

**NNJAA INTERGROUP**  
**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!**  
**PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**



“IN ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS, WE WORK TOGETHER”

*“...no society of men and women ever had a more urgent need for continuous effectiveness and permanent unity! We alcoholics see that we must work together, else most of us will probably die alone.”*

*- Bill Wilson*

# Our Traditions

**1<sup>st</sup> Tradition: Our common welfare comes first. Personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.**

“Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the A.A. message. The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made - that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship”

*– 12 & 12 Essay on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition*

# Our Traditions

**9<sup>th</sup> Tradition: Alcoholics Anonymous ought never be organized but we may create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve.**

“It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service,... It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conferences of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole. Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group's chores, if the area's telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then A.A. as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken.”

*– 12 & 12 Essay on the 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition*



Like the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey, the story of Intergroup begins with the formation of AA's fourth group, the New Jersey Group, in May of 1939. This small group of AA's met on Sunday afternoons, alternating between the homes of Hank P. in Montclair and Herb D. in South Orange, with occasional outings to Green Pond in Morris County where Bill and Lois were living that summer. On October 22, 1939, the New Jersey Group found a permanent home at the Community Center in South Orange which became the first open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey.

*– Joe F., Intergroup Trustee, 2018 Intergroup History Talk*

# TIMELINE OF THE FIRST 25 A.A. GROUPS

*By John B.*

*Big Book Study Group of South Orange, NJ*

1. Ohio: Akron (July 4, 1935)
2. New York City (Fall of 1935)
3. Ohio: Cleveland - Abby G. Group (May 11, 1939)
4. New Jersey: The New Jersey Group (May 14, 1939)

## A.A. Group # 4 The New Jersey Group

Lois's diary entry for May 14, 1939 indicates they went to the meeting at the Parkhurst's. (PIO p.217)

AACOA p.11, "We attended New Jersey's first AA meeting, held in the summer of 1939, at the Upper Montclair home of Henry P..." (AACOA p.11)

## A.A. Group # 4 The New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



On May 14, 1939, a Sunday afternoon, the very first meeting of what was to become the New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous took place in the home of Hank and Kathleen P. in Upper Montclair.



## A.A. Group # 4 The New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



In June of 1939, the New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous began meeting at the South Orange home of Herb D. The Sunday Night meetings continued here off and on until October. At this time, the group was beginning to grow and had about 15 members.



## A.A. Group # 4 The New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



Green Pond, New Jersey was the site of many meetings during the Summer of 1939 while Bill and Lois stayed in the cabin owned by the family of Horace C.

## A.A. Group # 4 The New Jersey Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



On October 22, 1939 the first ever public meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey was held at the South Orange Community Center.

In May of 1940 New Jersey's second group formed in Camden and would soon be followed by groups in Morristown, Bergen County, Montclair and Newark. By 1944 there were groups in Elizabeth, Jersey City, Kearny, Orange, East Orange, Paterson, Plainfield, Red Bank and Trenton.

*– Joe F., Intergroup Trustee, 2018 Intergroup History Talk*

## The First 16 Groups of Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey

1. Bergen County
2. East Orange
3. Elizabeth
4. Jersey City (Hudson County)
5. Kearny
6. Montclair
7. Morristown
8. Orange
9. Paterson
10. Red Bank
11. Plainfield
12. South Orange
13. Irvington
14. Bloomfield
15. Perth Amboy
16. Ridgewood



In May of 1940 New Jersey's second group formed in Camden and would soon be followed by groups in Morristown, Bergen County, Montclair and Newark. By 1944 there were groups in Elizabeth, Jersey City, Kearny, Orange, East Orange, Paterson, Plainfield, Red Bank and Trenton.

As interest in Alcoholics Anonymous and its message of recovery grew here and across country, the urgent need to respond to the many requests for the Big Book, local contact information and guidance on forming new groups became more and more pressing. These early challenges were all met with little formal organization and limited financial resources, but always with a single-minded conviction and commitment to carrying the message of hope to the next suffering alcoholic.

*– Joe F., Intergroup Trustee, 2018 Intergroup History Talk*

During those early years, Bill maintained a small office, first at 17 William Street in Newark where the Big Book was written and then on Vesey Street in Manhattan. This office served as a clearing house for AA information: where books and pamphlets could be purchased and letters sent to Bill were answered by Ruth Hock, AA's first secretary. – *Joe F.*



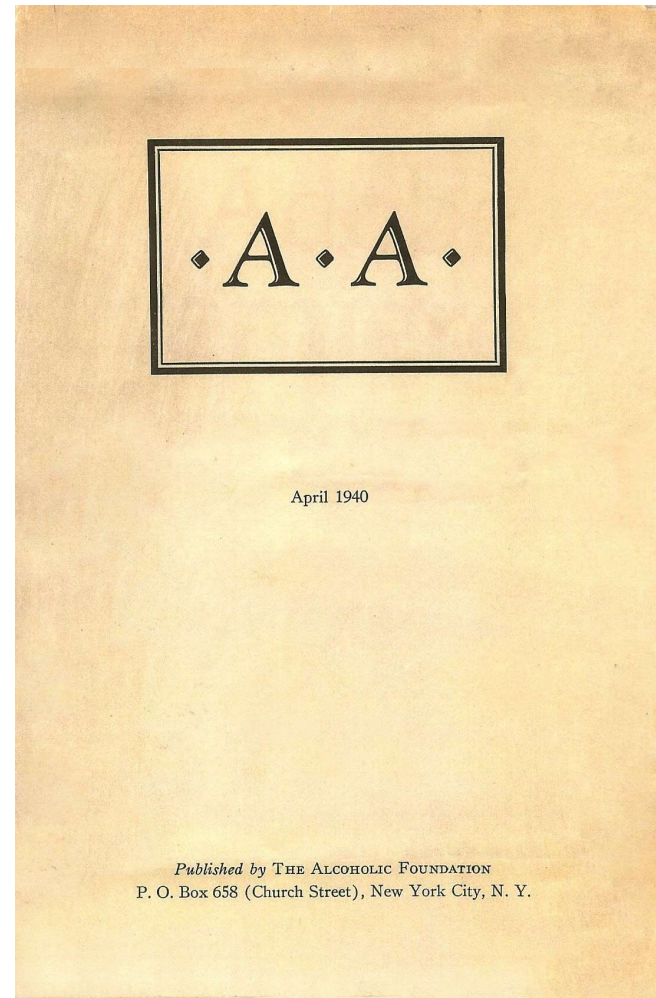
Ruth Hock

# The Permanent Home of Honor Dealers 17 William Street - Newark, New Jersey



On the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor in Office 601 were the offices of Honor Dealers

# A.A.'s First Lifelines





30 Vesey St.,  
New York City.

May 13, 1940

J. R. Tucker,  
709 Market St.,  
Camden, N. J.

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Thanks so much for your letter of the 11th regarding Camden A.A. meetings to begin Tuesday the 14th.

We are more than glad to send along 30 of the A.A. pamphlets to give you a start at Camden. They were mailed this morning -- hope you have them in time for the first meeting.

