

## Akron Intergroup Council Meeting – August 1, 2021

This hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting at Paradise Club was opened at 12:00 pm by Vice Chairman Bill M. with the responsibility statement, Serenity Prayer, and the reading of the Twelve Traditions. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**Groups in Attendance: (42)** Afternoon Alkies, Akron Mens Big Book Study, Barberton Big Book, Carry This Message! Dry People's Mid- Day, Dry Peoples Wednesday, East Akron, Fairlawn, Faith & Hope, Fresh Start, Golden Link, Goodrich, Kenmore, Hudson Terex, Hudson Tuesday Clockwatchers, Keep it Simple, Kenmore Group, King School Group #1, Ladies Big Book Study, Medina 12 step, Medina Men's Meeting, Medina Tuesday Night, Mid-Day Serenity, Morning Meditation, Mogodore, Northampton, North Hill Men's, One Day at a Time, PPG, Progress not Perfection, Saturday Lost and Found, Serenity through Recovery, Sobriety Check Point, Sons of Ebby, Steps & Beyond, Sunday in Paradise, Sunday Nite, Thursday Closed Women's, Thursday Night Freedom, Thursday Night Men's Non-Smoking, Towers Discussion, Trusted Servants, Twelve and Twelve, Westside Big Book Study

A motion was made to hold regular business until after the election. Motion passed with unanimous vote. Ballots distributed by non-voting members. Members present and on Zoom (via zoom polling) voted. Non-voting members counted the ballots.

Results:

Chair: Michel Blouir

Secretary: Nikki McInnes

Trustee: David Howd

Member at Large: Melissa Coffman, Doug Moore, and Kathy Scheiman

Area 54 Rep: Heather Falkowski with Melissa Lambert serving as alternate

**Secretary's Report:** Karen K. – The reading of the May Secretary's Report was waived – Jim H. noted there was an incorrect number of groups listed on report. The number listed was 27 but only 26 groups were listed. Karen K. stated she will re-check the attendance sheets. Beth F. noted that all of Dan F.'s written statement was put into the minutes although he did not read the full statement.

Also, what was written stated the FD committee asked the speaker to not attend the watch party which was not true. Also, what was written in the statement was opinion and should not be documented in the minutes. Will be amended per Karen K. **The report was not accepted as written at present. Corrections to be reviewed at next Council meeting.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Tim Q. –

For month of June, we are \$23,842 in the black. This was due to Founder's Day and individual group's fundraising efforts. This still leaves us \$15,910 in the negative for the year. We are also \$70,000 short in our prudent reserve. We need to keep doing what we're doing to increase funds.

**The report was accepted as written by a unanimous vote.**

**Executive Board Report:** Bill M.

Last Board meeting started at 7 pm and ran until 9:45.

Discussed issues from last month. Stated the Board has defects of character which were brought to light last month. Bill informed group of the discussions held at the Board meeting on Thursday. Stated there was open communication between board members and FD committee and guests. Noted the Board acted too hastily and plans to look at the language in the bylaws as it relates to removal for cause. Joan commented to remind everyone we should never act too

quickly, thus following the example of Bill and Dr. Bob. They always took things slowly and looked at things methodically.

### **Old Business:**

Aaron K was asked to read report from the board meeting:

During the last Council meeting on June 27th a motion was made and passed to form an ad hoc committee to explore options to improve the way the Founders' Day committee functions. Since that Council meeting two meetings have been held for the purpose of creating that ad hoc committee. Various members of the Founders' Day committee, the executive board and other interested parties were in attendance at both of those meetings.

The first meeting was held at 6PM on July 5th at the Intergroup office and lasted about two and a half hours. The main topic of discussion at that meeting was the potential scope of the ad hoc committee, i.e., we wanted to clarify the purpose and reach of the committee. The two main topics that were discussed were a lack of transparency/public awareness of service work availability on the Founders' Day committee, and a clear, ongoing lack of communication between the Founders' Day committee and the executive board.

In regard to transparency it was suggested that the Founders' Day committee should publish a flyer to announce open positions on the committee along with additional needs for volunteers, a schedule of upcoming meeting dates and times, and to clarify that all Founders' Day committee meetings are open and that all are welcome to attend. Members of the Founders' Day committee who were present agreed that a flyer would be helpful and agreed to bring the flyer up for discussion during their next committee meeting to be held on August 2nd.

