

7th Tradition Financial Contributions

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with those who still suffer."

Bill W.

The seventh Tradition states, "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." For support, our Intergroup/Central Office relies on the contributions of its groups and individual members so the work of carrying the message can continue. Groups contribute monthly to Intergroup/Central Office while individual members may contribute up to \$3000 yearly through the birthday plan, individual contributions and in memoriam.

Support of your group demonstrates gratitude for sobriety and a willingness to share with the alcoholic who still suffers.

Acknowledgements

This pamphlet contains excerpts of AA Conference-approved and copyrighted material, as listed below.

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- AA Service Manual BM31
- GSO Central Office/Intergroup Guidelines MG-02
- The AA Group Pamphlet P16
- Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers
- Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions

Intergroup Meetings

2nd Thursday each month
In-Person & on Zoom
6 pm Steering Committee
7 pm Delegates Meeting
Salem Covenant Church
215 Mountain St. East
Worcester MA

Treatment Committee

Joint Area 30 Treatment Committee
3rd Friday 7 pm
Visit <https://aaemass.org>

HALTLine Answering Service

Shifts available for AA members. Calls answered anonymously via call forwarding. For more information email Haltline@aaWorcester.org or call 508-752-9000

12-Step Confidential List

Volunteers needed to perform 12-Step calls. Add your name to a confidential list. For more information email Steps@aaWorcester.org or call 508-752-9000



Worcester Area Intergroup



100 Grove St. #314
Worcester MA 01605
steps@aaWorcester.org
aaWorcester.org

A.A. HOTLINE
(508) 752-9000
24 Hours a Day

Serving Alcoholics Anonymous in
Central and Metro West Massachusetts

What Is An Intergroup?

An Intergroup (or Central Office) is an A.A. service office that exists in partnership with local groups – just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. It exists to perform tasks common to all the groups – tasks best handled by a centralized office – and operated, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It assists groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Intergroup/Central Office Functions

A.A. experience clearly demonstrates that intergroups are essential to the fellowship. There are over 500 Intergroups/Central Offices currently performing vital and indispensable services. Needless to say, these constitute a network of A.A. service outlets and contacts to provide services such as:

- Answer inquiries from those seeking help – the still-sick & recovering alcoholics, professionals, and general public.
- Coordinate local Twelfth Step calls.
- Publish local AA meeting lists and informational resources.
- Publish a newsletter on behalf of groups.
- Post and share A.A. information with local A.A. Groups, Areas, & Committees.
- Cooperate with GSO & local General Service Committees.
- Order, stock, and distribute AA literature.

Are Intergroups/Central Offices part of Alcoholics Anonymous?

Traditionally, A.A. general service committees and intergroup/central offices perform different functions. The Intergroups/central offices provide local services, while general service committees maintain the link between A.A. groups and the A.A. General Service Board by means of the Conference. (Some parts of the U.S./Canada structure may not have an intergroup/central office.)

These two autonomous but vital service structures coexist in many areas. A.A. as a whole benefits when intergroups/central offices and general service work together in mutual cooperation. A.A. groups may elect a representative to their local intergroup/central office.

Many areas find having a liaison for Intergroups & Central Offices and the Area Committee is helpful to maintain good relations and effective communication. In some areas the liaison has a vote at the assembly; in others, the liaison has a voice but no vote.

More information on working together is available through G.S.O. and in the pamphlet “*The A.A. Group*” and pamphlet “*Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix*,” and in the G.S.O Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices (with excerpts found in Appendix S).

AA Service Manual 2021

Intergroup Associations

Bill W. helped write an Intergroup pamphlet, which was published by the Intergroup Committee of New Jersey in March 1949. On the back page of the pamphlet, Bill wrote:

“Every A.A. member wants every alcoholic in the world to have the chance that he has had. Every A.A. member wants unity for our movement. Every A.A. member wants the good opinion of medicine, religion and the general public. We know we must have these things or the new man may never get his chance.”

“The Intergroup associations are the best insurance we can have that our life lines to the hundreds of thousands yet to come will never break or tangle. Let us always be generous. Let us warmly support Intergroup.”

A.A co-founder Bill W., 1949

Dr. Bob & Akron Central Office

Dr Bob was not only a supporter of the Intergroup/Central Office concept, he was an active participant in the Akron Central Committee. In “*Dr Bob and the Good Oldtimers*,” his involvement was discussed in some detail by Dan K., an early Akron A.A. member:

“Doc used to play an important part in the Central Committee. That was the steering committee for the office. We’d meet the first Monday of every month and he always attended. There’d be a member from each group. During the meetings,

sometimes, the words would fly like you were in a barroom.”
During one meeting Dr Bob stood up, hushed the crowd and said:

“Gentlemen, please. We’re still members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Let’s carry the principles of A.A. into these business meetings. You are servants of your group (s), here to take the ideas formulated by the committee. Let one man talk at a time, and let us conduct this business meeting as a service to the Lord and a service to our fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

Individual and Group Participation will help us “Carry the Message”

An Intergroup/Central Office relies on the local members and groups to carry out its responsibilities. This support comes in the form of volunteer help and financial contributions. The ability to perform local service is directly tied to the level of support from local members and groups.

Visit WAI – Drop in. Introduce yourself. Have a cup of coffee. Chat with a phone volunteer or staff member. This is the “heart line,” that first contact for newcomers; the point of new beginnings and directions; the local information center for people in the fellowship of A.A.

Volunteer at WAI – help by answering our 24/7 telephone HALTline, or carrying the message into a treatment facility.

12 Step Volunteer – sign up to be available to call, text, or email suffering alcoholics who wish to get sober.

Communicate with WAI – With your help, WAI maintains current information about meeting locations and times, and special A.A. events.

Intergroup Delegate – represent your AA group at WAI’s monthly delegate meeting.

Intergroup Committees – Treatment, Public Information, HALTLine hotline, *The Beacon* newsletter, Social events, Corrections, Bookie Exchange, and more.