It will be perfectly all right for E. J. Sprackland to take over the selling of the book in the South Jersey area. As you undoubtedly understand through Jimmy Burwell, we can ship the books to the different groups at \$2.50 to be sold to individuals for the retail price of \$3.50. The difference of a dollar to be donated to a central fund of the group, or to one designated individual.

In the event we receive inquiries for assistance in the South Jersey area, Alcoholics Anonymously speaking, may we take the liberty of referring them directly to you?

Best regards to you all from the  
New York and Northern New Jersey Fellowships --

Sincerely,

Secretary.

*30 pamphlets  
mailed 5/17/40*

As multiple groups formed in Cleveland, Chicago, New York and New Jersey, it became apparent there was a greater need for direct communication and interaction between groups and members in these local AA communities. Through the 1940s, AA Central Offices and Intergroups would open around the country as AA membership and the number of groups continued to grow.

The forerunner to the Central Office and Intergroup service structure was the Central Committee established in Cleveland in October 1939. This rotating committee would ultimately open a small office and was instrumental in the growth of AA in Cleveland from one group (AA Group No. 3) to nearly 30 groups and several hundred members by 1941. This was the first experience of intergroup cooperation to effectively carry the message where it would be difficult for individual groups to handle all aspects of 12<sup>th</sup> step work alone. – *Joe F.*

The primary purpose of these Central Offices was three-fold:

1. To provide an office and telephone where 12<sup>th</sup> step calls could be coordinated.
2. To provide information on meeting times and locations, and coordinate speaker commitments for the local groups.
3. To coordinate meetings and 12<sup>th</sup> step work in local hospitals, institutions, asylums and prisons. – *Joe F.*

Back in New Jersey, the Newark Roseville group, in association with A.A. members from neighboring groups, formed a corporation called the Alanon Association and purchased the building owned by the Roseville Athletic Association in 1944. This historic building became the Alanon Club at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Newark. From the beginning the local AAs wanted a clubhouse and service center similar to the one on West 24<sup>th</sup> Street in New York. The New Jersey AAs envisioned a full service facility with multiple functions throughout its 3 floors: a Central Office, a Social Club, meeting rooms and classrooms, a detox and temporary shelter. All were considered and tried with varying degrees of success. – *Joe F.*



# The West 24<sup>th</sup> Street Clubhouse



## October 1944 - Grapevine

**NORTH JERSEY CONSIDERS BIG CLUBHOUSE**  
... We are strongly considering the purchase of the Roseville Athletic Association clubhouse, 7th Street and 7th Avenue, Newark, as general headquarters for all Jerseyites. The four-story building, where we have been holding our meetings for three years, is equipped with bowling alleys, billiard tables and what-have-you. The main room seats 400. If this deal goes through, we'll be settled—and very comfortably—for years to come.

The November 1944 Grapevine featured a page 1 article on the purchase of the Roseville Athletic Association. The New Jersey members raised \$7,000 for the purchase and a friend of A.A., Mr. Clayton Freeman, Chairman of Grant Department Stores, advanced the balance of \$15,000 for the first mortgage to cover the purchase price of \$22,000. Title passed to the newly formed Alanon Association on Thanksgiving Eve in 1944.

November 1944 Grapevine

## JERSEYITES BUY BIG SOCIABLE CLUBHOUSE

To the A.A.s of North Jersey goes the honor of being the original contributors to one phase of A.A. history, geographically speaking. They are the first of the "Along the Metropolitan Circuit" groups to buy a clubhouse of their own.

Members of a dozen North Jersey groups, forming a company called Alanon Association (Joe B. is their counsel), participated in the deal that ended, in October, in the purchase of the three-story brick building at 8th Ave. and North 7th St., Newark, N. J., known as the Roseville Athletic Association.

The purchase price of 22,000.00 includes furniture and equipment, which in turn includes such things as pool and billiard tables and bowling alleys. The transaction involved a first mortgage of 15,000.00 with a non-alcoholic A.A. supporter, the remainder (a large por-

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## JERSEY CLUBHOUSE

(Continued from Page 1)

tion of which has already been subscribed) to be pledged by individual A.A.s. Certificates of indebtedness are to be issued to all contributors, bearing interest, and redeemable in five to ten years. The plan is, however, to clear off all indebtedness as quickly as possible, including the mortgage. (Up to the time of purchase the building had sustained itself financially with revenues from bowling, pool, billiards, and tobacco.) The dues system will be voluntary weekly contributions—the amounts kept a strictly confidential matter—with 1.00 as tops.

Participation of the A.A. men and women in Alanon, Inc., is entirely as individuals. There were no group commitments, and care was taken to avoid involving Alcoholics Anonymous in any way. The Board of Trustees of the corporation are: Chairman, Tom M.; Secretary, Jim G.; Treasurer, Herman G.; Recording Secretary (handling dues), Hal R.; Stuart S., Dr. Arthur S., Pete O'T., Oscar O., Helen D., Bea W., Ed M., and Leo S.

The Newark Group, who have been holding their meetings at the Roseville A.A. for three years, will continue to do so. Maintained for 58 years as a conservative gentlemen's club, there has *never been a bar in the club*. However, food facilities, which also do not exist at present, will be installed pronto.

The big building is located one block from the Roseville Avenue station of the Lackawanna R.R., about 20 minutes from New York. It is expected that the clubhouse will develop into a clinical center for new people, and a social haven for all A.A. men and women, irrespective of their group membership.



Series D

# Certificate of Indebtedness

No. 7

of the

## Alanon Association

### A Corporation of the State of New Jersey

This is to Certify that *the* ALANON ASSOCIATION, a corporation of the State of New Jersey, acknowledges itself indebted to Matthew C. Casey and for value received, hereby promises to pay \$ 100.00 lawful money of the United States of America, on January fifteenth, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-five, or at such prior time as shall have been determined by the Board of Trustees of Said Association, with interest thereon from date of issue at the rate of three per centum per annum, payable semi-annually at the registered office of the Association on the fifteenth day of January and June in each year, commencing on the 15th day of June, Nineteen Hundred and Forty-five.

This certificate which is non-negotiable, is assignable to the ALANON ASSOCIATION or to a qualified member upon approval of the Board of Trustees and is one of a series of certificates of like tenor, classified as Series A, B, C, D, in the respective values of \$10.00, \$25.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of \$10,000.00, all issued pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the ALANON ASSOCIATION, dated October 10th, 1944, in conformity with Title 15, Section 1-4 of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey.

For the prompt payment of the principle and interest of this certificate, according to its tenor, the full faith, credit and resources of the ALANON ASSOCIATION are hereby irrevocably pledged.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been signed by the President and counter-signed by the Secretary of the Alanon Association, and the Corporate Seal of said association has been affixed hereto, this 24 day of October 1944

Countersigned J. H. Glenn

Secretary

J. J. Mahan  
President



# The Alanon Club at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 7<sup>th</sup> Street



BY-LAWS OF THE  
ALANON ASSOCIATION

Newark, N. J.

