



## ATLANTA CENTRAL OFFICE

**[www.atlantaaa.org](http://www.atlantaaa.org)**

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270 Peachtree Street Suite  
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Office Hours:

M-F 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

### UPCOMING

**INTERGROUP MEETINGS**  
NABA - 1809 BRIARWOOD RD NE, ATLANTA

March 1, 2020 @ 1:30 PM

April 5, 2020 @ 1:30 PM

May 3, 2020 @ 1:30 PM

### 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 20 th of the month before the  
event.

Information may be emailed to;  
[atlantaaa@mindspring.com](mailto: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

1ST QTR 2020

# VOICE 2

*Quarterly Newsletter of Atlanta Intergroup*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Submissions from Atlanta AA's

- Online Contribution Info
- January Intergroup Attendance
- 2020 GALs Conference March 13-15
- Finish Well, My Friend
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## ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS NOW AVAILABLE

**It's now easier than ever to make your group  
and individual contributions to Central Office,  
including Faithful Fivers!**

**Visit our Donate page to make your  
contribution today!**

If you are making a group contribution, please read the instructions  
for entering your Group Code on the payment form.

*"Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us –  
the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee,  
snacks and A.A. Literature. We support our central office,  
our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it  
were not for those entities, many new people would never  
discover the miracles of A.A."*

# Intergroup Attendance January 2020

<b>IAG001 AA of Paulding County</b>	<b>OG005 One Breath at a Time</b>
<b>AG007 Alpharetta</b>	<b>PG019 Poncey Highlands</b>
<b>AG014 Abernathy</b>	<b>PG020 Primary Purpose</b>
<b>AG051 Alphafemales</b>	<b>PG314 Perimeter Group</b>
<b>BG030 Boys 2 Men</b>	<b>RG012 Rowland Street</b>
<b>BG066 Carry the Message</b>	<b>RG038 There Is a Solution</b>
<b>BG080 Bottom Feeders</b>	<b>RG056 Dunwoody Solutions</b>
<b>CG005 Clarkston 12 Step</b>	<b>SG001 Solutions</b>
<b>CG014 Clean Air</b>	<b>SG002 Salem New Life</b>
<b>CG037 Common Journey</b>	<b>SG013 Skyland</b>
<b>CG069 Candlelight</b>	<b>SG030 Serenity</b>
<b>DG014 Dekalb</b>	<b>SG073 Seven Up</b>
<b>EG001 East Atlanta</b>	<b>SG095 Sober Sisters</b>
<b>EG004 Easy 1, 2, 3</b>	<b>SG115 Shiloh Road</b>
<b>EG015 East Cobb</b>	<b>SG121 Senoia Second Chance</b>
<b>EG032 Early Sat Morning</b>	<b>TG002 Think it Through Sober</b>
<b>EG036 East Buford</b>	<b>TG009 Tucker</b>
<b>EG040 Early Morning Study Group</b>	<b>TG012 Ten PM Galano</b>
<b>EG041 Early Risers</b>	<b>TG021 Tri Night Flight</b>
<b>FG006 For the Fun of it</b>	<b>TG030 Twilight Group</b>
<b>FG009 Fifth Tradition</b>	<b>TG033 Turin Lost and Found</b>
<b>FG011 Five Forks</b>	<b>TG097 Three Legacies</b>
<b>FG026 First things First</b>	<b>TG180 TGIF</b>
<b>FG052 Friendship in Step</b>	<b>UG006 Uncommon Sense</b>
<b>FG062 Focus on the Solution</b>	<b>WE001 We've Had Enough</b>
<b>GG049 Greenhouse</b>	<b>WG005 We Can Help</b>
<b>GG051 Glenwood</b>	<b>WG039 West Cobb</b>
<b>HG001 How it Works</b>	
<b>HG010 Highland Serenity</b>	<b>New Reps</b>
<b>HG027 Hillside</b>	<b>Carry the Message —Jack S</b>
<b>HG034 Holly Springs</b>	<b>East Cobb – Tom B</b>
<b>HG080 Happy Wanderers</b>	<b>Focus on the Solution – Lauren J</b>
<b>HG111 Happy Hour</b>	<b>Keystone – Danielle B</b>
<b>IG002 It's in the book</b>	<b>Living Sober – Rodger T</b>
<b>JG008 Journey of Days</b>	<b>Miracles Within – Wendy G</b>
<b>KG004 Keystone</b>	<b>No Expectations – Scott R</b>
<b>LG009 Lilburn Third Tradition</b>	<b>Poncey Highlands Women – Jessica S</b>
<b>LG028 Living Sober</b>	<b>Salem New Life – Patricia C</b>
<b>MG010 Memorial Drive Beginners</b>	<b>Sober Sisters – Mary Clare K</b>
<b>MG037 Miracles Within</b>	<b>Think it Through Sober – Dale E</b>
<b>NG004 Rush Hour</b>	<b>Tri Night Flight – Amanda Mc</b>
<b>NG016 North Marietta</b>	<b>Tucker Group – Mark S</b>
<b>NG044 No Expectations</b>	<b>Turin Lost and Found – Kim P</b>
<b>OG004 Trust One Day at a time</b>	<b>Uncommon Sense – James K</b>
	<b>We've Had Enough – Debbie T</b>
	<b>New Alternates</b>
	<b>There Is a Solution – George H</b>
	<b>Tucker – Alicia M</b>
	<b>Early Morning Study – Chris M</b>

