

GAL-AA

Gays and Lesbians in Alcoholics Anonymous

GaL-AA Spring Newsletter

April 2015

From the Treasurer

This is my first time being of service outside of the group or district level. I was definitely terrified and humbled that there were 6 other people who believed I could manage the finances for GaL-AA. I had served as district Treasurer and DCM and have a degree in accounting. I've served as secretary for my roundup and several positions at the group level. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in AA and an even bigger honor to help my fellow LGBT brothers and sister to have a voice at the world level.

2014 was exciting and fun for me as I started a new job and went back to school. All of us in Atlanta are excited to be hosting the International Convention and can't wait to meet you.

I am grateful to serve as your (re-elected) Treasurer. 2015 is shaping up to be an exciting year. The committee has worked hard in cutting back our expenses so that we could be self supporting. With your help, we had an income of \$5890.34. Of that we were able to make a \$2355.25 donation to GSO and are working with the Grapevine to determine how we can support them since they do not accept donations directly. They are self supporting through literature only and we currently do not have the resources to purchasing large quantities of literature. However, the committee has discussed the possibility of purchase Grapevines to be given to prisons around the country. In 2014 we received donations from 20 states which included:

AZ, CA, CT, DC, FL, GA, IA, IL, LA, MA, ME, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, & TX.

And from our neighbors to the North: Edmonton & Calgary, Alberta and Halifax, NS.

If I could leave you with this next time you contribute to your home group. Some of you might be aware of the Self Support green card (F-42) from AA World Service:

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Does your group know that contributions may be made online at AA.org?
- Gratitude, expressed through contributions, reaches the still-suffering alcoholic.

Mark J.

"GaL-AA stands for Gays and Lesbians in Alcoholics Anonymous. Much has changed in the thirty years since we began"

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at www.gal-aa.org

In This Issue

- Helping others
- Donations
- Staying sober through service work
- International Convention
- Step 2 & Tradition 2



Donations for Jan/Feb/March 2015

Miss Sobriety Donations total = \$246.77

St Marys Group Maryland \$320.00

Brothers & Sisters in Sobriety Toledo, OH \$7.00

Spiritual Awakenings San Diego, CA \$19.29

Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Palm Springs, CA \$84.35

G&L AA Group - 4th Qtr \$75.00

Rush Hour Group Miami, FL \$50.00

San Antonio Lambda Group San Antonio, TX \$125.00

Lunch Bunch Groups Portland, OR \$30.00

Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Palm Springs, CA \$67.06

Robert B W. Hollywood, CA \$15.00

Free 2 B Naples, FL \$10.00

Primary Purpose Gay Meeting Washington, DC \$64.35

Group #175675 St. Petersburg, FL \$51.71

Go After Your Sobriety Gulfport, FL \$50.00

Bell Book & Candle Atlanta, GA \$54.00

Live & Let Live AA St. Paul, MN \$21.60

Friday Night Men's Group Clifton, NJ \$30.00

Stephen M. Towson, MD \$250.00

Cash Donations - SEMRU Mansfield, MA \$83.40

GALD Winchester, \$36.25

Acceptance Group Summerville, SC \$100.00

Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition Palm Springs, CA \$46.15

Executive Committee

Chairperson

Denise R.
deniser@gal-aa.org
Attleboro, MA
DOS: 10/24/1989

Deputy Chair

Michael N.
aamike@gal-aa.org
Marion, WI
DOS: 5/12/1997

Secretary

Carol N.
carol@gal-aa.org
Stoneham, MA
DOS: 2/9/1980

Treasurer

Mark J.
markj@gal-aa.org
Snellville, GA
DOS: 7/5/2005

Advisor I

Jamie B.
jamie@gal-aa.org
Dallas, TX
DOS: 2/4/2008

Advisor II

Gary C.
garyc@gal-aa.org
Royal Oak, MI
DOS: 6/1/1991

Advisor III

Pierre B.
pierre@gal-aa.org
Atlanta, GA
DOS: 1/4/1994

Technical Liaison

Rob F.
robfg@gal-aa.org
Columbus, OH
DOS: 12/25/2008

Atlanta 2015

The 80th Anniversary of AA will be in July 2015, in Atlanta at the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. The gay and lesbian members of AA in Atlanta will host a hospitality suite and dance. If interested in helping please contact Ron D. rond@gal-aa.org and Pierre B. pierreb@gal-aa.org.



Gal-AA Volunteers

Service continues to be the guiding force of our organization, thus we are expanding the range of volunteers. As in the past, some may choose to represent a group, city, area, state or country. Others may represent a Roundup, another AA Special Interest or Professional Group. Individuals and teams may choose to work on specific projects that extend the hand of A.A. in these or other areas: Corrections, Communication, Treatment, Special Needs, PI (Public Information), CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community), Archives, Central/Area Office, State/Area/Regional AA Conferences, just to name a few. Upcoming Newsletters and E-Blasts will offer more information on these many opportunities of service. The goal remains to share information to and from Gal-AA.



