

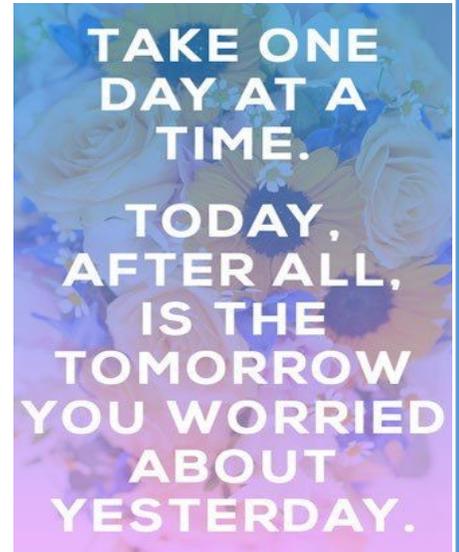
## Landmarks in the History of AA in Tallahassee

**We have started a series of articles for this newsletter on the History of AA in Tallahassee. "WE", all of us, are a part of this history - this journey. This history has been built, just as our sobriety, one day at a time.**

(This is the 2nd article in the series on the History of AA in Tallahassee.)

### Time Line

- Alcoholics Anonymous founded June 10th, 1935.
- First AA meeting in FL in Jacksonville - 1940.
- First AA meeting established in Tallahassee - April 8, 1945 by Tom Morgan. Registered in 1946 with AA World Services as Alcoa Group.
- Later, this meeting became known as "Central Group" and was registered with AA World Services in 1953
- The Central Group grew from 1 person, to 2, to 3, and then to 18 members in 1956. Tom Morgan, Norman Stone, Ed Bradford, and Clem Nelly, and Jack Buford were in the group at that time.
- The Central Group, by all accounts, moved 8 times before purchasing a permanent home at 909 Gadsden St. in 1965 with the mortgage being paid off in 1972.



During the period of 1955 to 1965, the Central Group had grown to 20-30 people who regularly attended meetings. While at a fish fry, the group decided to form a non-profit corporation outside of AA and buy the house at "909" owned, at that time, by the Seven Day Adventists. A charter was written for the non-profit corporation and the Central Group has operated under the Twelve Traditions and the Tallico Corporation since that time.

In 1962, two meetings were started to study the Big Book, chapter by chapter. The meetings lasted as long as anyone wanted to stay and talk about the spiritual principles found in the Big Book. At this point in time, there were 3 active meetings in Tallahassee. We now have approximately 32 groups, many of which have several meetings per week in Tallahassee and the surrounding area! (More articles in this series to follow!) With much gratitude for the gift of our history to: Bob H. & Neal B.

## How CASA-12, Inc. Came About

CASA-12 stands for "Clubhouse Association for Sober Alcoholics", and the "12" indicates the 12 Steps. (CASA for short!) According to Ralph D., in a letter he wrote to friends in the program, the idea for CASA was hatched at the New Year's Eve Meeting/Party that was held at 909 Gadsden St. on December 31, 1987. Jack B. was the first donor with \$20.00

In early 1988, a Board was formed and Charlie D. was the first Chair. Later, Jim K. offered a double-wide trailer on his property off Wednesday St for our first location. CASA was opened in April 1989. We've moved a couple of times since July of 2003. We're currently at 2410 Monday Road, with another double-wide and a little concrete building we call Casita. There are plans for construction of a building as a permanent meeting place for CASA. The Board is working with the City of Tallahassee on permits and getting estimates from contractors. No start date has been set as of yet.

AA meetings occur at least 3 times a day, 7 days a week. Some of the smaller meetings, like Conscious Contact (meditation), gather in Casita. All types of meetings are offered at CASA. Most are open discussion while others include literature study, Al-Anon, meditation, and women's meetings. Speaker meetings are held each Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Birthday meetings occur on the last Friday of each month with a potluck dinner beginning at 6 pm followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm. Birthday celebrants for the month share their stories and receive a medallion corresponding to their years of sobriety. The members, youngest in sobriety, always share first.

CASA sponsors a breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:30 am. It's always followed by an open AA meeting at 11:00 am. CASA holds cookouts, picnics, or dinners for all holidays. These occasions provide a safe environment for those in recovery at such times. Alcothons have taken place on Christmas Eve, and special meetings or events are held on New Year's Eve. Depending on what volunteers are willing to sign up for, CASA has had parties, garage sales, game nights, sing-along sessions, and even a craft fair at various times. Meeting attendees at CASA consist of the same cross-section of people who attend meetings all over the world. It's hard to estimate how many people attend meetings at CASA. It can be anywhere between 2 and 60.

