



THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

www.aarichmond.org

Richmond Intergroup Monthly Newsletter

Richmond, VA



How I Found My Way to Recovery

By John M., Secretary for Richmond Intergroup. Sobriety date of June 27, 2012. Home group: Westhampton BB & 12&12 meeting; Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Westhampton United Methodist, 6100 Patterson Ave., Richmond.

I always chuckle when reading *Chapter Four, We Agnostics*, out of the *Big Book* and I get to the part that reads, "To be doomed to an alcoholic death or to live on a spiritual basis are not always easy alternatives to face." The first time I read that passage I thought this was bit melodramatic, and a knuckle-head like me had to actually ponder this dilemma of options as an extremely difficult choice! I came into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous as my last choice or option to quit drinking. The only thing I wanted was for all of you fine people to show me how to quit drinking, then life would be easy, and I would be on my merry way out of AA with a tip of the hat to you all and wishing you the best for the rest of your lives. The recollection of my arrogantly ignorant motives I brought with me as I joined this fellowship stirs that slightly dark, tragic humor that only resonates with another alcoholic in recovery.

I got sober in Norfolk, VA by way of the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous in June 2012. Fortunately, I had been blessed with the gift of pain and desperation which cracked the door open to actually be willing to do anything my sponsor suggested at the time. My first homegroup, The Simple Actions Group, started in the living room of David F's home. With a message focused on the solution, this group grew tenfold in mere weeks and found a nearby church with plenty of meeting space. As the group grew, it brought about the need for elections and appointments for its own service positions. During my first homegroup business meeting, the chairperson was looking for volunteers for each homegroup service position. The position of Intergroup Representative was brought up, and my sponsor immediately nominated me for this position with a slight smirk from the corner of his mouth. The chairperson stared at me and eventually asked if I was willing to accept the nomination, and my response was a frightened mumble that said . . . "What is Intergroup?" After a generous laugh by all in attendance, they said "That is the perfect response! It makes you even more qualified to be Intergroup Rep for the homegroup. John M. is our new Intergroup Rep!"

I was confused by the group's response but got the impression that my lack of knowledge was going to be okay. My first meeting at the Tidewater Intergroup was one heck of an experience. There were almost 150 people in attendance representing homegroups from Virginia Beach to Williamsburg. I witnessed a 40-minute debate over how to responsibly spend \$1.75 with people speaking loudly and referencing things like the Twelve Traditions and our primary purpose. My initial reaction was filled with awe, a little bit of irritability about the length of the meeting, and how intensely serious people's feelings and statements were about \$1.75.

(continued on next page . . .)



PLEASE

Spread the Word!

Please let your home groups know that the Winner's Circle is available online.



[Click triangle for Richmond area meetings on the Intergroup website](#)

**All stories in
The Winner's Circle
are original and
written by
Greater Richmond
Area AAs**

It was Intergroup that . . . (cont.)

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I shared the experience with my homegroup along with my highly unnecessary opinion that it seemed like an unproductive investment of time and energy.

It was explained to me that, while I may not come to share the same passion as others in AA regarding our service and operational structure, I should be grateful for those who are that passionate and keep AA operating and moving forward to help anyone who has a desire to stop drinking.

In thinking back, I made it to my first AA meeting because I called my sister, while completely hammered in the middle of the night, to tell her I couldn't stop drinking and needed her help. She drove two hours and was there the next morning. Having no experience with AA herself, she simply Googled "AA in Norfolk." Within seconds a recovered alcoholic answered the phone and calmly educated my sister on how the program works, and where the closest meeting was to us in the next 30 minutes. He suggested that it may be a good idea to head to the meeting immediately as alcoholics are capable of a sudden change of mind at any moment. It took me a year or so to come to the realization that it was Intergroup that had arranged for someone to answer the phone that day . . . it was Intergroup that had all of the meetings posted online . . . it was Intergroup that bulk purchases the literature for the groups it serves which in turn distribute the *Big Book* that was given to me by my first sponsor . . . and Intergroup's service as a resource played an active role in helping to carry the message to a knucklehead like me.