In regard to the lack of communication between the Founders' Day committee and executive board we discussed the fact that the fifth year coordinator from the Founder's Day committee is present at each monthly executive board meeting, that the chairperson of the executive board is present at each monthly Founder's Day committee meeting, and that we've clearly not been utilizing these already existing channels of communication to the extent that we could or should be.

At the end of the first meeting a decision was made to table the actual creation of an ad hoc committee until the next meeting because we still hadn't been able to fully clarify the potential scope of the ad hoc committee.

The second meeting was held at 6PM on July 19th at the Intergroup office and lasted about an hour and a half. Communication issues between the Founders' Day committee and executive board were discussed again at length, and the focus was again turned to the fact that we have two channels of communication available to us which have clearly not been being utilized properly, and that both the Founders' Day committee and executive board would benefit from a greater effort to pass communication both directions at each other's meetings. It was also specifically mentioned that the Founders' Day committee meeting schedule had been removed from the Intergroup office public calendar of events some time ago, and that adding that schedule back into the calendar would be an additional step in the right direction to improve transparency/public awareness of service work availability on the Founders' Day committee.

Ultimately the discussion then turned again to the potential scope of and/or actual need for an ad hoc committee. At that point, based on the issues which had already been addressed, namely that:

1. the Founders' Day meeting schedule should be added back into the Intergroup public calendar of events,

2. an informational flyer should be published by the Founders' Day committee, and
3. a suggestion should be made to both the Founders' Day committee and executive board that they make a greater effort to utilize already existing channels of communication;

...a motion was made and passed to discontinue our efforts to form an ad hoc committee, and we agreed to report this decision to the executive board at their next monthly meeting to be held the following week on Thursday July 29th.

In accordance with that agreement a group of us who had attended the ad hoc meetings attended the executive board meeting at the Intergroup office this past Thursday night to report that a determination had been made to stop the effort to form an ad hoc committee. At that time a report was given that the Founders' Day committee would be tasked with publishing an informational flyer, and a suggestion was made that the Founders' Day committee and executive board both make a greater effort going forward to pass communication in both directions at each other's meetings. It was also announced that the Founders' Day meeting schedule had already been added back into the Intergroup public calendar of events.

No objections were made, and a decision was made to give an update at this Council meeting. If a further need for an ad hoc committee or other means to explore any of these issues are determined to be necessary in the future the possibility would certainly exist to address those items at that time. Otherwise, we'd like to consider this matter closed for now, and we thank you for your time.

**New Business:**

Joan: suggested Council meeting be moved from Sundays to an evening during the week.

Jim B. stated we voted to change hour from 1 – 12 noon. It was voted with a quorum.

**Founders' Day:** Matt H. –

2 People put in resumes for 1<sup>st</sup> year coordinator: Karen K and Jerry C

1 for treasurer: Scott K

1 for assistant secretary: Lois W.

**Archives:** Jim B. – Location – Intergroup Office.

All alphabetical displays are complete. “W” panel “The Home Group” is highlighting the first AA meeting King School and its history written up by Dave S. now deceased. The archives committee is planning to rotate home group displays in a three -month cycle, so come to the office regularly to see what is new.

Scan man #1 and #2 (John D. and Chris B,) are still keeping Gene M. busy supplying meta data information for the files. Mary K. is getting a breather from shuffling picture frames and is back at sorting papers and Grapevines. Yesterday we greeted 13 visitors from Napperville, IL. And 4 ladies from Louisville, Kentucky. This Friday we are greeting the “Skipper” and 8 from Morgantown W. Virginia. We are enjoying a new committee member's presence, Ruth, as she acclimates to historical service.

**General Service:** Val D. – not present.

Per Joyce B.:

**Intergroup News:** Jack B. – Report by Karen K.

No report – just asking for people to submit articles.

**Intergroup Anniversary:** Jack B. – Report by Karen K.

Guy's Party Center is booked for next year on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Not requesting deposit

**New Year's Eve Dance:** Paul M. – Not present – Report by Joyce B.

Beaumont Hotel booked in west Akron. Cheryl did a lot of work in securing venue. Called multiple places. Plenty of parking. Rooms available for \$69. Hotel staff very accommodating.

Next meeting is Aug.7 @11:00am. Looking for more volunteers to help with the event!

Details @ next meeting.

