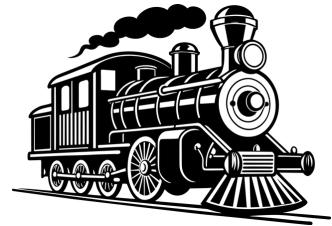




Visit Website

INTERGROUP-EXPRESS

January—February 2026, Vol 46 #1



Lee County Area Intergroup, 7050 Winkler Rd. #119, Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 275-5111—Email: leeintergroup@gmail.com—Website: <https://leecountyaa.org>

***NEW* Office Hours in 2026**
10:00am-6:00pm Monday—Friday
Closed on weekends

New Year, New Opportunities

If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living. Gail Sheehy

CHANGE

From Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks 1951-1970.
Transformation: AA in an Era of Change, 1960. Reprinted with permission from AAWS, Inc.

1960 — 25th year of the Fellowship; 22nd year of the trusteeship; 10th year of the Conference.

"We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won't change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service — let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever. There is a very natural resistance that we have toward change. We are apt to say, "Well, it worked very well the way it was. Why change?" But, after all, we have undertaken several tremendous changes. You will remember that in the very early days people said, "Why a self-appointed trusteeship?" Later people said, "Why a book?" And now, in 1960, many people say, "Why a Conference?" So I cite that to show that on good evidence, with the need clearly in sight, we are indeed ready to make all kinds of changes. Not that any great changes are in prospect, but I think we ought to stay open-minded on this matter of change. We reference the past and its lessons for so long as those teachings work. When they don't, we readapt and we reshift. That has been our history.

Sometimes, however, we go to the other tack, throwing out the baby with the bathwater, ignoring the lessons of the past. We might want to change, but we must also understand the past and its lessons. In connection with this service Conference, I have been trying to do a set of interpretive essays, or rather articles, and have cast up a new batch of points called "Twelve Concepts for World Service." You'll remember that our Third Legacy Manual, except for its brief historical sketch, is a manual of procedure. It tells you the how — how we serve as group representatives, as committeemen, as delegates, as trustees, directors, staff and so on. Now, these essays would attempt, on the basis of the lessons of the past and of our history, to show the why of it. How did we happen to get related together in this way, and what have been the lessons?"

NOTE: "About 50,000 copies of the Third Legacy pamphlet, which contained the proposal to form the General Service Conference, were distributed in November and December 1950."

Our Great Responsibility and the Third Legacy pamphlet are available for purchase at the Intergroup office.

Service

Good for Your Recovery

Lee County Area Intergroup

- ⇒ Get involved in our 12 Step Call program, Speaker Exchange, as a volunteer at the office/store, or join a fundraising committee
- ⇒ Attend the monthly meeting—3rd Thursday, 6:30pm, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- ⇒ Become an Intergroup Representative for your home group

District 7

- ⇒ Become a General Service Representative for your home group
- ⇒ Attend the monthly meeting—last Sunday, 2:00pm, YANA Foundation, Fort Myers
- ⇒ Join a committee:

Accessibilities—Bob L—accessibilities@district7area15aa.org
Archives—Kathie W—archives@district7area15aa.org
Corrections—Linda S—corrections@district7area15aa.org

*Corrections committee meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm on Zoom**

Grapevine—Martin C—grapevine@district7area15aa.org

*Grapevine committee meets monthly on the 3rd Monday at 6:30pm on Zoom**

Literature—Deb F—literature@district7area15aa.org

Outreach—Steve M—outreach@district7area15aa.org

*Outreach committee meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday at 9am on Zoom**

PI/CPC (Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community)—Shawna C—picpc@district7area15aa.org

*PI/CPC committee meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 7pm on Zoom**

Treatment—Kyle—treatment@district7area15aa.org

Treatment committee meets monthly on the 1st Sunday at 2:00pm at YANA

Website—Nick S—website@district7area15aa.org



***ZOOM DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE DISTRICT 7 WEBSITE AT DISTRICT7AREA15AA.ORG.**



RULE 62: “Don’t take yourself too damn seriously.”

~ Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 149



- ⇒ I tried the Japanese method of decluttering where you hold every object you own and if it does not bring you joy, you throw it away. So far I have thrown out all of the vegetables, my bra, the electric bill, the scale, a mirror, and my treadmill.
- ⇒ There's no need to drive me crazy, I'm close enough to walk.
- ⇒ Of all the things I've lost, I miss my metabolism the most.
- ⇒ When you're at the checkout line and they ask you if you found everything, say "Why, are you hiding stuff?"
- ⇒ Someone tore off my warning label when I was born.
- ⇒ If you want to impress me with your car, it better be a food truck.
- ⇒ Nothing betrays your age more than the slang you won't let go of.
- ⇒ I'm kinda the total package ... that got messed up through shipping and handling.
- ⇒ I'd like to unsubscribe from my own thoughts.
- ⇒ Is "Ugh" an emotion? Because I feel it all the time.
- ⇒ Here's to another year of adult injuries: slept wrong, sat down too long, sneezed too hard.
- ⇒ Do not ask me for life advice. You will end up with a new dog or cat.
- ⇒ Imagine how much sound a centipede would make if it wore tiny flip flops.
- ⇒ I'm not much on seizing the day. I just kinda poke it with a stick.
- ⇒ I have lived to see 7/7/77, 8/8/88, 9/9/99, 10/10/10, 11/11/11, 12/12/12, 2/2/22 and 12/31/23. Guess I'm old.

Office Monthly

I want to first wish everyone a happy new year. May this year be a gift of sobriety and joy filled life. May your challenges be met without fear and your successes be embraced with humility.

I was cruising Facebook the other day and came upon a page that I wanted to share. I understand that Facebook is not AA conference approved literature, but sometimes there's some good stuff there. Here we go.

“Fear does not stop death, it stops life.”

“If it costs you your peace, it’s too expensive.”

“People only see the decisions that you have made, not the choices you had.”

“Ships are safe in the harbor, but that’s not what they are built for.”

“Ambition without action turns into anxiety.”

“Those who don’t move don’t notice their chains.”

“To live a life most people don’t, you must be willing to do what most people won’t.”

“It’s okay to live a life most people don’t understand.”

We can find inspiration in many places, if we’re willing to look for them. I’ve found good stuff in movies. In Kung Foo Panda, “Yesterday is History, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift. That is why they call it the present.”

And from Star Wars, “Try? Try not! Do, or do not! There is no try.”

Look around you. There’s knowledge and wisdom all around us.

And may the Force be with you!

Tim B., Lee County Area Intergroup Chairperson.

Our First Annual Holiday Pig Roast was a big success!

THANK YOU!

On December 22, 2025, we received an email from the AAWS Board Chair and the GSO General Manager informing us of a price increase that will go into effect on February 1, 2026. Book prices will increase by \$3.00 and all other literature items, such as pamphlets, will increase by 15%. The only exceptions are the *Alcoholics Anonymous Facsimile First Printing of the First Edition* (no change in price) and *AA for the Older Alcoholic* (15% instead of \$3.00 increase).

I attend a weekly meeting with managers from other Intergroups and Central Offices throughout the US and Canada. We have discussed this price increase several times and shared ideas for how best to prepare our offices for the change.

Here, at Lee County Area Intergroup, we have ordered a surplus of Big Books and 12&12's in advance of the increase. By doing so, we can delay an increase in our cost and also make a little more money when the retail price increases. This “little bit extra” helps us continue our mission of helping our local Fellowship carry the message of AA beyond the groups and into our community.

Stephanie H., Office Manager

Intergroup Steering Committee

Chair: Tim B.; Vice Chair: Casey B.; Treasurer: Joyce D.; Secretary: Gale P.; Members-at-Large (2): VACANT; Office Manager: Stephanie H.