# **“Each group has but one primary purpose— to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.” Tradition Five**

## **Our Providential Primary Purpose**

This writer was born at City Hospital in Akron, Ohio. At 3 years old his family moved to Florida. He never had any further connection to the area until he came into A.A. in 2008 at the age of 56. In 2017 over 60 years past, he returned for the first time with his older brother and only surviving sibling for Founders Day celebrations. Visits to the Mayflower Hotel lobby and the Seiberling Estate Gate House were highlights of his pilgrimage.

I am a firm believer in the idea of providence which basically means that God- or if you want, our Higher Power- is involved in each of our lives. What I used to describe as coincidence, I am now convinced are small miracles, or God showing up in the nick of time! From the 12 & 12, page 151: “It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away.” I refer to this aspect of providence as a divine paradox. Or sometimes expressed, to become first you must be last, strength is borne from weakness, victory stems from surrender. My most gracefully enriching sponsorship experiences all align with this great divine paradox manifesting as the teacher becomes the pupil. And, I find myself wondering who is sponsoring who?

I marvel in wonder at the miraculous examples of providential primary purpose that dotted the landscape during the embryonic stage of our fellowship starting with Ebby Thatcher's visit with Bill W. It was the very first 12 Step call- before there were 12 Steps! (Big Book pg. 9). Or, how about wife Lois's remarks to Bill W. when he dejectedly returned from the Bowery with no new alcoholic converts? She pointed out that he himself was still sober! Perhaps the most providential of all primary purpose events of Alcoholics Anonymous' emergence was that day in Akron, Ohio in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel when a dispirited Bill W. decided to make a phone call to locate another alcoholic, instead of turning toward the lobby bar. After a couple unsuccessful calls and ready to give up he noticed the name Tunks and the rest is .....well, you know.

– Bradford B, Marietta, Ga.



## **GALS CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 13TH-15TH**

**[HTTPS://WWW.GRATEFULGALS.COM/](https://www.gratefulgals.com/)**

This is a weekend of fun and fellowship with women in sobriety. It is an event that will enhance our journey together, sharing in our experience, strength and hope. The weekend includes speakers, workshops, hiking and camp fire meetings. GALS was formed in 2011 by several women who came together as a collective voice with the desire to offer an AA approved conference for women. GALS is an event that enables women to experience the fellowship and to receive an undiluted, back to basics message. The GALS conference focuses on unity and intimacy in the format of one scheduled event at a time. The weekend brings together women from all across the state of Georgia and beyond. Full and partial scholarships are available. Go to the website to register or get more information. You won't want to miss it!! Share this message with your groups!

## **FINISH WELL, MY FRIEND**

Where do I begin? There was a time, long, long ago when I thought I could discern the beginning from the end. Now, all I know for certain, is that the beginning isn't quite as important as the end of one's story. In the end we all want to finish well, don't we? Today, this day, I know I do.

That wasn't the case 11 months ago, 11 months ago I thought it was the end, the end of the miserable existence I called life. A life that I wanted to take by my own hand. It was a night that was pitch black, no moon, but plenty of lightning and thunder as the rain poured down in a barrage of drops that could have drowned me much quicker than the bottle of vodka I was using to steady myself for a dull syringe, in a dark garage, with enough poison to kill a horse.

You see, I have a bad strain of an illness that causes me to do terrible things. Terrible things to you, terrible things to me, and terrible things to all those around me who love, and care, about what happens to me. I do it under the illusion that I am a victim of circumstance. I have been treated unfairly by you, by life, by GOD, and I will show you, by hurting me; in a manner that causes a great deal of destruction and devastation. You see, my name is Larry and I am an alcoholic. No better or worse than any other alcoholic, no better or worse than any other individual. Just a powerless person who's pride puts him in a position of superiority, or perhaps inferiority, depending on what I think you want, so I can get what I need, from you by any means necessary. Manipulation is a practiced skill, honed, and perfected for the survival of a dis-ease that does not want to die.

