

VOICE 2

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**  
**AS AN INTERGROUP REP YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO  
SERVE YOUR HOME GROUP, BUT THE ENTIRE ATLANTA AA COMMUNITY**

Intergroup Attendance      March 2019

AG007-Alpharetta  
AG008-Cumming Group  
BG001-Bell, Book and Candle  
BG002-Bishop Lake  
CG005-Clarkston 12 Step Group  
CG035-Common Journey  
CG060-Complete Abandon  
CG085-Changing Lives  
Corrections  
DG014-DeKalb  
EG001-East Atlanta  
EG015-East Cobb  
EG032-Early Sat AA  
EG040-EMSG  
EG041-Early Risers  
FG005-Fayette New Beginnings  
FG007-For the Fun of It  
FG009-Fifth Tradition  
FG011-Five Forks  
FG050-Fresh Start  
FG052-Friendship in Steps  
FG062-Focus on the Solution  
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HG001-How it Works  
HG003-High Noon  
HG019-Heavy Hitters  
HG027-Hillside  
HG034-Holly Springs  
HG080-Happy Wanderers  
HG100-Happy Hour  
IG002-It's in the Book  
IG003-I can't we Can  
KG003-Knots Landing  
LG005-Lunch Bunch  
LG009-Liburn Third Tradition  
LG010-Living in the Solution  
MG010-Memorial Drive Beginners

MG034-Macland  
MG037-Miracles Within  
MG100-No Excuses  
OG004-Trust one day at a Time  
PG020-Primary Purpose Johns Creek  
PG044-Primary Purpose Smyrna  
RG012-Rowland Street  
RG017-Buford Group  
RG030-Rule 62  
RG038-TIAS  
RG067-Robbers Roost  
SG013-Skyland  
SG073-Seven Up  
SG095-Sober Sisters  
SG099-Sober at the Summit  
SG135-Sisters off the Sauce  
TG002-Think it Through Sober  
TG006-Tweleve step sisters  
TG009-Tucker  
TG020-Triangel Evening  
TG030-Twilight  
TG097-Three Legacies  
VG007-AVfV  
WG005-We Can Help  
WG005-Winners Circle  
WG017-Walking Sober  
YG005-Young Adults

New Reps  
Knots Landing-Pam S  
Triangle Evening-Suzy D  
High Noon-Joe M  
Five Forks Sobriety Lilburn-Marion C  
Happy Hour-Riley G  
Rule 62 Buford-Marianne W  
Early Risers Lawrenceville-Ronald B

## Diversity in Simplicity: The Third Tradition

One of the unique blessings of Alcoholics Anonymous is that it connects people from all walks of life who may have otherwise never met. We learn to care for one another, to bond over our common problem and our spiritual solution. In this way, the simplicity of the third tradition allows our arms and hearts to open wider so that our spiritual principles may have a grander impact. After all, *the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.*

We are not required to believe in a specific deity, to be free of a criminal history, or have a clean bill of health. We are only required to have a *desire* to stop drinking. As the long form of the tradition tells us, “Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover.”

This inclusivity-all based on a singular requirement-helps bring us into oneness, into unity, and into a shame-free and judgment-free zone. This sets the foundation for us to safely begin practicing rigorous honesty, clearing the wreckage of our past, and ultimately sharing this message with others.

Prior to the establishment of the traditions, many A.A. group members created a laundry list of requirements and regulations to predicate whether a person was “allowed” to be a member. Was this not a collective effort of self-will run riot? Were we not actors trying to run the show? The text tells us that when we act from self-will, “we are almost always in collision with something or somebody, even though our motives are good.”

Likely, these members were trying to protect the refuge they’d found. And yet, as we have discovered through working with others and practicing the A.A. principles in all our affairs, we can only keep what we have by giving it away, by sharing it with others. So why limit our reach?

Thankfully, the members’ well-intentioned guidelines were dropped and replaced by a simple, one-sentence tradition. This tradition tells us that you are a member of A.A. if *you* say so. We each are the only ones who can arrive at our own sense of readiness-of willingness-to be involved in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In *We Agnostics*, the text states, “We talked of intolerance, while we were intolerant ourselves. We missed the reality and the beauty of the forest because we were diverted by the ugliness of some of its trees.” It also pleads that we lay aside prejudice. There is no need to use [what we perceive as] others’ shortcomings as a basis of condemnation. This type of self-righteousness will only make us sick, and certainly will hinder others from getting the fair chance they deserve.