ARTICLE I

1. The name of this association shall be Alanon Association.
2. The seal of this association shall contain a triangle encircled by the name of the association and incorporated 1944.
3. The colors of this association shall be dark blue and white.
4. The purposes of this association are (a) to associate as members men and women whose excessive use of alcohol has made their lives unmanageable and to encourage sobriety among them by inculcating the principles and practices of Alcoholics Anonymous, (b) to promote the moral, mental and physical improvement of its members, (c) to render relief and assistance to all alcoholics as may be judicious and necessary, (d) to maintain a clubhouse and to promote and encourage all manly sports and to conduct such clubhouse for the purpose of providing for the refreshment, entertainment, exercise and social diversion of its members, (e) to take and hold by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise and bequest, any property, real or personal, necessary and desirable for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of this association.

PLEDGE

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
residing at \_\_\_\_\_  
City of \_\_\_\_\_ and affiliated with  
the \_\_\_\_\_ group of Alcoholics  
Anonymous, do hereby pledge myself to contribute  
weekly a sum not to exceed One Dollar (\$1.00), for  
the maintenance of the association's facilities as  
provided in the by-laws of the association to be  
adopted this date.

It is understood that the amount of my contri-  
bution shall be known to the Recording Secretary,  
but not to the membership.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: October 3rd, 1944.



OUR FIRST PARTY AT ALANON CLUBHOUSE

THANKSGIVING NIGHT

All A A's have many reasons to be thankful. One way to show our thanks is to give our new clubhouse our support.

This Thanksgiving we are all getting together at our new club house, from 7 p.m. to ?? This party is sponsored by Stoney and Tom. Drop in, say hello, and stay as long as you like. Bring your wives, or husbands, and friends, and look the place over. Dancing to the finest music in America. Eats, and plenty to (drink). So make this party a MUST.

Don't forget! Open house to all.

ALANON CLUBHOUSE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 1944  
7 p. m.

Irvington News

Bill George has been elected Secretary of the Friendly Group Irvington Service Men's Club.

ELIZABETH GROUP

\*\*\*\*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BEGINNING Wednesday evening, November 29, and every Wednesday thereafter, the Elizabeth Group will hold its meetings at the Elizabeth Town and Country Club, 917 North Broad Street, Elizabeth.

Don't forget the date: Wednesday evening, November 29th  
8:30 p.m.

OFFICERS OF SOUTH ORANGE GROUP

Executive Committee:

Chairman, Steve Byrne; John Lewis; Jack Egan; Jim Wilson; and Jack Growney.

Nominating Committee:

Bill Horn, Don Hageman, Dave Dillon, Halsey Miller and Bill George.

House Committee:

Chairman: Louis Ettinger  
Treasurer: Elmer Kieuning  
Assistant Treasurer:  
Herman Gruhnert

WE SHOULD BE MORE THANKFUL TO GOD THAN EVER THIS  
YEAR, FOR BEING FORTUNATE IN FINDING A. A., AND  
HAVING THE PRIVILEGE OF HELPING OTHERS, WHO WERE  
DOWN, BUT NOT OUT!



# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

The first New Jersey Intergroup was a small space set aside on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Alanon Club, furnished only with a desk, a few chairs and a telephone. Henry T. (Hank) served as the first full-time paid secretary of the New Jersey Intergroup office from 1946-1949. In keeping with the unwritten tradition (at the time) that AA groups be self-supporting, Intergroup requested a monthly contribution of \$0.50 per member per month. Even though many groups numbered well over thirty members, Intergroup received maybe \$5 to \$10 a month from each of its member groups. That may have been barely enough to keep the office open at the time, but it established the principle that New Jersey's AA groups would support the operation of its Intergroup office. – *Joe F.*

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

At a meeting held in May 1945, the Intergroup Committee of A.A. Groups of New Jersey, Inc. became the central “clearing house” for AA group cooperation and service. Articles of Association were adopted by delegates representing sixteen A.A. groups and the purpose of the Intergroup Committee was “charitable” and its work limited to “assisting in the effective co-operation between member groups.” Representation on the Committee would be open to member groups, and any AA group could apply for membership and be admitted on a majority vote. The Intergroup Committee was authorized to adopt by-laws for its own governance, but “shall have no control over the internal affairs, management or the conduct of any member group.” The intent of the Articles of Association was “to gain the strength and unity” necessary to address problems where “group cooperation is desired, but at all times preserve the complete independence of each individual group.” – *Joe F.*

M I N U T E S

Special Meeting Intergroup Committee, May 27, 1946

The meeting called to order by Kenneth Williams, chairman.

In the absence of a secretary, the chairman appointed Henry T. Tesch to serve that office in a temporary capacity.

The roll was called by the acting secretary. A quorum was present.

The chairman explained that the prupose of the meeting was to elect a new secretary to succeed Herman Gruhnert, resigned. He set forth the duties of the secretary, stating that he was charged with the responsibility of attending to all correspondence pertinent to Intergroup activities; that it was his duties to interview those seeking advice and help on alcoholic problems and to notify the secretary of the group in the district from which they come concerning the action taken in such matters; to answer all inquiries regarding A.A. Intergroup affairs; to send literature to those requesting such material; to advise the secretaries of the Intergroups of the time and place of meetings and to otherwise concern himself with all other actions deemed advisable to the welfare of the group as an entity.

The name of three candidates James Gallagher, Elizabeth Resident Group; Dave Roberts, Montclair Group, and Henry Tesch of the Jersey City Group, were placed in nomination.

Acting upon the suggestion of Ray Wood, East Orange Group, that the members of the committee study the qualifications of the candidates, the candidates with the exception of Dave Roberts who was not in attendance, left the meeting in order that the proposal of Mr. Wood be acted upon. Following the discussion, the vote was taken, thirty-six ballots being cast. The candidates were then recalled to the meeting room.

George McCauley, Doddtwon Group; W.L. Bowman, Westfield Group, and Carl Cruse, representing Bloomfield; tallied the votes which were cast by ballot. As a result of the poll, Henry Tesch was name secretary. Their being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Henry T. Tesch,  
Secretary

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

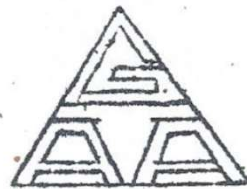
The Intergroup Committee originally held its meetings twice a month then switched to a monthly meeting format held on the first Monday of each month. New groups were asked to join and participate. Today the Intergroup Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Polish Cultural Center in Clark. Typically 60-70 groups are represented at the Delegates meeting and a full agenda of Intergroup and joint committee reports are heard, as well as requests from new groups for membership and that prized listing in the meeting book and online meeting finder. – *Joe F.*

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

In early 1946, the New Jersey Intergroup published its first listing of meeting times and locations. The February 1949 meeting book listed 102 meetings and maybe 90 groups, with the busiest meeting day being Friday. Today's meeting book and meeting finder lists nearly 1,250 groups and well over 2,000 meetings, with Monday and Tuesday being the busiest meeting days. – *Joe F.*

ALCOHOLICS

ANONYMOUS



CIRCA-1946

MEETING PLACES

It is not necessary to have a letter of introduction to attend an A.A. meeting. Any one interested in the A.A. movement is welcome at all times.