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**CASA** As an incorporated non-profit organization, CASA-12, Inc. has some members of the 12 step fellowship who pay dues in order to be a member of the Clubhouse Outreach. Their dues help pay the bills and other expenses, as well as, support additional efforts to help others in recovery.

Carla H. with assistance from a letter to AA friends written by Ralph D.

**District Committee and Intergroup for District 5** (Counties/Cities represented by District 5: Franklin - Carrabelle, Apalachicola; Liberty - Bristol; Madison - Greenville; Jefferson - Monticello; Leon - Tallahassee; Gadsden - Quincy, Havana; Taylor - Perry; and Wakulla - Crawfordville)

**District supports the efforts of AA in the community** in order to accomplish the following activities: (1) Maintain an archival collection in order to keep records of the history of the district; (2) Provide information to the professional community such as doctors, mental health workers, and those in the legal professions in order to educate them on the services and benefits of AA; (3) Distribute pamphlets and other literature into area facilities (homeless shelters & detox centers) and at special events where AA is represented; (4) Provide meetings and information to clients at treatment centers; (5) Take meetings to correctional facilities, manage the "Pink Can" donations, and support people that are transitioning from institutions into the community; (6) Make sure that all meetings are accessible to alcoholics who are handicapped; and (7) Promote the Grapevine magazine to local groups and AA members.

The District Committee is made up of a District Committee Member (DCM), Alt-DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, and members of individual groups (General Service Representatives (GSR 's). They serve to handle business matters and coordinate all the activities mentioned above. Business meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 pm at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 N. Meridian Road.

Kevin H., Alt-DCM, District 5

**Intergroup supports individual AA groups** to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Intergroup 5 also serves these groups in carrying out certain functions which are common to all groups and are best handled by a centralized body. These functions are: (1) Providing a 24/7/365 "Hotline" service; (2) Hosting the Intergroup 5 website - [www.intergroup.org](http://www.intergroup.org); (3) Maintaining a "literature store" and making available an inventory of AA approved literature; (4) Publishing the "Where and When" meeting schedule and "The Message" newsletter; and (5) Coordinating with AA groups to hold yearly social events such as the Spring Picnic and Holiday Dinner. Intergroup 5 is a non-profit organization supported financially and materially by the local groups in accordance with guidelines published by the AA General (Continued top of next column)

### Carry "The Message": Being of Service

**JUST FOR TODAY:  
MY RECOVERY IS A GIFT,  
AND I WANT TO KEEP IT.  
I'LL DO THE REQUIRED  
MAINTENANCE,  
AND I'LL SHARE MY  
RECOVERY WITH  
OTHERS.**

- \* The District 5 and Intergroup 5 Committees are in need of your participation. Please volunteer for a service position as an Officer or a GSR and represent AA & your home group. Be a part of creating the future history of AA in Tallahassee!
- \* Intergroup 5 needs a web master: Skills required: proficient in HTML; experienced in managing websites.
- \* We will be highlighting a group in every issue of this newsletter. Please submit article on YOUR HOME GROUP!
- \* Favorite Slogan? Write about it and send it in!
- \* Please contact us if YOU know any AA history in Tallahassee information.
- \* Suggestions/Comments: [message@intergroup5.org](mailto:message@intergroup5.org)

Services Office. The by-laws are published on the website.

Each group should

have an Intergroup Representative who can attend the monthly business meetings - held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at Faith Presbyterian Church. We will be expanding our social media presence and exploring how to be of greater service to the local groups in the coming months. If your group has need of any assistance, please contact us:

[Tallyintergroupnews@outlook.com](mailto:Tallyintergroupnews@outlook.com)

Michael E. Chair, Intergroup 5



**AA's Ninth Tradition** states that: "AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

I am Responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help

I want the hand of AA to be there,

And for that,

. . . I Am Responsible

### Intergroup 5 (IG5) Office and Literature Store Has Moved!

In late spring of this year, the space that IG5 was occupying was flooded. As a result, we moved to a storage unit at MRZ Storage located at 2908 Mahan Drive. This provides better access for loading materials, lower rental fees, and other expenses. Literature orders can still be placed through the website: [www.intergroup5.com](http://www.intergroup5.com) Our new mailing address is POB 180984, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

Those who leave everything in *God's* hand will eventually see *God's* hand in everything.