And so, as we listen to one another’s stories and learn to focus on similarities rather than differences, we begin to find areas where we overlap. We find commonalities and we connect on a deeper level. We discover that, no matter our personal background or beliefs or preferences, we alcoholics can understand, support, and help one another in a way no one else can.

Tradition three succeeds due to its simplicity. We have learned that we should neither punish nor deprive any A.A. of membership. We’ve realized that to take away any alcoholic’s full chance (based on standards we think ought be in place) could condemn that person to misery or even death.

**Love and tolerance of others is our code.** The third tradition keeps us in alignment with this code, ensuring that we lay down our prejudices and judgments, and instead welcome all who feel they are welcome. We offer our fellowship to them, and together we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

-Submitted by Jen B, Breakfast Club Group, Woodstock, GA

# Faithful Fivers

Faithful Fivers is a way to support the operations of the Atlanta Central Office

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FAITHFUL FIVERS! (listed here)

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST AND HELP SUPPORT THE AA SERVICE STRUCTURE IN METRO  
ATLANTA

You can contribute \$5.00/month or \$60.00/once per year

## FAITHFUL FIVERS

Janet B	McAllison H	Marcia P
Marcus B	Kimberly H	Janet R
Elaine B	Jerry H	Ellen R
Tim B	Tim J	Susanne R
Carolyn B	Tommy J	Mark R
David B	Marcy J	Sharon R
Linda C	Patricia K	Erik R
Michael C	Lynn L	William S
Pam C	Richard L	Michael S
Carol D	Tom L	Robert S
Melody D	Eileen L	Jane S
Frances D	Jane Mc	Jennifer S
Diane E	Paul Mc	Rebecca T
Katherine J	Michelle Mc	Karen T
Andrew F	Patrick M	Richard W
Margaret J	Thomas M	Donald W
Mark G	Pat K	Ivy W

## WILLING TO BELIEVE

A famous monk admitted that although he had been a priest for many years, he suffered from a serious spiritual contradiction; he just couldn't believe in Biblical "miracles." However, as years passed, he came to realize he was surrounded by every-day "miraculous" events beyond his comprehension such as quantum mechanics, or even electricity. Consequently, he came to believe that Biblical miracles could be placed under the same category. Belief in Biblical miracles then became a decision of his heart, rather than a conclusion of his mind. His uncomfortable contradiction problem was solved! It has been said that faith can take us places denied to reason.

The Big Book tells us that if we are willing to express even a willingness to believe in a power greater than ourselves, we begin to get results (p. 46). What is this but a decision of the heart? The Great Reality deep within on page 55—meaning God—can be accepted same as the monk's acceptance. Step Two can be simply a leap of faith. Yet, our fellowship offers a more concrete logical evidence. Bill W's. Oxford Group spiritual mentor, Reverend Sam Shoemaker, related that "Step Two is not so much theological as it is evidential." We are surrounded with members of various lengths of sobriety; most all them tell us their sobriety was contingent on their relationship with a power greater than themselves. Just think, eighty- three years ago we had only a few members, now we have over two-million saying the same thing!

So, a decision of the heart, plus, the logical evidence sitting next to me at meetings, made my newfound "willingness to believe" a no-brainer. As time passed, I noticed that the members who spoke of having a vital spiritual experience were staying sober, and so have I. Thank you God.

Bob S., Richmond, IN

**Your Atlanta Central Office:**

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**(404) 525-3178**

**Garage parking for the 260/270 buildings is accessible via Spring St/Ted Turner Blvd**

**Mailing address:**

**Atlanta Central Office P.O. Box 1215 Atlanta, GA 30301**

**Don't forget: Monthly intergroup meetings take place at NABA. Come visit us in person during the week**

**Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit us online at: ATLANTAAA.ORG**

**You can look up Central Office information, as well as meetings in the area, using the website.**

**Upcoming Intergroup Meetings**

<b>May 5, 2019</b>	<b>1:30 - 2:30</b>
<b>June 2, 2019</b>	<b>1:30 - 2:30</b>
<b>July 2, 2019</b>	<b>1:30 - 2:30</b>

**We look forward to seeing the Intergroup Reps**

**And anyone from your group interested in getting involved in service!**