Bloomfield	Community House Broad Street	Friday	8,30 PM
Cedar Grove	Overbrook Hospital	Monday	8,00 PM
Dodd Town	Bethel Presbyterian Parish- Dodd & Brighton	Thursday	8,30 PM
Elizabeth	Y.M.C.A.-135 Madison Ave.	Wednesday	8.30 PM
Eliz. Resident	American Legion Club 88 W. Grand St.	Sunday	8.00 PM
East Orange	25 Halstead Street (2nd floor)	Sunday Wednesday	6.30 PM 8,30 PM
Hackensack	Civilian Defense Center Central & Esplanade	Wednesday	8.30 PM
Irvington	Servicemen's Club 1113 Springfield Avenue	Tuesday	8.30 PM
Jersey City	Lawyers Bldg; 880 Bergen Avenue	Friday	8.30 PM
Kearny	30 Beech Street, Arlington	Sunday	7,30 PM
Livingston	Livingston Baptist Church Livingston & Mt. Pleasant	Thursday	8,30 PM
Lyons	Veterans Hospital	Friday	7,00 PM
Montclair	Presbyterian Parish Park Street	Sunday Wednesday	6.00 PM 8,30 PM
Morris Plains	Greystone Hospital	Friday	7.00 PM



Morristown	Parish House-South St.	Sunday Wednesday	8.00 PM 8.30 PM
North Newark	100 Grafton Avenue	Tuesday	8.30 PM
Newark	Alanon Club House 7th Ave. & 7th St.	Sunday Tuesday	8.30 PM 8.30 PM
Orange	New Men's Meeting Y.M.C.A. (3rd floor) 125 Main Street	Thursday Sunday Wednesday	8.30 PM 5.30 PM 8.3 PM
Paterson	Presbyterian Parish 28th & Park	Tuesday	8.30 PM
Perth Amboy	St. Peter's Parish 183 Rector Street	Tuesday	8.30 PM
Plainfield	Babcock Bldg. (5th floor) W. Front Street	Friday	8.30 PM
Red Bank	Trinity Church Parish W. Front Street	Monday	8.30 PM
Ridgewood	31 E. Ridgewood Avenue 3rd floor	Thursday	8.30 PM
South Jersey	700 W. Atlantic Avenue Collingswood, N.J.	Monday	8.30 PM
So. Orange	Community House	Sunday Wednesday	5.30 PM 8.30 PM
Trenton	Prospect Presbyterian Spring & Prospect	Wednesday	8.30 PM
Westfield	Methodist Church (basement) North Ave. & E. Broad	Wednesday	8.30 PM

There is a closed meeting for all women alcoholics the first Thursday of each month. For further information call Helen Duncan--So. Orange 3-0135. Every Thursday but the first there is a closed meeting for women alcoholics at Alanon Club House.

The Intergroup Committee sponsors a Mass Meeting monthly. Dates to be announced. Committee meets the first and third Mondays at Alanon Club House, 7th Avenue & N. 7th St., Newark. DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES REGARDING ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TO THE INTERGROUP SECRETARY AT THAT ADDRESS. Telephone Humbolt 2-2821.



## FRIDAY

- O ALLENHURST Firemen's Recreation Hall  
Hume St., 2 blocks over Asbury  
Park line
- O ATLANTIC CITY Room 41, Arcade Building  
Tennessee Ave. and Beardwalk
- O BLOOMFIELD 683 B'wood St. SACRED  
Community House, 82 Broad St. HEART  
LYCEUM
- O DUMONT Parish House, St. Mary's Church  
(2nd & 4th Friday Closed) 280 Washington Avenue
- C IRVINGTON (7:30) Clinton School  
(2nd & 4th Friday) 1143 Clinton Ave. at Linden
- O JERSEY CITY Wintringham Hall, 130 Summit Ave.,  
between Gardner & Jewett Aves.
- O LYNDBURST Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
Cor. Ridge Rd. & New Jersey Ave.
- C MORRIS PLAINS (7:00) Greystone State Hospital, meeting  
conducted for alcoholic patients by  
various outside groups
- C MORRISTOWN Church of the Redeemer, 26 South  
St., opposite Sears-Roebuck
- O NEWARK (Ivy) (8:00) 65 Pennington St. (Salvation Army  
Service Center)
- O PLAINFIELD Parish House, Holy Cross P. E.  
Church, Washington Ave. & Mer-  
cer St., North Plainfield
- O PRINCETON First Presbyterian Church Club  
Rooms, Palmer Square
- C RAHWAY (7:00) Every other Friday meetings are  
conducted for inmates by various  
outside groups. Get schedule from  
your group secretary.
- O RIDGEWOOD Emanuel Baptist Church  
14 Hope St.

## SATURDAY

- O FAIRLAWN Warren Point Lutheran Church  
Route 4, opposite Hy-Way Theatre
- O NEWARK (Central) Y.M.C.A., 107 Halsey Street
- C NEWARK (Noon-Day) Discussion meeting at 1:30 P.M.  
for men and women alcoholics.  
Alanon Clubhouse, 384 - 7th Ave.  
at 7th St., Newark, N. J.

## OTHER MEETINGS

- O INTERGROUP MASS MEETING A mass meeting under the spon-  
sorship of the Intergroup Commit-  
tee, A. A. Groups of New Jersey,  
is held once a month.
- Get date and further in-  
formation regarding these meet-  
ings from your group secretary.
- C WOMEN'S CLOSED MEETING A closed meeting for women alco-  
holics is held the first Thursday of  
each month at 8:30 P.M., at the  
Calvary Baptist Church, DeForest  
and Woodland Ave., Summit.

## Twelve Suggested Steps

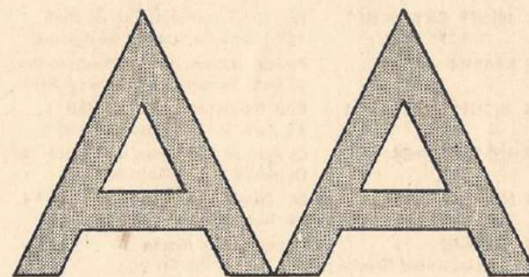
1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understand Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

The unhappiest person in the world is the chronic alcoholic who has an insistent yearning to enjoy life as he once knew it, but cannot picture life without alcohol. He has a heart-breaking obsession that by some miracle of control he will be able to do so.

Some day he will be unable to imagine life either with alcohol or without it, then he will know loneliness such as few do. He will be at the jumping off place. He will wish for the end.