Intergroup Office Volunteers

Andrea F., Deb L., Gary K., Gretchen N., Janet Q., Paula B., Remington L., Roben D., Sandy B., Tom M.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Dec	YTD	Name	Dec	YTD	Name	Dec	YTD
1 2 3 Go Group		50.00	Cape Reflections Group ^		500.00	Just for Today Group		300.00
12&12 Step Study			Central Group		50.00	Just Show Up Group		
1935 Step Group		57.50	Chiquita Bananas Group ^		1250.00	Keep it Real Group		100.00
5 Alive! Beginners	40.00	86.69	Clean Slate Big Book Group		351.37	Keep It Simple Group		294.00
5:30 Group		346.00	Clear the Air Group		1689.50	Kickin Butt on the High Side of Life		
CC Beginners Wed Nt			Courage to Change Women's Group ^	163.50	471.45	LaBelle Group ^		330.00
7&7 Group		330.00	Daily Reprieve Group^		633.80	Lambda Drummers Group		
A New Perspective			Depot Park Men's meeting			Lehigh 12&12		
Anonymous		155.00	Digital Drunks Men's Discussion			Lehigh Acres Group		
A to Z meeting		110.00	Doctor's Opinion Study			Lehigh Big Book Study Mtg		
A Woman's View of ABSI Zoom		223.00	Dragon Fly Group ^		171.34	Lehigh Happy Hour Group		25.48
ABC Beginners Group	220.00	1153.58	Drunkin Donuts Group			Lehigh Sunday Night		
ABSI by the River Group		675.00	Early Riser's Group		800.00	Life Ahead Beginners meeting		
After Hours meeting			Eye on Hope Group ^	600.00	1000.00	Light at Heart Group		500.00
Against All Odds Group			F.B.I. (Friday Book Investigation)			Living Sober (ABSI) Group		
All Lit Up ^		100.00	Favorite Passages in AA literature		113.50	Living Sober by the River Group ^		750.00
Alva A.A. Way Group		450.00	First Things First Group	200.00	921.00	Lunch Hour Group		
Another Peace of Hope ^			Footprints in the Sand			Mad Hatters Group		
As Bill Sees It			Fort Myers Beach Men's Group		270.00	Maintenance Grp (Came to Believe)		
Attitude Adjustment Group		100.00	Fort Myers Group ^		550.00	Meat & Potatoes Group		363.74
B-Happy Joyous & Free Group	71.00	474.03	Fort Myers Prayer & Meditation			Men's Big Book	50.00	50.00
Back to Basics Women's Group		184.37	Fort Myers Shores Group		200.00	Men's Recovery Group ^		250.00
Basics Recovery Meeting			Freethinkers of Bonita Springs Group		305.00	Men's Stag		
Beginners 123			Freethinkers of Fort Myers Group			Mid Day Miracles Group	165.00	391.00
Beginners Big Book Workshop			Fresh Start; Fresh Start Step mtg		200.00	Mixed Nuts		100.00
Being Convinced			Friday Night Beginners Group		360.00	Mon. Morning Big Book Study Group		
Beyond Belief			Friday Night Group			Mon. Morning Sanibel Big Book		75.00
Big Book Babes		113.50	Friday Night Lights			Monday Beginners Big Book		
Big Book Connections Group			Friends of Bill Group		125.00	Monday Big Book Study ^		320.00
Big Book Steppers Group		488.25	Garden Group		100.00	Monday Living Sober Group ^		200.00
Big Book Study			Garden Group Zoom		30.00	Monday Recovery Group (12&12D)		
Big Book Study Group			Get Well Group	100.00	200.00	Morning After Group		388.00
Bike Night Group			Grupo 4 De Julio			Myana Group		152.90
Bonita Banyan Group		415.02	Grupo Aprendiendo a Vivir			New 7:30 Group	116.00	1401.00
Bonita Men's Group		2400.00	Grupo Hispanos de Lehigh			North Fort Myers Group		400.00
Bonita Springs Step Group			Grupo Quinto Paso			Not A Glum Parking Lot Group		430.00
Bonita Springs Womens Step Group		150.00	Grupo Recuperacion de Immokalee			Nuevo Despertar		
Bonita Unity Group			Grupo Sendero de Vida			Nuevo Horizonte		
Book Worms Group	65.00	185.00	H.O.W. Group		150.00	ODAAT		296.00
Bottom of the Barrel Group		300.00	Highsteppers Group			Old Timer's		
Brown Baggers Group	400.00	1800.00	Hotrod Ranch Group	600.00	600.00	Open Door Group		
Buckingham AA Group		408.00	How It Works			Our Primary Purpose Big Book Study		400.00
Calamity Janes Group			Interesting Topic Group		672.00	Parking Lot Meeting		
Calusa Harbor Bunch			It's 5 O'clock Somewhere			PI Groupers		
Cape Connected ^		445.00	Joe & Charlie Big Book			PI Sisters in Sobriety Group		150.00
Cape Coral Bookies Group						Pit meeting		
						Plan of Recovery Group ^		958.00

