



THE MESSAGE

Service Work in Sobriety

MAY/JUNE 2023

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

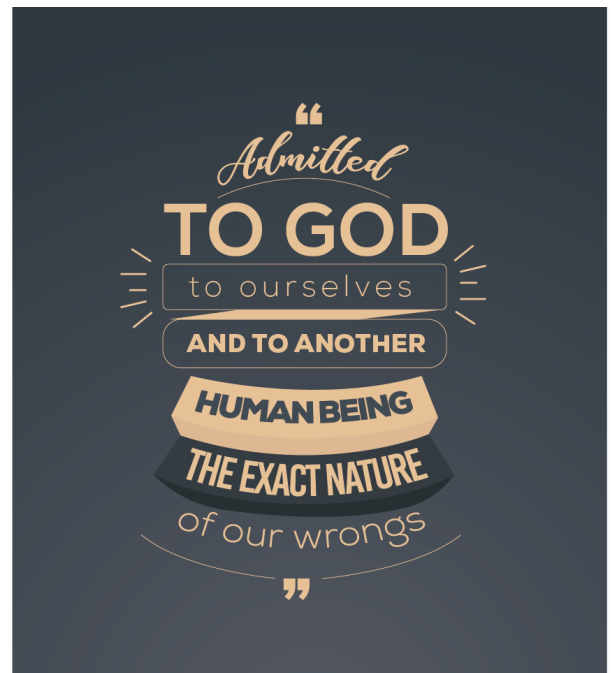
WHAT IS INTERGROUP?

Frequently people ask this question, and more. Why do we have an Intergroup? What does it do? Who runs it? Where do they get money? These are excellent questions, let's take a look.

Intergroup is a partnership among groups in a defined area. An Intergroup is established to aid the local groups to carry out functions common to all the A.A.® groups in that area, and to have a central area of communication between groups. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

For our local area, Intergroup 5 has this responsibility. Membership in Intergroup 5 consists of members from the local groups. Each group in our service area has a voice and a vote, called an Intergroup representative. Intergroup 5 takes responsibility for things like the website (intergroup5.org), ensuring there is a hotline (850.224.1818) and volunteers to answer it, publishing the Where and When (our list of local meetings), and maintaining the literature store. We also share information between groups about what's going on. This includes things like speaker meetings, workshops, special events, and even parties. We are not a glum lot!

Intergroup's support is primarily by donations from the local groups. Many groups donate on a quarterly, bi-annual, or annual basis. Some groups send money each month as part of their regular donation. A few individuals also contribute to Intergroup on an infrequent basis. These funds go towards things like rent, the cost for the hotline, website costs, and printing costs. All groups in the service area benefit from Intergroup's services, even if they do not send contributions. It is important to remember Intergroup does need a certain amount of money to function.



Step 5

After taking in-depth inventory of your thoughts and actions you mustn't keep them bottled up