A. A. CAN and DOES show these people a solution to their problem and its greatest recommendation is—IT WORKS!

# ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



**G**od grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

List Compiled May 1, 1948 by  
INTERGROUP COMMITTEE, A. A. GROUPS OF NEW JERSEY  
944 Broad Street, Newark 2, N. J. - MArket 3-7528  
Intergroup Office Open 9-5 Daily except Sunday

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE  
A. A. Groups of New Jersey  
944 BROAD STREET, NEWARK 2, N. J.  
MArket 3-7528





# NEW JERSEY A. A. GROUPS



CODE

'O' OPEN MEETING — Everyone Welcome

'C' CLOSED MEETING — For Alcoholics Only

All Meetings at 8:30 P.M. Unless Otherwise Noted

## SUNDAY

- O CALDWELL (7:00) Presbyterian Church  
Roseland & Bloomfield Avenues
- O EAST ORANGE (7:30) 25 Halsted St.—Board of Realtors  
Office—2nd floor
- O ELIZABETH RESIDENT Christ Church Hall  
W. Scott Pl. & E. Jersey St.
- O JERSEY CITY HGHTS (7:30) St. John's Lutheran Church Hall  
157 North St., east of Boulevard
- O KEARNY (8:00) Parish House, Knox Presbyterian  
Church, Woodland & Kearny Aves.
- O MONTCLAIR (6:30) First Presbyterian Parish Hall  
46 Park St. at Claremont Ave.
- O MORRISTOWN Church of Redeemer, 26 South St.  
Opposite Sears-Roebuck
- O NETHERWOOD-PLAINFIELD (7:30) St. Stephan's Church, Ravine Rd.  
off Woodland Ave., Plainfield
- O NEWARK (Associated Groups) Alanon Club House  
7th Ave. & 7th St.
- O NEWARK (Negro) (7:30) 139 Walnut St., Newark
- O ORANGE (6:00) 116 Williams Street
- O PASSAIC (East Side) (7:30) St. John's Lutheran Church  
Lexington Ave. & Sherman St.
- O SOUTH ORANGE (7:00) Community House, Meade St.
- O SUMMIT Central Presbyterian Church  
70 Maple Street

## MONDAY

- C ATLANTIC CITY Room 41, Arcade Building  
Tennessee Ave. & Boardwalk
- O BAYONNE St. Andrew's School Hall  
4th St. & Broadway
- C CEDAR GROVE (8:00) Overbrook Hospital, meeting con-  
ducted for alcoholic patients by  
various outside groups
- O GLEN RIDGE Christ Episcopal Church  
Park St. & Bloomfield Ave.
- O METUCHEN First Reformed Church  
Cor. Amboy Ave. & Graham Ave.
- O NEWARK (Clinton Hill) (8:45) Academy of Medicine  
91 Lincoln Park, Newark *FRIDAY*
- O NEWARK (Forest Hill) St. Mark's Church, 653 Ridge St.,  
corner Heller Pkwy., Newark
- C PLAINFIELD Parish House, Holy Cross Church  
Washington Ave. and Mercer St.,  
North Plainfield
- O RED BANK Parish House, Trinity Church  
West Front St.
- O RUTHERFORD Presbyterian Church  
Park and Passaic Avenues

- C TEANECK Town House  
Teaneck Rd. & Forest Ave.
- C TRENTON St. Michael's P. E. Church  
130 N. Warren St.
- C UNION CITY 2900 New York Ave. at 29th St.,  
Union City
- O UNION TOWNSHIP 1st Baptist Church  
Colonial Ave. & Thoreau Ter., Union
- C WESTFIELD Methodist Church  
North Ave. & E. Broad St.

## TUESDAY

- C ATLANTIC CITY (2:00) Room 41, Arcade Building  
Tennessee Ave. & Boardwalk
- O BELMAR Evelyn's Restaurant  
507 F St.
- C CALDWELL (2nd & 4th Tuesday) Presbyterian Church  
Roseland & Bloomfield Aves.
- O CAMDEN 530 Cooper Street
- C JERSEY CITY (Men and Women) Wintringham Hall, 130 Summit  
Ave., bet. Gardner & Jewett Aves.
- O JERSEY CITY HORSESHOE (8:00) 248 Erie St., cor. 14th (Salvation  
Army)
- C LYONS (7:30) Veteran's Hospital, meetings con-  
ducted for alcoholic patients by  
various outside groups
- O NEWARK (Vailsburg) House for Brides  
890 So. Orange Ave., Newark
- O NEWARK (Young Peoples) St. Bridget's Parish Hall  
Plane and William Street
- O PATERSON (8:45) East Side Presbyterian Church  
624 East 29th St.
- O PERTH AMBOY Parish Hall, St. Peter's Church  
183 Reclor St.
- C PRINCETON First Presbyterian Church Club  
Rooms, Palmer Square
- O WEST ORANGE Holy Trinity Church  
315 Main St., West Orange

## WEDNESDAY

- O BELLEVILLE Christ Church  
Jorammon & Washington Aves.
- O BERGEN (Hackensack) Civilian Defense Center, Central  
Ave. & Esplanade, Hackensack
- O EAST ORANGE (Except 2nd Wed.) 25 Halsted St.—Board of Realtors  
Office—2nd floor
- O EAST ORANGE (Walnut St. Group) Calvary Methodist Church (base-  
ment), Walnut and Main Streets
- O ELIZABETH (8:15) Blessed Sacrament Parochial School  
1086 North Ave., Elizabeth
- O IRVINGTON Clinton School  
Clinton at Linden Ave.
- O JERSEY CITY (Negro) Auditorium, Christ the King Church  
Ocean Ave. & Forest St.

- O MONTCLAIR 46 Park St. at Claremont
- O MORRISTOWN Church of the Redeemer  
26 South St., opp. Sears-Roebuck
- O NEWARK (Ironbound) St. James School  
Lafayette, Jefferson & Elm Sts.  
27 Lincoln Ave.
- O NEWARK (North Newark) 116 Williams Street
- C ORANGE (8:15) (Men Only)
- O PATERSON (Silk City) (8:00) Salvation Army Service Center  
42 Mill St.
- O TOMS RIVER Community House, Bay Shore
- O TRENTON St. Michael's P. E. Church  
130 N. Warren Street
- O WESTFIELD Methodist Church  
North Ave. & East Broad St.

## THURSDAY

- O DODDTOWN (East Orange) Presbyterian Parish House, Dodd  
St. & Midland Ave., East Orange
- C ENGLEWOOD First Presbyterian Church  
East Palisade Ave. and Dwight Pl.
- C HILLSIDE (New Men) (First and Third Thurs.) Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall  
Rutgers Ave. and Bloy St.
- C JERSEY CITY HORSESHOE (8:00) 248 Erie St., cor. 14th (Salvation  
Army)
- C KEARNY (8:00) Parish House, Knox Presbyterian  
Church, Woodland & Kearny Aves.
- O LINDEN Methodist Church (basement)  
321 N. Wood Ave., next City Hall
- O LIVINGSTON Livingston Baptist Church  
Mt. Pleasant & Livingston Aves.
- O MAPLEWOOD (8:00) Prospect Presbyterian Church Hall  
Prospect and Tuscan Road
- C MARLBORO (8:00) Marlboro State Hospital, meeting  
conducted for alcoholic patients by  
various outside groups
- O MILLBURN (8:45) Recreation Building, Main St. en-  
trance Taylor Park at Millburn Ctr.  
139 Walnut Street
- O NEWARK (Negro) (7:30)
- O NEWARK (Roseville) Alanon Ass'n, 384 - 7th Avenue
- O NEW BRUNSWICK 2nd Reformed Church  
100 College Ave.
- O NUTLEY Community House, 176 Franklin  
Ave., near Nutley Center
- O PASSAIC Congregational Church, 160 High  
St., corner Westarvelt Pl.
- O PASSAIC (Central) 1st Presbyterian Church  
Passaic Ave. & Grove St.
- O SUMMIT (8:45) St. Teresa's Recreation Hall  
306 Morris Ave., at Locust Drive
- O UNION CITY 2900 New York Ave. at 29th St.

