

Are Intergroups and Central Offices a part of Alcoholics Anonymous?

"Although local intergroups operate independently of A.A.'s worldwide service structure, they are a vital part of the Fellowship."

The A.A. Group ... Where It All Begins (p. 37)

"Traditionally, general service committees and intergroup/central offices perform different functions. Intergroup/central offices provide local services, while general service committees maintain the link between A.A. groups and the General Service Board by means of the [General Service] Conference. (Some parts of the U.S./Canada structure may not have an intergroup/central office.)

"These two autonomous but vital service structures coexist in many areas. All of A.A. benefits when intergroup/central offices and general service work together in mutual cooperation. A.A. groups may elect a representative to their local intergroup/central office.

"Many areas find that a liaison between the intergroup/central offices and the area committee is very helpful in maintaining good relations and communication. In some areas the liaison has a vote at the assembly; in others, a voice, but no vote."

The AA Service Manual (2024–2026 ed., p. 24)

"The General Service Office (GSO) in New York provides services for the entire A.A. Fellowship in the U.S. and Canada. Intergroup/central offices exist to serve the local groups in their general area. Each intergroup/central office is autonomous and is part of a network of service outlets and A.A. contacts. While the offices are an important part of A.A., they are not part of the general service structure or a satellite of GSO. The vital services they provide include maintaining local meeting information, providing meeting lists and other literature, maintaining websites with local information, and responding to phone calls and other inquiries from those seeking help."

The AA Service Manual (2024–2026 ed.; p. 6)

History

Bill W. helped write an Intergroup pamphlet, which was published by the Intergroup Committee of New Jersey in March 1949. On the back page of the pamphlet, Bill wrote:

"Every A.A. member wants every alcoholic in the world to have the chance that he has had. Every A.A. member wants unity for our movement. Every A.A member wants the good opinion of medicine, religion, and the general public. We know we must have these things or the new man may never get his chance.

"The Intergroup associations are the best insurance we can have that our lifelines to the hundreds of thousands yet to come will never break or tangle. Let us always be generous. Let us warmly support Intergroup."

A.A. co-founder Bill W., 1949

Dr. Bob was not only a supporter of the Intergroup/Central Office concept, he was an active participant in the Akron Central Committee. In *Dr Bob and the Good Old Timers*, his involvement was discussed in some detail by an early Akron A.A.

"Doc used to play an important part in the Central Committee," said Dan K. "That was the steering committee for the office. We'd meet the first Monday of every month, and he always attended. There'd be a member from each group. During the meeting, sometimes, the words would fly like you were in a barroom." During one meeting Dr Bob stood up, hushed the crowd and said: "Gentlemen, please. We're still members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Let's carry the principles of A.A. into these business meetings. You are servants of your group, here to take the ideas formulated by the committee. Let one man talk at a time, and let us conduct this business meeting as a service to the Lord and a service to our fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous" (pages 288-289).

Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous



Northeastern MD Intergroup Office

28 Centennial Lane
Aberdeen, MD 21001

Hours:
Tues–Fri, 10am–3pm
1st Sat of the month 10am–2pm

24-hour Hotline: 1-410-272-4150
email: office@nemdaa.org
website: www.nemdaa.org

A.A. PREAMBLE[©]

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people 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 membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, 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 help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

What is an Intergroup?

An Intergroup is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community - just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. It is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups - functions which are best handled by a centralized office - and it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Intergroup Functions

The A.A. experience has demonstrated that Intergroups are very important, particularly in populous areas. There are 11 Intergroups in Maryland's Area 29 and over 700 Intergroups or Central Offices functioning throughout the world. These Intergroups form a network of service outlets and A.A. contacts that provide vital services such as:

- Answering inquiries from those seeking help suffering alcoholics, sober alcoholics, meetings, groups, professionals, and the general public.
- Receiving, arranging, and following up Twelfth Step Calls
- Publishing local A.A. meeting directories & maintaining websites with A.A. meetings info
- Communicating via newsletter or bulletin
- Exchanging information for local Groups, Districts, Areas, and Committees
- Cooperating closely with GSO and local General Service Area Committees
- Ordering, selling, distributing A.A. Conference Approved Literature

Contributions And Volunteers

Intergroups depend upon the local members and groups for support in the form of financial contributions and volunteer help.

- **Visit the Intergroup Office** – Drop in. Introduce yourself. Chat with staff members and other AAs. This is the "heart line" and first contact for some; and the local information center for the fellowship.
- **Communicate with Intergroup** – Update your Intergroup with current information about meeting locations, times, and special events.
- **12 Step Volunteer** – Sign up to be available to call suffering alcoholics who wish to get sober

Intergroup Rep. – The rep is the link between the group and Intergroup Council. The rep takes issues back to the group and brings them up at the group conscience. The rep then votes on the issues at the Intergroup Council/business meeting.

Intergroup Committees – Volunteer for Archives, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Answering Service, Institutions, Ways & Means, Finance, and Website/Technology.

Participate in Intergroup Events – Help by volunteering; show up for fun and fellowship.

**I am responsible ...
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out
for help, I want the hand of A.A.
always to be there. And for that I am
responsible.**

Tradition Seven

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions"

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

Bill W. (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 221)

Groups may contribute as much and as often as a group conscience decides. Individual members may contribute up to \$7,500 yearly through the birthday plan, individual contributions and \$12,500 in memoriam.

Tradition Nine

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

"... we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. ... It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conferences of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (pp. 176–177)

Intergroup Council Meetings

Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (NEMDAA) holds its Intergroup Council meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the NEMDAA Office.

Visitors are Welcome!