

# ***Your Greater Cincinnati Area Intergroup Council***

Central Office

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## How It Works

### What Is Intergroup?

The Greater Cincinnati Area Intergroup Council is a service of Alcoholics Anonymous with the sole purpose of doing 12 step work. It carries out certain functions common to all groups in our area. Functions best handled by one body of trusted servants.

Intergroups, as such, have no authority on their own account: they derive it from participating groups. The groups maintain effective participation through their representatives. Each group in the area is asked to send a representative, or an alternate, to the monthly Intergroup meeting. From these representatives, officers are elected every two years to the operating committee which includes the administrative activities of the Central Office and coordinates the various service committees. Chairs are those committees are chosen from the current active representatives.

Intergroup's financial obligations result primarily from the contributions to its special funds and proceeds generated by special events. Contributions to its special funds are used to provide literature to clients in correction facilities and treatment, provide services to members with special needs, and air time charges for the radio show.

Intergroup encourages contributions, no matter how small, to these special funds. This is our primary means of support. By continuing to be self-supporting we ensure that A.A. in Cincinnati will be there for the still suffering alcoholic.

Intergroup finds it's spiritual guidance though the principles of Recovery, Unity and Service and whenever possible tries to make use of A.A.'s combined experience.

## Intergroup service committee's

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

**12 Step:** Maintains a current list of A.A. groups whose members work with newcomers.

**Membership:** Encourages groups to elect Intergroup Representatives who will attend monthly council meetings, and encourage group participation in Intergroup activities and service work.

**Public Information:** Inform the public about the A.A. program and reaches the “third person” who may be involved with an active alcoholic.

**Radio show: (WIAF 88.3 FM):** Provides an A.A. meeting “on the air” and offers an opportunity for callers to share and ask questions about the fellowship. Groups are encouraged to sponsor a show.

**Cooperation with Professionals in the Community (CPC):** Seeks to create an awareness of A.A. among professionals working in positions likely to encounter active alcoholics. The focus is on “cooperation, not affiliation.” Unquote

**Treatment and Correction Facilities:** Coordinates members to carry the A.A. message to treatment and correction facilities.

**Bridging the Gap:** Works to provide the A.A. newly released from a treatment or correctional Facility with information about meetings or connect that person with an active A.A. member who is willing to take them to meetings. Keeps the Bridging the Gap list of willing volunteers updated.

**Additional Needs:** Assures the A.A. message is accessible to any alcoholic with special needs, such as hearing, visual impairment, or those who require handicap access.

**Literature/Grapevine/Footsteps:** Gathers and edits material for the monthly Footsteps publication and encourages members to subscribe. Foster's awareness of A.A. literature among members and encourages its use at meetings to ensure the clarity of the A.A. message for newcomers. Ensures that A.A. members are aware of the Grapevine and provides subscription forms.

**Archives:** Preserves the history of A.A. in the Cincinnati area, through records, tapes from early members and materials from individuals and groups.

**Special Events:** Coordinate the work surrounding Intergroup sponsored events and encourages A.A. members to attend. Intergroup currently sponsors five events each year: Traditions Workshop, Spring Fling in the Spring, Gratitude Breakfast in June, Thanksgiving Banquet and Christmas Alcolthon. All proceeds from these events, if any, go to support Intergroup Service Work.

The words “keep it simple” were the last Bill W. heard from his fellow founder of A.A. shortly before Dr. Bob’s death in 1950. Aware that “it” meant our recovery program. Bill later wrote, “We need to distinguish sharply between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity. When we get into questions of action by groups, by areas or by A.A. as a whole, we find that we must, to some extent organize to carry the message - or else face chaos and chaos is not simplicity.”

12 Traditions Illustrated

## Central Service Office

12 step work in action

Alcoholics Anonymous, how may we help you?

These could be the first words of hope a suffering alcoholic hears.

- 10,000 times a year a voice on the phone cheerfully offers understanding and compassion to the alcoholic still suffer hopeless despair.
- Volunteers and the Central Office manager provide the primary service of the office carrying the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- Not all calls coming into Central Office are for help. Many are inquiries concerning meeting times and locations and sober activities in the area.
- The Central Office acts as a clearing house for all types of questions for the public. Organizations such as schools, treatment facilities and employee assistant programs request speakers - somebody to tell them what A.A. is all about.
- Greater Cincinnati area Council Office carries out the 12<sup>th</sup> step and 5<sup>th</sup> tradition every moment of the day just by being available to those who need it.
- Night Owl Program: continue to carry out work at the Central Office by using volunteers to answer the phone on weekends, evenings and overnight from their homes.
- Literature: The Office keeps a complete supply of A.A. Conference approved literature and anniversary tokens for purchase by groups, individuals, local club houses and non-affiliated organizations such as hospitals.
- Meeting Directory (Where & When): About every 6 months Central Office publishes a current meeting directory which is available for a small cost.
- Publications: The Central Office publishes the Footsteps newsletter once a month, which contains local information such as meeting changes, committee announcements, special events and articles of recovery by local A.A. members.

The Central Office primarily relies on contributions from groups and individuals to meet financial obligations. There is some income from literature sales.

Step Twelve: *Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to the alcoholic, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

Tradition Five: *Each group has one primary purpose to carry its message to the still suffering alcoholic*