As I've been fortunate to stick around this program for a number of days, months, and years; that attitude of "show me how to quit drinking so I can graduate and move on with my life to do other things" has faded away. It has been replaced based on having had that "Spiritual Experience" as the result of going through the steps. All of the promises we read have absolutely come true for me, regardless of the fact that I had not really been interested in seeking them. Virtually every valuable component of my life today is the direct result of this program. A program that was established by, continuously operated, and grown by alcoholics com-

mitted to this solution for decades before me.

However, none of this changes the fact that I am an alcoholic, and I really need to be doing all of these simple actions suggested by our program on a daily basis. It is amazing how quickly I can forget how I got the life I have today. These gifts of sobriety combined with my ego have lead this alcoholic to trouble on more occasions than I care to admit. I have suffered from focusing more time on my hobbies, my career, and personal relationships than my higher power and this program that got me here. When this happens, my AA life and the daily, simple actions can rapidly decrease or even vanish. Fortunately, I also benefit/suffer from great sponsorship. My current sponsor loves to remind me that "he, nor anyone he knows, has never gotten hurt by doing too much AA." He shares this all the time when he sees my floundering from inaction. When I'm looking for reasons and justifications to leak away, I have continuously found that my service commitments at Richmond Intergroup and the act of sponsoring other men have kept me attached enough to never fully leak away from the program that saved my life.

I have found it inspirational to learn how other folks have been introduced to this program. There are those who were introduced by meetings brought into prisons, others through treatment centers, and many, like me, who found their way to this fellowship through their local Intergroup whether they realized it or not.

Serving in Richmond Intergroup as a homegroup representative, chair of the audit committee, and now as Secretary and Steering Committee member has been a critical experience in my recovery. It was not something that I sought out but, instead, was guided to the action and service by following the message of amazing alcoholics and their experiences in these rooms. Not every Intergroup meeting or email is exactly what I want to do at that moment, but it has certainly kept me humble, grounded, and in contact and service with others when I needed it most so I can keep trudging the road to happy destiny with my fellow alcoholics. #

AA Guidelines for Central or Intergroup Offices

The A.A. Guidelines [link below] are compiled from the shared service experience of A.A. members throughout the U.S. and Canada. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference. In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience.

[\[click for PDF from the AA General Service Office/New York\]](#)



2024 North Madison Street Ryder Cup Tournament*

May 4th - 5th



Location: Providence Golf Course, 1160 S. Providence Rd, North Chesterfield VA, 23236

Greens Fee/Lunch/Dinner: \$185; after April 21 — \$200

Saturday Open Play — Shotgun Start: 1:00 pm, Buffet Dinner/Team Pairings — 6:00 pm

Sunday Team Ryder Cup Format — Shotgun Start: 1:00 pm/Lunch at 12:00 pm, Awards — 6:00 pm

Mulligan's/ Closest to Pin/Longest Drive — 50/50 Raffle

Make checks payable to: 210 Golf Group

Mail check to: 1204 Rothesay Circle, Richmond, VA 23221

**Proceeds will be donated to 210 North Madison Street (history below)*



The History of 210 North Madison Street Group

"210" North Madison Street Group of Alcoholics Anonymous" came into being in October 1953 when a local couple deeded the building to the group's trustees for the princely sum of \$10.00 on October 5, 1953.

Prior to that, some 250 Richmond A.A. members had been meeting at 203 North Jefferson St. as the Richmond Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. Since they were faced with overcrowding and a probable rent increase there, the gift of the building offered a perfect solution. Looking like a "bunch of vaga-

bonds" (according to one observer) they happily lugged their furniture one block through an alley to their new home.

The first order of business for the renamed group in its new home was to clean up and decorate in preparation for the celebration of its June 20, 1954 grand opening, held in conjunction with the nineteenth anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous which began on June 10, 1935.

Soon after, 210 had become the hub of the Richmond A.A. universe and by 1961 hosted four of the eight

weekly meetings in town. With its Saturday night dances (over 300 at the 1958 New Years Eve Dance) it negated the need for a separate social club chartered in 1948 at 920A W. Broad St. Between 1960 and 1972 it also hosted 19 Virginia Area Committee Meetings.