**Information Tech:** Hugh M. – Not present – report by Karen K.

A new Member, Jerry W, joined the IT Committee. He is experienced in the area and currently owns and operates an Industrial Technology business.

Peter McH, Tim M, Greg K and Hugh McD. were present.

**Security:**

There was an incident in the street behind the Intergroup office that caused a review of our current security and fire systems. Currently, we have ATT security system which costs 289.00 per quarter. The current system has smoke detectors but does not have any method of alerting the fire dept if there is a fire while to office is empty. The system uses phone lines, and although it has a panic button, the button is not effective at protecting the staff because it makes a noise when activated, which would alert any intruder to the fact that it was pushed, which defeats the purpose of a silent alarm.

I am looking into the cost of updating the system to include fire alert protection and silent panic buttons. Any who has any suggestions may contact me directly. I hope to have some option ready at the next IT committee meeting which is on August 10.

**Fax line:**

We also discussed whether we should do away with our fax line, as the technology is outdated. It may not be costing us any extra, so additional investigation is required.

**Founder's Day:**

Founder's Day went well. No problems to report from IT. Peter McH archived the You Tube recordings. The registration software that IT created for the 2019 Founder's Day is outdated and needs to be rebuilt.

Out of the Box software was mentioned as a potential method to jumpstart the build. The experienced members voiced concern that the level of detail (meals, roommates, etc.) rendered out of the box software insufficient for our needs but agreed it would not hurt to look since technology changes so rapidly. Research was conducted which confirmed that they were correct in their initial assessment.

Jerry suggested using ISO to document the build to aid future generations of volunteers. Because of the extra effort involved, it is not yet certain if we will do that.

Registration for Founder's Day 2022 opens March 1, 2022, and the software will need to be completed and tested prior to then.

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IT Committee usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month, all are welcome to attend. The dates can also be found on Akronaa.org under the "News and Events" button from the main page. I can be reached at hughdmcdaniel@gmail.com. Feel free to join us!

**Nominations:** Joyce B.

It has been brought to my attention that Melissa Lambert, nominee for Area 54 rep, does not have enough sober time to qualify to be on the ballot. In the last 2 years, we have not had much information from our rep and many things have changed in Alcoholics Anonymous without us being aware or having any input. Therefore, I'd like to propose that we offer Melissa the opportunity to be an unofficial assistant/alternate rep for Council to help by shadowing Heather and attending the meetings and bringing reports back to the Board and Council.

I'd also like to entertain the possibility of returning to the 2- year requirement to increase the enthusiasm of one who wants to get active in this level of service.

Melissa accepted the offer to serve as unofficial alternate.

**Answering Service:** Bill M. –

Total calls: 82

Meetings: 42

Founder's Day: 2

12 Step: 2 males Bill followed up with both2

12 Step Office: 2 males

1 female

**Public Info/CPC:** Michael B.-

Setting up AA table at the Akron pride event. Still working with schools and judges.

Next meeting Aug 21 at 9am.

**12 Step Fund Drive:** Michael B. –

Poker run Aug 22. 1st annual round up Nov. 12th. Meeting Aug 21 to discuss old fund drive itinerary.

**Group Services:** Dusty S. – Not present – report read by Michael B.

We audited the zoom meeting list. A total of 20 meetings came off the list posted at [akronaa.org](http://akronaa.org) due to no one showing up or having outdated login information. This is part of the continued effort to have the most up to date information listed on our website. Please email [infoatakronaa.org](mailto:infoatakronaa.org) or call the office if the status of your in- person or online meeting change.

It was tasked for Group Services to create and administer the Akron intergroup Facebook page. We gathered the various GSO guidelines on anonymity and will be discussing how to go about this at the next committee meeting. Our next meeting is August 21, 9 am at the intergroup office.

Bill noted there are currently 60 zoom meetings and 280 live meetings listed.

**Intergroup Picnic:** Joyce B. –

Date: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, noon

Theme: United we stand – my hope and theme

There will be a final prep meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am to take inventory of what is in stock at the office and what needs purchased. Specific volunteer slots will hopefully be filled on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will need help loading trucks at intergroup at 10am the day of the picnic. Also, we'll need help to clean up and load at picnic's end and unload at IGO after.

**Office Committee:** Charles Steiner –

July 29, 2021

1. AIO security and fire alarm systems have been re-evaluated by ADT Co. following 2 homicides in close proximity to our building. Office Manager, Greg K. will present those findings.
2. Our committee is announcing to Council the following concerning weekend office hours and staffing...

