



Syracuse Meeting Times: Digital edition

Service Material from the General Service Office

THE AA PREAMBLE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE PREAMBLE was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine. It was written by the then-editor, who borrowed much of the phrasing from the Foreword to the original edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

In those early years, the Grapevine had just begun to circulate among nonalcoholics, and the Preamble was intended primarily to describe for them what AA is and is not. It is still often used for public information purposes. As time passed, it began appearing in all Conference-approved publications, and many AA groups now use it to open meetings.

The original version differed in two ways from the familiar form we all know: 1) It stated that the only requirement for membership is an *honest* desire to stop drinking,” and 2) it contained only the very brief statement “AA has no dues or fees.”

People often ask why the word “honest” was deleted. At the 1958 General Service Conference, a delegate asked about the words “honest desire to stop drinking,” suggesting that since “honest” does not appear in the Third Tradition, it might be deleted from the Preamble. In discussion, most Conference members felt that as AA had matured, it had become almost impossible to determine what constitutes an honest desire to stop drinking, and also that some who might be interested in the program could be confused by the phrase. Thus, as part of the evolution of AA, the phrase had been dropped from common usage. The midsummer 1958 meeting of the General Service Board of Trustees ratified the deletion, and since then the Preamble has read simply “a desire to stop drinking.”

At the same time, the phrase “AA has no dues or fees” was clarified to read as it presently does: “There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.” The current version of the Preamble appears on page one of every issue of the Grapevine.

At the 71st General Service Conference in 2021, after a series of votes, a final Advisory Action requested that “The Preamble revision replacing the words ‘men and women’ with the word ‘people’ be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.” The revised A.A. Preamble first appeared in the July 2021 AA Grapevine and the July/August La Viña, and afterwards throughout Grapevine and A.A.W.S. literature and other media.

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AA PREAMBLE©

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Syracuse Intergroup Steering Committee Minutes

January 9th, 2025

The Steering Committee met on January 9, 2025. **Brandy C.**, the new Steering Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 5:31 PM. December minutes were unanimously approved.

Accountants report by Tom K: **Checking account** is reconciled - total cash as of 12.31.24 is \$79,213 net of \$1,177 of credit card charges payable and \$1,512 of sales tax payable leaves **\$76,524** of available cash at 12.31.24. Monthly revenues were \$6,718 pretty much average and monthly expenses were \$8,394 (significantly more than the monthly average) literatures purchase up ~\$3,000 resulting in a net loss of (\$1,676).

Year to Date:

As of December 31st, 2024, with the year 100% complete, total revenues are \$94,603 which is 112.5% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 113.2% of the budgeted amount and group contributions are at 98.4% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 112.5% of the budgeted amount - all revenue sources are well above the budgeted amounts.

The year-to-date expenses are \$91,831 which is **109.3%** of the budget amount, significantly greater. Noteworthy are payroll at 113.8% of the budget, utilities at **116.4%** of the budget, office supplies at 128.3% of the budget and literature purchases at **121.5%** of the budget.

The year-to-date net income is \$2,771 vs the year-to-date net income **of** \$9,698 as of 12.31.23.

Service Center report by Lee P:

- Service Center Statistics for December:
- 118 total calls (-43% from November)
- 102 total office visits (-25% from November)
- 144 email responses (-19% from November)

Under Old Business:

- Invoice system in place, replacing the old paper "Sales Receipts", all "Products" will be added to inventory on QuickBooks in 2025.
- EOY Inventory has been completed. We will review and update pricing according to new AAWS price lists. Holiday bonuses given to a grateful staff.
- Messaging system was to be cancelled, will remain in place as it meets the Bylaws requirements. State Fair application was submitted.

Under New Business:

- EOY Inventory has been completed. We will review and update pricing according to new AAWS price lists.
- Holiday bonuses given to a grateful staff.
- Surplus of decades of Grapevine Magazines. Would like to offer these to groups on a first come first serve basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for **February 13th, 2025 5:30pm**. Please join us!

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes

January 15th, 2025

Intergroup Chair : Jason D. opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer at 6:01PM.

Vice-Chair: Andrew M. read the 12 Traditions.