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Dec	YTD	Name	Dec	YTD
Port LaBelle Group ^		1213.00	Sugarsweet Group		
Precisely How We Have Recovered Group			Sunday Breakfast meeting		
Primary Purpose Group		100.00	Sunday Morning Serenity Group		311.00
Primary Purpose with Joe & Charlie			Sunday Night Group (ABSI Lehigh)		40.00
Principles in All our Affairs			Sunday Speakeasy Group		350.00
Progress Group			Sunlight of the Spirit Group		
Promises of Cape Coral Group	200.00	400.00	Sunshine Sisters Group		142.50
Recovery Group			Support System Group		
Recovery Rocks Group	400.00	1502.00	Survivors Group		100.00
Recovery Too Group			SWFL Women's Speaker mtg		10.00
Refuge for Recovery			T.G.I.F.		
River (Rats) Reflections Group			The Brady Bunch Group ^		460.00
San Carlos Park Group ^		1700.00	The Islanders		500.00
Sanibel Approved AA Literature			The Lunch Break Big Book Meeting		
Sanibel Beginners		125.00	The Nooners Group		1500.00
Sanibel Friday Nite Spkr Group			The Serenity Group		350.00
Sanibel Noon			The Shared Gift	320.00	1305.00
Sanibel Speaker Meeting			The Way Out		
Sanibel Step Meeting		275.00	Toes in the Sand		200.00
Sanibel Survivors Beach Meeting			Tough Love Group	200.00	200.00
Sanibelles			Tuesday Night Step		
Sat Night Open Discussion Group			Tuesday Night Young People's Group		200.00
Saturday Night Beginners Group	235.00	560.00	Upon Awakening		
Saturday Night Women's Group		100.00	Veterans meeting	50.00	50.00
Serenity Group		215.00	Walk with Purpose Group ^	200.00	605.00
Sermon on the Mount			Way of Life Group (aka Way of Living)		200.00
Serving Our Brothers		100.00	We Agnostics		
Singleness of Purpose Group	150.00	850.00	We Care Group		
Sisters in Sobriety Group		220.00	Welcome Home		
Sisters Step Study Group			What It's Like		1478.44
Sober AF			W.I.S.E. Group	378.80	968.57
Sober in East L.A.		115.00	Women of Willingness Group		200.00
Sober on the Shores Group		500.00	Women of Worth Group		
Sobriety at Six			Women's Big Book Group		200.00
Soul Sisters Group		716.26	Women's Daily Reflection meeting		
Southern Women Group ^	287.50	487.50	Women's Evening Meditations Group		
Spiritual Search Group		115.00	Young at Heart Group		285.00
Step & Grow Group			Zoom Sisters Group		
Step Sisters Group		391.50			
Step Sisters in Sobriety Group					
Stepping with the Big Book Group		700.00			
Stepping with the Girls Group		280.00			
Steps to Awakening Group	128.00	1220.43			
Steps to Live By					
Steps to Sobriety					
Steps to Sobriety from the 12 and 12	40.00	234.00			

Did you know?

There are a total of **217** meetings in our area (149 registered as AA groups)

Several meet more than once a week, so there are a total of **360** meetings held every week across Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties and Immokalee (327 in-person and 33 online)

In December, **21** groups and **4** meetings contributed to Intergroup and **21** total were represented^ at the monthly Intergroup Business meeting.

In 2025, contributions were received from 101 groups and 18 meetings.

119 out of a total of 217 = 55%

CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

"There are no dues or fees for membership in A.A., but we do have expenses such as rent, refreshments, A.A. Conference-approved literature, meeting lists, and contributions to services provided by the local intergroup (central office), district and area, and the General Service Office of A.A." (P16 "The A.A. Group ... where it all begins".) *Reprinted with permission of A.A.W.S., Inc.*

Lee County Area, District 7, suggested contributions:

50% to Lee County Intergroup

30% to District 7

10% to Area 15

10% to General Service (NY)

Lee County Area Intergroup

7050 Winkler Rd, Suite 119, Fort Myers, FL 33919

via PayPal at: leecountyaa.org



General Service District 7

P.O. Box 61732, Fort Myers, FL 33906-1732

Area 15 Treasurer

2950 W Cypress Creek Rd, Ste 101 #1097, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

OR via PayPal at: area15aa.org

OR via Zelle to: Treasurer@area15aa.org

General Service Board

PO Box 2407, James A Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407

OR <https://contribution.aa.org>

February Anniversaries



ABC Beginners
2/24/08 Larry H

LaBelle
2/19/07 Cathy O

Nooners
2/28/20 Bob W

Sisters in Sobriety
2/12/07 Elaine K
2/17/04 Melanie E
2/23/08 Edi P

Chiquita Bananas
2/14/88 Jim B
2/15/17 Dennis M
2/13/14 Chris N

Living Sober ABSI
2/20/86 Sharon K

North Fort Myers
2/28/82 John F

W.I.S.E.
2/29/88 Stacey R

Steps to Awakening
2/15/25 Gretchen L
2/4/02 Jo S
2/19/95 Melissa B
2/27/20 Michele B

