

# Sober Times

\*Serving AA Groups in Glynn, Wayne and McIntosh counties, Georgia

## Get Ready to Camp Out

The 5 O'clock Literature Hour Group is gearing up for its spring campout at Jekyll Island Campground to be held the weekend of April 24-26, 2009. For the low cost of \$11 per person, you can enjoy a wonderful weekend in nature with recovering people and their families. Last year these events (spring and fall campouts) were well-attended and a LOT of fun according to some "happy (joyous & free) campers."

As usual, there will be an open recovery meeting around the campfire following dinner on Saturday night. Meats and drinks will be provided, diners are asked to bring covered dishes to round out the menu.

If you wish to camp separately from the group site, please call the Jekyll Island Campground 912-635-3021 directly to make your own reservations.

Contact Christine M. for more information at 242-5528.

## STEP UP your program at the Cluster Forum!

Come explore your program with fellow AA-ers from Southeast Georgia at the Southeast Cluster Forum on **Saturday, February 28** in Brunswick. The topic is "**Our Commitment to Carry AA's Message - Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action**".

Under this main theme, specific topics will include:

### a) Humility and Sacrifice

- 1) Setting an Example
- 2) Changing Our Perceptions
- 3) Anonymity-Sacrificing Our Egos

### b) Enthusiasm and Gratitude

- 1) Hope & Purpose from Defeat & Despair
- 2) Happy, Joyous and Free
- 3) Enthusiasm-A Gift of Inventory

### c) Spiritual Program in Action

- 1) Maximum Service-Our Spiritual Benefit
- 2) Persistence-The Key to Progress
- 3) Living the Traditions

Come join other fun & interesting AAs from 9 am until noon in the parish hall at St. Francis Xavier Church at 1120 Newcastle Street in beautiful downtown Brunswick. Lunch will be provided immediately after the forum.

Our local AA service structure is sponsoring this event, which includes Georgia Districts 3, 4 & 5. Come out and show your support and polish up your awesome recovery program at the Cluster Forum!

[www.glynncountyaa.com](http://www.glynncountyaa.com)

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## GSR meeting moved

GSRs will meet on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the Wayne County Group Clubhouse on Pine Street in Jesup, Georgia.

*Pass it on...  
(this newsletter)!*

This newsletter is published for your information and enjoyment. Any mistakes you find are there for a purpose. We try to print something for everyone, and some folks are always looking for mistakes.

# GROUPS PAGE

...where we share interesting information about groups in our area.  
 What's happening in YOUR group? Email [intergroup.editor@gmail.com](mailto:intergroup.editor@gmail.com) today!

Happy Birthday "Anniversaries"!

**Union Street Group**  
 December  
 Lisa H. 12-05-01  
 Sasha G. 12-20-05  
 Rosemary W. 12-28-05  
 Ben. B 12-29-06  
 January  
 Eileen B. 1-2-03  
 Gaby Mc. 1-7-99  
 Tom T. 1-09-95  
 Jacqueline. B. 1-12-08  
 Jonathon D. 1-15-08

**Out to Lunch Group**  
 December  
 Karen M. 12-3-05  
 Steve Y. 12-10-05  
 Jack M. 12-11-80  
 Bill D. 12-14-00  
 Gus S. 12-18-06  
 Judy E. 12-23-04  
 January  
 David J. 1-14-08  
 Sheila R. 1-25-08

**Today Group**  
 December  
 Bob G. 12-2-02  
 John D. 12-8-06  
 Kim P. 12-8-07  
 Susan R. 12-20-77  
 Ginger M. 12-23-82  
 Charles T. 12-26-99  
 John L. 12-26-93  
 January  
 Sue P. 1-1-85  
 McCrae H, 1-9-86  
 Ellen D. 1-16-85  
 Wayne D. 1-31-86

**Saint Simons Island Goodwill Group**  
 December  
 Brett W. 12-2-96  
 Tim M. 12-6-83  
 Mary J. 12-18-91  
 Ellison T. 12-20-04  
 Ralph C. 12-25-07  
 January  
 Tom H. 1-2-98  
 Michael B. 1-5-94  
 Vivian E. 1-5-06  
 Robert T. 1-7-88

**Tabby House Group**  
 December  
 Richard M. 12-12-07  
 Bill D. 12-18-88  
 Thomas M. 12-25-07  
 Tomas J. 12-25-99  
 January  
 Taylor D. 1-2-08  
 Barry B. 1-7-08  
 Terry C. 1-8-01  
 Jason F. 1-24-08

**Women's Meeting**  
 December  
 Jenny S. 12-1-07  
 Melissa B. 12-13-98  
 Debbie B. 12-15-81  
 Rosemary W. 12-28-05  
 January  
 Kathleen H. 1-14-01

**First Things First**  
 December  
 Suzanne W. 12-6-06  
 Michael D. 12-14-06  
 Peter R. 12-25-04  
 Shelly J. 12-13-06  
 Wayne K. 12-23-01  
 January  
 Clif J. 1-28-07

**Happy Hour Group**  
 December  
 Jenny S. 12-1-07  
 Bill D. 12-22-07  
 January  
 Kenneth M. 1-1-08  
 Scott E. 1-16-96  
 Jerry C. 1-24-84



Pass it on... (this newsletter)!

