

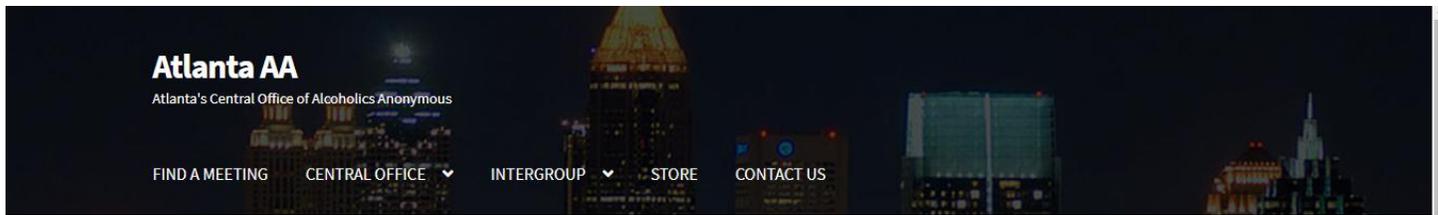
VOICE 2

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!
AS AN INTERGROUP REP YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR HOME
GROUP AND THE GREATER ATLANTA AA COMMUNITY**

Intergroup Attendance November 2019

1. AG007 Alpharetta
2. BG001 Bell, Book, and Candle
3. BG024 Blue Chips
4. BG033 Breakfast Club HOW Place
5. BG066 Carry the message
6. CG005 Clarkston 12 Step
7. CG008 Cascade
8. CG037 Common Journey
9. CG046 Cartersville Study
10. CG069 Candlelight
11. CG069 Chapter 3
12. DG014 DeKalb
13. EG001 East Atlanta
14. EG002 East Point
15. EG002 East Point
16. EG004 Easy 1, 2, 3
17. EG036 East Buford
18. EG040 EMSG
19. FG005 Fayette New Beginnings
20. FG007 For the Fun of it
21. FG009 Fifth Tradition
22. FG011 Five Forks Sobriety
23. FG052 Friendship in step
24. GG013 Grateful
25. GG051 Glenwood
26. GG095 Grace
27. HG010 Highland Serenity
28. HG026 The Hope
29. HG034 Holly Springs
30. HG080 Happy Wanderers
31. HG100 Happy Hour
32. IG002 It's in the book
33. IG003 I can't We can
34. KG014 KISS
35. MG010 Memorial Drive Beginners
36. MG037 Miracles Within
37. MG046 Morning Miracles
38. Miracles Happen
39. New Beginnings
40. NG004 New Rush Hour Relief
41. NG016 North Marietta
42. NG017 Northwest
43. OG040
44. PG019 Poncey-Highlands
45. PG020 Primary Purpose
46. PG044 Primary Purpose
47. PG104 Primary Purpose
48. RG012 Rowland Street
49. RG067 Robbers Roost
50. RG070 Rock Springs
51. SG013 Skyland
52. SG030 Serenity
53. SG073 7Up
54. SG115 Shiloh
55. SG135 SOS
56. TG002 Think it through Sober
57. TG002 Think it through Sober
58. TG012 Ten PM Galano
59. TG020 Triangle Evening
60. TG030 Twilight
61. TG065 TUMS
62. TG097 Three Legacies
63. TG180 TGIF
64. VG007 A Vision for You
65. WE001 We've Had Enough
66. Wg005 We Can Help
67. WG025 Women's Big Book
68. WG039 West Cobb

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE!



Welcome!

Welcome to the web pages of the Atlanta Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. The [Central Office](#), by AA tradition, exists primarily as a service organization. It is the first point of contact with AA for many who believe they may have a drinking problem. It's an AA member at our office who answers the phone when anyone in the eighteen-county area calls Alcoholics Anonymous.

What is AA?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination or politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. **Our primary purpose is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.**

HOTLINE

404-525-3178

The Atlanta AA hotline is answered daily 9 AM - 12 AM. Call to reach volunteers for help and information on AA meetings. There are over 1,200 AA meetings each week in Atlanta.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[66th Georgia State Prepaid Convention](#)

October 17 - October 20

We are very excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website. Visit us at atlantaaa.org. We wanted to make the new website easier to navigate and more user-friendly. Here are some exciting new features:

Mobile-friendly

The website adjusts to fit all screen sizes so it can be easily viewed on mobile and tablet devices.