The Office Staff has voiced concerns over the ability to adequately maintain Saturday hours due to the limited number of trained volunteers available. I met with Office Manager Greg K. and Office Assistant Cheryl L. on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of discussing options regarding this situation.

Considering the very low volume of usage by customers and negligible totals in sales it is the view of Staff, and the Office/H.R. Committee that Saturday hours are unwarranted at this time.

For security purposes two people must be on duty at all times. Currently only five volunteers are trained and available at this time to work Saturday hours. The minimum number of volunteers had previously been determined to be eight, with 10 to 12 being ideal. Efforts to find and train additional volunteers have been unsuccessful this year.

When a volunteer is not available, a paid staff member must fill in. That staff person either earns overtime pay or leaves the Office short-staffed during the week. Neither of these are acceptable. Additionally, our finances do not give us the option of a paid weekend staff person as is done in the Cleveland Office.

Tours of the Archives could be offered on Saturdays “by appointment only” on our website.

Archives Cmte. would be responsible for developing their own plan to accommodate literature sales for tours. The Staff is willing to train Archives Committee members on the use of the Cash Register.

Weekend office hours can be re-visited at a time when the need for Saturday sales increases and there is a willingness of volunteers to reliably be available.

We recommend eliminating Saturday Office Hours beginning in August.

Comment per Charles: Not what any of us wants but we don’t have the number of volunteers needed. This was passed by majority vote at the Board.

Susan suggested we not rush this decision – to try to get volunteers before next month, then re-visit. Charles noted we do not have enough volunteers for the month to do that. Joan stated it is critical we get volunteers trained and on-board as we are Akron, the birthplace of AA. It was agreed we would have further discussion of options to do that at next month’s meeting.

**Treatment Facilities:** Jerry C. –

July 29, 2021

1. Treatment Cmte. Outreach – Jerry C., Chairman, set up and staffed A.A. information tables at Oriana House Recovery Fest and Hope Fest in Ellet.
2. Met with John Leibler, new Director of Medina Recovery Center and Serenitie Restaurant and Culinary School. Gave him an office tour and provided information on what A.A. can do for his facility. It is his goal to have A.A. information and principles fully integrated and available within their programs. Meetings have been relocated from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the small house next door (left) of main building.

3. In anticipation of re-opening for meetings in Ignatia Hall, St. Thomas Hospital is asking for interested A.A. volunteers to apply to their website: [summahealth.org/volunteer](http://summahealth.org/volunteer) Click on adult volunteer program Qualifications for volunteering are listed. The date for restart is undetermined currently.
4. We have assisted RAMAR in starting new meetings on premises. Volunteers for additional meetings/days are still needed.
5. Richfield OH – BlueStream Rehab and Nursing on Brecksville Road is very eager to start a meeting for their residents. Day/times are open.

If you can assist with any of these service work requests, please contact by calling the Intergroup Office or email [treatment@akronaa.org](mailto:treatment@akronaa.org)

6. We continue to require Grapevine magazines to place in the treatment facilities. Please subscribe to print copy and bring your used mags to the Intergroup Office once per year.
7. The next Treatment Committee meeting will be held on Wed. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Intergroup Office and on Zoom with codes provided on office website. Anyone interested in our service work is welcome to attend.

**Group Services:** Dusty Samples. –

We audited the zoom meeting list. A total of 20 meetings came off the list posted at [akronaa.org](http://akronaa.org). Please update the intergroup office if the status of your in person or online meeting change. Our next meeting is August 21, 9 am at the intergroup office.

**Literature Committee:** Vance S. –

No report

**Corrections:** Michael B. –

Committee met July 17 at office.

Summit County Jail had reopened. A few men are approved. Need to go through brief training and have background check. Three women are volunteering. Still looking for men & women volunteers for CBCF. Please support your jail can. We really need women to volunteer. You need 1 year sober, 1 year out of jail, and 1 year off probation.

Next meeting Aug 21. At 9am

**Good and welfare:** -

Cheryl needs prayers – had a heart attack and is now recovering.

Out-going board members were thanked for their service.

Motion was made and passed after 1:30 to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. This was repeated every 15 minutes until closing at 2:15pm.

The Council meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Karen K., Board Secretary