## Celebrate with Wayne County Group

Come join the Wayne County group in Jesup on Saturday February 28 to celebrate a **combined 139 years** of recovery!

Dinner will start at 7 pm, followed by speaker Donnie P., of McRae at 8 pm. Please bring a covered dish if you can to the Cracker Williams Recreation Center at the corner of E. Bay Street and S. Brunswick Street. **See you there!**

## Eulonia Group News

### Second meeting added

The Eulonia Group in McIntosh County has 100% more meetings now than it had previously. In addition to the Tuesday CDNS meeting, there is now an 8 pm Thursday night meeting, too. The new meeting is an Open Study/Non Smoking format. Come to the Eulonia MultiPurpose Building on Hwy 57 (I-95 Exit 58) to attend. For more info call 258-5422. Way to Grow!

### Anniversary & St. Pat's Party

Head on over to the Eulonia Group to mark its 14th Anniversary & St Patrick's Party on Tuesday, March 17. Eatin' at 7 pm, speaker John T. of Hardeesville, SC at 8 pm. Drinks and meat will be provided, but please bring a covered side dish or dessert to share. For more info, call 258-5422.

Check to see if the St Pat's parade is going on earlier—you'll love it!

[Visit our website: glynncountyaa.org](http://glynncountyaa.org)

**For inquiring minds:**

# What does Intergroup do for ME?

*“Everything You Always Wanted to Know*

*About Intergroup But Didn’t Know Who to Ask”*

## WHAT IS AN “INTERGROUP”?

An Intergroup is a partnership among AA groups in a community with the sole purpose of carrying the message of AA to the alcoholic who still suffers.

## I WAS TOLD THAT INTERGROUP IS “NOT AA”. IS THIS TRUE?

No – this is definitely NOT true. In fact, according to the *AA Guidelines for Intergroups*, at the time the General Service Conference was started, there were already well-established intergroups or central offices throughout the US and Canada. The AA pamphlet: *“The AA Group – Where It All Begins”* states: *“Although local intergroups operate independently of AA’s worldwide service structure, they are a vital part of the Fellowship.”* (Page 35)

The AA Service Manual, p. S37, states: *“Central offices (Intergroups) provide local services; general service committees maintain the link between the A.A. groups and the A.A. General Service Board by means of the Conference. So these two separate but vital service structures coexist in mutual cooperation and harmony.”*

In addition, Intergroups are listed in the AA Directories published by AA World Services, as well as in AA Area Directories.

## WHY DO WE HAVE AN INTERGROUP?

Intergroup exists solely to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The Glynn County intergroup was formed in 1981 when the number of groups had grown to 9 (today, there are more than 30). The Intergroup was formed so that the responsibility of maintaining a centralized AA telephone answering service, publishing meeting schedules, and conducting institutional meetings and PI work could be shared by all groups, and would not fall on the shoulders of one or two groups. If Intergroup did not maintain a centralized telephone number for AA in our community, each group would be responsible for its own – thus causing confusion and unnecessary expense for all.

## HOW DOES INTERGROUP CARRY THE MESSAGE FOR LOCAL GROUPS?

Some of the ways Intergroup carries on 12-Step work are:

- ◆ Maintaining a telephone line to handle 12 Step calls and inquiries about AA in the community.
- ◆ Keeping an up-to-date list of AA members willing and able to handle 12-Step calls.
- ◆ Printing and distributing current AA meeting schedules.
- ◆ Carrying AA meetings and AA literature and information

into local treatment facilities and correctional institutions.

- ◆ Cooperating with the professional community by providing information about AA to physicians, nurses, judges, lawyers, employee assistance directors, teachers, clergy and others who might come in contact with the suffering alcoholic.
- ◆ Providing Big Books and other AA literature to public libraries, doctors’ offices, hotels and motels, public health clinics, colleges and schools.
- ◆ Publishing a newsletter, and sending out flyers via e-mail.
- ◆ Maintaining a web site to publish meeting and other information for the general public.
- ◆ Hosting events – such as an annual Gratitude Picnic and a Christmas Party - so that all AA groups in the community can come together to celebrate sobriety, and so that the newcomer can see that there is such a thing as “sober fun”.