New Map View Meeting Finder

Switch to map view and see all meetings around you based on your current location.

Telephone Hotline Information

Find detailed telephone hotline information and an online sign up form.

Newsletters

Submit article suggestions and download issues of our newsletter, *Voice 2*.

How to have Announcements listed on the website calendar or newsletter

Is your group having its anniversary?

Would you like having an announcement listed on the A.A. Central Office website calendar?

These announcements can be workshops, group anniversaries, local conferences, or District events, not including monthly group birthday celebrations.

Please submit these entries to the Central Office by the 20th of the month before the event.

Information may be emailed to; atlantaaa@mindspring.com mailed to; P.O. Box 1215 Atlanta, GA 30301, or faxed; 404-525-0047.

The Central Office will review before posting.

Please let us know of your special A.A. Events so they can be included on the website calendar.

Article: Tradition Four

Short form: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Long form: With respect to its own affairs, each AA Group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect AA as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Autonomy is what my grandmother would have called a 75 cent word, and I'm sure I didn't know the definition when I came into AA. Now, if you had asked me for a definition, I am sure I would have made one up for you (and then gotten angry if you argued with me), but today I have just enough humility to be able to consult a dictionary. According to the Google dictionary, autonomy means "the right or condition of self-government; freedom from external control or influence; independence." In short, Tradition 4 tells us that each AA Group may conduct its affairs with no other authority than its own Group Conscience.

One of the most unique aspects of AA is that unlike essentially every large organization on Earth, we have no government. Instead, we have Trusted Servants at several organizational levels, but all they do is oversee the services that support our overall AA work. There is not one single AA member in our service structure who is given authority over any other. Bill Wilson wrote in *AA Comes of Age* that in the early days he felt that he would be able to *manage* AA from New York. After all, he reasoned, wasn't he one of the folks who started this society? It didn't take very long for him to realize that the AA Groups simply would not stand for that (to use a familiar term, they were *unmanageable*). He goes on to express the opinion that he heard from the Groups, "We like what you are doing. Sometimes your suggestions and advice are good. But whether to take you or leave you alone is going to be *our* decision. Out in the groups we are going to run

our own show. We are not going to have a personal government in New York, or anywhere else. Services, yes. But government, no.” Bill eventually heard this message loudly and clearly, and it has been distilled as the essence of Tradition 4.

One of the things that Tradition 4 guarantees us is the “right to be wrong” as Bill put it. A new group could start up and decide to try for sobriety in any way they saw fit. As Bill writes in *AA Comes of Age* (pg 105), “They could disagree with any or all of AA’s principles and still call themselves an AA group.” Bill goes on to say that they would eventually most likely fail unless they adopted the same principles that we have learned are necessary to maintain our unity and sobriety. And if they somehow came up with ideas that worked better than AA Traditions, these would likely be adopted by AA for general use everywhere. Bill notes that this level of liberty “prevents AA from becoming a frozen set of dogmatic principles that could not be changed even when obviously wrong.”

It may seem that such complete freedom would be an invitation to chaos and anarchy... if any AA group could decide to run its meetings in any way. How could any sense of order or unity be maintained without some form of enforceable compliance or discipline? It turns out that in AA we have a built-in disciplinarian, which is alcohol. If an individual AA member fails to take the 12 steps and enlarge his or her spiritual life, they will almost certainly not stay sober. Likewise, If a group deviates too far from AA Traditions, it almost certainly will break down from within. These are not punishments that come from any AA authority, they are the natural result of failing to apply the life-sustaining spiritual principles of our steps and traditions. Thus we need no authority or government to enforce compliance to AA traditions and practices.

In the March 1948 Grapevine article on Tradition 4, Bill says that “an AA group could, if it wished, hire a preacher and support him out of the proceeds of a group night club.” Hey! That's great! Let's get a paid preacher in our AA group and set up a nightclub to fund his salary!! What???

Bill says that although this would be in violation of many of our Traditions, still the group’s “right to be wrong” would be respected. There would be no AA authority who would come out and “shut down” such an operation, though the group might hear grumblings from local AA members including those within the erring group. The spiritual flaws inherent in such an arrangement would in short order either cause the group to rethink its plans, or it would simply fall apart on its own. It certainly would not be a power of attraction for most alcoholics.