Don't miss this event!

CONCURRENT WITH THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



FRIDAY, JULY 3RD AT 10:00 PM

International
GAYS & LESBIANS IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
PARTY

— ALL ARE INVITED —

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

LOCATION

WESTIN PEACHTREE PLAZA
210 PEACHTREE ST NW
ATLANTA, GA 30303

2015.GAL-AA.ORG

RALLY DRAG PERFORMERS FOR THE DANCE

A drag queen or king in your city could be crowned as the winner of the first Ms. & Mr. Sobriety World competition! Nominees for the competition get to lead the procession that kicks off the Gal-AA dance party July 3.

Let others in your city know about the competition, get drag queens and kings signed up, and help boost participation in this unique sober drag event!

HOST FUNDRAISERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

There are plenty of ways you and other sober alcoholics in your city can help us carry out a remarkable dance. Check frequently our website at <http://2015.gal-aa.org/> to see some of the fundraisers we're holding in Atlanta – such as bowling and Oscar parties – and you can do the same in your town!

Stay in touch with us for more ways to be of service.

Sincerely,

Sarah T.

Executive Committee stories

Carol N: I was very humbled to be asked to serve as the Secretary for IAC, as it was called then. It was quite exciting to be part of deciding the new name for IAC to GaL-AA. This was also my first meeting with the committee members in Sacramento. My services as secretary for about 6 years has been very rewarding and gratifying to me. I have had correspondence with many AA groups around the Country and Canada.

As Secretary, I receive all donations coming in by mail and respond to each and everyone with a thank you and enclosed blurb about GaL-AA. I work very closely with the Treasure, by making the deposit for all donations.

I am also very active in my AA community in Massachusetts. I have been part of starting Women's Meetings in our community. In my own recovery I believe doing servers is the true way of giving back. I am so grateful that I have had the privilege to serve as Secretary to this wonderful group called GaL-AA.



Denise R. I'm from Attleboro, MA. And I am honored to be the chairperson for GaL-AA. I have 25 plus years of sobriety. Sobriety has taken me down many roads. Back in 1989 I was a hopeless and almost homeless drunk. I was given an opportunity to get sober and I was so tired of chasing the drink I thought I would give it a try, so began my journey. It has been a journey that at times I didn't know if I could do but God has never given me more than I can handle. Many opportunities for growth have come my way such as doing service for my group at a group and district level. Doing many jobs for our Roundup SEMRU. I have had the opportunity to sponsor people to give what has been given to me so freely and as always I get back tenfold. On a personal level the program has shown me how to be a woman of dignity and honor. I was able to become a responsible mother, daughter sister and now a grandmother of 3. Life is beyond my wildest dreams and the promises are coming true in my life.

As the Chair of GaL-AA I have the honor of working with a great group of sober alcoholics. We do many things to reach out to the alcoholic that needs help. We provide literature and guidance to start groups we reach out to loners and prisons. We have been able to help people around the globe. We maintain a website that has a worldwide meeting list and links to many other resources. We are in the process of getting ready for the 80th International AA Convention in Atlanta, GA we will be hosting a dance and a hospitality room. There are many opportunities to be of service for this great event so please go to our website and see what you can do.

Gary C: for 5 years I have been doing service work for IAC/GaL-AA, yes when I started on the executive committee it was IAC back in 2010. What a wild ride it's been, who knew! I thought what does this group want from me, what can I do for them? Well Marty S. must have known something I didn't know 5 years ago. I started as the technical advisor and seen right away where my services were needed and how I could help.

I want to tell you how grateful I am for the group of people I have worked with in this organization, they have helped me in more ways than they know, and yes they helped me stay sober, as lots of time I didn't have time to think about drinking as they always had something for me to do, try and solve some computer or website problem.

Back in 1992 I first started working as an area rep in Cleveland then in Boston and Cape Cod, my friend Jeff Y from Cleveland got me into this service work when I moved away and it really helped me make meetings, meet new people and get grounded in my new surroundings of New England. Little did I know 19 years later I would be asked to step up and do service work at a much higher level. What a joy it has been. Thank you all for letting me be of service.

I am now the Advisor II, roundups and conference liaison. I get to find out what cities, states and countries are having roundups and post them on our website. I get to find out what the theme is for the conference/roundup and also like to follow up on how it was attended, find out some of the highlights, maybe what entertainment was there. I am grateful to be able to do this for the gay AA recovering community.

Rob F: As always, I'm completely humbled and grateful to serve as your (appointed) Technology Advisor. I've been working with GaL-AA for nearly 4.5 years now, which was back when it was still IAC and just about to become GaL-AA. I helped to organize and consolidate our web server and email infrastructure. We also did a major site re-design and created our meetings database system.