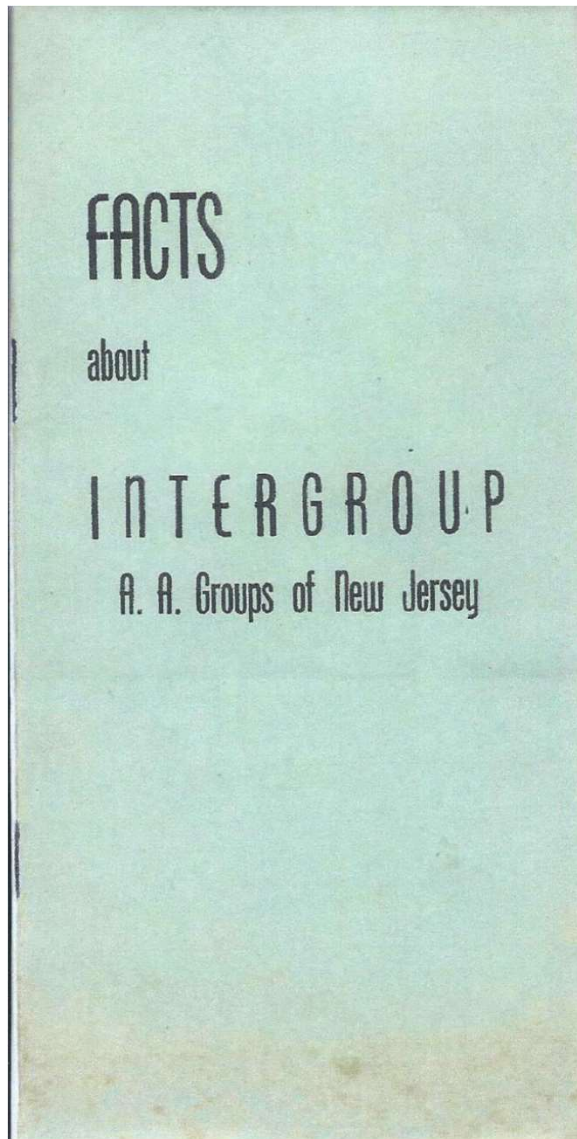
# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

In April of 1948, the Intergroup office moved from the Alanon Club to a larger space at 944 Broad Street near City Hall in Newark. The new office was within sight of 9-11 Hill Street, where the writing of the Big Book began, and a few blocks from 17 William Street, where it was completed less than 10 years before.

Downtown Newark was home to the Intergroup office and much AA activity for the next twenty years. An annual banquet held a few blocks down Broad Street at the Terrace Ballroom in Symphony Hall would draw over 1,000 AAs and their guests for a sober night out on the town. The banquet was such a popular event that AAs would line up at the office on the day the tickets went on sale. – *Joe F.*



# Facts about Intergroup



In October 1948, a pamphlet entitled “Facts about Intergroup” was written by the New Jersey Groups which described the formation of its Intergroup Committee (sold for \$0.10). The pamphlet made its way to the Alcoholic Foundation in New York, the predecessor to our General Service Board, and the response was so favorable that the pamphlet was circulated both nationally and worldwide as a guide for the formation of other Central Offices and Intergroups.

# Facts about Intergroup

Lord, keep my memory green.

## *Foreword*

"What is Intergroup?"

This question concerning the "Clearing house" for the A. A. Groups of New Jersey, is asked just as often by the member who has been around a while, as it is by the comparative newcomer. Because of such inquiries for information about Intergroup, this booklet has been prepared at the suggestion of the Chairman, Edward S., and the members of the Advisory Committee.

We hope the question, at least in part, may be answered by explaining some of the work of the Intergroup Committee as well as the functional duties of the Intergroup office, 944 Broad Street, Newark 2, N. J.

The "Articles of Agreement," along with a few timely observations by Bill and a look into some of the duties performed by the office of the Secretary has been included.

It is sincerely the hope of the Committee that the information here presented may give to the reader a better understanding of Intergroup, what it is, and what it is trying to accomplish.

Advisory Committee of Intergroup  
A. A. Groups of New Jersey  
January, 1949



# Facts about Intergroup

## ***Forward***

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Advisory Committee of Intergroup  
A. A. Groups of New Jersey  
January, 1949

# Facts about Intergroup

## *A Letter from Bill*

"Nowadays in A. A. there is a lot of current fear about organization. I hope people keep right on being afraid of anything that would really organize Alcoholics Anonymous. But the average A. A. doesn't yet distinguish between the desirability of organizing Alcoholics Anonymous and organizing the few simple services it will always take to propagate the message to distant people."

Bill W. wrote this in a letter to a member in May, 1948. The letter was occasioned when the member, after listening to Bill stress the need for providing simple services of propagation during a talk at a West Coast regional conference, wrote to the founder saying he was "scared" Alcoholics Anonymous was becoming "too organized."

"Since the very beginning, A. A. has always organized its special services of contact and propagation," wrote Bill. "Personally, I'm glad we did this even though it entailed risk and trouble. Had we not done this," he wrote referring to the decision made in 1937\* to write and publish the book Alcoholics Anonymous, "there would be a great many dead or utterly miserable drunks in this country who to-day are A. A. members. Maybe you are one of them."

(\*) *The book "Alcoholics Anonymous" was actually published in 1939. To Jerseyites there is an added attraction regarding "The Book." The articles and all the material which went into it were compiled in Newark. It is also interesting to know the movement took its name from the title of the book.*

Continuing to this member who voiced his "fears" respecting an organized A. A., Bill went on to say: "Even your group probably has a secretary. The secretary is a service person whom you had to choose. To that extent you had to organize for service. That too, evolved some elections and so some headaches. But your group is willing to take the trouble, for it knows it cannot effectively propagate itself without such aid. But in order to propagate effectively, you feel it worth the trouble. In other words, the special services are worth more than no such services at all. You know this, because experience tells you so. Nor does A. A. in your town stop growing because you have a few squabbles about how things are to be run. It keeps right on growing, and the faster, because you do have these services."

"If your group happened to be in a large city, it would presently find that the area made it necessary to have a small office, a contact point where the flood of inquiries could be handled. In other words, your area would need a few inexpensive and simple services. If it delayed in providing these, the area would find out sooner or later that these simple services must be provided. And why? Just so that other guys like you could get their chance too."

"Up until now, Doctor "Bob" and I have been the chief guarantor of these services. We want these overall services continued. We owe it to the hundreds of thousands of alcoholics who do not yet know the answer. It certainly isn't going to get there by word of mouth or by haphazard publicity and communications. But shall we let fellow alcoholics throughout the world go on dying like flies because we are too timid to provide

# Facts about Intergroup

these simple things? I should hate to take the responsibility of saying 'no, let's let things drift from here on out.' That simple services could ever organize A. A., or cost it any real money, is inconceivable. To provide for service, for your own benefit as much as for the newcomers, certainly isn't asking much when your own earning power was restored by reason of what A. A. did for you.

"I do hope this has cleared up some of your fear and that now you can share some of my hope. What about it?"