However, just like the book tells us, “Inside every man, woman, and child is the fundamental knowledge of God” ...that same God which I thought had treated me unfairly, that seemed so far away and non-existent, actually, loved me and wanted to save my life. Looking back, I can see that without a doubt I would not be here to write about the insanity, the brokenness, and the gift of desperation if not for the intervention of a Higher Power. On the spiritual level it looks like the penitentiary, the mental institution, jails, detoxes, overdoses, the hospital, and then if we are fortunate, the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. The place that where, “No matter how far down the scale we have gone”, the worst things that we have done, the tragic events that have happened in our lives, our deepest, darkest secrets, can all be brought to the light and our experience with these things can benefit those around us. Thus, giving our lives purpose and meaning, an incredible calling to break the chains of self-centeredness, to burst free from the shackles of shame, and be willing to be relieved and freed from the bondage of self.

Alcoholics anonymous is the beginning of an incredible life, upon the death of that miserable, rotten, existence we called living. If you continue on the broad highway of love, tolerance, and compassion you will end up with a story that surpasses anything you could possibly think of, or imagine. Join us on our journey one day at a time, one alcoholic to another alcoholic, and as Bill says in the book Alcoholics Anonymous pg 8 “be catapulted into what I like to call the fourth dimension of existence.”

–LARRY B, ATLANTA, GA



# Fear. What Is It Good For?

Absolutely nothing. I didn't fully understand fear before I joined A.A. The first time working through the Steps my sponsor asked "what are you afraid of," my immediate thoughts were spiders and clowns. Fear is much bigger than that and more subconscious than one would think. Looking back at my list of resentments, fear played a much larger part than I realized. It wasn't just fear that caused problems for me. Anger and resentment were also at the root. It wasn't until I completed the 4th Step inventory and examined these emotions. Unfortunately A.A. isn't going to do much for my fear of spiders and clowns, but a fear which is "an evil and corroding thread" (Big Book, pg. 67). This is "self-centered fear," a fear primarily revolving around loss and failure: fear of losing what we have or not being able to get what we want. It is, we are told, the "chief activator" (12&12, Step 7, p. 76) of our character defects. We want what we want and we want it so badly that we are blinded to what we do to get it or keep it and the resulting collateral damage. We cheat, lie, steal, and otherwise do ill. Then we fear the consequences. It becomes a vicious cycle. Fear drives us to do wrong, and doing wrong drives us to fear. When you think about it, fear only exists when thinking about yourself. At least, that's the case for me. Luckily A.A. is a simple program, yet requires hard work, and gave me an alternative. I had to replace fear with faith. "Faith and fear can't co-exist." I thought about that a long time after the first time I heard it. It was so true, for me. Now don't get me wrong, if I happen across Pennywise or a spider the size of a school bus, I'm f\*\*k\*\*g running! This program, along with the help of my sponsor, taught me that I had been living on self-will. Self-will run riot. If I'm going to last in recovery, I must live in the will of my Higher Power. My self-will caused my problems, not God. God has done things for me, not to me. I have to have faith that God has my back and I'm right where I'm supposed to be at this moment.

***"When I take back my self-will and stop living my life how God wants me to, I'm not going to be ok. All that will do is put me in the driver's seat of the crazy train."***

When reviewing my inventory, not every fear was connected to a resentment. What was I still afraid of? Was it because my reliance on self had failed? Self-reliance hadn't worked for me. I thought I had great self-confidence, when in fact that "confidence" made everything worse. When I take back my self-will and stop living my life how God wants me to, I'm not going to be ok. All that will do is put me in the driver's seat of the crazy train. That train will take me right back to where I was, or worse. If I'm living in self-will, fear is in control and fear causes nothing but trouble. Fear is a feeling, feelings aren't facts. Feelings won't kill you, but killing your feelings will. Faith brings me peace. Now my self-confidence is a confidence in God. This doesn't mean things will always be perfect, there are times I'm not going to get "my way", now I just understand there's a reason for everything and I may not know the reason. This is where faith comes in. When fear pops up in my life, I have the tools to help me get back in the right state of mind. If it were not for the 12-step program, I'd still be destroying my life. I am forever grateful that the program reconnected and changed my perception of my Higher Power. For the first time ever, I love myself and I have peace. An inner peace I didn't think existed. Now, I try to share my experience strength, and hope with others suffering from alcoholism so they may too experience this peace that was so freely given to me.