Over its 60+ years 210 has provided a vital haven for both locals and travelers in recovery. Its membership roster from the mid-fifties through 1965 lists over 2,000 member names, and, until December 1982, it was Richmond's AA "office." #

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Celebrant	Yrs	Group
4/11	Sarah N-B	12	Belles of the Bar
4/14	Mike T	2	Bon Air Big Book
4/19	Susan A	27	Bon Air Big Book
4/6	Charlie B	4	Choices and Changes
4/1	Leigh H.	2	Bufford Road Group
4/4	Katy V	4	Hanover-Ashland
4/26	Stephanie W	6	Hanover-Ashland
4/6	Billy F	31	King William Crossroads
4/6	Al K	10	King William Crossroads
4/20	Joe B	8	King William Crossroads
4/21	Charlie S	17	King William Crossroads
4/23	Carol O	12	King William Crossroads
4/19	Traci F	1	Know Your Worth Women's
4/24	Debbie D	1	Know Your Worth Women's
4/22	Morgan W	2	Miracles on Monday
4/3	Scott C	2	Suffered Enough
4/10	John R	29	Suffered Enough
4/19	Natasha K	1	Suffered Enough
4/21	Jodi	5	Suffered Enough
4/28	Mickey Y	1	Suffered Enough
4/28	Marina A	6	Suffered Enough
4/28	Jack H	6	Suffered Enough
4/4	David W	6	Tuesday Men's Meeting
4/11	Tom C	26	Tuesday Men's Meeting
4/17	Jameson B	5	Tuesday Men's Meeting
4/27	Caleb K	5	Tuesday Men's Meeting
4/15	Chris S.	4	Westhampton BB & 12&12



Date	Celebrant	Yrs	Group
3/17	Mary B	36	Bon Air Big Book
3/24	Rachel S	5	Bon Air Big Book
3/30	Natalie M	9	Bon Air Big Book

Deadline for MAY Anniversaries: APRIL 20, 2024.

PLEASE SEND IN FORMAT AS PUBLISHED (LEFT):

Send to: winnerscircle@aarichmond.org

Interested in Attending?

The **Love & Service 3 Legacies Conference** (formerly the Unity & Service Conference) seeks to be inclusive. The conference provides stories of AA members sharing their experience using the three legacies in their life.

The Conference also strives to encourage AA members to participate in service at their meetings and outside of their meetings.

This year, we are reaching out to determine the interest of the **ASL communities** in the mission of the conference. We are seeking to determine how many would be interested in attending?

We are particularly interested in finding someone who would be interested in doing outreach to the ASL community? If there is interest from ASL folks we'd also need help on tech to present and record the audio.

Would YOU be interested in attending and would you be interested in doing outreach to the ASL community?

Contact Kent Davis
kentd8888@gmail.com



RICHMOND INTERGROUP

FEBRUARY 2024 DONATIONS

Date	\$Amount	Group
1/31/24	3,700.00	Back Again
	250.00	Let Go and Let God
	30.00	Early Morning Serenity
2/2/24	5.00	On Awakening
2/2/24	30.00	Jump In the Lake Group
2/2/24	317.00	Eyeopener
2/2/24	540.00	Men at Work
2/2/24	300.00	Greenwood Commuters
2/3/24	500.00	Discovery Group/Clubhouse
2/4/24	300.00	Tuesday Men's Mtg.
2/5/24	648.00	Let's Get Sober
2/5/24	355.31	On Awakening
2/5/24	350.00	Wet Birds Moving On
2/8/24	432.50	A Faith that Works
2/12/24	1,000.00	No Name Group
2/16/24	65.00	Cumberland Group
2/16/24	20.00	Chicks at Six
2/19/24	15.00	Honesty by Candlelight
2/21/24	50.00	Powhatan Group
2/26/24	300.00	Never Alone
2/27/24	32.57	Cornerstone - Midlothian
2/29/24	300.00	449er's
2/29/24	5.00	On Awakening #



