

INTERGROUP



INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION
OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY
JUNE 2024

IAFC office closes

Phone service fully remote, literature relocated

The Intergroup office in Norwalk has been closed, a decision made with input from participating AA groups, as well as the organization's representatives and board of directors. The move means an annual savings of \$14,000 in rent, plus additional service costs.

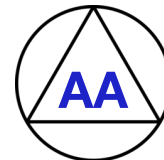
The telephone hotline for suffering alcoholics remains in full operation.

Volunteers – Bennett, Brian, Connor, Michele and Pete — did the heavy lifting and emptied out the office, moving furniture and other contents either to storage or to the city dump. Board member Pete S. secured a nearby

storage unit in which all literature and some useful items are now kept.

In the recent past, Intergroup arranged for incoming phone calls on the AA help line to be answered remotely on cell phones, so that volunteers need not take a shift in the office. The closing means that volunteers will no longer answer phone calls to the local AA hotline in person at the office. All calls are now being routed to individuals' cell phones.

A paid answering service still fields calls to the help line when volunteers are not available.



HAPPINESS

is a by-product –
the extra dividend of giving
without any demand
for a return.

— Bill Wilson, The Grapevine
January 1958

Fun, food and music at the Whoopee Party

Nearly 70 AA members had a great time playing lawn games and moving to live music – and eating, of course – at the recent Whoopee Party sponsored by Intergroup. The event was held at the Old Well Freemasons Lodge in East Norwalk on a fine, cool evening.

Food was contributed by members and provided by Intergroup, and volunteers helped with all party labor.

Live music by fellow AA musicians was provided first by Harry, who inspired all with his fine classical tenor voice, followed by a trio presenting original compositions by Elaine, accompanied by Miles and Ben.



Whoopee memories:
Bocce professionals
(above) defy thick
grass to display their
obvious expertise. At
left, we celebrated
and danced in the
festive hall as our
talented AA fellows
entertained with
voices and
instruments.
Ah, sobriety.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Re-AI Annual Picnic

Sunday, June 23, noon to 4
St. Cecilia's Church
1184 Newfield Ave., Stamford
\$10 (kids free)

Intergroup Outdoor Experience

Saturday, June 22, 9 am
Wavery Mansion, New Canaan
Contact Brian at brobbinspt@gmail.com
860-712-3947
Guided meditation & walk in the park

Sponsorship Retreat Weekend

September 13-15
Bill Wilson's Birthplace, E. Dorset, VT
To register or inquire:
saugatuckrivergroup@gmail.com

37th Annual Legacy Breakfast

Sunday, November 10
The Italian Center, Stamford
Tickets go on sale July 15
\$50 individual; \$500 table of 10

AA 2025 International Convention

July 3-6, 2025
Vancouver BC Canada
(See next page)



PLAN NOW

AA International Convention set for 2025 in Vancouver

AA will commemorate its 90th anniversary next summer in Vancouver, Canada, at its International Convention July 3-6, 2025. The theme is “90 Years – Language of the Heart”. Thousands of AAs from around the world will gather to celebrate sobriety and the powerful message of recovery that was launched in 1935.

The event will take place in the Vancouver Convention Center, the BC Place stadium and at other locations throughout the city. Members of the fellowship are now preparing for the convention, and the General Service Office is receiving inquiries.

The General Service Organization releases information about registration and housing this month June 2024. In September, registration site links, forms, and hotel booking links will become available online. The registration fee will be \$160 per person; a few months leading up to the convention the fee will increase to \$185. Hotel accommodations are assigned by lottery, so members who plan to attend should apply as soon as possible. Rooms disappear rapidly.



Hotels open regular reservations one year before an event. Convention attendees may book space on their own, but rooms will not be billed at the lower rates secured by AA that become available in September.

International Conventions are big. They are held every five years, and attendance keeps on rising. The first one took place in Cleveland in 1950, and drew 3,000 people. The most recent convention was held in 2015 in Atlanta, and an estimated 57,000 people attended. The convention had 5,000 volunteers to help run the gathering. (The 2020 convention was canceled due to the Covid pandemic.)

This year’s event is expected to draw many more recovering alcoholics. Attendees will pretty much take over the city, filling hotels and crowding shops. At the last convention, members live music, dances, hospitality rooms, and upwards of 250 meetings, which were held in more than 10 languages, including American Sign Language.

More information is available at the AA website:
aa.org/international-convention

Intergroup Board elections

Some positions still need committed volunteers

Four members of Intergroup’s Board of Trustees have been re-elected to second terms, and one new member has joined. Elections were held at the board’s June meeting. Several positions are open, and the leadership is looking for AA members willing to take a leadership commitment.

Michele P. has been re-elected Chair of the board. Others remaining for another terms are Anne H., Treasurer; Chris W., Public Information; and Brian R., Fellowship.

Other board positions expire in June of next year.

Harry M. stepped forward to fill the vacant position of Phone Scheduler, a task of vital importance to the lives of active alcoholics with a desire to stop drinking. The scheduler maintains a roster of AA members who volunteer for shifts on the help line. They work with group reps to find more members to join the phone

team, and they run orientation sessions for the volunteers.

Intergroup is looking for those who are willing to commit to two-year terms for these trustee positions: Representative Trustee, Recording Secretary, Literature, Anniversaries,

Service as a trustee requires a minimum of two years of continuous sobriety, with the exception of the Anniversary position, which requires one year. Members are expected to attend board meetings, which take place on the first Wednesday of each month.

Candidates are encouraged to read the job descriptions, which are published online in the IAFC bylaws. Visit iafc-aa.org, open the drop-down menu at upper right and click Bylaws.

Those who are interested in a board position should speak with their home group’s Intergroup representative, or email chair@iafc-aa.org for details.

Let’s go outside!

In the spirit of fellowship – continuing, focused fellowship – Intergroup is launching monthly outdoor experiences.

“It’s a time to get outside once a month with your fellows,” says Brian R., the fellowship trustee. “Experience nature with guided meditations, yoga classes, hikes, star gazing, bike rides and other fun events under the great big blue sky, rain, shine, or starlight. See you soon.”

The first event is a guided meditation and a walk in Wavery Park, New Canaan, on Saturday, June 22, at 9 am.

IAFC Financials: May 2024

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Total contributions	\$4,260	\$16,494
Total operating exp.	3,598	12,269
Total occasional exp.	250	1,319
Special functions	0	0
Total expenses	3,848	13,588
Starting balance		16,331
Ending balance		16,742

Intergroup Outdoor Experience



Intergroup Outdoor Experience

A time to get outside once a month with your fellows. Experience nature with guided meditations, yoga classes, hikes, star gazing, bike rides and other fun events under the great big blue sky, rain, shine, or starlight. See you soon. Next event below.

Sat June 22nd @9a.m.

For A Guided Meditation + Walk in the Park

meet at; Waveny Mansion, 677 South Ave,

New Canaan, CT 06840

Reach out to Brian R at brobbinspt@gmail.com

Or by phone (860)712-3947