was reviewed by **Jason D.** Some line items were discussed, it was suggested that we bring the budget to the groups and will vote on in December. Any questions, please contact the office manager.

Motion to close by: Cherie A. (motion) George S. (second) Unanimously approved

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity: **Brandy C** closed the meeting at 7:23 PM

Service Center Statistics
2024



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 *	Hugh B.	syr.intergroup.picpc@gmail.com
Corrections Chair	Jeff S.	syr.intergroup.corrections@gmail.com
Grapevine Chair	Vacant	syr.intergroup.grapevine@gmail.com
Literature Chair	Vacant	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

* *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	12/31/2024
Frank V	Yes – Financial Chair	No	12/31/2026
Josh C	Yes – Technology Chair	No	12/31/2025
Lee P. Office Manager	No	Yes	Non-rotating
Tom K (Accountant)	No	Yes	Non-rotating
Julie C.	No	No	12/31/2025

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.

Updates to existing Meetings:

- Sunday: **Higher Onondaga Park**, Moving Indoors for Winter to 1317 W. Fayette Street Syracuse, up the stairs 1 flight from the front entrance, to the left.
- Sunday: **Onondaga Nation Group**, 10am, New address 7007 S Salina St, Nedrow, NY 13120
- Wednesday: **You Snooze You Lose**, same time and location- USE REAR DOOR
- Wednesday: **Zoom Only: Woman of Experience Strength and Hope**, 7:00 PM; **New ID:** 822 3123 4194 Password 13206 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82231234194> (Passcode: 13206)
- Wednesday: **Forever Young**, 7pm, NO LONGER ACTIVE
- Friday: **As Bill Sees It (Oran)**, 7:30 PM, Summit Church, 4257 Oran Delphi Road, Manlius, NY 13104 (Return to original Location)
- Saturday: **Saturday Night Serenity**, Faith Lutheran Church, Cicero: time change FROM 8pm TO 7pm.

No Longer Meeting:

- Monday: **Maxwell House**; 8:00PM: suspended indefinitely

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 40-60**, 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, December 18th- 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/>