



INTERGROUP

NEWSLETTER — MAY 2024

IAFC members vote to end in-person answering service

Intergroup representatives voted 8-1 in favor of stopping in-person answering service and closing the office at its May 1 meeting. The change means that calls to the AA telephone help line will no longer be answered by volunteers in the office, but will be forwarded to volunteers' personal cell phones.

The action was approved at several levels: members of individual AA groups, IAFC representatives, and board members. The vote to close was driven by a significant lack of volunteers who went into the office to answer the phones, resulting in funds being spent unwisely. Rent plus other expenses were seen as a burden on the budget: Annual rent for the space at 83 East Avenue was nearly \$14,000, which was 72% of total operating costs in 2023. Another cheaper office option was considered, yet with the lack of volunteers it still was not considered a good use of funds.

Starting June 1, all calls to Intergroup will answer calls remotely. As in the past, when

AA members are not available a paid service will answer the calls and refer them to members prepared to help suffering alcoholics.

AA literature for sale to member groups, which had been stored at the office space, will be relocated to a small storage unit.

EVENTS

WHOOPIE PARTY!



- Saturday June 8
6-9 pm
St John's Lodge
5 Gregory Blvd
East Norwalk

— Story on next page

Speaker exchange expands outreach

Intergroup's Speaker Exchange program gives groups the opportunity to exchange dates for their members to speak at others' meetings. It lets AA members expand their friendships across the district and appreciate the experience, strength, and hope of others.

Jamil H. wears many hats at IAFC. He works with district groups to set the Speaker Exchange agenda, and last month he was found at Districts 5 and 6 meetings representing Intergroup.

"It's been a real joy to serve in this position," says Jamil H., "and it helps my recovery immeasurably.

"Both with the Speaker Exchange role and district work, it's giving me an opportunity to be of service, to get to know many more people and it helps to inform groups about IAFC's activities and plans for 2024."





Don't miss this!

Spring Whoopee Party



**Live Entertainment!
Dancing!
Food! Games!**

This year's spring gathering gives new and positive meaning to the whoopee party mentioned in the Big Book. The event will take place Saturday, June 8, from 6 pm to 9 at the Old Well-St. John's Lodge in East Norwalk. The show will go on rain or shine.

It's a potluck supper event, and the Fellowship Committee is asking folks to bring snacks, appetizers, and main courses. Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks during the evening: parking, setup, breakdown, cleanup. Sign-up for food and volunteer positions can be found by scanning the QR code on the flyer distributed to groups.

Lawn games will kick off the event, and the real whoopee will begin soon afterward with dancing and live music from fellow AA members. Those who are interested in performing can email Brandi at brandice.atwell@yahoo.com. Bring your dancing shoes!

"This isn't your 'plain old whoopee party' as it says in the Big Book (page 101). This is the IAFC Whoopee Party!" says Brian R., the fellowship chairperson. "We had a hard time coming up with a name for an event so colorful. After some duds that didn't capture the essence of the event, someone jokingly said 'what if we call it "The Whoopee Party"?' We all burst out laughing. It caught our attention and sent our imaginations out into that special place otherwise known as the Broad Highway. Where we are safe and free and able to be ourselves.

"I hope people attend and come away with experiences that make them proud to be a part of such a special fellowship."

"Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service'. We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear these two things in mind."

— Dr. Bob Smith
Farewell Address, 1950

May I always remember that the power within me is far greater than any fear before me.

— Daily Reflection, March 2

IAFC Financials from April 2024

	April	YTD
Total contr	\$1,209	\$12,234
Total oper exp.	2,436	8,636
Total occ exp.	180	1,068
Special function	0	0
Total expenses	2,616	9,704,
Starting balance		17,773
Ending balance		16,366

Current calls represent a trend towards yearly call volume of 760, a 50% increase from one year earlier



Source: Phone.com

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN IN JUNE

The following officer positions on the Intergroup Board of Trustees become open in June.

Please join our board.

Two years of sobriety is required, except for the Anniversary Chair, which is one year.

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Literature Chair
- Fellowship Chair
- Public Information Chair
- Anniversary Chair
- Representative Trustee



IAFC BEGINS STRATEGIC ACTION TO MEET AA GROUP NEEDS

In April, the IAFC board launched a strategic action plan designed to (1) determine the current needs of area AA groups and alcoholics in Fairfield County groups, (2) explore future needs of these groups and people, (3) assess how well IAFC is meeting these needs today, and (4) determine how to best meet needs today and into the future.

“We decided it was very important to step back to see what as an organization we do well and where we need to improve, what we need to do more of, and what activities are no longer useful and should be discarded.” says Michele, IAFC board chair.

“As a board we need to spend group contributions wisely, and a strategic plan is crucial in this.”

The first step is to better understand AA groups needs and their opinions about Intergroup’s current services. A survey will be used to gather this information and has been emailed to Intergroup reps with a QR code that members can scan to get access to the survey.

Group members will also be reached in other ways to gather information on needs, wants for themselves and their meetings.

Feedback and suggestions can also be sent to chair@iafc-aa.org.

What is Intergroup? What does it mean for you and your AA group?

We are often asked, “What exactly is Intergroup? I know that it runs a hotline for alcoholics seeking help, but does it do anything else?” What exactly is Intergroup? I know that it runs a hotline for alcoholics seeking help, but does it do anything else?”

Those new to the program want to know that and more: “What is a district? What’s an area? What does IAFC stand for?”

- IAFC is acronym for Intergroup Association of Fairfield County.
- Intergroup is a service organization created to meet the shared needs of local AA groups and to provide opportunities for the groups to meet and learn about success from alcoholism from each other.
- The website is iafc-aa.org
- Services provided include 24-hour hot line, website, literature, speaker exchange meetings, speakers at recovery and treatment centers, public information campaigns, Thanksgiving Alkathon, summer picnic and spring party.

Anniversaries in April

Hurray for:

Alive Again

Justina D. 11 years

Club 12

Tim S. 11 years
Artie P. 19 years

Common Solution

Lynne M. 15 years

New Life

Michael T. 90 days
Diane B. 1 year
Michael J. 1 year
Charly F. 3 years
Rebecca D. 9 years
Keith F. 31 years

Recovery Unlimited

Mike V. 13 years

“I would rather go through life sober, believing I am an alcoholic, than to go through life drunk, trying to convince myself that I am not.”