

The Message

AA HOTLINE: I don't remember exactly what attracted me to the AA Hotline but I do remember my sponsor telling me she thought it'd be a great service work area for me. Now, two quick years later, I'm not only working on the hotline, but coordinating and recruiting hotline volunteers as well.

The AA Hotline is supported by 60 AA men and women consisting of 5 separate teams of 8 volunteers each. Two volunteers from each team rotate in and out of the Hotline schedule for a week sharing a 6-hour shift providing 24 hour coverage every day. The hotline calls ring directly to the volunteer's cell phone. There are training materials; a resource crisis centers, detox centers, etc. volunteers via text messaging.

For our community, the AA Hotline is a huge void. The number of calls has increased significantly. For example, the average number of calls per month during 2016 was 299; In 2017, it was 358. In 2016, the total number of calls was 3,585; in 2017 it was 4294. That's a 8% increase in just one year!

Working the AA Hotline is a powerful way to stay sober—often even beats going to meetings. Hearing the misery and longing from a hotline caller keeps the horror of taking another drink foremost in my mind and soul.

I work the Hotline because I want to keep the voices of misery and hope up close where I can hear them clearly.

As it says on page 97 in the BB: "Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery. A kindly act once in a while isn't enough. You have to act the Good Samaritan every day, if need be." A foundation stone, once set, never moves. It will always be a part of whatever is built upon it. Pull it out and whatever is built upon it collapse. What's your foundation stone? Me first? Job security? Get my family back together? Something that should be in your inventory? Just attending meetings? Easy does it? Think about it... your choice will affect the rest of your life, the lives of those you love, and the lives of those you serve on the AA Hotline.

Interested in trying this 12-step work? Please call or text me at 850-942-7665. We can always use new volunteers with fresh perspective and experience—and who knows, it might just keep you sober!

Evelyn G.

The "Primary Purpose" of Intergroup 5 is to assist the AA groups in District 5 to carry the AA 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 hour "Hotline" service; (2) Maintaining and making available for purchase AA literature; (3) Maintaining a website that provides information related to AA; and (4) Publishing a newsletter for the local Fellowship about activities within the AA community. This issue of the newsletter includes articles related to the "Hotline".



Bradfordville Group

The AA saying, "We are not a glum lot!" certainly applies to the Bradfordville group of Alcoholics Anonymous! The group was founded in August of 2006 by a group of members who wanted an evening meeting on the northside of town. Thus, sprang forth the Bradfordville group!

In its history, the group has had three wonderful locations: first, the chapel of Bradfordville Baptist Church; then to Gentle Shepherd Church; and now at Good Shepard Catholic Church. The group meets on: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week at 6:15 pm. The average size of the meetings is approximately 15 people. The format of all meetings is open discussion. *The group will be starting a new "step" meeting the third Monday of every month. It will be open discussion with a focus on one of the 12 steps each month.*

The Bradfordville group is most well known for its annual "Alcathon" where AA members and their families find a warm and welcoming space to celebrate sober holidays. The wide range of sobriety of our members creates a diverse sharing of experience, strength, and hope for the newcomer and anyone attending the meetings! We also have many members and visitors from Thomasville. This is due to our meeting being the northernmost meeting in Tallahassee. Come join us, we look forward to meeting AA members from other groups! Nikki R.

I Made the Call...

I had just stepped up, literally, to the door at 909 Gadsden Street, and into my first meeting, where I declared, "I am an alcoholic". This was on January 12, 2013. One short week later of abstinence, I found myself on my way to Savannah for my annual weekend visit with my three sisters.

I got to Savannah at midnight confused, weak, and barely grasping for a foothold in my very brief bit of sobriety. I had the "Hotline" number with me so I made the call for much needed support. I was not really expecting anyone to answer.

After a few rings, a groggy, but friendly voice answered, "This is the AA Hotline, can I help you?" I poured out my fears about facing the weekend without alcohol. I asked, "What should I DO???" With gentle words, the very tired volunteer said, "Well, honey, just don't drink!" And, that was all I needed to hear and know. Someone cared enough to answer that late call and give me exactly, the simple, but not always easy, instructions!

My sisters and I had a wonderful time together. Little did I know that my oldest and dearest sister was to be diagnosed with cancer in the next month. Thanks to this program, I was able to be there for my sister and help her as much as possible. She passed away December 14th, 11 months and 2 days after I entered our program. I still feel her loving presence. My program has helped me bond with my other sisters in love and compassion.

The service work you do, especially on the "Hotline", is absolutely some of the most valuable work you can do. It made a miraculous difference in my story. It is my privilege to take to take one of late night slots on the "Hotline" schedule. I can be there for those who need to the helping hand of AA. Sally F.

Budget Report for 2017

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL Expenses - | \$8,270.82 |
| Group Contributions - | \$7,853.68 |
| Events: Picnic & Holiday Party— | |
| Revenue - | \$1,075.04 |
| Expenses - | \$ 701.02 |
| Net: | <u>\$ 374.02</u> |
| TOTAL Income - | \$8,277.70 |

Prudent Reserve - \$3,975.99

For more detailed information on group contributions and other budget items go to: Intergroup5.org

Kevin H.

Literature Store Report

The numbers included in this report clearly indicate that 2017 was a busy year for the Intergroup5 Literature Store, as well as, readers of AA literature.

A TOTAL of 1,003 books were sold!

Of this number, 534 (over half) of these books were purchased to be used in outreach efforts to correctional facilities, such as prisons and jails. *557 copies of our "primary text", Alcoholics Anonymous, were purchased.* This includes: the 4th edition (hard and soft cover), pocket edition, 75th anniversary 1st edition, large print edition, and Spanish edition. In addition, *184 copies of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions were purchased.* This includes hard and soft cover, pocket, gift, and large print editions.

A TOTAL of 2,408 pamphlets were provided to groups free of charge.

Of this number, 675 were provided for use in correctional institutions.

Shane W.

- For an up-to date "Calendar of Events" go to: Intergroup5.org
- We will be highlighting a group in every issue of this newsletter. Please submit an article on YOUR home group. Also, Comments/Suggestions: message@intergroup5.org