New Intergroup Reps / group representatives:

Mary Beth R (New Women); **Rebecca S** (Onondaga Nation); **Rachel V** (Uncommon Sense)

Monthly Reports:

Financial Report: Frank V.

Current Month: Checking account is reconciled - total cash as of 12.31.24 is \$79,213 net of \$1,177 of credit card charges payable and \$1,512 of sales tax payable leaves **\$76,524** of available cash at 12.31.24. Monthly revenues were \$6,718 pretty much average and monthly expenses were \$8,394 (significantly more than the monthly average) literature purchases up ~\$3,000 resulting in a net loss of (\$1,676).

Year to Date: As of December 31st, 2024, with the year 100% complete, total revenues are \$94,603 which is 112.5% of the budgeted amount. Total contributions are at 113.2% of the budgeted amount and group contributions are at 98.4% of the budgeted amount. Literature sales are at 112.5% of the budgeted amount - all revenue sources are well above the budgeted amounts.

The year-to-date expenses are \$91,831 which is 109.3% of the budget amount, significantly greater. Noteworthy are payroll at 113.8% of the budget, utilities at 116.4% of the budget, office supplies at 128.3% of the budget and literature purchases at 121.5% of the budget.

The year-to-date net income is \$2,771 vs the year-to-date net income of \$9,698 as of 12.31.23.

District / Area: Kristina N. No report

Standing Committee Reports:

Corrections Jeff S.

We continue to bring men and women into the Justice Center for meetings.

The incoming Corrections Chair may want to consider approaching Jamesville about letting us in if they are willing to recruit for it.

Respectfully submitted, **Jeff S.**

Literature/Grapevine: No Chair / No report

Technology: Bruce/Josh - No report

Picnic: Stacey H. No additional reports until next spring

Treatment: No Chair No report

Archives: Ben B. No report

PI / CPC: Hugh B.

The PI/CPC committee has been working on a project to share information about A.A. with family and marriage therapists in the Syracuse area. We have finalized a list of ten small group practices and five private practices to receive this information. Our goal is to mail these materials out by the end of the month.

If you're interested in joining the committee or have ideas for future PI/CPC projects, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Hugh B. by text or phone at 315-439-6494. Your involvement and suggestions are always welcome!

Minutes continued on the next page...

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes
January 15th, 2025

Continued...

Standing Committee Reports: *Cont'd*

Steering Committee Report: Lee P.

The Steering Committee met on January 9, 2025. Brandy C, the new Steering Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 5:31 PM. December 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom K (Accountant) reported: Checking account is reconciled – total cash as of 12.31.24 is \$79,212.82 net of \$1,512.21 of sales tax payable and \$1,176.78 to the Credit Card leaves \$76,523.83 of available cash at 12.31.24.

Lee P reported on the Service Center Statistics for December: 118 total calls (-43% from November); 102 total office visits (-25% from November); and 144 email responses (-19% from November).

Under Old Business, the new invoice system is in place, replacing the old paper “Sales Receipts;” all “Products” will be added to inventory on QuickBooks in 2025. EOY Inventory has been completed. We will review and update pricing according to new AAWS price lists. Holiday bonuses given to a grateful staff. Messaging system which was to be cancelled will remain in place as it meets the Bylaws requirements. State Fair application was submitted.

Under New Business, the Steering Committee discussed offering the surplus of decades of Grapevine magazines to groups on a first come, first served basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025 5:30pm. Please join us!

Ad hoc committee(s): N/A

Eligible Votes: 18

Approval of Prior Month's Minutes: unanimously approved

Old Business:

The issue regarding cancelling the Service Center's answering service is resolved, as the Steering Committee has decided to retain it. The website now includes a link to a pdf of a recent meeting schedule, so it is no longer necessary for users to generate the pdf themselves.

Minutes continued on the next page...

Syracuse Intergroup Minutes
January 15th, 2025

Continued...

New Business:

Regarding the surplus Grapevine back issues, **Chris P** suggested it might be more helpful to offer them to Corrections or Treatment facilities. Discussion regarding their disposal ensued.

Hugh B made a motion to offer the surplus issues to local groups for pickup by 02/15/2025, after which the Steering Committee will determine their disposal, seconded by **Joe T**. Vote was 2 yeas, 16 nays: motion failed.