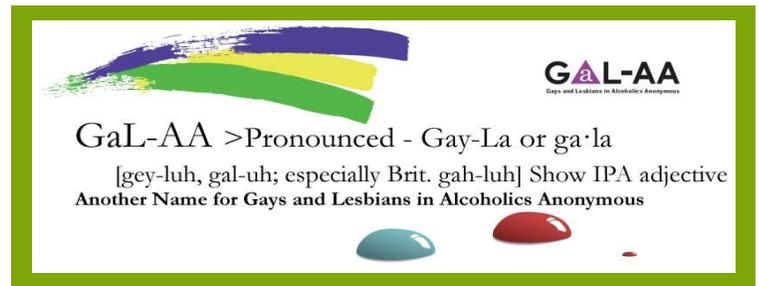
After those initial accomplishments I became more involved in my local recovery community including being on the host committee of my city's roundup, and starting a new meeting in my neighborhood. I was also beginning to embark on a new career in mobile app development. It has been a busy few years for me personally, to say the least!

As you may already be aware, GaL-AA's most pressing need at the moment is a new system that will help us take our existing meetings database to the next level, which is my current priority. We are hard at work building a new tool that will be faster and easier to use and will allow folks in the community to more easily submit new meetings, correct existing meetings, and tell us about meetings that no longer exist. We hope to release this new tool in time for the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta so we can get the word out and get our eager volunteers up-and-running.

Beyond that, the site could use a fresh coat of paint and perhaps our new meetings tool could be extended to also help us list and support roundups all over the world. I am also interested in exploring whether or not a mobile app (iOS and Android) makes sense for GaL-AA and the community it serves.

As always, there is a lot more we could do and if you have any relevant experience and would like to help make these things a reality, please get in touch. Specially, we need advice from a visual/user-experience designer, the skills of a web front-end programmer, PHP developer, Android developer, etc. If you think you can contribute to any of these projects we'd love to have you!

It is absolutely true that my journey so far in recovery wouldn't have been possible without my huge focus on service work. I thank you and the GaL-AA committee for allowing me to be part of something so amazing.



Pierre B: I have been involved with GAL-AA formerly IAC since meeting members at roundups around the year 2000. At that time I was asked to be a representative for Georgia which I gladly accepted. Around this same time I became the Chairperson of the Hotlanta Roundup in Atlanta where we were trying to restart the roundup after about a 8 year absence. As Chairperson I would contact GAL-AA to request gay speaker tapes from their library to help us select which speakers to invite for the Hotlanta Roundup. Due to my continue association with GAL-AA members I attended the World Conference in Toronto Canada in 2005 and San Antonio TX in 2010. At these events I would just do any service work that GAL-AA would need or the host city committee needed assistance. At the conference in San Antonio I was given the honor to become an Advisor on the GAL-AA board. I was reelected to the GAL-AA board for another term in 2015. My job as the Advisor III on the GAL-AA board has been to help put together a committee for the 2015 AA International Committee in Atlanta. The 2015 Atlanta steering committee has setup sub committees like Hotel, Entertainment, Hospitality, Treasurer, Out Reach, Marketing, Local Fundraising, Fundraising out of Atlanta, Volunteers, Web and etc. The 2015 committee with coordination thru me and the GAL-AA board picks the Hotel, plans the dance, entertainment, and sets up the hospitali-ty suite for the weekend. I am working as the Hotel chair since all contracts for hotel space, entertainment, refreshments, insurance policies and equipment used at the hotel must be signed by a GAL-AA representative. GAL-AA is ultimately responsible for all cost incurred at the International including expenses by the host city GAL-AA committee. GAL-AA is also responsible for insuring the 2015 committee is operating by the AA traditions and principles. Serving on the GAL-AA board has help me remember that though I lived in a fairly gay city with many meetings this is not true for many GLBT's Alcoholics around the world. I am so proud that GAL-AA exists for the sole purpose of helping AA and our AA GLBT community.

Step 2 Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity

Who knew step 2 would trip up a new comer like it dose, coming to believe can be a lot harder than it looks for some folks and easy for other. What's your story on step 2?

Tradition 2 Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

It's a WE program and WE stand together, help each other and look out for each other.



www.gal-aa.org

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.gal-aa.org>

On our website you can:

Search for Meetings

Add a Meeting

Find a Roundup

Find additional resources

And a whole lot more!

Up coming Roundups 2015-2016

Dallas "Big D" Roundup – Freedom May 22—25th 2015

Hilton Anatole,
2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX United States

Chicago Roundup August 14th—16th 2015

Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St
Chicago, IL 60613

Ohio Roundup August 28th—30th 2015

Ramada Inn,
3536 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43606 United States

HotLanta Roundup September 4th—7th 2015

Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center,
800 Spring St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308

Pass it on!



The commemorative coin shown above can be found at the 2015 AA International convention—stop by our hospitality suit or find it at sober city at the GaL-AA table.