- Later**
- Tomorrow**
- Today**
- NOW**

1. Submit an updated anniversary list for your meeting every year.
2. If you have changed home groups, inform your previous group.
3. If you have added your name to more than one group's anniversary list, your name will only be included under one group. If you have a preference of which group, please contact the Intergroup Office.
4. When a member of your group dies, please notify the Intergroup Office so that their name can be removed from your group's list.

Introducing the Birthday Plan!

“One Year at a Time”

In grateful celebration of their sobriety birthdays, many A.A. members contribute **one dollar or more** for each year of sobriety to the local Intergroup.

Your birthday contribution will go toward helping the Lee County Area Intergroup provide the following “Vital Services” to all Lee, Hendry, and Glades County A.A. Groups and their members:

Answering **phones** 24 hours a day, providing one-stop **shopping**, publishing the meeting list and monthly newsletter, keeping an up-to-date listing of meetings on the **website** and through the **Meeting Guide App**, and **supporting** all Lee County Area A.A. Groups and Meetings.

Contributions are accepted by mail, at the office, and through our website.

In December, one member celebrated by contributing \$50.00 to Intergroup.

THANK YOU!



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Old Time A.A. Presents: A Benefit for Dr. Bob's Home

Largo, FL

Saturday, January 24, 2026

9:30am-4:30pm

Tickets \$30

Breakfast & Lunch Served

For more information call 352-556-7711 or
email oldtimeaa@gmail.com

Women's Day 2026 "Sisters in Wonderland"

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Doors open 8:15am

Event 9:00am-3:00pm

Tickets \$40

Lunch is included

Broadway Palm Dinner Theater
1380 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers

www.womensdayfortmyers.org

68th Florida State Convention

August 6-9, 2026

Orlando, FL

<https://68.FloridaStateConvention.com>

Space Coast Round-Up 2026

Melbourne, FL

January 29—February 1, 2026

Registration \$45

www.spacecoastroundup.com

Saturday Night Women 1st Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, January 31, 2026
5:30-8:00pm Potluck & Speakers

St. John the Apostle
3049 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers

San Carlos Park Group 41st Anniversary Celebration

Friday, February 27, 2026
6:00pm Potluck & Fellowship
7:30pm Speaker meeting (open)

Estero Church
8188 Lords Way St, Estero

Sisters in Sobriety Conference "Rooted in Recovery"

April 10—12, 2026

Hotel Venezia

Venice, FL

For more information:
info@SISConference.com
Amanda P—954.775.6928

General Service Area 15 Quarterly Assembly

April 10—12, 2026 in Boca Raton

area15aa.org

Do you have information about a sober event? Help us help others.

Please call or email the Intergroup Office with the details.

**It is critical for Intergroup to have information about local sober events:
Sober people in the community call our office for this information.**



When I was new in AA, I went to the meetings and sat in the chairs and drank the coffee and tried to make sense out of what I heard. After a while, I picked up the pamphlets and read them. Later, I bought a Big Book and began to read that. I stayed sober, and my family life and my business affairs improved, and I continued to sit in the chairs and drink the coffee. But, like a small, protected child, never once did I wonder why the chairs were always in place and why the coffee was always ready when I came in.

Then one night there was no coffee.

When the people came in and saw no big, shiny urn in its usual place, they stood dazed. In petulant tones, they asked each other, "Why haven't they made coffee?" I looked around for the mysterious "they."

Finally, one of the regular members rushed in from the parking lot, ran to the kitchen, took the urn down from the shelf, and began filling it with water. "They" had arrived.

"They" turned out to be just one person.

(excerpt from Into Action: How AA members practice the program in their daily lives, page 48. Reprinted with permission, AA Grapevine.)

*** How many of us can relate? ***

That's Not My Job!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

*** In 2026, let us *not* assume that somebody else is going to do what we *can* do. ***



The Intergroup Office needs your help!!!

For more information, please call 239-275-5111

or stop by 7050 Winkler Rd #119, Fort Myers.