At the same time, the “right to be wrong” should never become a rationale for doing something we know is in conflict with AA Traditions, or for taking action that might harm other groups or the standing AA at large. As it says in the second part of the long form of Tradition 4, others who might be affected should be consulted. “Consultation” with others is itself a spiritual practice for

most of us in AA. We have learned to consult with our sponsors when we are disturbed, or before taking action on important matters. Similarly, when we face new challenges we often seek out those in our AA circles who have had similar experiences and ask their opinion. In the same sense, a group should never hesitate to consult with other groups (or AA service bodies) when there is any doubt about a course of action. Most of us have come to believe that we should be cautious and respectful to this amazing Fellowship that has saved our very lives, and so we consult others in AA who might be affected by our actions. In general, none of us wants to be responsible for upsetting the apple cart of AA. As the long form of the 4th Tradition ends, so will I, "On such matters our common welfare is paramount."

John S. – Atlanta, 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

Contact Central Office to become one!

FAITHFUL FIVERS

Janet B
Marcus B
Elaine B
Tim B
Carolyn B
David B
Jackie C
Linda C
Michael C
Pam C
Carol D
Daniel D
Melody D
Frances D
Diane E
Katherine J
Andrew F
Margaret J
Mark G
Bob H
Greg H

McAllison H
Kimberly H
Jerry H
Tim J
Tommy J
Marcy J
Benjamin K
Margarite K
Patricia K
Lynn L
Richard L
Tom L
Eileen L
Jane Mc
Paul Mc
Michelle Mc
Patrick M
Thomas M
Pat K
Marcia P
Janet R

Ellen R
Matt R
Susanne R
Mark R
Sharon R
Erik R
Brad S
Laura S
William S
Michael S
Robert S
Jane S
Jennifer S
Matthew T
Rebecca T
Karen T
Richard W
Donald W
Ivy W

NEW MEETINGS!

Canton Women's
St. Clement's Church
2795 Ridge RD
Canton, GA 30114
12:00 Noon C, BB,S,T, HA

Beltline
Chabad Intown
730 Ponce De Leon Place
Atlanta, GA
5:00PM O,OD

3-Legacies
Freedom Club
47 North Fairground St.
Marietta, GA 30060
Mon. 6:30pm O,BB
Thurs. 12:00pm noon
OD

One Step At A Time
Calvary Grove Baptist Church
3167 Zion ST
Scottsdale, GA 30079
Tues. 5:30pm , CD

Your Atlanta Central Office:

270 Peachtree Street Suite 1060 Atlanta, GA 30303

(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

January 12, 2020	1:30 - 2:30
February 2, 2020	1:30 - 2:30
March 1, 2020	1:30 - 2:30

**We look forward to seeing the Intergroup Reps
and anyone from your group interested in getting involved in service**

We close this issue with a poem:

Addiction to Recovery

**I have a disease that centers in the brain,
It tells me lies and I can't refrain.**

**It tells me "It will be different this time,
Just a little you'll be fine."**

**The cycle of addiction went round and
round,
No peace in my heart could be found.**

**For fifteen years I fell for it,
Until one day, I said; "I'm sick of this!"**

**On this day, I sat on my bed,
I didn't listen to my head.**

**I followed my heart that is all,
It encouraged me to make the call.**

**I picked up the phone and called AA,
I didn't know what I would say.**

**She answered the phone, gave her story
and name.
My life after that was never the same**

**I carried some burdens from my past,
They told me, "don't drink, follow the
steps, your burdens won't last."**

**They said, "Take it one day at a time.
I promise, you will be fine."**

**At first I thought it was just the drink,
But now I know that's how I think.**

**I worked with a sponsor, did what I was
told.
That's when sober life started to unfold.**

**I've had some new skills to learn and
growing up to do,
They said, "Keep going you'll find the real
you!"**

**When pain would come and I felt like it
would last,
I'd call my sponsor, she'd say, "This too
shall pass."**

**As long as I have a sober friend,
I don't need to feel alone again.**

**When life gets tough, I take it hour by hour,
But luckily now I have a Higher Power.**

**I've learned never to take a drink,
And not to believe everything I think.**

**I never thought I could live this way,
It's been quite a journey, I must say.**

**I now wake up with gratitude,
And hope to share this gift with you.**

**I've found addiction to recovery,
is the process of self-discovery.**

**Kim L.
Sobriety date: 8/6/1986**