Click triangle for Richmond area meetings on the Intergroup website



TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 2024

TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	+/- NET INCOME
\$18,179.60	\$(7,571.23)	\$10,608.37
INCOME		
Group/Individual Contributions		15,721.06
Sales Receipts		2,458.25
Current Month CC Fees		-
Other		-
Interest		0.29
Total Income		\$18,179.60
EXPENSES		
Rent		1,306.99
Phone		278.88
Payroll		2,825.92
Payroll Taxes		982.73
State taxes (Sales)		180.07
Health Insurance		1,400.00
Chips & medallions		370.40
AA Literature		-
Where & When		-
Office expenses		111.84
Activities		-
Accounting Expenses		41.00
CC Fees/Bank Fees		73.40
Other (WP Engine/Web)		-
Total Expenses		\$(7,571.23)
NET for Month of January 2024		\$10,608.37

Disbursement Info

After group expenses are met, suggested formula for disbursement is:

50% Richmond Intergroup, Inc.
5310 Markel Road, Ste 108
Richmond, VA 23230

10% Virginia Area Committee
VAC Treasurer
P.O. Box 1130
Locust Grove, VA 22508
online: www.aavirginia.org

30% General Service Office
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407
Online: www.aa.org

10% Your local service district:

District **18** City of Richmond
P.O. Box 14586
Richmond, VA 23221

District **29** South of the James River
P.O. Box 36204
Richmond, VA 23235

District **36** District 36 Treasurer
5130 Double Bridges Rd
Meherrin, VA 23954

District **37** Northeast of Richmond
P.O. Box 573
Sandston, VA 23150

District **43** Northside Richmond
P.O. Box 28442
Richmond, VA 23228

District **44** West Richmond
P.O. Box 71211
Richmond, VA 23255-1211

Richmond Intergroup

Over 65 Years of Service

Established June 1955

5310 Markel Road | Suite 108
Richmond, VA 23230
804.355.1212

office@aarichmond.org
www.aarichmond.org

Office is now open normal business hours

RICHMOND INTERGROUP TRUSTED SERVANTS		
Chairman	Anna H.	chairman@aarichmond.org
Vice-Chair	Tibby L.	vicechair@aarichmond.org
Treasurer	Sara R.	treasurer@aarichmond.org
Secretary	John M.	secretary@aarichmond.org
Office Manager	Bill H.	office@aarichmond.org
COMMITTEES:		
Activities	Sam M.	activities@aarichmond.org
Archives	Ben A.	archives@aarichmond.org
Audit	James L.	office@aarichmond.org
Bridging the Gap		
Corrections		
CPC/PI		
Liaison & Group Participation	Eric C.	intergroupliaison@aarichmond.org
Nominations	Alexis F.	nominations@aarichmond.org
Phone Watch	J.B. Byers	jbyers521@aol.com
12-Step Call List Ride Coordinator	Matt H.	
Treatment Facilities		
Website		web@aarichmond.org
Winner's Circle	Sandra H.	winnerscircle@aarichmond.org



Get A Portable Meeting!
Subscribe to the [GRAPEVINE!](#)



26
The
Keystone
Group

26th Anniversary
Sunday, April 7, 2024
Food at 4:00 pm
Workshop at 5:00 pm
Chris W.
"Blocking ourselves off from the
Sunlight of the Spirit by
Resentments, Anger, & Fear"

Bon Air Christian Church
2071 Ruford Road North Chesterfield



Our Way Out
9th Anniversary
Saturday, April 27th 2024
8:30 - 9:30 Breakfast & Fellowship
9:30- 10:30 Speaker Meeting




St. Marks United
Methodist Church
11551 Lucks Ln.
Midlothian, VA

3
UPCOMING
EVENTS

***POUNCEY TRACT
12 IN 4 MEETING
(12 Steps in 4 Weeks)
*Back to Basics Format****

***WHEN: STARTS MONDAY April 1st
7:30PM-9:00PM
4 Sessions- April 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd***

***WHERE: CHRIST CHURCH
5000 POUNCEY TRACT RD
GLEN ALLEN, VA. 23059
(The Parlor in the Sanctuary)***



Imagine....It is 1946. You have a drinking problem and you reach out for help. Alcoholics Anonymous responds by taking you through the "Big Book" and the Twelve Steps in one month. Your life changes...and you never drink again.

PLEASE NOTE THAT
CHRIST CHURCH
PROPERTY IS ENTIRELY
NON-SMOKING.

QUESTIONS:-CONTACT:
BURKE M.-(804) 387-3230
or MIKE S.-(804) 310-9785