As ever,  
(Signed) BILL

## *Intergroup Comes Into Being*

Five years ago the New Jersey A. A. Groups realized that, working together, certain things could be done which could never be accomplished working separately. Moreover, it became plain these things simply had to be done. What were they?

First of all, the Jersey area had to have an office with somebody constantly on the job. Otherwise people in need of A. A. would continue to have difficulty in making contact for aid and hospitalization. There also had to be some place where people could get reliable information on A. A. There was great need for a clearing point through which groups and individuals could quickly communicate with each other. Somebody had to be on tap to handle constantly arising and often delicate problems peculiar to every densely populated A. A. area. Clergymen, doctors, editors, police officials, judges, social workers; all these had to be given the A. A. story straight,

without garbling. Formerly these area problems were everybody's business and often nobody's business. Working at cross purposes, groups and individuals, naturally enough, had sometimes bungled such affairs. So it became plain that Jersey must have some sort of head and tail. Members owed that much to themselves, to newcomers and to the general public.

Because this meant an office, a paid secretary, and a modest amount of money, some sort of organization had to be set up among the groups to look after these things.

A start was made. It was called the Intergroup Committee of the A. A. Groups of New Jersey. The infant Intergroup Association consisted in 1945 of only a few A. A. groups, each represented by two delegates. These delegates met, adopted a tentative charter and hired a full time secretary.

To-day sixty Jersey Groups are members of Intergroup which now has its office at 944 Broad Street, Newark (Market 3-7528). This office is now the scene of intense activity. Its phone is listed in some forty Jersey cities, hence anybody in Jersey can make instant and effective contact with Alcoholics Anonymous.

The first Monday of each month, a meeting of the Intergroup delegates is held where every member group can make its voice and opinion heard and felt. An Advisory Committee selected (geographically) by the chairman, assists the Secretary in handling much of the area problems arising between Intergroup meetings, rendering Intergroup a full report each month asking approval, and requesting direction



# Facts about Intergroup

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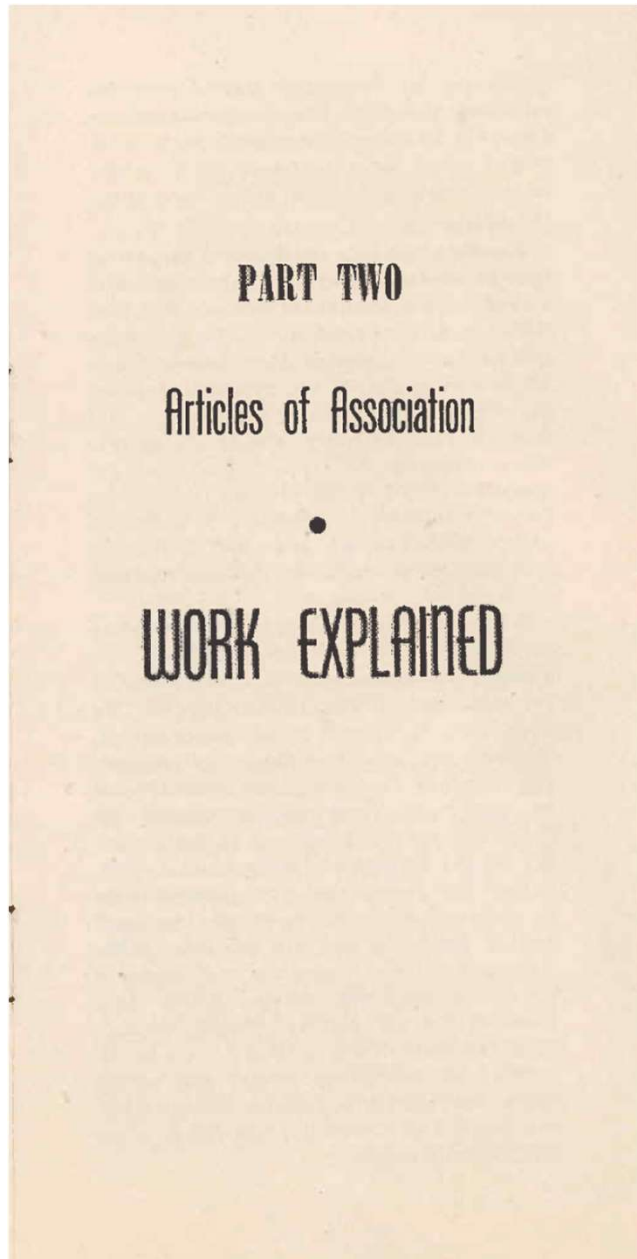
# Facts about Intergroup

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# Facts about Intergroup

Moneywise, this valuable and vital activity comes dirt cheap. Each member group makes its own voluntary contribution to Intergroup, bearing in mind of course, the current expense budget. Though there is no rule, the yardstick for group contributions is figured at fifty cents per A.A. member per month. This is surely inexpensive insurance - the insurance that our record is kept straight with the public and that our life line is always out to the new man in distress.

# Facts about Intergroup



The A. A. Groups of New Jersey established the first Intergroup Committee about five years ago, setting the pattern for others which were to follow later in the more heavily populated areas throughout the nation.

Numbered among the handful of groups then in existence were certain members who looked toward the future and realized that with the expansion of A. A., the principles and ideals of Alcoholics Anonymous, if they were to be preserved and propagated, keeping within the fundamental concepts as laid down by the founders, had to be perpetuated through the coordinated and cooperative effort of all groups; that adherence by individual groups to a policy of strict isolationism and self-sufficiency would not be conducive to the best interests of the A. A. movement.

With such thoughts in mind, an exchange of ideas contributed through a spirit of group participation was deemed essential for successful growth. On the premise "We cannot do it alone," which every A. A. member can accept without equivocation, the members advocating the formation of an Intergroup Committee suggested the individual groups select two of their number for the purpose of forming such a Committee. The groups that were interested did so, and at subsequent meetings "Articles" setting forth the aim and purpose of the Association were drawn up and approved by the participating groups. Means were provided for all member groups, through their representatives, to have a voice in the conduct of Intergroup affairs and except for a few amendments later incorporated, the Articles of Association are still in effect as originally adopted.



# Facts about Intergroup

Here are the "Articles" with the amendments thereto:

## ***"Articles of Association"***

**ARTICLE I - NAME** - The representatives of the member groups shall serve under the name of "Intergroup Committee of A.A. Groups of New Jersey."

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE** - The purposes of this committee are charitable, and its activities limited to aiding in the work, and assisting in the effective co-operation between member groups.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP** - Regular representation on this Committee shall be by groups. Any Alcoholics Anonymous Group may apply for membership and shall be admitted to such membership upon the vote of a majority of the, Intergroup Committee, which majority shall include at least the vote of one representative from each of a majority of the member groups.

**ARTICLE IV - SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP** - The Intergroup Committee may grant special membership. Such "special" members shall be entitled to have two representatives on the Intergroup Committee, which representatives shall have all of the rights and privileges of the representatives of regular members, but shall **not** have the right to vote

# Facts about Intergroup

**ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT** – The management shall be invested in an Intergroup Committee. Each member group shall choose two representatives to be members of this Intergroup Committee. Each representative shall have one vote. A majority of the members of the Intergroup Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A representative shall hold office until his group has notified the Intergroup Committee, in writing, that a successor has been appointed. In the absence of any representative his co-representative shall be his proxy to vote for and in his stead.