Talking to someone can help vent feelings of guilt and/or shame

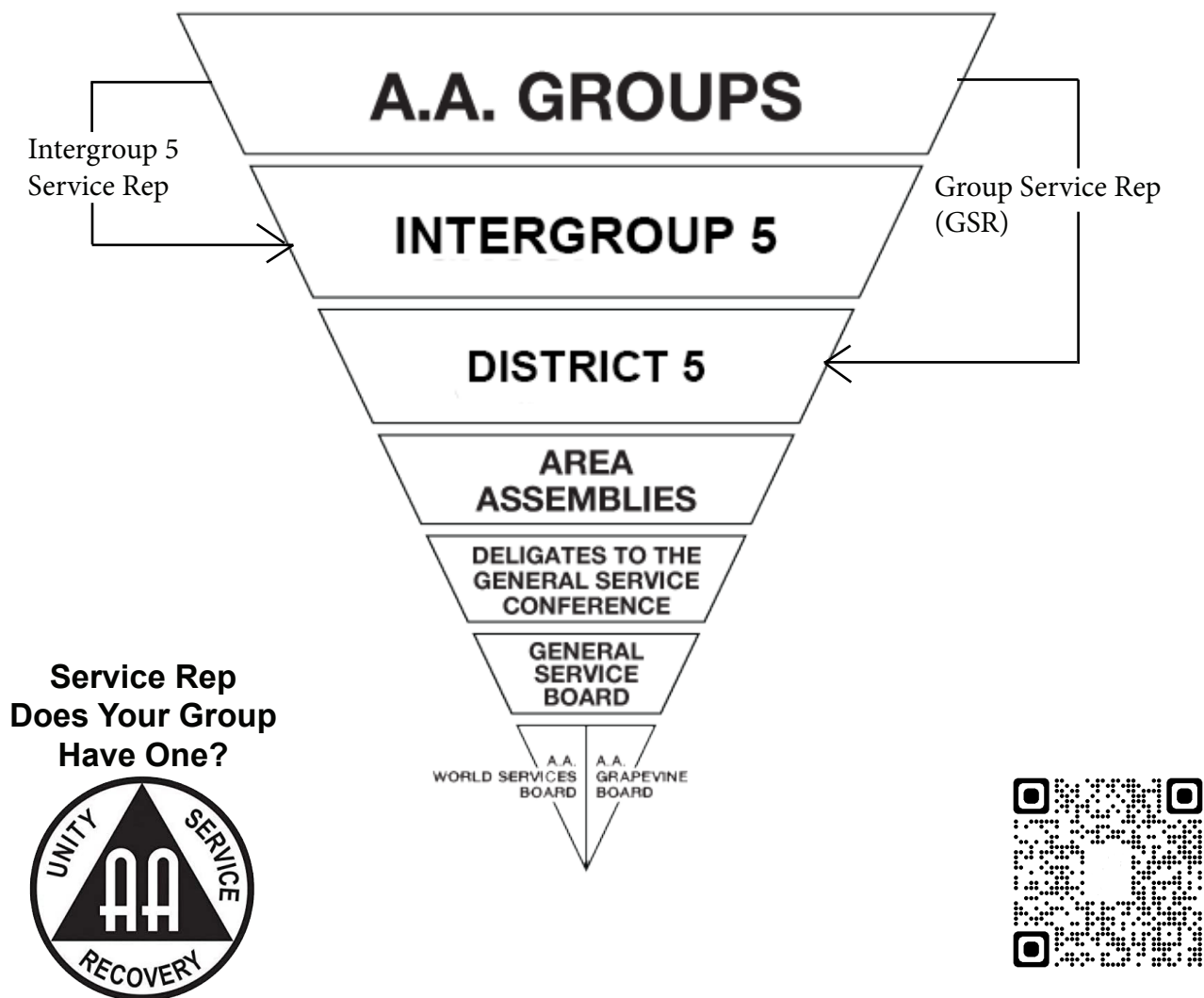
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WHAT IS INTERGROUP? . . . from page 1

Intergroup 5 also maintains the literature store. Here, groups and local individuals may purchase books and order pamphlets for resale and/or distribution at their meetings. We also carry some A.A.® signs, like the familiar blue sign with the white triangle in a circle logo many of us see when we pull up to a meeting. Intergroup 5 makes bulk purchases, thereby keeping shipping and other costs down.

Check with your home group and see if they have an Intergroup representative. This person should also be sharing information about decisions Intergroup makes, special events, and service opportunities with the group they represent.

If you're looking for service work, consider becoming an Intergroup rep!



FROM DISTRICT 5 WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DCM

The district committee member, or DCM, plays a vital role in general service. While the Group Service Representative (GSR) is the voice of a group, the DCM is the voice of a district.

A district needs a leader. The GSRs will look to the DCM for guidance on being GSRs and serving their groups. They will look to the DCM to lead on forming an agenda for district activities. They'll want to be inspired and encouraged, but not told what to do. A DCM who can set their own opinions aside in favor of listening and supporting the district's GSRs and of understanding and advancing the conscience of the district's groups is practicing two important principles of leadership in A.A.: leading by example and serving with humility.

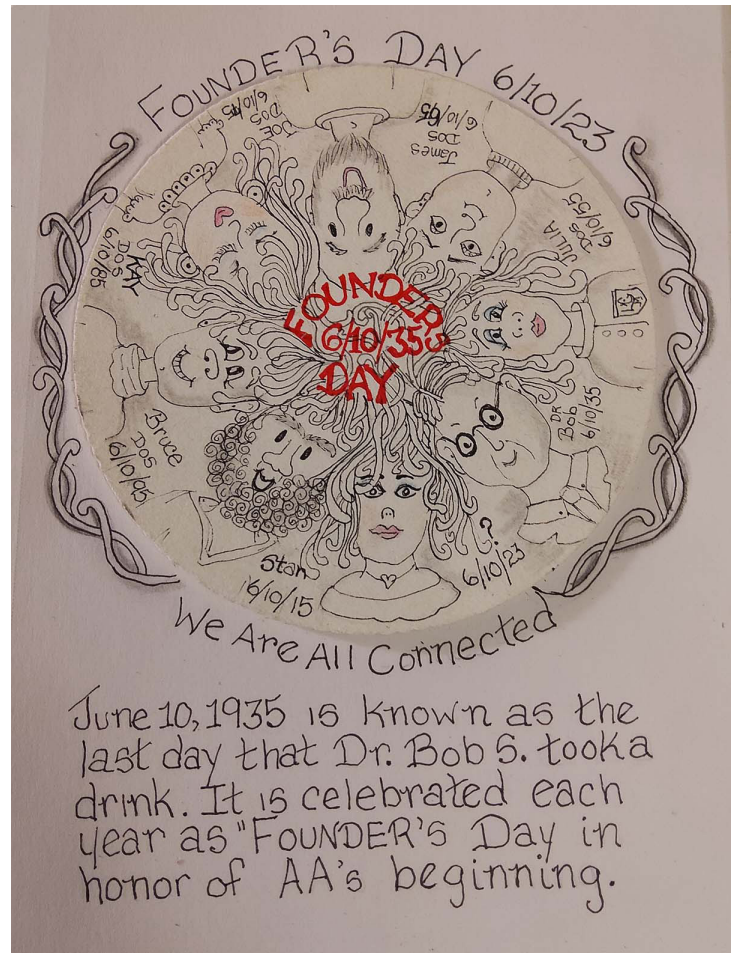
The DCM learns the thoughts, wishes and needs of the district's groups in different ways. Many districts set aside time in their meetings for GSRs to give reports on what's happening in their groups. This gives the DCM the opportunity to listen, to ask questions and to make suggestions (and to follow up to see if the suggestions helped). The DCM also learns by visiting and communicating directly with the groups. Here, the DCM is serving as a resource — and not as a replacement for a GSR.