Alec V made a motion to make the surplus copies available to the Corrections and Treatment facilities, seconded by **Joe T**. Motion was approved unanimously.

Andrew M raised the question of how to get the word out that Intergroup needs support; after a brief discussion, the matter was tabled.

There is an opening on the Steering Committee. According to Article 6, Section 4 of Intergroup's Bylaws:

1. A Steering Committee will be established to aid and advise the officers of Intergroup:

a. in defining operating policies for the Service Center;

b. in establishing office procedures for the Service Center;

c. in providing continuity for Service Center office management during the transition of Intergroup Officers.

2. The Steering Committee will consist of not fewer than six or more than nine members serving three year terms starting January 1st of each year. The Intergroup chairperson may appoint new committee members each year to fill vacancies and replace members whose term has expired. The immediate past Chairperson of Intergroup will automatically serve one year as a Steering Committee member.

Intergroup Bylaws can be found on the aasyracuse.org website, under Service Committees>Intergroup>Syracuse Intergroup Bylaws.

Motion to Close

Joe T made a motion to close, seconded by **Jeff K**. Unanimously approved; meeting adjourned.

Meeting ended with the Declaration of Unity at 6:50 PM.

Syracuse Intergroup Officers, Standing Committee Chairs & Steering Committee

<u>2025 Intergroup Servants</u>		
Position	Name	E-Mail
Chairperson	Jason D.	syr.intergroup.chair@gmail.com
Vice-Chairperson	Andrew M.	syr.intergroup.vicechair@gmail.com
Financial Chair	Frank V.	syr.intergroup.financialchair@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Joe T.	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*

2025 Steering Committee Member	Intergroup Officer Position	Paid Position	Term Expires
Brandy C	No	No	12/31/2025
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:

Sunday: 9:00am- Higher Onondaga Park **NEW LOCATION** Brown Memorial Church, 228 Davis St Syracuse, NY 13204

Monday: 6pm- Turning Point. **USED** to meet on Sundays, now meets on Mondays: **CORRECTED LOCATION** Emmanuel Episcopal Church 400 West Yates Street (corner of East Avenue) East Syracuse, NY 13057 meets in the Parish Hall & is handicap accessible

Wednesday: 8:00pm- Camillus Address correction; Holy Family School **127** Chapel Dr Syracuse, NY 13219 School basement/cafeteria

Thursday: 7:00pm- A Vision For You, **NEW DAY** Port Serenity Hall 110 W 2nd Street Oswego **USED** to meet on Saturdays

Thursday: 8:00pm- Lake Country meeting change- now an **OPEN** meeting. St Mary's Church, 17 Clark St, Auburn, NY

NEW:

Wednesday: 5:30pm- **Tool Box Group**- Men's Meeting; Vineyard Church 99 Wall St, Auburn NY
IN PERSON only

Thursday: 1:00pm-Veterans AA, VA Behavioral Health, 620 Erie Blvd, Syracuse **VETERANS ONLY**

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, February 19th- 2025, @ 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.

Syracuse Meeting Times Announcements

Let's get together for sober fun

at the **SALT CITY MIDWINTER ROUNDUP**, starting

Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00 PM through Sunday, February 23, 2025

REGISTER NOW AT

<https://Roundup2025.eventbrite.com!>

Speakers (Local & National) – AA, AlAnon, & Alateen

Meditation Sessions **Workshops**

Panels

Band (Ponytail James) **DJ**

Join us in our new home at the

Syracuse Marriott Downtown (Hotel Syracuse)!

FREE PARKING for all in the hotel garage!

Yes, that's FREE PARKING in the hotel garage.

Hotel reservations must be made **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 20, 2025**, to get the

Roundup nightly rate. **Reserve your room at**

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50899289> or call 1-888-236-2427.

For more information (and to save convenience fees), visit our website:

<http://www.saltcityroundup.com>.

(Get a Registration Form [here](#) or go to

www.saltcityroundup.com/registration.)

\$45.00 Roundup, only \$95.00 Roundup with Saturday banquet

(Eventbrite credit card convenience fees extra. **No** extra fees if you register by mail.)