**(Amendment, adopted November 3, 1947)** The group may appoint one alternate who shall have all the powers of voting granted to the duly authorized representatives in the absence of such representative.

**ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS** - The Intergroup Committee shall adopt by-laws for its government and shall elect a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as in its discretion it shall deem necessary. The Chairman shall perform such duties as are usual to his office. In his absence the Intergroup Committee may select a Temporary Chairman to take over the duties of the Chairman. The Chairman shall hold office for one year and shall not be eligible to succeed himself. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Intergroup Committee and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to that office.

# Facts about Intergroup

**ARTICLE VII - MEMBERS** - The Intergroup Committee shall prescribe the time and form in which member groups shall certify their membership to the Secretary. Special members shall make such contributions toward the support of the Association as shall be determined by agreement between the Intergroup Committee and the Special Member.

**ARTICLE VIII - REPORTS** - Full and complete reports of all activities of the Association shall be promptly made by representatives of the Intergroup Committee to their respective groups.

**ARTICLE IX - INDEPENDENCE OF MEMBER GROUPS** - This Committee shall have no control over the internal affairs, management, or the conduct of any member group. The intent of these Articles being to gain the strength and unity necessary to meet problems where group cooperation is desired, and at all times to preserve the complete independence of each individual group. The member groups pledge themselves to support in good spirit the activities undertaken by the Intergroup Committee.

# Facts about Intergroup

**ARTICLE X - RESIGNATION** - Any group may withdraw from this Association by giving written notice of such desire to withdraw, to the Chairman of the Intergroup Committee, stating that at such a meeting of such a group, called for that purpose, a majority of the group voted to so withdraw. Such withdrawal shall be effective from the date of such notice.

**ARTICLE XI - ADMENDMENTS** - These Articles may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the Intergroup Committee at any meeting called for that purpose. At least fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given for the holding of any such meeting and a copy of the proposed amendment shall be attached to the notice for the meeting.



# Facts about Intergroup

## ***Group Independence Preserved***

A reading of these Articles through which the Intergroup Committee functions, brings out a few things which warrant further emphasis.

Article 9 makes it clear that the Intergroup Committee does not enter into conflict with the management or internal affairs of any member group. As stated, its aim and purpose is to gain the strength and unity necessary to meet problems where group co-operation is either desirable or essential while still preserving the complete independence of the individual group. While it accents the desirability of voluntary action and complete independence within the keeping of A. A. traditions, it emphasizes the importance of pooling our group knowledge, making use of this knowledge for the best interests of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

Back in Newark, another New Jersey AA phenomenon was starting to take form (and I use the term loosely). Local AA groups would come together periodically on a weekday evening at the Terrace Ballroom to book and exchange commitments for their speaker meetings. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 6 pm but, as you probably guessed, AAs would show up in front of Symphony Hall at 4 pm and start booking their meetings. Imagine the late afternoon traffic along Broad Street slowing down to check out this odd gang milling around on the sidewalk and gathered in small groups for who knows what purpose.

It seems this uniquely New Jersey AA event known as the Bookers Exchange has remained basically unchanged over the years in both its style and free spirited format; from Newark, to the UAW Hall in Clark, to the New York Times facility in Edison, then back to Clark and Mother Seton High School parking lot where it is now held. Perhaps the only time the announced start time was the actual start time were the years in the 1970's and early 1980's when Bookers was held at the National Guard Armory in West Orange. There was no early arrival then, milling around then with Guardsmen, jeeps and tanks patrolling the area. – *Joe F.*

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

The equally important story of AA's General Service structure begins in 1948 when Bill W. drafted a plan to create local service areas, districts, representatives, delegates, elections and voting procedures. To say the least, Bill's proposal made a whole lot of AA's very uneasy. To many, including Dr. Bob and the Trustees, the whole thing smacked of too much organization and many AAs would have none of it. But Bill persisted as only he could, and eventually persuaded Dr. Bob, who was dying of cancer, and the Trustees to support the idea.

In 1950 the first International AA Convention was held in Cleveland and the plan was put in place for a five year test of what was to become the General Service Conference. The plan culminated in *AA Coming of Age* in 1955 at the International Convention in St. Louis.

In 1951 at the first General Service Conference, New Jersey was represented as one area, but in 1953 New Jersey was split in two separate areas based on the phone book: northern New Jersey with Area Code 201 became Area 44 and southern New Jersey with Area Code 609 became Area 45. Talk about Keep it Simple! – *Joe F.*

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

In 1969, the Intergroup office relocated from downtown Newark to 1878 Springfield Avenue in Maplewood, which would be Intergroup's home for the next 23 years. If you were to call the AA number or walk up those stairs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office you would be met by Lois H., Peg O'B and Pat D and a host of volunteers who kept the place open and welcoming to many who would find hope and safe haven there during those years.

The early delegates to the annual General Service Conference came mostly from the Intergroup Committee since Area 44 had been slow to implement the adopted general service structure. It wasn't until 1979 when the New Jersey delegate to the General Service Conference, Hal H. (Lois H's husband), along with Stan B, Al R. and several others, formed the Area Committee and drew up 30 districts (including the Spanish language district) launching New Jersey Area 44 into action. Today there are 42 districts and Area 44 has a history of strong group representation and service through the joint standing committees with Intergroup. – *Joe F.*



# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

In October 1992 the Intergroup office moved from Maplewood to South Plainfield, to the same building where the General Service Area 44 office was located.

In September 1997, the office moved to its present location at 2400 Morris Avenue in Union, where it continues to serve as the central office for Alcoholics Anonymous in northern New Jersey. The office staff of Mac, Ruth and Maria maintain group records and contact information; keep the meeting finder current and publish the meeting book; prepare regular mailings that keep all AA groups informed on Intergroup activities and actions; respond to all types of inquiries and requests for information from inside and outside AA; coordinate with the Intergroup Committee to hold the monthly delegates meeting and quarterly bookers exchange; and with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers for Night Watch, answer the phones and provide meeting information and 12<sup>th</sup> step support. – *Joe F.*

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

Northern New Jersey Intergroup and Area 44 are fortunate in that we essentially cover the same geographic area and AA groups. That is not the case with most Central Offices and Intergroups and their associated General Service Areas in the United States and Canada. We have pathways and opportunities for mutual cooperation and support that AA service committees in other cities and places don't have. Our shared responsibility to set our hearts and minds on our common good, and work together towards our primary purpose is what unites and empowers us as a society, and makes us most effective and useful to those we may help.

“Communication is the key to our ability to work together, and personal humility in service is essential to our unity as a whole.”

– *Joe F.*

# The N.J. Central Office - Intergroup

“Unity is the bond that holds us together as a whole. It is our honest and sincere communication and tolerance that leads to our mutual cooperation and harmony. Both are vital in our continuing ability to reach the suffering alcoholic both outside and within AA. We must remain forever united in principle and conviction so that we may all survive our fatal malady and prosper together in our continuing journey in sobriety one day at a time.”

– *Joe F.*

**NNJAA INTERGROUP**  
**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!**  
**PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