In a group without a GSR, the DCM may be able to open a line of communication. Sometimes this stimulates interest within the group to want a GSR of their own. What the DCM learns will eventually form the conscience of the district. As a member of the area committee, at area assemblies the DCM has the opportunity to express the district's conscience in more than one way:

- By asking questions and making suggestions on area business and proposing new ideas, perhaps for a new way to carry our message of recovery or a potential revision to a piece of A.A. literature.
- By conveying the district's conscience to the delegate on issues coming before the annual General Service Conference, the DCM can help to make the district's conscience part of the delegate's thinking
- By voting on the area's trusted servants, including the delegate position, and the area's activities and budgets.

District responsibilities include reaching out to the community and treatment programs with public information, and arranging A.A. contacts and programs in prisons and jails.

The DCM and all committee chairs can be reached through intergroup5.org district contact page.



Step 6

This is where you let go of those behaviors and attitudes that are holding you back.

If positive behaviors and attitudes are learned, our interaction with the world will change for the better

This Step is about getting better. You will find yourself repeating the 6th step many times



Intergroup5.org Corner

Need 12th Step Work?

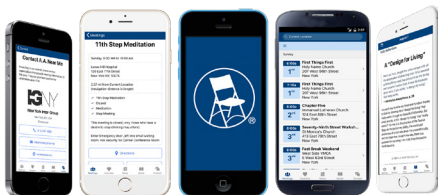
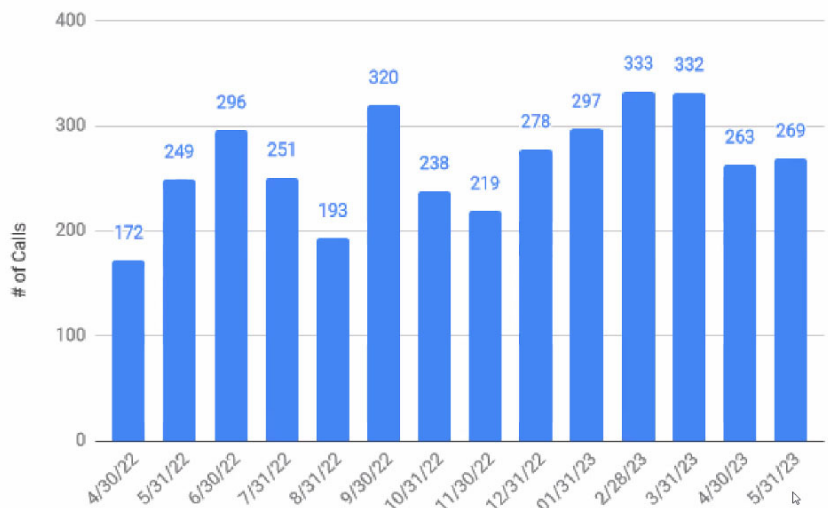
Intergroup5’s business meeting is the first Wednesday every month, online at 7pm, via Zoom. The link to this online meeting is at the top of the intergroup5.org homepage. Intergroup5 service representative is an excellent way to perform recovery service work. Check with your A.A. group about being a representative. Please note everyone is welcome to attend these online meetings. Come see how it all happens.



“Newcomer Packets” are now available from the Literature Store free to each A.A. group, with up to 6 packets per month as long as funds permit. Order yours from the Intergroup5 Literature Store.

Contact Intergroup5 for further information regarding any of our activities.

AA Hotline Calls by Month 2021-2022



Get Your Own Personal “Where & When”

Download the Meeting Guide App! Intergroup5 has integrated our information with the Meeting Guide App. You can find a link for both Google Play and The Apple Store on the meetings page of Intergroup5.org (<https://intergroup5.org/meetings>). The Meeting Guide can help you find meetings for many areas, including online meeting info.