## WHO PAYS FOR ALL THIS?

A.A. groups contribute voluntarily to finance the activities of Intergroup. A group may choose to make their contributions by setting aside fixed sums from their regular collections. Some groups pledge a fixed amount, which is paid periodically. Some pay a percentage of their group treasury after paying operating expenses and setting aside a “prudent reserve”. Individual AA members may also contribute on their own, if they wish. This assures the Intergroup of a regular income, and helps it to meet its obligations on behalf of all the groups. More information on contributing to Intergroup can be found in the AA pamphlet *“Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”*, pages 7 and 12.

## IS THERE A CERTAIN AMOUNT THAT GROUPS WHO CONTRIBUTE ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE?

No. Each group is autonomous and may contribute as much or a little as their informed group conscience dictates. In the *“Self-Support...”* pamphlet there are some suggested percentages that groups might send to the various components of the AA service structure, but this is merely a suggestion. Group contributions may be given to Group Reps to take to Intergroup meetings, or may be sent directly to the Intergroup Treasurer at P.O. Box 397, Brunswick, GA 31521

## DOES A GROUP HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERGROUP IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE SERVICES?

No. Occasionally there are groups that do not support Intergroup. In these cases, the spirit of contributing voluntarily, which prevails throughout A.A., applies. If groups cannot or will not pay their share of the costs, they are not denied the services of the Intergroup. They are listed in the meeting schedules, are represented as part of AA in the community via the website, and are encouraged to take part in Intergroup activities, etc. Intergroup adheres to the philosophy of Alcoholics Anony-

## Recovery in Action weekend event set for Jekyll Island

Join your AA friends at Jekyll Oceanfront Resort for a weekend of recovery & fun at "Recovery in Action" May 8-10, 2009.

The event will include open discussion and speaker meetings as well as workshops on the traditions and the 4th Step.

Fun activities to spice up the weekend will be: a cookout, a dance, an ice cream social, a mini golf tournament, an open mic night and both bicycle and motorcycle poker runs.

Some of the activities will entail a small fee and bicycles will be available to rent.

Registration fee is only \$30, but if you do so before April 1, it will be \$25. For more info email: luckflanders@hotmail.com

To make reservations for the hotel, call Jekyll Oceanfront Resort: 1-800-736-1046, and please tell the resort you are attending RIA for discount.

### New Spanish Speaking Meeting

Thanks to the efforts of Elaine P., our Intergroup Spanish Speaking Liaison, along with Victor O., we now have a new Spanish speaking meeting in our area.

Thursday at 7:00 pm  
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church  
Catholic Formation Building  
(parallel to the church)  
1116 Richmond St.

Please support this meeting if you can. (You don't have to speak Spanish, just come to lend your support.)

## Intergroup 101 continued from page 3

mous, and is always inclusive, never exclusive. More information on contributions is available in "AA Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices" AA Publication 5M — 1/08 (PS), and also in the "Self Support" pamphlet mentioned above.

### HOW CAN I HAVE A SAY IN WHAT GOES ON AT INTERGROUP?

Each group is encouraged to elect a Group Representative (Group Rep) to participate in Intergroup meetings and activities. If your group does not have a Group Rep, you could find out why and encourage them to do so. Intergroup meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce on Glynn Avenue in Brunswick. All AA's are welcome to attend and participate in Intergroup business, but only Group Reps have a vote.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INTERGROUP AND A "CENTRAL OFFICE?"

The terms are used interchangeably, and mean the same thing. In larger cities, the Intergroup actually maintains a physical "office" (Central Office) staffed by AA members, where the "hot line" is located, and various AA materials and information are sold and/or distributed. In Glynn County, we have tried twice – once in the early '80's and again in the late '90's – to maintain and staff an office, but it turned out both times to be unfeasible because we were unable to staff the office properly. Perhaps this is something we will re-visit in the future.

For more information, please contact your Group Rep or any of the Intergroup officers or Committee Chairpersons, or come to the next Intergroup meeting.

**Glynn County Intergroup**  
PO Box 397 Brunswick, GA 31521  
912-265-0892 [glynnintergroup@gmail.com](mailto:glynnintergroup@gmail.com)

### From your editor

## Back at y'all!

My Dear Fellows,

Missing deadlines...yet *another* character defect to address...yay. I am sorry this is so late. HOWEVER: on the "Good News List" we've got **more groups represented** on the group page than *ever* before! WOW! Look for your home group on page 2. If it isn't there – **submit\* your list today!** In fact, send *any* interesting tidbits to share in the *Sober Times* to the email below – we need YOU!

Ever wonder what Intergroup is all about? Read "Intergroup 101" for all your answers. Even *I* learned something...ooh.

**SO** many things to do – jump in & have some fun. Let's celebrate our progress not perfection. Enjoy TODAY, my friends.

Yours in recovering service,

Vanessa W.,

Saint Simons Island Goodwill Group

\*Email me at: [intergroup.editor@gmail.com](mailto:intergroup.editor@gmail.com)

**Deadline for March/April *Sober Times*: March 20**

- *Sober Times* is a newsletter of the Glynn County AA Intergroup
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